DigITs Internship Summer Challenge: 2020 Recap

Jensen, Claus T./Chief Digital & Technology Officer
Chief Digital & Technology Officer

On August 7, 2020, our inaugural DigITs Internship cohort presented their solutions for the Student Summer Challenge. Learn more about theChallenge, the Judges, and the Winners below.
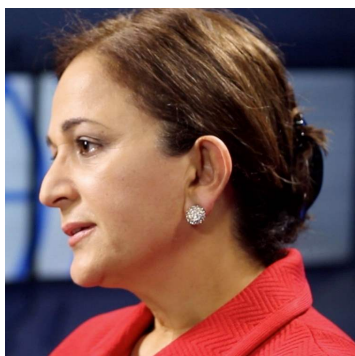
The Challenge:

The goal of the Student Summer Challenge was for our students to help DigITs leapfrog the competition by creating a semi- to fully-functioning usable software or hardware product in response to two of our [Big Bets](#).

The cohort's solutions were evaluated in the categories of concept innovation, application feasibility, market relevance, and impact on MSK.

We are grateful to have had an esteemed set of judges for the competition: Atti Riazi, Dr. Dan Stein and Ilya Zherebetskiy. The

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The Judges:

Atti Riazi, Chief Information Officer

Atti joins MSKCC from the United Nations, where she served as Chief Information Technology Officer and Assistant Secretary General since 2013. She has extensive experience in leading technology transformations, innovative ideas, and a generous spirit, as her founding of [CIOs Without Borders](#) indicates. She is a key player in the development and execution of our plans to ensure that MSK reaches its full potential as a digital organization.

Dan Stein, MD, PhD, Associate CIO, Tech Incubation

As Associate CIO, Tech Incubation, Dr. Dan Stein's drives a pipeline of innovation, supporting bold, scientific experimentation with new technologies in a variety of breakthrough domains. The Incubation Program, housed within the Technology Division, has activities that range from basic tech research to proof of concept design and development to live pilots with rigorous evaluations of new tech in production, clinical, and business environments. Dan received his MD at Mount Sinai School of Medicine and completed a PhD in Biomedical Informatics at Columbia University, where he served as a faculty member and clinical informatics leader at New York-Presbyterian Hospital before coming to MSK.

Ilya Zherebetskiy, Chief of Staff

As the DigITs Chief of Staff, Ilya oversees DigITs Operations. His office is comprised of the Digital Transformation Office, IT Finance & Procurement, and Contracts management. Ilya joined MSK in 2011 and spent 7 years in Internal Audit reviewing MSK's operations. It is during this time that he had the opportunity to review the breadth of the business and work with colleagues across a very diverse set of MSKs operational departments, including hospital operations, research, and administrative teams.
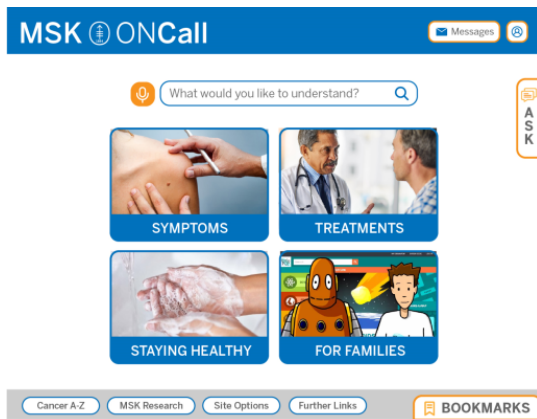
The Winners:

After the judges' deliberation I am pleased to announce the Grand Prize Winner as Team 3: MSK ONCall, and the People's Choice Award Winner as Team 2: MSK Apollo!
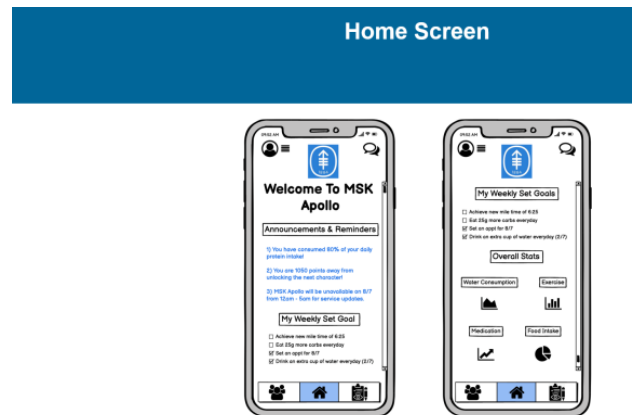
Team 3's winning solution was MSK ONCall, an online platform that combines an intuitive site design with emergent trends in technology (including AI and interactive hardware touchpoints) to make MSK's knowledge base accessible to as many people as possible. Embodying the big bet around building a knowledge base for the layperson, this solution includes promotion of the 2014 MSK campaign tagline, "More science, Less fear", brought to life today through education, community outreach, and involvement in popular media. Congratulations to the team — Michael Connelly, Justin Fagan, Joshua Gardos, Lydia Hu, Steffen Loh, Nicholas Plante, Kristen Russack and Christie Yu — on your Grand Prize win.

The People's Choice Award winners, Team 2, presented MSK Apollo, an app that aims to use a combination of ambient computing, smart wearables, and gamification in order to make monitoring from home fun for our patients. Patients are rewarded with virtual points and prizes when they eat healthily, exercise regularly, and use their smart wearables. In addition, Apollo makes use of an AI-powered chatbot to address patient mental health concerns, while also helping them to fill out forms and make appointments. Congratulations to team members Kimberly Bacchia, Ethan Cai, Daniel Cizmarik, David Liu, Jeenil Patel, Hal Rives, Alexis Tanchoco and Aditi Tyagi.

Mockup of MSK ONCall, by Team 3:

Mockup of MSK Apollo, by Team 2:

The Wrap-up:

I want to thank and congratulate all of our incredibly bright and ambitious students for their hard work this summer. It's been a pleasure getting to know you all and I hope the program provided you with new skills and experiences to take with you into your future endeavors.

I also want to thank our hosts, judges, and the Summer Internship Program Team for putting together such a well-rounded program for our interns. I am looking forward to seeing how this program grows in the future.

Claus T. Jensen

Chief Digital Officer and Head of Technology