THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT DALLAS

2021 BIG IDEA COMPETITION

presented in partnership with

UT Southwestern Medical Center

NOVEMBER 9, 2021
3:30 PM – Doors open at the ATC Lecture Hall
4:00 PM – Awards Presentations
   ○ UTSW Biotech+ Research
   ○ UTD Student Track
   ○ UTD Alumni Track
   ○ UTD Research Commercialization Track
   ○ Capital Factory’s Investment Challenge
   ○ UTDesign Startup Challenge
5:30 PM – A Conversation with Ross Perot Jr. & Anurag Jain
6:00 PM – Event concludes
Speakers

Hannah Davis (emcee)
The current host of Good Morning Texas. A multimedia journalist, Hannah focuses on interesting people, delicious food and unique places.

Ross Perot Jr.
Mr. Perot Jr. serves as chairman of The Perot Group, which manages the various Perot family interests including real estate, oil and gas and financial investments. He also serves as chairman of Hillwood, a Texas-based, leading global real estate development company he founded in 1988.

Anurag Jain
Mr. Jain owns and serves as chairman of Access Healthcare, an outsourcer of healthcare information technology and business process-related work. He is also a Managing Partner of Perot Jain, a Dallas-based venture capital firm.
Award Descriptions

UTSW Biotech+ Research Track
Finalists in the Biotech+ Track are exclusively from UTSW and were selected after review of their proposals by UTSW faculty and staff.

UTD Student/Alumni Track(s)
These tracks consist of current undergraduate and graduate students as well as startup founders who graduated from the university.

UTD Research Commercialization Track
These tracks consist of current undergraduate and graduate students as well as startup founders who graduated from the university.

UTDesign Startup Challenge
Leverages experiential learning through the Erik Jonsson School of Engineering and Computer Science’s UT Design senior capstone course to help bring high potential technology startups to life.

Capital Factory's Investment Challenge
Digital health and biotech investment challenge presented by the "center of gravity for entrepreneurs in Texas." Open to Texas startups working in digital health, medical devices/diagnostics, and therapeutics.
Finalists
STUDENT TRACK

Bonsai – Shashank Vinay Kumar, BS’22
Bonsai is redefining the future of customer engagement through personalized, lightning-fast AI ticket resolution and accelerated lead generation for all sales and customer support teams.

Food Magnet – Mercedes Johnson, MBA’23
Food Magnet is the Uber of the food truck world. Whether you need to book a truck for an event, find a quick bite to eat, or if you’re a truck looking for new business, Food Magnet is here to help!

Forgot or Knot – Jason Hendricks, MS’22
Forgot or Knot creates a memorable gift experience that deepens customers’ relationships with their family, friends, and/or clients.

Bright Owl Tutoring – Sofia Babool, BS’22
Bright Owl helps parents and students access affordable, virtual, high-quality tutoring.
Finalists
ALUMNI TRACK

HermTac – Kevin Patel, BS’06 & MBA’10
HermTac designs antimicrobial bespoke telehealth case systems for Veterans Affairs various clinical use cases as they transition to a field and home-based primary care first model.

Nuooly – Rosalie Robinson, MS’15
Nuooly is an exclusive community uniting and empowering Independent Professionals to unlock their full potential. We target Independent Professionals who are business-focused and have 8+ years of experience in their field (lawyers, accountants, etc.).

Tangible Intelligence – Matthew Coburn, BS’13
Tangible Intelligence creates Business as a Service offering. Services and tools are purpose-built to solve your business’s rote and mundane work, freeing your workforce to focus on innovation and creativity, and unleash the true value of your company and your team.
Finalists
Research Commercialization Track

**GrapheneTX, Inc. - Duck Yang, Dept. Bioengineering**
GrapheneTX offers aminated graphene (AG) powders with different particle size and nitrogen content. This ecofriendly method of production allows for these materials to be produced at a large scale.

**Phinomics – Massa Shoura, BS'10, MS'10, PhD'13, PhD'15**
Phinomics is a biotechnology company that brings circular-DNA-based technologies to the cancer-diagnostics/therapeutics and immunogenomics markets.

**Qualia Oto - Benedict Voit, BS'08**
Qualia Oto uniquely designs hydrolytically-stable, softening polymers with a more biocompatible surface to improve the lives of individuals through better hearing assistance.
The use of Jumonji demethylase inhibitors to prevent or overcome therapeutic resistance - Zhi-Ping Liu, Ph.D.,

The Jumonji inhibitors we have developed will prevent the onset of therapeutic resistance by blocking the epigenetic mechanisms that allow for tolerance to therapeutics and adaptation and which lead to permanent therapeutic resistance.

EtiraRx - Ganesh Raj, M.D., Ph.D.
EtiraRx is a US-based, early-stage biotech developing small molecule therapeutics for hormone therapy-resistant, estrogen-receptor positive breast cancers.

Determination of T cell Immunocompatibility – Jared Ostmeyer Ph.D.
Developing a test to predict Graft-vs-host disease (GvHD) which remains a major complication after bone marrow and stem cell transplants.

Ultrasound-Guided Targeted STING Activation for Cancer Immunotherapy - Jacques Lux, Ph.D.
A novel ultrasound (US)-guided cancer immunotherapy platform consisting of microbubbles (MBs) conjugated with positively charged polymers to maximize cGAMP loading and with anti-CD11b antibodies for targeted delivery.
Finalists
BIOTECH+ CHALLENGE

**Sphere - Owen Muir, M.D.**
Brings affordable, accessible and ground-breaking acute mental healthcare to self-funded employers nationwide.

**De Oro Devices - Sidney Collin**
A small device with massive power, NexStride, is the first multi-cue daily assist mobility device that attaches to any standard cane, walker, or walking pole.

**BioLum Sciences – Edward Allegra**
Predictive maintenance condition monitoring tool can be used by subject matter experts to produce rich operational insights in a matter of days.

**Inspector IR Systems - John Redmond**
A research, development and device company focused on portable COVID-19, opioid and cannabis detection solutions.

**Design 1 Bio – Bryan Presley**
Design 1 Bio™ Screening Platform simulates the phenotypical behavior of in vivo dormant and migrating cancer cells in a 3D single cell format. The analysis allows doctors to optimize prescriptions to treat and beat recurring cancer.

**Paldara Pharmaceuticals - Beau Blanchard**
Innovative microbial gel coating for medical devices preventing medical implant infections throughout treatment.
Finalists
UTDESIGN STARTUP CHALLENGE

Forgot or Knot
Painwise
Food Magnet

Bonsai
HermTac
Bright Owl Tutoring

AFNO
Narcissist Exposed
LawnExec
Sponsors

- McKesson
- Biotech+ at Pegasus Park
- SVB Silicon Valley Bank
- Blackstone LaunchPad
- TechStar Group
- Capital Factory
- TBHF (Texas Business Hall of Fame Foundation)
- Palomino Capital