



THE AGA KHAN UNIVERSITY



Critical Creative
Innovative Thinking

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

As a unique innovation and incubation hub we are promoting a better future using 21st-century skills of critical, creative, innovative, intra/entrepreneurial thinking, and tools of design principles steeped in empathy

The Critical Creative Innovative Thinking (CCIT) Forum originated at the Aga Khan University in Karachi, Pakistan, in December 2013, to create and nurture a culture of innovation through creativity, critical thinking, and entrepreneurship. From a student-centric society, CCIT has evolved into a sector-agnostic hub for pre-ideation, ideation, and early-stage incubation, engaging individuals and organizations from across the country for innovation in healthcare and beyond.

Our unique Innovation Fellowship trains young professionals in the specs of creative innovation and entrepreneurship for healthcare and biomedicine in low resource settings.

The experience of founding a healthcare innovation/incubation hub has been summarized in our book, "MEDJACK: the extraordinary journey of an ordinary hack", also AKU's first-ever digital book.

This year has been about replacing the old algorithms no longer best for the post-pandemic world with ones that have helped us to unlock better opportunities and greater collaborations for low-cost **Innovation|Creativity|Entrepreneurship (ICE)**.

ICE*-CENTRIC VALUES



Safe space | Multidisciplinary | Sector agnostic | Empathy | Collaborative

ICE* - Innovation | Creativity | Entrepreneurship

www.aku.edu/ccit

    /ccitforum

80

Medical students for
Off the Beaten Track

400

Participants for
BMI Hackathon

\$35K

In revenue
generation

GOALS

Research and Communication

- Submitted three Innovation-Based grants and drafted four original research articles on **Innovation|Creativity|Entrepreneurship (ICE)**.
- Work ongoing on our research study on a pediatric educational intervention regarding children's perception and knowledge about vaccination, in collaboration with Habib Girls School.
- Fourteen publications on Hikaye, our online blog.
- Successfully published CCIT and AKU's first-ever e-book, "MEDJACK: an extraordinary journey of an ordinary hack" in collaboration with SEED Ventures.

Incubation

- Incubation Cohort 8: Piloted by our mentor, Rafeh Ahmed; and the Innovation Fellows, Dr. Arfa Masihuddin, Haseeb Sajid, and Taha Ahmed, participants were trained to package their ideas into early-stage solutions.
- National Entrepreneurship Competition by Iqra University in collaboration with the Dean's Office: Participants mentored on how to effectively deliver a startup pitch by Co-Director, Dr. Mahreen Sulaiman, and our Innovation Fellows. Former Innovation Fellow, Aiman Younus Chhipa, won the prize for the 'Best Idea Pitch'.
- #HackTheHospital, organized by Garage Stories - XR content Lab and Mobile World Capital Barcelona: Our Biomed & Design Mentor, Areeba Ahmed, was amongst the top five teams out of the fifty participating.

Systems Innovation

- Led by our Director, Dr. Asad Mian, our Co-Director, Dr. Mahreen Sulaiman; and the Innovation Fellows, a Human-Centered Design Thinking Workshop was conducted for the faculty and clinicians of various departments at AKU.
- Discussions on incorporating innovative practice at the systems level with various organizations across the country, namely COLABS, AKADEMOS, Evercare Hospital, NIC Lahore; Ziauddin University, Karachi; as well as internationally, such as Enactus Ryerson housed at the Ted Rogers School of Management, Canada.

Education

- AKU Student Mental Health Hackathon: A virtual, one-of-its-kind, multi-day event bringing together 400 participants from Aga Khan University's global campuses. Hosted by the Brain and Mind Institute (BMI), the CCIT Forum, and the Office of Student Affairs and Services of Aga Khan University, the innovations were aimed at identifying

- problems and building solutions for student mental health.
- Best project at the MIT Hackathon 2021: Won by our mentees, Wardah Rafaqat and Syed Muhammad Aqeel Abidi, for EMCON, an application designed to improve connectivity between patients and hospitals for enhancing their resource availability and utilization.
- Off The Beaten Track, a collaboration with AKU Medical College UGME program: Our Director, Co-Director, mentors, and Innovation Fellows led two major streams for students to explore innovation in healthcare - "Creative Innovation through Human Centricity" and "Entrepreneurial Innovation through Health Startups". Each stream was a 3-month course designed as a co-curricular activity to equip our potential graduates with 21st-century lifelong learning skills.
- The National Health Incubator, a joint initiative of Accelerate Prosperity (AP) and the Aga Khan University: Mentorship provided by the Director, Co-Director, and Innovation Fellows to the participating teams on applying human-centered design thinking to their projects. The initiative aimed to catalyze commercialization, growth, and adoption of new technology, innovation, and services that are being produced by entrepreneurs in the health and related sectors of Pakistan.
- Innovation Fellowship V2.0: The second batch of our health innovation fellows successfully graduated with capstone projects that have set exciting benchmarks for **ICE** in healthcare.

Outreach

- Twelve global innovation webinars conducted with an average attendance of thirty learners per session.
- AKU Virtual Internship Programme: Mentorship in marketing and communication provided by our Mentor, Areeba Ahmed to international interns, Alia Bhanji and Sara Kassim-Lakha.
- Director, Dr. Asad I. Mian, presented keynotes on sustainable education at Iqra University, and multidisciplinary programming of humanities at Ziauddin University, respectively.
- Gaming League East Africa: Mentor, Areeba Ahmed, and Innovation Fellow, Haseeb Sajid successfully engaged over 100 participants from AKU East Africa over a period of six months, promoting team building and mental health care through activities ranging from outdoor sports to board/video games.
- 5000 followers on our social media channels + 7000 views and comments.

Our Priorities For 2022

- Execute events as planned, including a community-based Hackathon; an open-house exhibit for Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics, called STEAM Detox; and a Narrative Medicine workshop.
- Innovation Fellowship V3.0.
- MEDJACK Webinar Series and Ideation V3.0.
- Further iterations of our incubation programmes.

- Revamping Hikaye and streamlined activities for Narrative Medicine.
- Continue to expand the health Innovation Narrative past AKU through an entirely de novo and novel approach.

Our long term strategic objectives

- Keep aspiring towards a quasi-virtual safe space for individuals to ideate and create through multiple independent ventures.
- Continue to inspire and change mindsets at the individual level to promote a culture of **ICE** within the health and development spaces.