ENTERPRISE sparks

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION OF
NUS National University of Singapore | Enterprise

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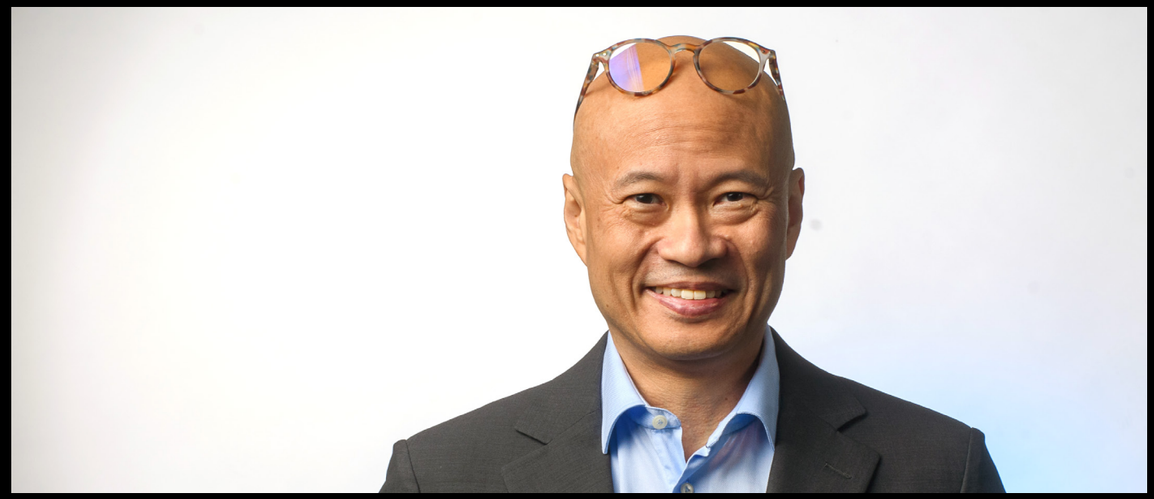
NUS 120
CELEBRATING THE PAST. SHAPING THE FUTURE

FROM THE SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT (INNOVATION AND ENTERPRISE)



"Progress doesn't come from going with the flow. It comes from creating the current.

For me, innovation has never been a destination. It's a constant process of asking the hard questions, taking smart risks, and being willing to move through uncertainty to get to what really matters. That's where the breakthroughs happen.

With this new digital edition of *Sparks Magazine*, we've taken a fresh approach: A new design, new voices, and a renewed focus on what it really means to lead with innovation.

I hope it challenges you, inspires you, and sparks ideas worth pursuing. Let's shape what's next, together.

DR TAN SIAN WEE

Power your journey with deep passion

YouTrip Co-founder and CEO **Caecilia Chu** speaks about seizing opportunities when building a business, and what entrepreneurs need to do to play the long game.

“We hit the first-year target in just 48 hours.”

For any business owner, this would be a feat worthy of celebration – an affirmation that what they had was a gem of a product. To YouTrip Co-founder and CEO **Caecilia Chu** however, it was merely an “initial jolt”.

After experiencing the explosive growth of YouTrip – the region’s first multi-currency digital wallet – she was ready to acknowledge the “resounding validation” that they had achieved “genuine product-market fit”, when the brand started seeing “consistent user adoption and received positive feedback.”

Caecilia’s early reservation was not surprising, given that start-ups have tremendous odds stacked against them. Research shows that 20 per cent will fail within the first two years, 45 per cent within the first five, and 65 per cent will not survive the first decade. In fact, her earlier venture in 2012 – an e-commerce platform – had folded after two years of struggle. “We were 20 years late to the game; there was too much competition by then,” she states flatly, and that was all she was willing to divulge. In addition to unfavourable market conditions, the more common reasons why start-ups fall by the wayside range from insufficient funding from investors to high burn rate, poor product-market fit, bad management and owner burnout.

So it was by design that YouTrip was launched in Singapore in 2018. “People here are avid travellers, and we wanted the first-mover advantage in Southeast Asia,” explains Caecilia. The co-founders were on point – users love YouTrip. By 2023, the business had become operationally profitable, processing over US$10 billion in total payment value annually.

Today, millions of people use the multi-currency digital wallet as a debit card, seamlessly transacting across 150 currencies without incurring additional fees. Investors, too, are sold on its viability – YouTrip has attracted funding of US$105.5 million to date, including US$50 million from Lightspeed Venture Partners in end-2023.

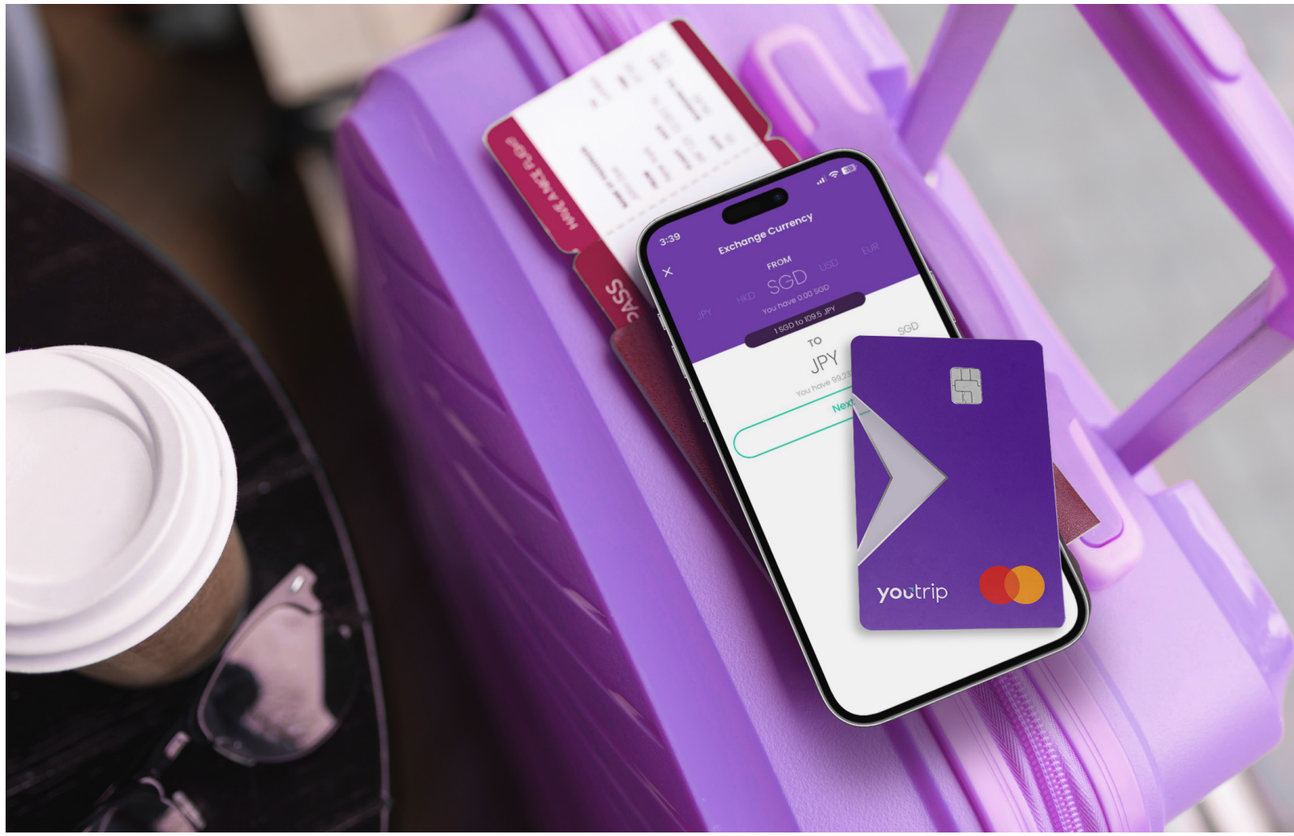
To aspiring entrepreneurs, Caecilia offers this practical advice, “Always start with a problem that you are deeply passionate about solving. This will be your driving force as you go through the ups and downs of your business journey.” The busy CEO lives by her own advice, and remains equally passionate about solving the problem that had first piqued her interest – the high costs and hassle associated with cross-border payments.

“As consumer needs are constantly evolving, we require relentless iteration,” she highlights. This means having a good understanding of users’ pain points so that the team can work towards finding the solutions. “Beyond just enhancing the product, achieving strong product stickiness is of utmost importance – we want to make our solution an integral part of users’ daily lives.” As a business, this will strengthen the company’s competitiveness as more players enter the market. To Caecilia, the social impact is similarly important.

Navigating the complexities of business

Singapore is renowned for its vibrant start-up ecosystem. Last year, its ecosystem was ranked top in Asia, and seventh globally, according to The Global Startup Ecosystem 2024 report. In the Global Innovation Index 2024 (GII 2024), Singapore was first in the regional Southeast Asia, East Asia, and Oceania (SEAO) category, and fourth globally – the city-state’s best performance in more than a decade. Significantly, in GII 2024, Singapore achieved the pole position in these indicators: unicorn valuations, venture capital (VC), government

“Building YouTrip is my life mission. I want to make financial services truly fair, accessible and transparent, with the use of technology. Most importantly, we want to treat everyone the same, no matter their background. We want all our users to have the best product and pricing, all the time.”



Caecilia’s deep passion for financial accessibility and her strategic approach to business have been instrumental in steering YouTrip toward sustained success.

The rapid adoption of YouTrip—hitting its first-year target in just 48 hours—proved that users were eager for a transparent, low-cost alternative to traditional banking solutions.

Caecilia with the YouTrip Singapore team.

effectiveness, and access to information and communications technology. Given that Singapore is home to some 4,500 tech start-ups, 400 VC firms and 240 accelerators, venture builders and incubators, support is available to start-ups at different growth phases, to fuel their progress.

For new start-ups, Caecilia advises "joining accelerators and incubators to gain valuable insights, mentorships and access to investors who are keen on seed-round investments". Networking is also a must for founders and aspiring entrepreneurs as it can unlock new opportunities, partnerships and resources. "Be very intentional about networking and building impactful relationships," shares the entrepreneur.

Immerse in the community

A useful first stop for entrepreneurs is the Startup SG Network, an online portal that represents the interests of the start-up community. Founders will find ample resources for mentorship, funding, talent and infrastructure. For example, through the Startup SG Founder programme, first-time founders can access funding through a start-up grant, and mentorship from Accredited Mentor Partners.

"...a compelling pitch may grab the investors' attention, it is the strong business fundamentals that will keep them interested."

Mentorship is especially beneficial as it helps new founders navigate the complexities inherent in a business. Mentors can point newcomers in the right direction, and give the proverbial leg-up which usually covers pitch training, networking opportunities with investors and corporates, and secretarial and accounting support.

As the business develops, founders can tap on different resources to support their expansion. Startup SG Network's global acceleration schemes, Enterprise Singapore's Global Innovation Alliance, and NUS Enterprise's BLOCK71 Global Incubation initiative are designed to help businesses access markets and networks. Entrepreneurs can also consider ongoing programmes like the National GRIP initiative for deep-tech start-ups.

There is no shortage of large events where entrepreneurs can connect with the wider start-up community from around the globe. Pertinent conferences, such as GITEX Asia – the world's largest deep-tech show brand made its debut in Singapore in April 2025; NUS Enterprise's flagship InnovFest – Asia's largest university start-up showcase; ATxEnterprise; and Singapore Week of Innovation and Technology (SWITCH), present opportunities for learning, connecting, and deal-making. For entrepreneurs, the pitching competitions will offer handy takeaways on how to deliver a convincing pitch.

The dollars and cents

As start-ups typically go through several rounds of fundraising, how can they capture or retain investor interest over time?

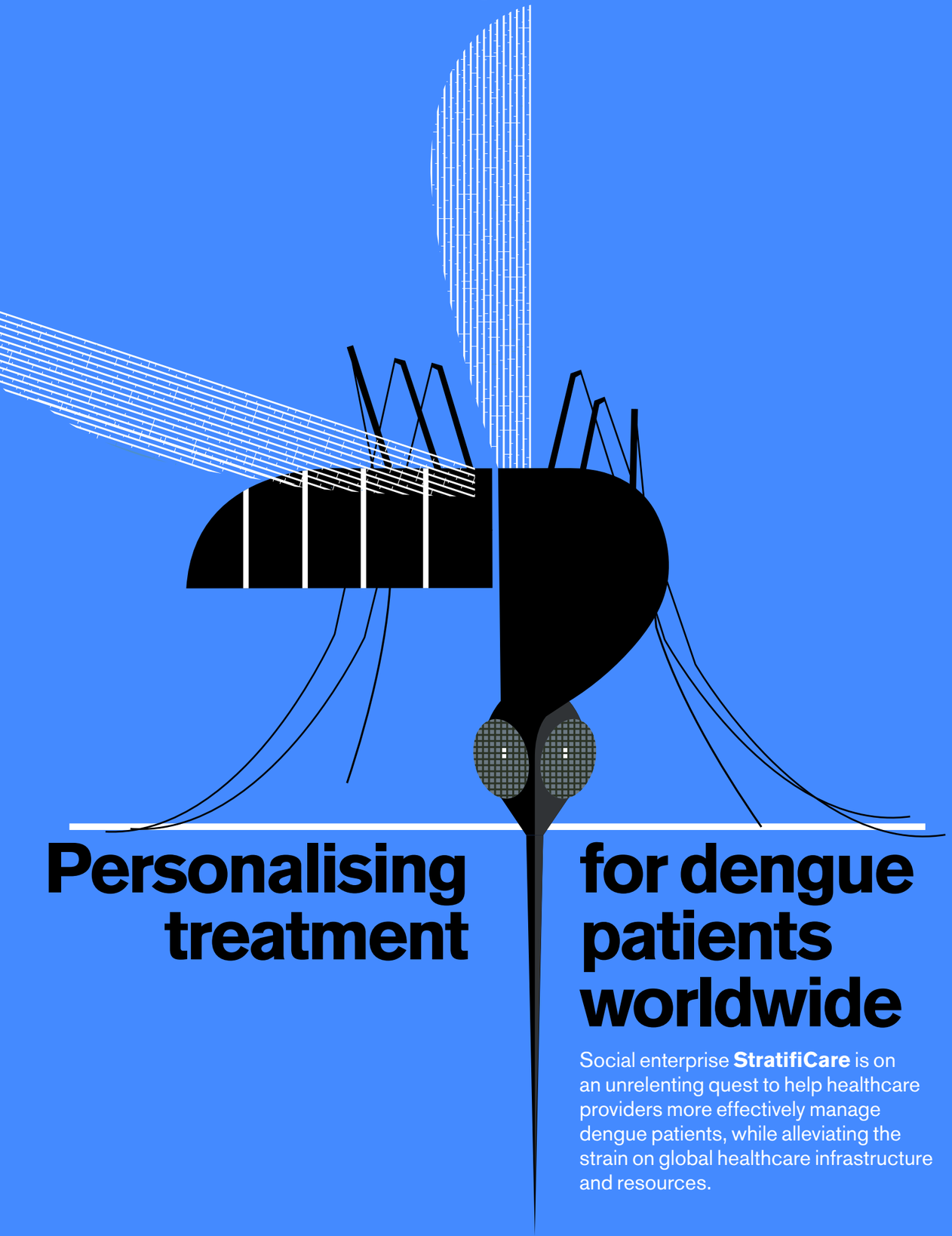
"Fundraising is a marathon, not a sprint. The best time to network with VCs is before you're actively raising funds," Caecilia reveals. "The regular interactions will help build trust and keep you on their radar, so when it's time to raise funds, you're not starting from zero." Thus, it makes sense to put in the right corporate structure as early as possible. "It will enable you to focus on the real problem, build a scalable solution and ensure solid economics." As the business grows, the start-up may want to leverage "customer advocacy" to elevate the brand. "Satisfied customers can drive word-of-mouth marketing, which is often the most effective way to develop brand credibility," she emphasises.

The sound fundamentals of YouTrip not only drives its impressive development, it made a huge difference during the COVID-19 pandemic, when business ground to a halt. The team was ready and able to jump into action, and transformed YouTrip into an all-weather business with e-commerce functionalities. They also created YouBiz, a business-to-business proposition tailored for the business segment.

A journey with no end

Speaking about her experience in building YouTrip, Caecilia says, "I consider leading YouTrip's journey as my biggest achievement. We went from an app and two co-founders to a leading, regional multi-currency digital payments company with 300 colleagues." She is immensely proud of her diverse team, and the inclusive work environment where talent can thrive. "Seeing the team innovate and achieve breakthroughs together is the most rewarding aspect of my journey."

Notwithstanding the mounting popularity of YouTrip, the entrepreneur is far from done. Looking ahead, one can expect Caecilia and her team to be "laser-focused on accelerated market expansion" as they strive to bring the benefits of YouTrip to more users throughout Asia and beyond.



Personalising treatment for dengue patients worldwide

Social enterprise **StratifiCare** is on an unrelenting quest to help healthcare providers more effectively manage dengue patients, while alleviating the strain on global healthcare infrastructure and resources.

Ever been bitten by a mosquito? Your body responds with itchiness and swelling on your skin. Often, we forgot this once the itchiness subsides.

However, the bite of an infected mosquito can result in dengue fever, which may become severe even for first-time patients, particularly the elderly and those with pre-existing medical conditions. While most cases are asymptomatic or mild, severe forms of the infection are considered emergencies and require immediate medical care as it can result in death.

There are four dengue virus serotypes circulating in Singapore and worldwide. Hence, individuals can be infected up to four times. Repeat infections have been associated with a higher occurrence of severe dengue.

Building StratifiCare out of a research lab

A shortage of hospital beds due to our ageing population has continued to plague Singapore. Back in 2014, StratifiCare's co-founder Anthony Chua was pursuing his post-graduate research under the tutelage of Mary Ng, his then PhD advisor, when he became fascinated with the prospect of developing diagnostic solutions that can help healthcare providers identify optimal patient care and treatment for patients of arboviral diseases.

After years of collaborative research work, the duo, together with their colleague Tiffany Lin, established StratifiCare to develop innovative diagnostic solutions that integrate protein diagnostics with artificial intelligence (AI).

Today, StratifiCare is an award-winning company that has won the recognition of international institutes, corporations and investors. Not too shabby for a start-up that spun out from a research lab at the NUS Department of Microbiology and Immunology.

Challenge in identifying severe dengue patients

Majority of dengue cases are asymptomatic or mild, so the underlying challenge is how to accurately predict which patients will develop severe dengue in the early phase of the disease. This will then determine whether the patient needs to be hospitalised.

Currently, patients are hospitalised if they exhibit one or more warning signs, with majority of hospitalised dengue patients not developing severe dengue. This results in unnecessary healthcare expenses and an increased burden to the healthcare system.

To better support dengue patients in getting the right level of treatment that they need, the StratifiCare team developed StratifiDen®, a severe dengue prediction test. After a patient is diagnosed positive for dengue, the blood sample will be tested for specific proteins.

"By interpreting the protein data with our proprietary AI model, we will be able to accurately predict whether the patient's condition will deteriorate into more severe forms of dengue such as Dengue Hemorrhagic Fever, and whether hospitalisation is required." Anthony shared.

Experiencing socio-economic benefits takes substantial funds, and time

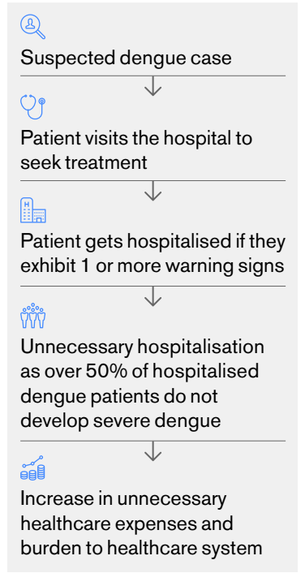
By predicting severe dengue more accurately, the number of unnecessary hospitalisation can be reduced - easing Singapore's bed crunch. Anthony's immediate priority is to offer StratifiDen in Singapore's hospitals and clinics with the help of A*STAR's Diagnostic Development Hub (DXD Hub) to serve as the "gold standard" model for developing countries to reference.

Dengue poses an even greater threat in developing countries with less-adequate healthcare facilities. Anthony is raising catalytic funding (e.g. donations, impact investments etc) for StratifiDen. Dengue is a major healthcare challenge for such countries and it requires significant support from philanthropic and impact communities for effective execution to move even a small step forward.

He is keen to collaborate with overseas clinical diagnostic labs to deploy StratifiDen locally. "We will need to set up the testing methodology in place during "peace time" such that we do not scramble when a large dengue epidemic happens."

According to WHO, dengue's global impact is substantial, with 390 million infections occurring each year. Half a million progress on to severe dengue and require hospitalisation. The disease poses a huge burden to human health.

The global population at risk is predicted to rise to 63% in 2080 as global temperatures rise.



StraifiDen is the world's first predictive test for severe dengue, revolutionising dengue management with its ability to quickly assess a patient's risk of developing severe symptoms.

SOLUTION

Use of StratifiDen™ test to predict risk of severe dengue

- Patient gets hospitalised if predicted to develop severe dengue
  - More focused medical attention and aggressive supportive treatment on patients with severe dengue
- Patient gets triaged to outpatient care if predicted not to develop severe dengue
  - Avoid unnecessary hospitalisation
    - Reduced unnecessary healthcare expenses

Growing StratifiCare with NUS' supportive start-up ecosystem

Anthony's time in NUS has allowed him to scratch the itch of entrepreneurship. He signed up for the NUS Overseas Colleges (NOC) programme as an undergraduate and has been deeply plugged in to the NUS ecosystem since 2006.

StratifiCare is one of seven social enterprise start-ups in the inaugural cohort of the Technology for Sustainable Social Impact (TS2) accelerator programme, a collaborative initiative by NUS Enterprise and the Singapore Centre for Social Enterprise, raiSE launched in 2024. The start-up is currently incubating at BLOCK71 Social Impact Hub.

Sharing his personal take as a start-up founder in the healthcare industry, Anthony was candid.

"Having a minimum viable product (MVP) is not possible for regulated medical products. There is no access to "early stage" investors who invest only when there is revenue, so you need to find creative ways to survive until then. It helps identify founders who have grit and commitment for the long haul."

StratifiCare is set for an upswing. The team has developed a new product, StratifiREY, a prediction test for effective liver cancer treatment.

Dengue may be here to stay but StratifiCare is closer than ever to alleviating its adverse impact on patient care and healthcare systems worldwide.

2024 Entered 1st cohort of TS2 Accelerator Programme; presented at the International Arbovirus Sumit in Indonesia

2021 Close to S$1million in an oversubscribed seed round from investors including Asian Development Bank Ventures, Sequoia Sprout, PatSnap CEO Jeffrey Tiong, and Carousell CEO Quek Siu Rui.

2020 Won the inaugural DBS Foundation Social Impact Grand Prize at the 10th Lee Kuan Yew Global Business Plan Competition

2018 Won the Leave a Nest Award at the Mitsubishi Electric Tech Push

2015 Founded StratifiCare

(↗)
Find out more about **StratifiCare** and the **TS2 accelerator programme**.

The team behind StratifiCare: **Anthony Chua**, CEO, **Mary Mah**, Chief Scientific Officer, and **Trinda Ann Ting**, R&D Scientist.

Anthony is grateful for the unbridling support he has received from NUS Enterprise over the years. "A special shout-out to Director, BLOCK71 SEA & Business Development, **Brian Koh**, Senior Associate Director, Ecosystem Business Development **Ho Yuen Ping** and the **NUS Technology Transfer and Innovation (TTI) team**."

Preventing more than 100,000 falls every year with AI-monitoring solutions

SoundEye, a social enterprise start-up incubating at the BLOCK71 Social Impact Hub has developed LASSO, a modular device that uses advanced sound recognition and depth imaging technology to anticipate and detect falls and bed exits with high accuracy.

Dr Tan Yeow Kee still remembers the moment that changed everything. It was a tragic case—an elderly woman had fallen in a washroom and was unable to call for help. Enduring three days without aid, she survived by drinking from the toilet bowl. Such harrowing experiences moved him deeply and he was determined to find a solution.

The thought that someone in distress could go unnoticed for so long was unsettling. This set Dr Tan on a mission to develop a privacy-preserving monitoring solution that could prevent similar tragedies from happening again.

What began as a research project under A*STAR has since grown into SoundEye, a deep tech AI social enterprise start-up that develops smart monitoring solutions to prevent and detect falls without compromising privacy.

Initially, SoundEye focused on eldercare, working with hospitals and aged care facilities to reduce falls and unattended medical emergencies. But as the company grew, so did its applications—today, SoundEye's solutions are now deployed in nursing homes, airports, commercial buildings and industrial facilities. Current customers include Bishan Home for the Intellectually Disabled, Singapore Changi Airport and Boys' Town.

Leveraging AI for privacy-preserving monitoring

Traditional monitoring systems often rely on CCTV, raising concerns about privacy and trust. At the core of SoundEye's mission is LASSO, its flagship monitoring device that leverages depth imaging and advanced sound recognition to prevent and detect falls without relying on intrusive cameras.

Unlike conventional monitoring systems, LASSO does not rely on video footage. Instead, it uses Light Detection and Ranging (LiDAR) depth imaging depth imaging and sound recognition to detect emergencies and provides AI-driven insights for real-time alerts, sent directly to the caregiver's mobile phone.

"Privacy concerns with traditional cameras led us to explore LiDAR technology," explains Dr Tan. "With depth imaging and sound recognition, we can ensure safety without compromising dignity. When someone is screaming under a table or in another room, our sound recognition technology can detect distress without needing a direct line of sight," says Dr Tan.

This approach not only protects privacy but also ensures a higher level of responsiveness, especially in settings where caregivers cannot be present at all times.

Helping SoundEye to scale up

SoundEye's entrepreneurial journey was strengthened by its involvement with NUS Enterprise. The company first connected with the NUS ecosystem through the Modern Aging Programme. It is a business competition and accelerator run by NUS Enterprise and Access Health. The competition provided SoundEye with access to mentorship, funding, and business networks.

"NUS Enterprise's seed funding was pivotal—it allowed me to move from A*STAR to focus on SoundEye full-time," says Dr Tan.

The support didn't stop at funding. Through BLOCK71 and NUS Enterprise's accelerator programmes, SoundEye gained valuable insights on scaling a deep tech business, forming industry partnerships, and navigating regulatory challenges. Today, the company continues to develop its next-generation consumer products at the BLOCK71 Social Impact Hub.

Bringing smart safety solutions to more communities

As SoundEye grows, its focus remains on accessibility and affordability. The company is committed to keeping costs low through:

- Edge computing, which reduces reliance on expensive server infrastructure
- Flexible pricing models, catering to different budgets
- Collaborations with agencies, making subsidies available for customers

The next frontier for SoundEye is expanding regionally. The company has already begun scaling operations to Japan, Southeast Asia, the US, and Europe, partnering with hospitals and aged care facilities to integrate its technology into more healthcare systems.

"With better data analytics, we can create more meaningful insights for doctors and caregivers, ultimately improving healthcare outcomes and quality of life."

What's next for SoundEye?

The future of AI-driven monitoring goes beyond just fall detection. SoundEye is working on advanced AI models that analyse behavioral patterns, helping doctors and caregivers predict and prevent medical emergencies before they happen.

The company is also developing a next-generation consumer product to allow families to monitor their elderly loved ones at home without compromising their privacy.

With a clear mission and innovative technology, SoundEye is proving that AI-powered monitoring can be both effective and ethical—protecting lives while preserving dignity.

"We are very grateful to **Prof Wong Poh Kam** for his advice and encouragement to keep working on AI to generate social impact." NUS Enterprise's seed funding was pivotal in allowing Dr. Tan to focus on SoundEye full-time.

Find out more about **SoundEye** and **BLOCK71 latest activities**.

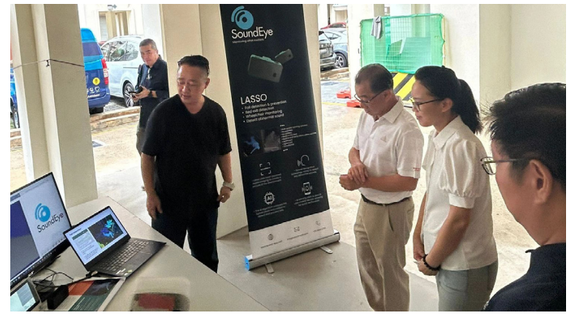
2024 Work on the portable LASSO with Synapxe Expansion to Japan, and Southeast Asia

2023 Collaborated with HDB to monitor older adults living alone

2022 Collaborated with CGH and Centre for Healthcare Assistive & Robotics Technology (CHART) using LASSO; Slingshot 2022 Top 50 Global Startup, Domain Winner of the Transformative Digital Technologies

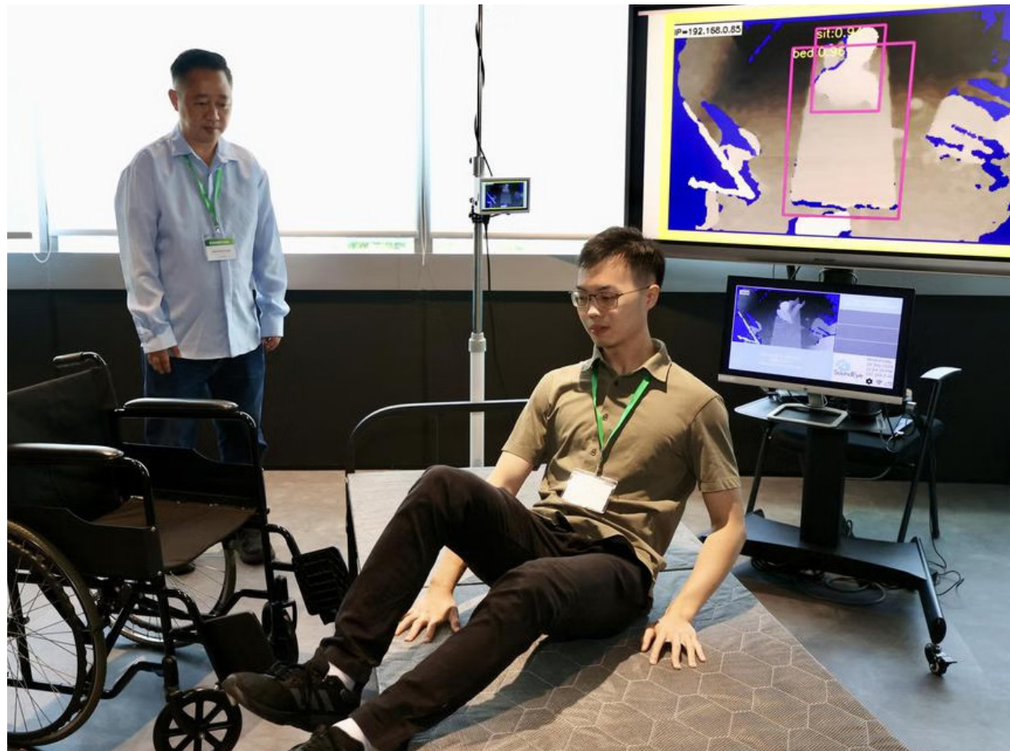
2016 SoundEye received an investment from NUS Enterprise

2013 Founded SoundEye; Hacknovate Healthcare IT Competition 2013 (Winner)



In 2023, SoundEye collaborated with HDB to monitor older adults living alone in Singapore.

Desmond Chong, SoundEye's Business Operation Manager showing a visitor how LASSO's technology work.

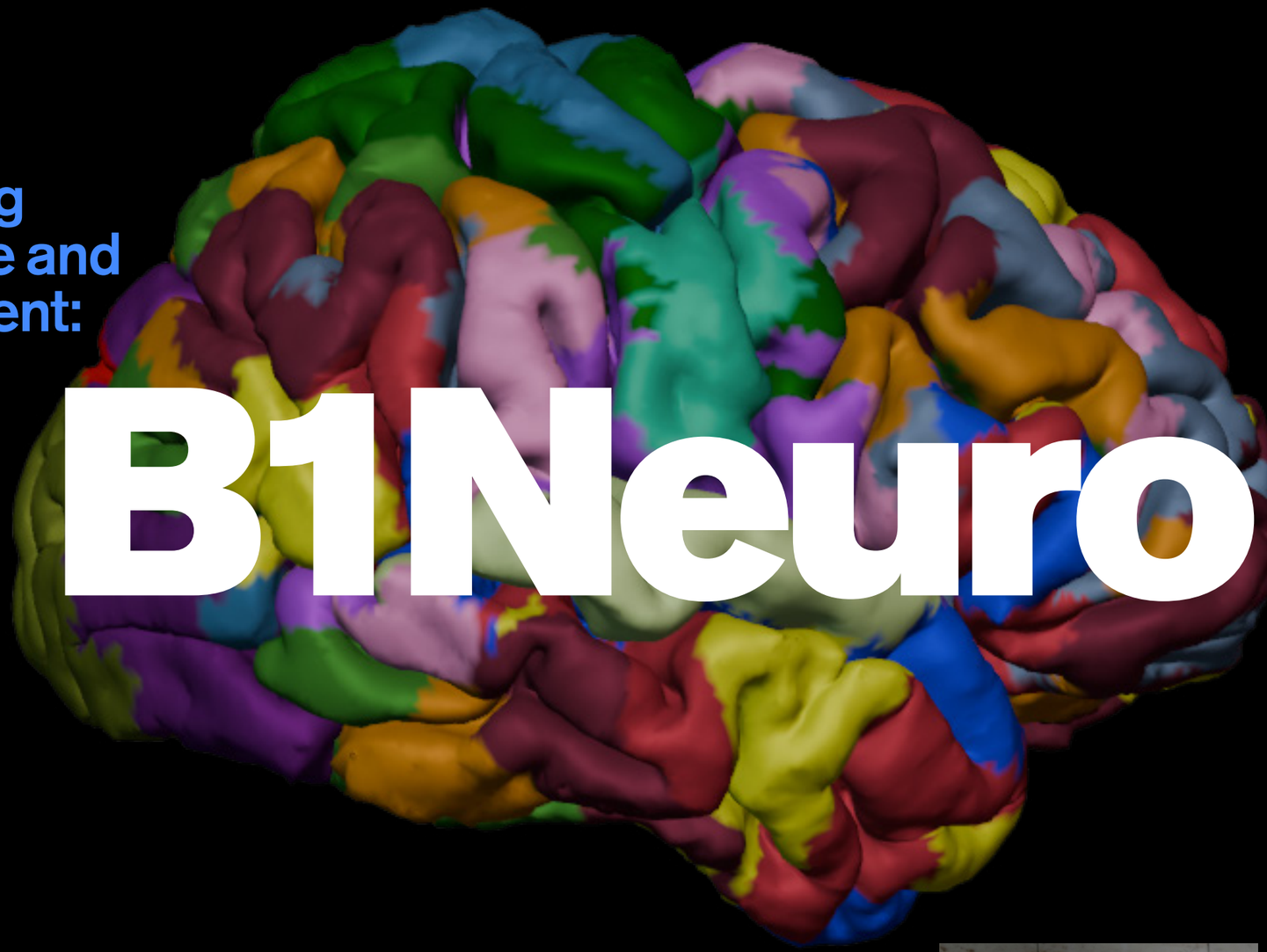


LASSO can monitor the changes in the posture of the elders in wheelchairs or beds, identify their fall risks, and issue alarms direct to mobile phones to notify caregivers.

PHOTO CREDITS: Kung Qicong (Lianhe Zabao)

Bridging Science and Treatment:

How B1Neuro is transforming depression care



ABOVE:
A representation of the functional organisation of Dr Ooi's brain. Treatments are designed for each individual using their unique brain organisation. Each colour represents a different brain network, which are associated to different functions in the brain.

TOP:
(Right to left) Dr Leon Ooi, Co-founder and CEO, B1Neuro
Dr Ruby Kong, Co-founder and CSO, B1Neuro

Major Depressive Disorder, commonly known as "depression", is the most common psychiatric disorder among adults in Singapore. For individuals experiencing depression, identifying effective treatment options can be challenging. While medications are not universally effective, alternative treatments like Electroconvulsive Therapy (ECT) are often associated with notable side effects.

B1Neuro aims to change that by using brain imaging and stimulation to create personalised, targeted treatments for depression care. Founded by Dr Leon Ooi, Dr Ruby Kong, Associate Professor Thomas Yeo and Dr Tor Phern Chern, this start-up is committed to making mental healthcare more precise and effective.

A mission to improve lives

B1Neuro's team – made up of clinicians and brain imaging experts - has seen first-hand how patients struggle to find an effective treatment that fits their individual needs and health conditions.

The multifaceted nature of depression, combined with biological, systemic and psychological barriers, contributes to the challenges in treating this condition effectively.

One factor is the complexity of the human brain. Depression involves complex interactions between neurotransmitters, hormones and brain regions, making it difficult to pinpoint the ideal treatment for each individual. Approximately one-third of individuals with depression experience treatment-resistant depression (TRD), where standard treatments fail to provide sustained relief.

“The journey for patients with depression is long and uncertain. Brain stimulation is a safe and effective treatment, and we want to use our expertise to make it even better.”
– Dr Ooi

A breakthrough in depression treatment

B1Neuro’s technology—functional MRI (fMRI)-guided transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS)—allows doctors to accurately target areas of the brain linked to depression. Traditional methods rely on scalp-based measurements, which can lead to errors of several centimetres. By using precise imaging, B1Neuro makes treatment far more effective.

B1Neuro’s approach is already delivering promising results. In a recent study at Institute of Mental Health (IMH), standard TMS (using scalp-based measures) had a 21 per cent response rate, but with B1Neuro’s fMRI-guided method, the response rate jumped to around 70 per cent—a game-changing improvement.

“TMS can provide about three months of relief for treatment-resistant depression,” says Dr Kong. “Our precision approach is making it significantly more probable that you respond to the treatment.”

From research to real-world impact

Turning research into a real-world solution wasn’t easy. For B1Neuro’s co-founders, shifting from academia to business meant navigating the challenges of funding, regulations, and how to bring a product to market.

“The healthcare industry is complex,” says Dr Ooi. “It’s not just about great research—it has to be practical, scalable, and meet regulatory standards.”

NUS Enterprise provided crucial guidance. While filing for their patent, B1Neuro discovered the DeGAP funding programme, which helped them move forward.

What’s next for B1Neuro?

B1Neuro is now expanding beyond depression treatment. Their brain-targeting technology could help with conditions like anxiety, OCD, and Alzheimer’s.

“We are looking for collaborators to bring our technology from lab to clinic,” says Dr Ooi. “We are also seeking more ways for our technology to reach as many patients as possible.

With every step, B1Neuro is proving that science doesn’t have to stay in the lab—it can change lives.

TOP:
Dr Tor Phern Chern (left-most) and **Dr Ruby Kong** (right-most) explaining the set up in the clinic at the Institute of Mental Health to guests from overseas.

2024 Entered NUS GRIP; Awarded NUS DeGAP funding to further the development of the brain mapping algorithm.

2023 An open-label clinical trial for fMRI-guided depression treatment began at IMH

2021 Dr Tor and Assoc Prof Thomas Yeo started a collaboration to assess the benefit of neuroimaging on TMS treatments for depression

2019 Ruby developed one of the most highly-cited individualised brain mapping algorithms

2013 Assoc Prof Thomas Yeo started the Computational Brain Imaging Group at NUS

“The **NUS Technology Transfer and Innovation (TTI) team, Andy Li** and **Ang Hui Ying** went beyond their role,” says Dr Ooi. “They connected us with experienced entrepreneurs and provided valuable advice.” Additionally, the NUS Graduate Research Innovation Programme (GRIP) team guided them on their first steps in entrepreneurship, helping them transition from research to business.

Find out more about **B1Neuro** and **sign up for National GRIP here**.

From Singapore to Tokyo

NUS Expands Deep Tech Start-up Ecosystem

RIGHT:
Prof Tan and **Mr Takeshima** were joined by **Dr Tan Sian Wee**, NUS Senior Vice President, Innovation and Enterprise (far right) and **Mr Kikukawa Jingo**, Director-General, Innovation and Environment Policy Bureau, Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (far left).

On 28 March 2025, **NUS Enterprise**, the entrepreneurial arm of the National University of Singapore (NUS), celebrated the opening of **BLOCK71 Tokyo**, its second office in Japan. This follows the successful launch of BLOCK71 Nagoya in November 2024. Since then, the BLOCK71 Japan team has supported over 15 start-ups.

BLOCK71 Tokyo opens at Japan's latest global innovation hub

BLOCK71 is NUS Enterprise's global network of physical accelerators, providing start-ups with resources, mentorship, and access to international markets across 11 cities. The new Tokyo office strengthens NUS' role in the global start-up ecosystem and opens new doors for entrepreneurs, made possible by strong collaborations with Japanese partners like JR East, its key partner for BLOCK71 Tokyo.

Partnering JR East since 2023

The partnership between NUS and JR East began in September 2023 with a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to promote entrepreneurial opportunities between Singapore and Japan. That same year, NUS launched the NUS Enterprise Market Immersion Programme in Japan, with JR East as one of its partners. This programme enabled NUS start-ups like M.I. Cloud Technologies and Mycotech Lab to explore the Japanese market and connect with potential corporate partners.

Building on this momentum, NUS teamed up earlier this year with JR East and ICMG Group, a leading business co-creation partner for Japanese companies, to launch a programme aimed at advancing open innovation strategies in Southeast Asia. This initiative encourages Japanese companies to collaborate with start-ups to create new products and services, accelerate growth, and bring innovative solutions to market faster.

The opening of BLOCK71 Tokyo marks a significant milestone in the collaboration between NUS and its Japanese partners, reinforcing the shared commitment to developing robust start-up ecosystems in both countries.

Located at TAKANAWA GATEWAY Link Scholars' Hub, BLOCK71 Tokyo will support the growth of Southeast Asian technology-driven start-ups in Japan, contributing to an urban development focus on environmental sustainability, mobility and robotics, and smart health. It will also provide Japanese start-ups with the resources needed to expand into Southeast Asia and beyond.

"Japan's strong foundation in technology and research makes it an ideal environment for start-up growth. It ranks among the world's top three countries for patent applications and invests over 3 per cent of its GDP in R&D, one of the highest globally," said NUS President Professor Tan Eng Chye at the opening of BLOCK71 Tokyo.

"This creates immense potential for innovation. With BLOCK71 Tokyo located in the country's latest innovation hub, we have a strategic platform to connect start-ups and drive cross-border collaboration. To amplify our impact, we are partnering one of Japan's top universities, a major corporation, and a leading venture capital firm, all sharing our vision to foster deep tech innovation and build a robust global ecosystem," he added.

NUS collaborates with Japanese partners, who will invest about S$10 million to spur global venture creation

To deepen its impact, NUS inked three new partnerships in the lead-up to the opening of BLOCK71 Tokyo. Through these strategic collaborations, NUS will reinforce its position as a leading start-up university in the global innovation landscape, nurturing entrepreneurial mindsets and empowering the next generation of technology entrepreneurs.

1 Central Japan Innovation Capital

The first partnership is with Central Japan Innovation Capital (CJIC), a subsidiary of the Tokai National Higher Education and Research System. CJIC will invest up to five percent of its assets under management in NUS-affiliated deep tech start-ups, supporting their growth and expansion into the Japanese and Southeast Asian markets. The fund aims to raise over S$40 million by November 2025. This collaboration will also provide broader opportunities for knowledge exchange and cross-border innovation.

Associate Professor Benjamin Tee, Vice President (Ecosystem Building), NUS Enterprise (right) and **Professor Kazuya Takeda**, CJIC CEO (left), sign the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between NUS and Central Japan Innovation Capital on 25 March 2025.

2 Kyoto University

Beyond funding, NUS is enhancing entrepreneurial support for deep tech start-ups through its partnership with Kyoto University. As a first step, Kyoto University will send start-ups to join the NUS Graduate Research Innovation Programme (NUS GRIP). They will also become the first overseas university partner in a localised version of the programme. This will empower Kyoto University's graduate students, researchers, and alumni to transform research into impactful deep tech ventures, addressing some of the social challenges in Asia and seizing new opportunities.

Both universities will also offer exchange programmes to foster cross-border entrepreneurial experiences. Kyoto University students will have the opportunity to intern at NUS GRIP start-ups, while NUS GRIP start-ups can gain hands-on experience from Kyoto University Innovation Capital Co. Ltd, the university's venture capital arm.

Prof Tan and **Dr Nagahiro Minato**, Kyoto University President (left), sign the MOU between NUS and Kyoto University on 26 March 2025.

3 TIS Inc

NUS will expand its global entrepreneurship efforts to build a globally connected start-up ecosystem through a partnership with TIS Inc, one of Japan's leading IT companies. Together, they will launch the Deep Tech Seed to A Growth Expansion Programme (Deep-SAGE), a tailored start-up acceleration initiative to help seed-stage start-ups worldwide scale towards pre-Series A and Series A funding.

Over the next three years, TIS Inc. will invest in a total of S$7.6 million in Deep-SAGE, supporting up to 30 start-ups. As part of this commitment, at least S$500,000 will be allocated annually to fund a minimum of two start-ups per cohort. The programme, delivered by BLOCK71, will provide structured support through virtual mentorship sessions and workshops. Additionally, start-ups will gain access to incubation opportunities at BLOCK71 offices in 11 cities, including Singapore, Silicon Valley, Saigon and Suzhou.

Mr Josaku Yanai, TIS Inc. Executive Vice President (left), representing its **President, Mr Yasushi Okamoto**, exchanging the signed collaboration agreement with **Prof Tan** on 28 March 2025.

Deepening market immersion and cultural exchange in Tokyo

Start-ups that participated in the Japan Immersion Programme organised by BLOCK71 Japan in 2024 have gained valuable insights into Japan's manufacturing landscape and went on to build industry connections, secure customers, and develop proof-of-concept projects, all of which are crucial for breaking into Japan's competitive market.

"The Japan Immersion Programme from NUS helped me make valuable connections with Japanese companies. We were able to secure a pilot project with one of the companies we met during this programme. It has helped us shape our strategy for entering the Japanese market,"

– Mr Zaid Ahmed Khan
M.I. Cloud Technologies CEO

"RoPlus participated in 2024, which proved to be a fruitful experience. We had the opportunity to engage in individual meetings with stakeholders, including end-users and potential investors. Additionally, we showcased our products at Messe Nagoya, where we connected with various industry partners and increased market awareness. Through this programme, we successfully secured a distributor for the Japanese market and engaged two potential end-users. I would like to thank BLOCK71 Japan for fostering a supportive ecosystem and providing a strategic platform for NUS spin-offs to enter the Japanese market,"

– Mr Low Jin Huat, RoPlus Co-Founder

Building on the collaboration between NUS and JR East, and following the success of its second Japan Immersion Programme in Nagoya held in 2024, BLOCK71 Japan will launch the third edition in Tokyo in May 2025. It will focus on the three key themes of TAKANAWA GATEWAY CITY, namely environmental sustainability, mobility and robotics, and smart health.

It will welcome five Southeast Asian start-ups, who will have the chance to showcase their solutions at the upcoming GATEWAY Tech TAKANAWA, an event for large corporations and start-ups to exchange innovative ideas and solutions. This immersive experience will further strengthen ties between Southeast Asia and Japan, equipping start-ups with the knowledge and networks they need to enter new markets and drive innovation.

Find out more about **BLOCK71 Japan** and the upcoming **GATEWAY Tech TAKANAWA**.

Igniting Entrepreneurial Passion at NUS Open House 2025

The NUS Enterprise booth at **NUS Open House 2025** held in March was a hub of excitement, offering students an inspiring glimpse into the world of entrepreneurship.

Joseph Schooling shares his inspiring journey, together with Shilpa, NOC alumna who moderated the fireside chat.

Visitors were introduced to key initiatives such as NUS Overseas Colleges (NOC), NUS Enterprise Summer and Winter Programmes in Entrepreneurship, and BLOCK71 - the cornerstones of NUS's thriving innovation ecosystem. These activities underscored the importance of experiential learning—learning by doing—and global collaboration, equipping students, alumni, and entrepreneurs with the resilience and adaptability needed to excel in their entrepreneurial pursuits.

A standout moment of the event was an exclusive fireside chat featuring Olympic champion Joseph Schooling. He captivated the audience with his life journey, emphasised the importance of self-belief and family support. He also shared how he and his family took calculated risks, weighing potential outcomes against failures, particularly their decision for him to train abroad at 14. Schooling credited his Olympic achievement to dedication and pushing boundaries – attributes that resonate with the entrepreneurial spirit.

"I learned about the exciting opportunities within NUS Enterprise. The booths were engaging, and the passionate representatives provided valuable insights into their programmes."

Inez Haura Sakhi
Ignatius Global School Palembang

NUS Enterprise also hosted insightful talks by students and alumni who shared their experiences in its programmes or as founders of successful start-ups. These sessions offered real-world perspectives on how the programmes have helped transform innovative ideas into thriving ventures. Start-ups like Pitchspot, Eduville, and Invigilo Technologies were highlighted, illustrating the impact of NUS's entrepreneurship initiatives.

Andy, another visitor, expressed his appreciation: "I enjoyed learning about the NUS Entrepreneurship programmes, and the booth had many engaging activities. The insights gained will be valuable for my future. It's great that NUS Enterprise offers such opportunities."

As NUS Open House 2025 concluded, it left a profound and lasting impression, igniting a strong passion in entrepreneurship among visitors. The programmes shared, coupled with inspiring success stories and insights from notable figures such as Olympic champion Joseph Schooling, reinforced NUS Enterprise's commitment to nurturing the next generation of innovators and business leaders.

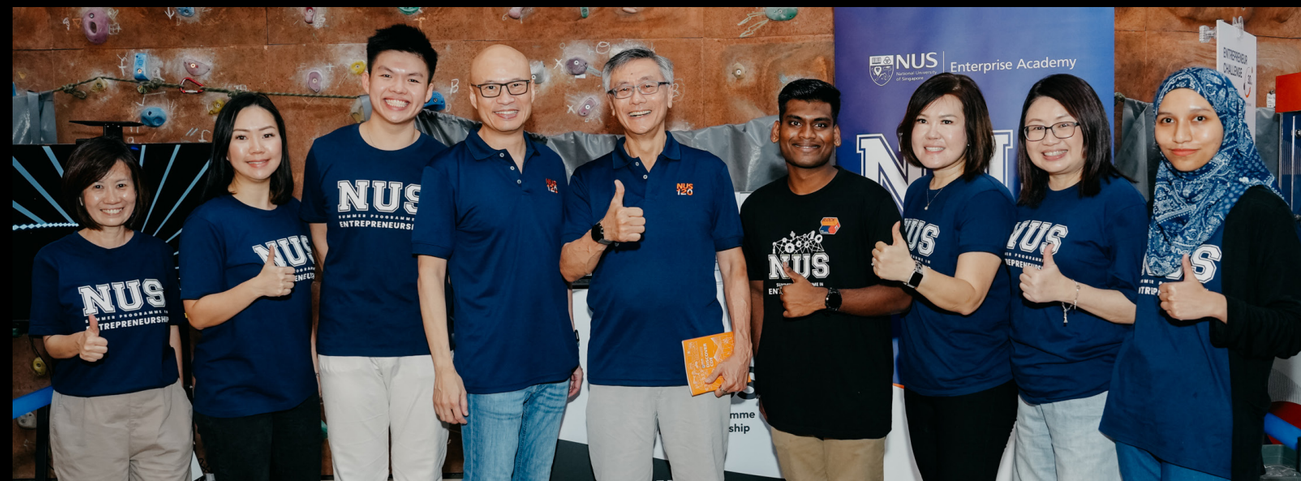
"If you see start-ups as a movie, the NUS Enterprise Summer Programme in Entrepreneurship (NUSSP) is the trailer—a glimpse into the world of entrepreneurship. NOC is the full film, immersing you in its highs, lows, and twists. But building a start-up? That's where you become the director, shaping your own story."

A.Guhanavel S/O Ashok Kuma
Current NUS student, NOC Munich and NUSSP alumnus

TOP:
Coinciding with NUS' 120th anniversary this year, our mascots welcomed over 21,000 visitors to the NUS campus at Open House 2025.

RIGHT:
Prospective students enquiring about the NUS Overseas Colleges (NOC) programme and eligibility.

BELOW:
(4th from left) NUS Senior Vice President (Innovation and Enterprise) **Dr Tan Sian Wee**, (5th from left), NUS President **Professor Tan Eng Chye** with the NUS Entrepreneurship Summer Programme (NUSSP) team and alumnus



What does it take to tackle today's pressing challenges?

The inaugural NUS Enterprise Sustainability Challenge

Organised by NUS Enterprise teams from BLOCK71 and Innovation with Societal Impact in collaboration with partners such as NUS Sustainability and the Office of Student Affairs, the inaugural **NUS Enterprise Sustainability (E-SUS) Challenge** encouraged NUS students to address social and environmental challenges through innovation and entrepreneurship.

How can we make mental health services more inclusive and accessible, while focusing on early intervention, community support and destigmatisation?

How can businesses in the built environment sector decarbonise through energy-efficient technologies to meet global sustainability goals?

These were some of the pressing challenge questions tackled by NUS students during the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Open Hack @ NUS 2024, one of the key events at the NUS E-SUS Challenge.

LEFT:
Brian Koh, Director, BLOCK71 SEA & Business Development (front) and Amy Ho, Director of the Office of Environmental Sustainability at NUS (first row, right), in a group photo with participating teams at the opening ceremony of SDG Open Hack @ NUS 2024.

SDG Open Hack @ NUS 2024

Held as part of NUS Sustainability CONNECT Week, SDG Open Hack @ NUS was the campus edition of the SDG Open Hack Singapore, a global series of student hackathons endorsed by the United Nations and organised in partnership with the Global Green Economic Foundation.

The 24-hour hackathon attracted more than 50 teams comprising over 300 NUS students, marking the highest participation among Institutes of Higher Learning and the largest turnout since the launch of the SDG Open Hack Singapore. Winners from campus editions competed in the SDG Open Hack Singapore Finals and three NUS teams advanced to the finals.

Team N-House, winners of the NUS campus edition, proposed EcoVolt, an innovative energy efficiency solution that reduces power consumption and emissions in buildings by intelligently managing and optimising plug load.

"The SDG Open Hack @ NUS 2024 was a truly heartening, impactful, and eye-opening experience for the EcoVolt team. The impeccable curation of speakers, mentors, and judges, coupled with unwavering support from Singapore's social impact community, was on full display throughout the event. We were especially inspired by our passionate peers, who like us, dedicated their weekend to hacking for the SDGs. With continued and growing support, we will undoubtedly shape a future that champions inclusive innovation, drives sustainable growth, and empowers communities for generations to come," said Eugene Chia, Co-founder of EcoVolt and Year 5 NUS Computer Science undergraduate.

Impact x Innovation Immersion Programme to Vietnam

As part of the Impact x Innovation Immersion Programme, about 30 students, including some who participated in the SDG Open Hack @ NUS 2024, travelled to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, to explore business opportunities and gain insights into the local business culture. Following its successful debut in 2023, the programme returned for its second year in 2024, providing participants with hands-on learning experience.

During their eight-day trip, students had the opportunity to interact with peers from various Vietnamese universities and visit start-up incubation centres. They also engaged with start-up founders to understand the challenges and opportunities in Vietnam's start-up ecosystem.

TOP:
Team N-House, champions of the SDG Open Hack @ NUS 2024, presented their winning solution, EcoVolt, an innovative energy efficiency technology for buildings.

"The programme taught me how to adapt ideas to different markets by understanding local needs and business landscapes. I gained valuable insights into the patterns and behaviours among youths while on this trip, and I am working on expanding to this demographic soon."

Armed with new knowledge and perspectives, the students refined their business ideas to better tailor them to the Vietnamese market. Their efforts culminated at the Singapore-Vietnam Youth Innovation Summit in Vietnam, where they pitched their ideas on stage.

Among the standout pitches was Digi-Up!, a start-up transforming digital literacy for seniors through interactive board games, making learning fun and accessible. The team aims to empower seniors to navigate technology confidently, safely, and independently.

Another notable start-up pitch came from Village Ventures, a global immersion company that supports rural communities by helping them raise funds and connect with social impact organisations to receive the support they need.

"We are deeply grateful for the opportunity to innovate a new solution for companies' ESG needs, which can only be done through the invaluable patience, guidance, and contagious enthusiasm from our mentors. We are excited to explore collaborations with those who share our vision of revolutionising the way ESG is approached!"

Sruti Mulupuri
Co-founder of Digi-Up! and Year 1 NUS Business undergraduate

"When we think of challenges in rural villages, major issues like the lack of clean water often come to mind. However, these communities also face lesser-known yet critical problems, such as the absence of specific healthcare products."

Crystal Ho
Co-founder of Village Ventures and Year 4 Biomedical Engineering undergraduate

From Singapore to Silicon Valley

Shaping Cybersecurity's Future

(Left to right) **Camellia Chan**, Co-founder and CEO, **May Chng**, Co-founder and COO

In an industry where women are underrepresented, **Camellia Chan** and **May Chng** are proving that leadership in cybersecurity isn't just about experience—it's about vision. As the co-founders of Flexxon, they have redefined data security by creating the world's first AI-embedded, hardware-based cybersecurity solution, and bringing it to customers worldwide.

When asked to pose candidly for a photo during the interview, Camellia Chan threw a playful punch towards May Chng, demonstrating a move from her kickboxing class. May, unfazed, simply laughed and played along. It was a lighthearted moment, but one that captured their partnership—fearless, unshakable, and ready for any challenge.

As co-founders of Flexxon, Camellia and May are leading a revolution in cybersecurity, not just as entrepreneurs but as women thriving in a male-dominated industry.

They didn't start as cybersecurity veterans. Their journey began in industrial storage solutions, but when cyber threats surged and storage devices became prime targets, they saw an opportunity to transform how data is protected at its core.

> "Ransomware attacks were rising, and traditional cybersecurity solutions weren't enough — especially against zero-day threats. That pushed us to rethink security from the ground up." **– Camellia**

Rather than waiting for software-based security to catch up, they made a bold move—securing storage as the last line of defence against threats.

From storage to cybersecurity: A pioneering shift

Flexxon's pivot wasn't just a business decision—it was a response to a growing crisis. Their industrial clients, managing sensitive and mission-critical data, began asking for better protection.

May recalled the moment they realised the opportunity. "Customers started asking if we had solutions to help them protect their data, and it became clear that we had a responsibility to step up."

Instead of adding another layer of external security, they went straight to the source. Their breakthrough? X-PHY—the world's first AI-embedded solid-state drive (SSD) that autonomously detects and neutralises cyber threats at the hardware level.

"Unlike traditional software security solutions that rely on updates and human intervention, X-PHY operates autonomously at the hardware level, detecting and neutralising threats in real time," says Camellia.

But launching a first-of-its-kind product posed a challenge: How do you convince an industry used to software-based solutions that hardware-first security is the future?

Breaking into the US market

Flexxon knew they needed to prove their innovation on the biggest stage. That meant one thing: expanding into the United States. They set up X-PHY Inc. in Silicon Valley and Maryland, positioning themselves among top industry players.

"Setting up in Silicon Valley was both an exciting and challenging journey," says May. "We are introducing a completely new approach to cybersecurity, and that required us to work twice as hard to prove our value."

"The US market moves fast and demands immediate proof of value," says Camellia. "This pushed us to work extremely hard to showcase how X-PHY fills a critical gap in cybersecurity."

To navigate this fast-moving landscape, Flexxon connected with BLOCK71 Silicon Valley, gaining valuable mentorship and industry insights that helped sharpen their strategy in a highly competitive market.

Still, gaining traction in such a competitive market meant proving X-PHY's real-world impact. As they showcased its capabilities, strong interest from industry leaders followed, leading to multiple Proof-of-Concept (PoC) engagements—a testament to their persistence and belief in their vision.

Flexxon was no longer just a storage solutions company. They were now at the forefront of cybersecurity innovation.

Leading in cybersecurity as women, and giving back

With 43 patentsi in its IP portfolio, Flexxon is proving that hardware-layer security is not just an idea—it is the future.

Yet, despite their success, Camellia and May are aware of how few women are leading in deep-tech industries. "Since women only make up about a quarter of the world's cybersecurity workforce, your presence in this field is already making a difference," said Camellia. "But we need to go further."

They believe bold ideas and persistence open doors, even in a highly competitive industry.

"The industry moves fast, but bold innovation and persistence open doors," says May. "If you have a strong solution and a clear mission, the right opportunities will come."

"Most importantly, don't let being the 'only woman in the room' hold you back," Camellia adds. "Your skills, ideas, and leadership are essential in shaping the future of cybersecurity."

To support others in the community, Camellia has recently started as Board Director & Founding Mentor at the Alma Atma Network, a new social organisation that aims to help students in the US access high-quality mentorship and resources, regardless of background.

Scaling up and shaping the future of cybersecurity

Flexxon is not slowing down. Their focus is now on expanding the X-PHY ecosystem, strengthening their US presence, and forming strategic collaborations with enterprises, PC manufacturers, and governments to drive wider adoption of AI-powered security.

They have also been selected for a pilot IP financing programme, supported by the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO), Intellectual Property Office of Singapore (IPOS), and a local bank, to unlock further funding based on the value of their intellectual property.

Flexxon's innovation is transforming cybersecurity, but for Camellia and May, the mission goes beyond technology. It is about reshaping the industry itself—who gets to lead, who gets to build, and who gets to make an impact.

Flexxon is not just protecting the future of digital security—they are reshaping who gets to lead it.

(↗) Learn about **BLOCK71 Silicon Valley's Market Exploration Programme for Summer 2025**

2021	Launched the X-PHY® Cybersecure SSD, the world's first AI-embedded fireware-based cybersecurity solution, enhancing data protection against cyber threats
2020	Received backing from Heliconia Capital Management, a wholly-owned subsidirary of Temasek Holdings, supporting further innovation and expansion in the cybersecurity and storage solutions market
2015	Established a global presence across Asia-Pacific, Europe, North America, and the Middle East serving industries such as Cybersecurity, Industrial, Medical and Automotive (C.I.M.A)
2010	Expanded product portfolio to inlcude USB flash memory drives, micro storage cards and embedded multimedia card (eMMC) storage systems, catering to industrial, medical and auomotive applications
2007	Founded in Singapore, focusing on industrial NAND flash storage solutions

Checklist for entering the US market

Flexxon's co-founders share practical advice and lessons learned

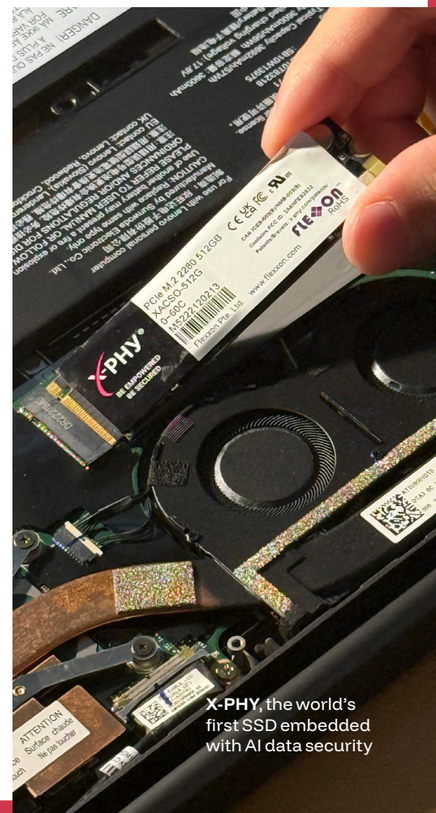
1 Know your unique value proposition
The US market is highly saturated, so it's critical to differentiate yourself. Introducing hardware-based AI cybersecurity was a completely new approach that helped us stand out.

2 Build strategic partnerships
Partnering with industry leaders, tech innovators, and local experts accelerates credibility and opens doors. We've seen strong interest and PoC engagements by working with the right stakeholders.

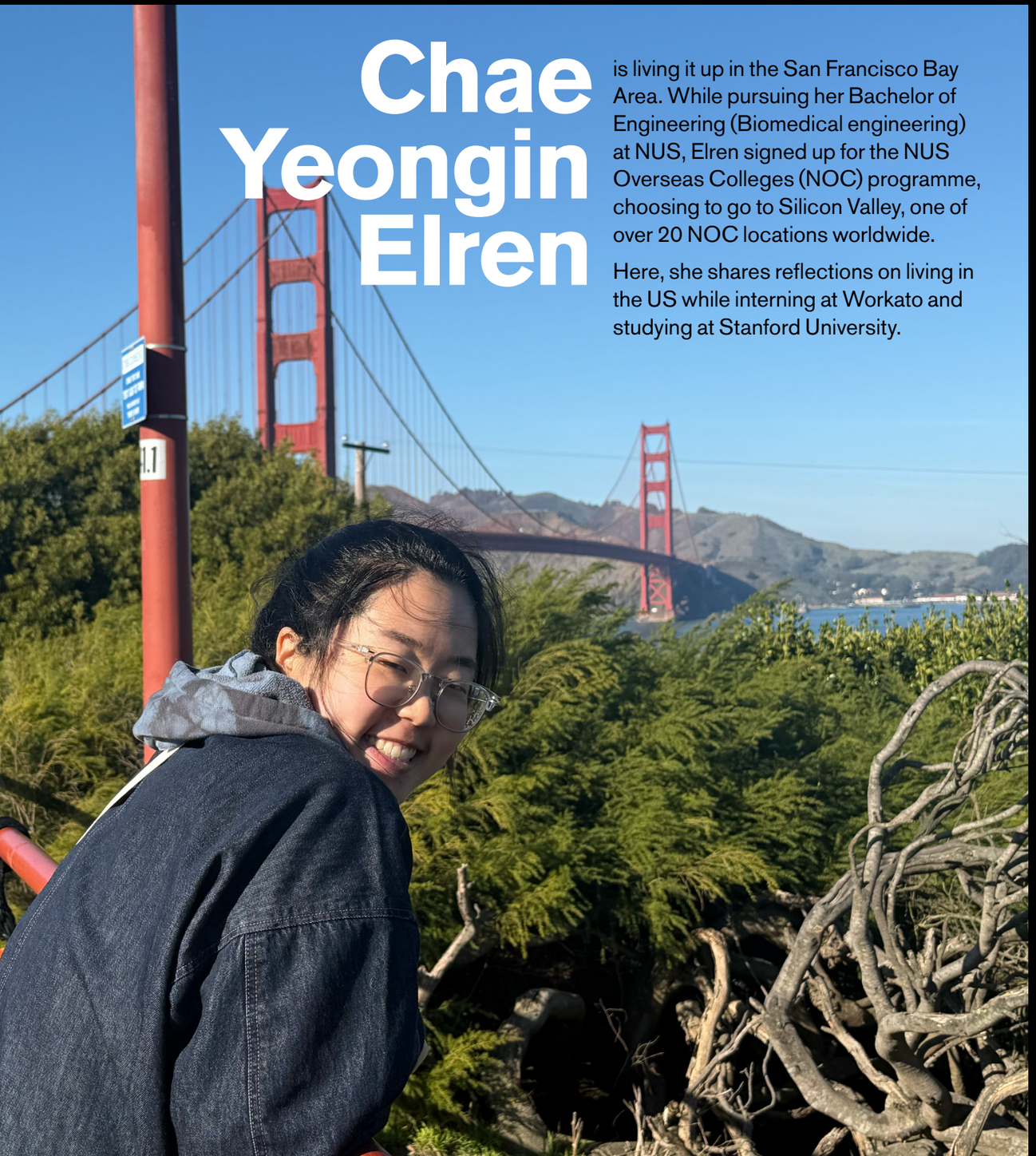
3 Be ready to move fast
The pace of business in the US is rapid, and companies expect immediate proof of value. So, you need to be extra proactive, show results, and adapt quickly to feedback

4 Stay resilient and believe in your innovation
Entering a new market is always a challenge, but persistence is key. The US market is competitive, but it also rewards bold innovation and determination.

5 Invest in a local office
While technology allows for global connectivity, having a physical presence in the US is invaluable. Establishing our presence here strengthens our ability to serve enterprise customers, collaborate with government and industry stakeholders, and scale our business globally. We started our journey incubating at BLOCK71 Silicon Valley. The team, Angeline Tan and Vincent Song, have strengthened our understanding of the market and continue to provide invaluable support. We also leveraged the networking opportunities, events and support provided under BLOCK71's global network.



X-PHY, the world's first SSD embedded with AI data security



Chae Yeongin Elren

is living it up in the San Francisco Bay Area. While pursuing her Bachelor of Engineering (Biomedical engineering) at NUS, Elren signed up for the NUS Overseas Colleges (NOC) programme, choosing to go to Silicon Valley, one of over 20 NOC locations worldwide.

Here, she shares reflections on living in the US while interning at Workato and studying at Stanford University.

Diving headfirst into Silicon Valley – and freedom!

Elren's day starts early as she heads to work as an instructional designer and training intern at Workato, a leading enterprise orchestration platform that enables complex AI-powered integration solutions for businesses across their entire software ecosystem.

As part of her internship, Elren develops courses and leads training on various technological features on Workato's platform for customers. Work is fast-paced, challenging and yet very fulfilling.

"I have the freedom to try out various tasks at work and shape my career path. While my background lies in biomedical engineering, I am exploring an entirely different area of instructional design in AI and technology. Nonetheless, in the most unexpected moments I find myself merging all my interests - creative design, content structuring, and user impact - through applications in both worlds. I feel that every new growth experience I had is founded upon the independence I have to shape my time here, immersed in this high-tech driven culture in Silicon Valley."

Most of my team work remotely across different time zones, which helped me develop as an open, proactive and collaborative team member. Working cross-functionally to link customer success, educational design, and technological advancements of the company product enables me to get a good sense of the fast-evolving business needs and the value we need to deliver to our audience to stand out in the high-stakes business environment here."

Having the courage to just do it

Elren is always ready to try something new—taking road trips to explore new places, attending different classes, and going to networking events on her own. "When taking my entrepreneurship course in Stanford University, I wanted to learn more, so I worked up the courage to crash other classes and asked professors if I could attend. Despite plenty of polite and (sometimes) blunt rejections, I somehow made many friends across classes and gained exposure to interdisciplinary areas like biology and computer modelling along with my main class on global marketing. I had an enriching student life experience in my short time in Stanford thanks to those efforts."

Being on her own has given her the confidence to push herself to gain new experiences that may seem daunting at first but improved her life.

> "Now is the best time to act. I have learned that saying yes to new opportunities doesn't harm me, rather it opens new worlds for me to explore."

"The sunlight here is beautiful."

It's the first thing Elren sees when she wakes up and looks out through her window blinds. She savours the many little things during the day that bring her joy—walking down the tree-lined street, hearing frogs in the creeks, trying a new dish for lunch, hiking somewhere nearby, and playing board games or practicing rap songs with friends.

"One self-inspiring action I take is reading books with varying genres. I recently read a book called 'Shape' that discusses day-to-day topics in the language of geometry and patterns. Several chapters explore topics that resonated with me personally, like analysing winning hacks in a number game or phonetic patterns in the English language.

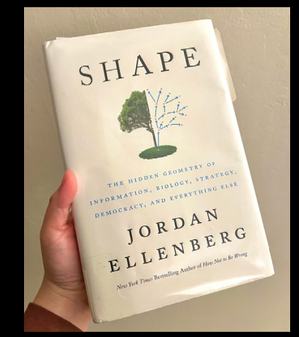
I liked how the book approaches mathematics not as an obligation but as a reimagination and discovery of our everyday life. I believe readers who, like me, appreciate novel and engaging approaches to a subject would find this book particularly inspiring."

From NOC to founder aspirations – Elren's next steps

Elren's time in NOC Silicon Valley has transformed the way she sees her future. Going through the NOC programme has made her want to become a founder herself. "My time here has reshaped my vision entirely—I no longer see barriers, but possibilities. The NOC experience has shown me how to fuse my passions for technology, storytelling, and social impact into a blueprint for meaningful innovation. I'm now driven to build a venture that not only solves problems but inspires change, just like the founders I've learned from here in Silicon Valley."

Elren has been actively refining her vision, immersing herself in diverse experiences—from seeking out budget-friendly theatre performances to analysing gaming platforms and structuring her ideas into actionable plans. Her work on AI-powered integration solutions at Workato has further solidified her goal of launching a tech start-up that drives social impact.

Empowered by her experiences in Silicon Valley, Elren now possesses a sharper vision and an intensified entrepreneurial spirit. She is ready to turn her inspirations into a start-up that drives meaningful change.



'Shape' by Jordan Ellenberg, is a book that reinterprets various aspects of our everyday world through the perspective of geometric patterns.

The NOC programme is open for applications from 20 March to 7 April 2025. **Find out more and apply here**

Scale your startup with Deep SAGE

At BLOCK71, accelerating startups is a daily affair. Deep SAGE is an exclusive Special Growth Track within BLOCK71 Singapore's Summer Cohort 2025. Designed for high-potential founders looking to break through the toughest growth barriers, this 12-month programme provides founders with dedicated C-suite leadership working alongside them to refine strategy, strengthen operations, and drive growth.

Together with TIS Inc., Deep SAGE equips start-ups with expert insights, powerful industry networks, and up to S$500,000 in funding to scale globally.

Applications close 31 May—apply now.

bit.ly/deepsage