Alumni Highlights
October-December 2021

Innovation prizes for change-makers
This fall, many alumni received prizes and grants to further fund their innovative ventures and new projects. New Haven-based Alva Health (founded by Sandra Saldana MBA '17), received Medtech Innovator’s $350,000 global startup competition grand prize for its wearable, real-time stroke monitor developer. Coral Vita (co-founded by Gator Halpern MEM ‘15 and Sam Teicher YC '12, MEM '15) was one of five recipients of Prince William’s Earthshot Prize, winning £1 million for its project that uses special tanks to grow corals faster on land before planting them back in the ocean. CtrlTrial (founded by Guannan Gong PhD '21), won CTNext’s Fall 2021 Entrepreneur Innovation Awards (EIA), the oldest major pitch competition in Connecticut that provides $10,000 grants to CT based startups.

Alumni teams hit fundraising milestones
Wellinks, co-founded by Levi DeLuke YC '14 and Ellen Su YC '13 secured $25 million in new funding to expand the first-ever integrated, virtual COPD management solution to empower patients and reduce costs. Medallion, founded by Derek Lo YC '17, was featured in Forbes for receiving $30 million in Series B funding – led by Sequoia Capital – valuing the company at $200 million.

Yale trailblazers in the news
Alumni founders were also featured in various media outlets. Raise Green, an inclusive impact investment marketplace for climate solutions founded by Matthew Moroney MEM '18 and Franz Hochstrasser MEM '18, partnered with IBM, who featured the work in a detailed case study. Prepared (founded by Dylan Gleicher YC '17, Neal Soni YC '18, and Michael Chime YC) was featured on NBC Connecticut for its app, which lets users report crucial details about an emergency scene to the people around them or to 911. Alexia Akbay MPH '19, co-founder of the clean-tech startup Symbrosia, was featured on the 2022 Forbes '30 Under 30' list for Social Impact alongside Derek Lo YC '17 (see above), and Eric Ho '16 and Andrew Myers '18, co-founders of RippleMatch – which matches college students with internships and jobs using AI. Yale News also covered Forbes recognition of Yale alumni. And Gabe Rissman YC '16, co-founder and president of YourStake, was featured on Wealth Management’s Ten to Watch in 2022, as YourStake continues to tackle greenwashing through a new direct indexing platform.

To learn more about Tsai CITY:
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These teams have connected not just with Tsai CITY, but with Yale’s broader ecosystem for entrepreneurship and innovation. Learn more about this ecosystem: entrepreneurship.yale.edu