First Mile Discovery Challenge

The Consortium for Affordable Medical Technologies (CAMTech) and GE Sustainable Healthcare Solutions are pleased to announce a new opportunity on the CAMTech Innovation Platform (CIP) - the First Mile Discovery Challenge - an initiative to crowd source critical challenges to inform the development of new solutions to improve the reach, efficacy, and efficiency of frontline healthcare workers at the first mile of care in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs).

The First Mile Discovery Challenge was created to identify unmet clinical needs in primary care settings in LMICs, with priority on needs and innovations related to maternal and child health, cardiovascular screening/health and safe surgery.

Up to 10 awards of $1,000 USD will be given for the best challenges. Below, please find the expected timeline for the submission and evaluation process for the challenges.

Timeline


Program Details

The program focus will be on primary care settings in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), with priority on needs and innovations related to maternal and child health, cardiovascular screening/health and safe surgery. Regions of particular interest will be India and South Asia, Africa and Southeast Asia, but submissions may also come from other geographies.

Clinical challenges may include issues related to:

- Distance between patients and providers (e.g. accessibility/proximity, information asymmetry)
- Congested care settings serving heterogeneous patient populations (e.g. seeking urgent care vs. routine follow-up visits)
- Availability of timely, cost-effective and appropriate clinical care for specific disease or conditions
- Accessibility of primary prevention, harm reduction, or disease screening/diagnostic services
- Convenience of comprehensive care bundled as broader, recurring “wellness” visits
- Patient-managed care and long-term treatment adherence
- Coordinated care, referral networks and tracking patients through routine follow-up
- Non-medical determinants of health (e.g. built environment, nutrition, safety, poverty, social support, etc.)
- Availability of responsive supply chains for equipment, medications, or consumables
- Prospective patient data collection, management, accessibility/interoperability, and reporting to local, regional or national databases
• Education of patient, caretaker or community on specific health conditions, health-promoting behaviors, or guidelines
• Encourage patient-centered care and shared decision making between the patient and provider
• Models to finance and scale primary care services while protecting beneficiaries from catastrophic costs

Submission Format

Challenges should be submitted through the CIP and should address recurrent burdens or inadequately addressed barriers to care within the primary clinical care domains of:

1. Maternal, newborn and child health
2. Cardiac care
3. Safe surgery

For each challenge, applicants will be required to submit the following:
• Opportunity Name
• Application Title
• Category of Focus (Maternal and Child Health, Cardiovascular Screening/Health, Safe Surgery or Other)
• Description of the Clinical Setting (e.g. where the challenge occurs)
• Description of the Challenge (300 characters max)
• Key Actors Involved
• Impact on Patient and Community Outcomes

Competitive submissions will describe a specific “challenge pathway” including clinical setting, compelling description of the challenge, key actors involved, and the impact on patient or community outcomes. Compelling submissions will describe how the problem is currently dealt with and why the current solution remains inadequate.

Evaluation Process

Submissions to the Discovery Challenge will be evaluated for the impact on, or value to:

1. Clinical impact/Value (e.g. clinical outcomes or quality of care measures)
2. The broader public health of a community (e.g. aggregate well-being, morbidity or mortality measures).

The voting and evaluation process will be completed by two different groups on the CIP. The CAMTech online community will review the challenges submitted by voting-up to help narrow down the most pressing challenges in the field of primary care.

CAMTech will also invite clinicians from its external Technology Review Committee (TRC) to evaluate and curate the challenges. Judging criteria will include the following on a sliding scale:

1. Clinical Impact/Value:
   1- Extremely high/unprecedented
   2- High
   3- Moderate
   4- Low
   5- Extremely low/negligible
   6- No impact
   7- No opinion
2. Public Health Impact/Relevance:
   1. Extremely high/unprecedented
   2. High
   3. Moderate
   4. Low
   5. Extremely low/negligible
   6. No impact
   7. No opinion

All challenges should be submitted through the CIP. CAMTech will require all applicants to register on the platform in order to be eligible for this opportunity.

For any questions, please see the FAQ below
Submit additional questions to Alexis Steel Baker (asteel@partners.org)
Include “Discovery Challenge” in the subject heading
Frequently Asked Questions:

Discovery Challenge

Eligibility

Q: Who is eligible to apply?
A: Anyone that is has an unmet challenge in the field of primary care in low – and middle-income countries is eligible to submit.

Q: Do I have to be registered on the CAMTech Innovation Platform in order to be eligible?
A: Yes. You must be registered on the platform in order to be eligible to apply. You can register on the platform here. Please note, you can consider yourself as either an expert or as an innovator.

Application

Q: When can I submit my challenge?
A: CAMTech will be expecting applications from July 25th- September 1st, 2016.

Q: Will I receive confirmation that my challenge has been received?
A: Yes, you will receive confirmation email and notification on the screen once submitted.

Q: Can I submit more than one challenge?
A: Yes. You are able to submit more than one challenge, but please make sure the names (and ideas) are different.

Q: How can I continue to check on the voting status of my challenge?
A: You can check the status in the “My Opportunities” page of the platform.

Q: What are “Key Actors” and how can I identify them?
A: Mention which group of people are directly impacted by this challenge? (e.g., Clinicians, Administrators, Patients, Nurses, etc.)

Prize Details

Q: How many prizes will be awarded?
A: There will be up to 10 prizes for $1,000 USD each for the top voted/evaluated challenges.

Q: If awarded, how will the prize be sent to me?
A: The prize will be in one tranche as a prize via a wire transfer or a check depending on where the recipient is located.

Q: Can I win more than one prize if I submit multiple challenges?
A: Yes.
Review Process

Q: Who reviews the applications?
A: CAMTech’s internal and external Technology Review Committee (TRC) will review the challenges and provide a score. Reviewers include clinicians with global health experience, business experts and engineers.

Q: Is my challenge confidential? Who can see the challenges that I submit?
A: Challenges submitted are visible to anyone registered on the CAMTech Innovation Platform. However, the TRC ratings and evaluation will be confidential.

General Information

Q: Where do I find more information on CAMTech?
A: CAMTech’s mission is to accelerate medical technology innovation and build entrepreneurial capacity to improve health outcomes in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). Please visit our website or contact Alexis Steel Baker for further questions.

For more information regarding the award visit the Opportunities page on the CAMTech Innovation Platform here.

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www.mghcgh.org/camtech
www.camtechmgh.org