Introduction of SESH

SESH (Social Entrepreneurship to Spur Health) project is a partnership joining individuals from the Southern Medical University Dermatology Hospital and the University of North Carolina-Project China. SESH is a research, training, and service partnership focused on using social innovation tools such as crowdsourcing to improve health services. Furthermore, SESH is an implementing hub within the UNICEF/UNDP/World Bank/WHO Special Programme for Research and Training in Tropical Diseases Social Innovation in Health Initiative (SIHI China Hub). SESH has a long track record of conducting research to support social innovation and is in a strong position to engage new and existing partners in low and middle-income countries (LMICs) to conduct collaborative research and provide the evidence and tools required to spur social innovation in health.

SESH Global Goals

The main goal of this project is to create more creative, equitable, and effective health services using crowdsourcing contests and other social entrepreneurship tools. Our global goals are elaborating as follows,

- Develop innovative tools, such as crowdsourcing contests, that can be used to improve health services.
- Build local multi-sectoral networks that resonate with and empower local people.
- Evaluate the impact of the innovative tools to demonstrate effectiveness and equity.

Strategic Plan

- Develop innovative tools, such as crowdsourcing contests, that can be used, to promote innovative and inclusive approaches to research.
- Build local multi-sectoral networks that resonate with and empower local people, and to evaluate the impact of crowdsourcing contests to demonstrate effectiveness and equity.
- Empower the community and explore collaborations and productive partnerships related to social innovation in health with SIHI Hubs and partners.
- Develop our capacity building in manuscript writing for social innovation projects, documentation of case studies, grant writing to support identified innovation and fellowships.

Comparative Advantages

Digital health – The SESH team has organized six online randomized controlled trials, providing a unique foundation for digital health research;

Open innovation - The SESH team created a new field of crowdsourcing focused on health. This includes open calls, hackathons, and other participatory events.

User-centered – The SESH team has developed new methods for rapidly obtaining feedback from end users, in partnership with the WHO/TDR Social Innovation in Health Initiative.