Mixer and Ecosystem Building Workshop on

Neuro, Brain and Mental Health:

Building Deep Tech Solutions

- Organized by BFI-BIOME Networks and Social Innovations @ Venture Center -

Expected Outcomes	● Identify the areas where innovation is needed and the current status of the startup ecosystem. ● Identify avenues for investors to increase private investment in the area ● Brainstorming platform for all stakeholders in the field ● Startups participating in the Startup Mixer will be eligible to compete for prizes. Startups get to pitch to serious investors.
Organized by	● Social Innovations @ Venture Center ● BFI-BIOME Networks
Supported by	● Venture Center, Pune ● Blockchain for Impact
For whom	● Technology developers and innovators ● Early-stage inventive enterprises and science-based startups ● Investors
When	**Wednesday, 14 May 2025**
Where	**Lecture Theatre, Venture Center, 900 NCL Innovation Park, Dr. Homi Bhabha Road, Pune**
Organization Lead	● Misaal Bedi
Contact	**Technical queries:** Dr Mugdha Lele | mugdha@venturecenter.co.in | 7410045652 **Registration queries:** Ms Niruta Killedar | niruta.killedar@venturecenter.co.in | 8956226080
Registration	**Registration Fee: None** **Confirmation Fee: 500/-** *100% waiver of registration fee for* Venture Center's BFI-BIOME Fellows and Kickstarters, NCL-TEC members Registration Process: ● Step 1: Interested participants need to fill in registration form at the registration link. ● Step 2: Organizers reserve the right to select participants to maximize learning/ discussion/networking outcomes of the workshop and manage group size for better interaction. Organizers will invite selected participants to complete their registration process via payment of a confirmation fee. ● Step 3: Separate confirmation email will be sent to participants post screening of registration details. For registration: https://tinyurl.com/BFIBIOMEVCWS04 Event website and details: https://www.venturecenter.co.in/socialinnovations/events/

Introduction

The BFI-BIOME supported Mixers and Ecosystem Development Workshops are aimed at bringing together people who are passionate about solving important problems in healthcare by developing or using cutting edge technologies. These events hope to energize innovators, stimulate thinking and catalyze new collaborative projects in the backdrop of informative and insightful talks and curated networking activities.

In this particular event, we shall focus on how science and technology can address the severe unmet need for preventing and treating poor mental, brain and cognitive health as well as the Neurological disorders or problems.

We shall explore the state of art, opportunities, challenges/ limitations and the players. We shall explore applications in:
- Detection, diagnosis and screening of conditions, predictive analytics through brain imaging, biomarker analysis etc.
- Wearables and devices for physiological monitoring, diagnostics, and therapy
- Novel treatments - pharmaceutical/electrical or other novel modalities for conditions (such as VR for neuro rehabilitation etc)

How is this event different?
- The focus aims to catalyze action! The event shall be on forging collaborations/ partnerships (between tech developers, and between developers and funders). Key goals:
  - Help technology developers forge partnerships
  - Help startup founders find cofounders and colleagues
  - Help create useful collisions of technologists, clinicians and funders
  - Help mobilise funding and resources in this sector
- The focus shall be on identifying opportunities and providing a sense of the state-of-art while also pointing to real-world challenges.

Workshop Includes
- Tea and snacks; Lunch at the Innovation Café, Venture Center
- Membership of Venture Center's mailing list that announces funding calls, events and other opportunities for innovators/ entrepreneurs
- Certificate of Participation
- Online collection of reading materials

Information
- Venture Center is located in NCL Innovation Park, Dr Homi Bhabha Road, Pashan, Pune. Location pin: https://g.co/kgs/bgnzAbG
- Participants have to arrange their own travel, accommodation and transport

Workshop Schedule

Time	Session	Speakers
0915 – 0930	Registration and Tea Venue: 900 NIP, Foyer area	

0930 – 1100
(90 min)
	Session 1: Inaugural session and Panel Discussion
	
	● Welcome. Introduction to the Organisers and the Workshop
	● Panel 1: The clinical needs and problem definitions
	   o Keynote
	   o Panel Discussion
		Mugdha Lele
		
		Moderator: Premnath V
		
		Speakers:
		● Charudutta Apte, Sahyadri Hospitals (TBC) ***
		● Nilesh Kurwale, DMHRC (TBC)
		● Gaurav Singh, BFI-BIOME (TBC)
		● Akshay Gupte, DMHRC/ Grant Medical (TBC)

1100 – 1130	Networking Tea/Coffee Venue: 900 NIP, Foyer area	

1130 – 1300
(90 min)
	Session 2: Panel Discussion
	
	Panel 2: The solutions, new ideas and innovator journeys
	   o Keynote
	   o Panel Discussion
		Moderator: Satya Dash (TBC)
		
		Speakers:
		● Ashwin Naik, Manah Wellness (Keynote)
		● Laina Emmanuel, BrainSightAI (TBC)
		● Latha Poonamalee, InMed.AI (TBC)
		● Vikas V, NIMHANS
		● Raghu P, NCBS (TBC)
		● Niranjan Khambete, DMHRC (TBC) ?

1300 – 1400	Lunch Break: Venue: Innovation Café, NIP Overview and Tour of Venture Center	
1400 – 1530 (90 min)	Session 3: Startup and Innovator Pitches (9 lightening pitches) Each startup/ innovator (5 min – Pitch; 4 min - Q&A)	Host: Misaal Bedi & Niruta Killedar In front of a panel of Investors: ● Kavya Aggarwal, 3i Partners (TBC) ● Milan Roy/Alisha Parveen, Pi Ventures (TBC) ● Others from Panel 3
1530 – 1600	Networking Tea/Coffee Venue: 900 NIP, Foyer area Group Photograph	
1600 – 1730 (90 min)	Session 04: Panel Discussion Panel 2: Investor panel	Moderator: Soma Chattopadhyay Panelists: ● Karuna Jain, Enzia Ventures (TBC) ● Arpit Agarwal, Blume Ventures

	Followed by: ● Summing up of the learnings from the day ● Announcements and closure	● Ashwin Raguraman, Bharat Innovation Fund ● Sanjay Kanvinde, Lavni Ventures (TBC) ● Namit Chugh, W Health (TBC) ● Pinak Shrikhande, Quad Health (TBC)
1730 – 1800	Networking Tea/Coffee Venue: 900 NIP, Foyer area	

Speakers, Moderators & Invited Participants (in alphabetical order of last names)

Arpit Aggarwal

Arpit is a Partner at Blume Ventures from Investment Team. He is amongst the most passionate people in India on enabling startups. He co-founded Headstart Network, India's largest startup community which touches more than 100,000 entrepreneurs annually. He also co-created India DeepTech, an industry alliance for promoting deeptech startups. He was named in the prestigious 40-under-40 lists by Equalifi (erstwhile AIWMI) in 2020.

Before joining Blume, Arpit started Acadmic Ventures, a consulting firm for commercializing technology, sold High-Performance Computing at Tata CRL in Pune and wrote video codecs at Ittiam Systems in Bengaluru. He is an alumnus of IIT Bombay and NIT Trichy.

Tanvi Kale

Tanvi Kale is a certified life coach with a background in human resources and data analysis within the industrial automation and IT sectors. She transitioned to life coaching after overcoming personal challenges, including depression, and has since dedicated herself to helping others achieve their personal and professional goals. Tanvi emphasizes the importance of self-awareness, acceptance, and actionable change in her coaching philosophy. She is also an accomplished triathlete, recently securing a podium finish at the Bergman Mysuru Olympic Distance Triathlon. Her multifaceted experiences enrich her coaching practice, allowing her to guide clients through transformative journeys with empathy and insight.

Ashwin Naik

Ashwin Naik is an entrepreneur and author on a mission to catalyze wellbeing and impact. As an entrepreneur he has started multiple healthcare organisations – Manah Wellness (Platform for Preventive Mental health), Let's Talk (Helpline for Mental Health Support during COVID19), Vaatsalya (India's first rural hospitals network), Seraniti (India's first integrated mental health organization, acquired by Curefit) and We Scale Impact (Global Health Consulting). He is the author of two books – The Healthcare Gamechangers, which profiles innovations around the world which have the potential to change the way healthcare is delivered, and #ChangeStartsYoung, a book about young changemakers who are starting as early as 11 years young.

Sanjeev jain

Sanjeev Jain is a clinician and a teacher, and researches the genetic correlates of psychiatric and neurological disease. He has provided the lead for, and participated in, several population and cohort studies, and also provides genetic testing for several neuro-degenerative disorders, as well as counseling services for these families. Over the past few years, discussions and collaboration with other colleagues at NIMHANS, the NCBS and inSTEM, have extended the research from the clinic, to the bench, using both clinical assessments (including MRI, EEG etc.) as well as tools of cellular and molecular biology, including WES, iPSC and neuronal cell lines from individuals diagnosed to have psychiatric illnesses, and their affected and unaffected relatives. He has been a member of the committee for drafting the Mental Health Policy document for India; and is also an Adjunct Faculty at the National Centre for Biological Sciences (TIFR), Bangalore. His other interests include the history of mental health services in India, from the colonial to the

contemporary period. This work has helped understand the interface between science and medicine, and social responses to mental illness in India.

Laina Emmanuel

Laina is the founder of BrainSightAI, a product company focused on AI and 3D visualization based solutions for diagnosis and prognosis of neuro-psychiatric disorders. She started her career in software development at Netapp and Offshore Development Centre of Cisco at Infosys as a systems programmer. She moved to the international development space working on a wide variety of public health and education issues as an independent consultant, including health and education policy. She did her MBA from the Indian School of Business and majored in healthcare. She started BrainSightAI with her co-founder, Dr Rimjim Agrawal who holds a PhD in psychiatry from NIMHANS.

Vikas Vazhayil

Dr Vikas is a professor of Neurosurgery at NIMHANS. His lab focuses on developing platforms for surgical robotics with a focus on neurosurgery. The lab also looks at robotic applications for disability caused due to neuromuscular diseases. He is skilled in artificial intelligence, medical research, medical imaging, surgery and oncology.

Raghu Padinjat

Dr. Raghu is a doctor turned researcher at NCBS studies the architecture of phosphoinositide signalling systems. Before joining NCBS, he lead a research group at Cambridge for ten years.
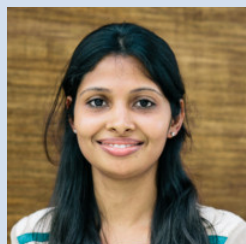
Soumya Chaudhary

Soumya is a 4th year PhD scholar in Pyschiatry at NIMHANS. She works in the area of digital mental health, at intersection of mental health, machine learning, and mobile technology, aiming to create digital tools for early detection, monitoring, and intervention in psychiatric care.

Premnath Venugopalan, PhD

Dr Premnath is Head, NCL Innovations at CSIR-NCL and Founder Director, Venture Center (National award winning inventive enterprises and deep tech incubator). Dr Premnath is a technology developer, innovation and incubation manager, startup mentor and a co-founder of 2 medtech startups. One of his inventions -- a breakthrough material for hip and knee joint replacements — has been implanted in more than a million patients worldwide. Another technology for porous maxillo-facial implants has been implanted in thousands of patients in India and abroad. He has provided leadership for teams that have won National awards for technology development, intellectual property management and business incubation. He is chemical engineer and an alumnus of MIT in the US, IIT-Bombay (Distinguished Alumnus, 2022) and has been a Chevening Technology Enterprise Scholar in Cambridge, UK.

Karuna Jain

Karuna has extensive experience and expertise in early-stage impact and private equity investing in healthcare and renewables.

Prior to Enzia, she worked in senior positions at Acumen, Aditya Birla Group and Grasim Industries. At Acumen, she drove their investments in healthcare at a global level, managed a portfolio of 25 companies, and helped create an ecosystem for tech startups in healthcare, agriculture and environment. At Aditya Birla Group and Grasim, Karuna handled multiple roles in finance and corporate governance, including working on large M&A transactions and restructuring business.

Karuna has been a member on the boards of several of Acumen's portfolio companies including LifeSpring Hospitals, Frontier Markets, Edubridge Learning Systems, and Sewa Grih Rin. Other companies she worked with include Healthcubed, Ayurvaid, and Husk Power Systems.

Karuna's experience has helped her gain deep rooted insights into India II and III markets, consumer behaviours and cross-sectoral investing. She combines these insights with her eye for detail and proficiency in working with founders to help Enzia's portfolio companies build strategy and value.

Karuna is a CA and holds an MBA from ISB, Hyderabad.

Ashwin Raguraman

Ashwin Raguraman is the Co-founder and Partner at Bharat Innovation Fund, an early-stage venture capital firm investing in deeptech startups originating from India. Prior to this, he co-founded the India Innovation Fund, focusing on early-stage technology investments. Ashwin has been deeply involved in India's startup ecosystem, previously leading the Innovation Initiative at NASSCOM to enhance innovation in the Indian IT industry. He holds board positions in several companies, including Zumutor Biologics, Portl, Human Edge, Pariksha, and Entropik Tech.

Organizing Team (in alphabetical order of last names)

Ria Deshpande
Specialist- Innovation Management

Ria currently works at the Venture Center in Innovation Management. She completed her PhD in 2023 from the University of California, Irvine. At the Venture Center she is responsible for working with the innovation management team working on technology assessments and tech transfer. She is also involved in planning events for the biotech community.

Niruta Killedar
Senior Associate - Social Innovations

Niruta is primarily responsible for assisting in the implementation of the Social Innovation Immersion Program at Venture Center. Overall she assists in driving the Social Innovations portfolio at Venture Center and coordinates events and related mentoring activities. She is a Microbiologist by training and has more than 7 years of experience in interdisciplinary areas of science. She has been passionately working in border areas for the last 15 years as a volunteer through the NGO Aseem Foundation, which adds value to the Social Innovations portfolio at Venture Center.

Mugdha Lele

Mugdha is currently Head – Social Innovations at Venture Center, Pune. She has done Ph.D from School of Health Sciences, University of Pune and has teaching and research experience in a State Government medical university. At Venture Center, she is responsible for driving the Social Innovations activities and providing technical mentoring for startups at Venture Center. She has been a Fellow of the Chevening Rolls Royce Science, Innovation, Policy and Leadership Programme (CRISP) at the Said Business School, University of Oxford, UK in 2016. In 2018 she has also been part of the Aritra Accelerator Program for Leadership in the Social Sector at IIM Bangalore with Phicus Solutions and Dr. Reddy's Foundation. She serves as the nominee director on the boards of Synthera Biomedical Pvt Ltd (a dental biomaterials startup), Pragmatech Healthcare Solutions Pvt Ltd (a medical diagnostics startup) and Spot Healthcare Solutions Pvt Ltd (a medtech startup).

Misaal Bedi

Misaal is an Associate in the Incubation and Mentoring division of Venture Center. She has a BS-MS in Biology from IISER, Pune. She works in technical due diligence of life science startups for various programs and runs accelerator programs for fundraising and globalisation of deep tech startups at Venture Center.

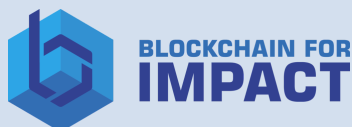| Organized by	
	Venture Center is committed to Social innovation and entrepreneurship. We actively nucleate and nurture enterprises that focus on solving socially important problems and build sustainable entities (for profit or not-for-profit) to deliver the solutions to society. Focus areas at Venture Center include affordable health and nutrition, empowering farmers, clean energy, sustainable resource utilization, environment and circular economy, water, sanitation, hygiene and any other social sectors that can leverage Venture Center's innovation ecosystem. More: http://www.venturecenter.co.in/socialinnovations
	BFI-BIOME's mission cuts across traditional boundaries by encompassing both upstream and deep science, driving innovation that leads to transformative health solutions. BFI-BIOME aims to bring leading researchers, technologists, and innovators together in the form of a network to discuss, identify, collaborate and innovate in the biomedical sector to solve pressing health challenges. More: https://www.venturecenter.co.in/bfi-biome/

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	'Blockchain for Impact' carries forward the baton of the Crypto Relief Fund, a phenomenon that came to the fore at the peak of the second COVID wave in 2021. The relief fund mobilized resources from the global blockchain community and managed to make a positive dent in the healthcare system of India. More: https://www.blockchainforimpact.in/
	Venture Center is a national award winning deep tech and science-based business incubator approved by the Ministry of Science and Technology, Govt of India. It aims to nucleate and nurture knowledge based enterprises. It does this by creating and maintaining a rich and supportive ecosystem for inventive enterprises that includes a large mentor network, funding options including 4 seed funds, scientific/ analytical/ prototyping facilities, specialized advisory capabilities, numerous events etc. It empowers scientists, engineers, clinicians and other knowledge workers to take their ideas from lab to market. It is structured as an independent, non-profit company and charitable organization that is hosted by CSIR-National Chemical Laboratory, Pune. The Venture Center was founded in 2007. Venture Center has been recognized with the National Award for Technology Business Incubators (2015), AABI (Asian) Incubator of the Year Award (2018), National Entrepreneurship Award under Ecosystem Builder Category (2019), Biospectrum No 1 Bioincubator of India (2022) and National Award for Incubators for Nurturing IP (2021 & 2022). More: http://www.venturecenter.co.in/