

DESHPANDE BITS & BYTES

Message from the Executive Director



Welcome back!

By back, I mean IdeaStream, which we were able to hold in-person for the first time in three years. It was great to see so many familiar faces there, and many long-time attendees told us it was the best yet. Some of that can be attributed to camaraderie -- there's something about seeing each other in 3-D that can't be replicated in a virtual program.

IdeaStream isn't the only thing keeping us busy at the Deshpande Center. We are in the midst of considering grant proposals, and will welcome the next crop of project teams this fall. Devavrat Shah was named our new faculty director earlier this year and we look forward to working with him. We've had two more projects spin out since our last newsletter, and others are in the pipeline.

As always, the success of the Deshpande Center relies on the support of our supporters, donors and Catalysts. We thank them for their engagement.

- Leon Sandler

IdeaStream 2022: A return to live events



Marking the first in-person IdeaStream in three years, more than 150 attendees gathered at the Hyatt in Cambridge on April 29 to learn about the latest technologies being developed by Deshpande Center grantees.

The crowd heard from 16 Deshpande project teams, sharing innovations from a diverse field ranging from physical engineering to biotherapeutics to health-care solutions.

Other highlights of the conference included a keynote speech by Noubar Afeyan, Chairman of Moderna and CEO of Flagship Pioneering; a talk by Deshpande spinout Inkbit; and an appearance from MIT President L. Rafael Reif to recognize center founders Jaishree and Desh Deshpande on the 20th year of IdeaStream.

"By one definition, entrepreneurship is the process of discovering new ways of combining resources. Entrepreneurs, as you know very well, are engines of change. They can see the future. ... the Deshpande Center may be the most inspiring act of entrepreneurship I can think of," Reif said.

[Watch videos of the IdeaStream 2022 presentations on their project pages](#) | [See more from IdeaStream, including the keynote address](#)

SPINOUT & GRANTEE NEWS

New spinouts launched from Deshpande projects



AeroShield manufactures a super-insulating glass sheet based on silica aerogel technology. It is developing super-insulating, transparent inserts for windows, bringing state-of-the-art thermal comfort and energy savings into buildings at an affordable price.

The company is a spinout from the 2017 project, [Optically transparent thermally insulating retrofits for single pane windows](#) | [Learn more about AeroShield here](#)



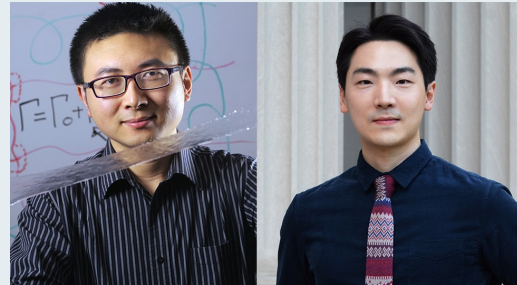
SanaHeal provides a new bioadhesive technology platform for better repair and healing of injured tissues and organs in the human body. Enabled by nature-inspired bioadhesive mechanisms and materials, SanaHeal's technologies bring the convenience and performance of engineering adhesives, such as duct tape, to clinical applications.

The company is a spinout from the 2019 project, [Novel nature-inspired bioadhesives for tissue sealing](#) | [Learn more about SanaHeal here](#).

MEDICAL PLATFORM STARTUP SEARCHING FOR CEO

A Deshpande project team is launching a medical platform startup with a magnetically steered robotic guidewire for neurovascular procedures. It is seeking a founding CEO to lead the company, raise investment capital, set the strategy, and build the team.

[See more information and job description here](#)



Shoutouts to Spinouts:

- Privo Technologies was awarded \$2.5 million from the National Cancer Institute to support its first in-man clinical study of its intraoperative cancer treatment.
- PanTher Tx was named the 2021 "Emerging MedTech Company of the Year" by New England Venture Capital Association.
- Gradiant recently acquired Canadian artificial intelligence company Synauta to advance its use of digital twins in water treatment.

DESHPANDE EVENTS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Shah tapped as faculty director

Devavrat Shah was named faculty director of the Deshpande Center beginning Feb. 1. He is a professor in the department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, where his research interests lie at the interface of statistical interference and social data processing.



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