



RARE IMPACT
2025



HACKATHON GUIDEBOOK

Your Guide to Growth Starts Here.

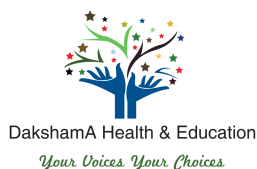


[www.dakshamahealth.org/
Hackathon.html](http://www.dakshamahealth.org/Hackathon.html)

**NOV 2025
TO FEB 2026**

SPECIAL

acknowledgment to



Introducing our **Country Leads!**

VIETNAM



HUY DO

President, Vietnamese Organization for Rare Diseases

NEPAL



DR NIRAJ PARAJULI

Founding President, Rare Skin Disease Nepal

SINGAPORE



**ELLIL MATHIYAN
LAKSHMANAN**

Co-Chair, SingHealth Patient Advocacy Network

THAILAND



EKAWAT SUWANTAROJ

Vice President, Thai Hemophilia Patient Club

INDIA



NAVINTARA KAMATH

*Co-Founder,
Niemann-Pick India*



MANOJ KUMAR SINGH

*National President,
Power In Me Foundation*



MALAYSIA



**NADIAH HANIM ABDUL
LATIF**

President, Malaysian Rare Disorders Society

PHILIPPINES



ARACELI LANORIO

*Lead Advocate,
Neurofibromatosis Friends
Philippines*



Table Of Contents

Message from the Organizers

Why a hackathon

Key Dates & Timelines

Event Essentials

Event Format

Hackathon Themes

Who Can Participate

Registration Guide

Team Format & Matchmaking

Roles & Expectations

Detailed Breakup of Phases

Agenda PHASE-1 Day-1

Agenda PHASE-1 Day-2

Preparing for the hackathon

Judging Criteria

Submission Guidelines

About the Organizers

Contact Us



Message from the Organizers

Welcome to **Rare Impact 2025** - A Virtual Hackathon for Rare & Genetic Disorders!

We are honoured to invite you on a journey where **patient voices, technology, and cross-sector collaboration come together to create real-world impact**. This is not just a competition; it is a movement to empower communities, amplify lived experiences, and spark transformative solutions for rare and genetic disorders.

About Rare Impact 2025

Rare Impact 2025 is a collaborative, patient-inclusive hackathon under the **Rare Reach Initiative** of **DakshamA Health**, organized in partnership with **PAIR Academy**.

The **6-day event** aims to bring together patients, caregivers, patient advocacy groups (PAGs), students, healthcare providers, researchers, health-tech start-ups, software developers, policymakers, and institutions from across **India, Vietnam, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, and Nepal**.

Together, these diverse stakeholders will co-create digital tools, platforms, and systems ranging from innovative prototypes like prosthetics or automated implants to software-based portals, apps, and databases all with the aim of improving diagnosis, care, education, and advocacy for people living with rare and genetic disorders.



Why a Hackathon for Rare & Genetic Disorders?

- Over 300 million people worldwide live with rare diseases, most without access to timely diagnosis or treatment.
- Health systems are often underprepared due to data gaps, limited awareness, and fragmented care pathways.
- Patients and caregivers face everyday challenges that demand innovative, context-driven, and inclusive solutions.
- A hackathon provides the perfect environment to mobilize creativity, bridge expertise, and translate lived experiences into practical outcomes from awareness campaigns and patient support tools to AI-enabled diagnostics and digital health platforms.





Event Essentials

Objectives

- Empower patients and caregivers to actively shape solutions that directly affect their lives.
- Foster cross-disciplinary collaboration among healthcare providers, researchers, developers, and public health leaders.
- Accelerate innovation in areas like early diagnosis, care coordination, treatment adherence, and advocacy.
- Build sustainable pathways for promising projects through mentorship, partnerships, and visibility.

Key Dates & Timeline

Rare Impact 2025 will run across **November 2025 – February 2026** in **three** exciting phases:

PHASE 1 | IDEATION (24 – 25 NOVEMBER 2025)

Kick-off sessions, keynote talks, problem statements, and team building with mentorship check-ins.

PHASE 2 | PITCHES & RESULTS (22 – 23 JANUARY 2026)

Demo days where teams showcase their solutions, pitch to the jury, and receive feedback & results.

PHASE 3 | IN-PERSON MEETUP (24 – 25 FEBRUARY 2026)

Finalists meet in person to celebrate achievements, present prototypes, and plan the way forward with mentorship & support.



Event Format

04

- **100% Virtual Hackathon** - accessible across countries, with real-time mentorship, collaboration tools, and inclusive features.
- **In-Person Meetup** - winners and select finalists will gather in Delhi for a two-day networking, showcase, and partnership meet-up.
- **Duration:** 6 Days (2 + 2 + 2), spread over three phases for better flexibility.
- **Participants:** Innovators from 7 APAC countries: India, Thailand, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Nepal, and Vietnam.

Themes & Challenge Areas

Participants will work on real-world challenges in rare and genetic disorders, across these priority themes:

- **Early Diagnosis & Screening:** AI-assisted tools, symptom trackers, and guides to reduce diagnostic delays.
- **Data Management & Registries:** Platforms for secure data sharing, rare disease registries, and interoperability.
- **Access to Care in Remote or Underserved Areas:** Digital solutions to bridge care gaps for patients in resource-limited settings.
- **Patient Support Systems:** Care coordination apps, daily management tools, and caregiver resources.
- **Awareness & Health Literacy:** Tools for campaigns, storytelling, and building rare disease literacy.
- **Digital Tools for Health Equity:** Innovations that ensure inclusion, accessibility, and equitable care delivery; sustainable financing.



Who Can Participate?

Rare Impact 2025 welcomes multi-stakeholder participation. If you're passionate about creating change in healthcare, there's a place for you here:

- **Patients, Caregivers & Patient Advocacy Groups (PAGs)** - bringing lived experiences at the heart of solutions. *No Registration fee*
- **Students & Young Innovators** - with fresh ideas and energy for problem-solving. *No Registration fee*
- **Healthcare Providers & Researchers** - contributing clinical expertise and public health insights. *Registration fee - 2,000 INR*
- **Health tech Start-ups** - turning challenges into scalable prototypes. *Registration fee 35,000 INR*
- **Policy Makers & Government Representatives** - guiding alignment with public health priorities. *No Registration fee*
- **Institutions** - ensuring credibility, mentorship, and long-term pathways for innovation. *No Registration fee*





Participation Guide

Registration

Getting started is simple!

- Visit the Registration Page on the [Rare Impact 2025 website](#).
- Please navigate to the registration section and select the stakeholder category that best represents you (PAG, HCP, technical expert, policymaker, student, researcher, etc.).
- Fill in your details (individual or organizational representative entry- in case of health tech start-ups or institutes).
- Select your interest area (themes/challenge areas).
- Submission of Registration Fee (If applicable)
- Confirmation of participation – once your application has been selected, you'll receive a welcome email with next steps, timelines, and resources.

Team Formation & Matchmaking

- All participants will register independently.
- Don't worry about your team! We'll provide matchmaking sessions to help you connect with like-minded innovators from different backgrounds within your country.
- Each team must include at least one patient/caregiver voice, a policy maker, a clinician or technical expert, a researcher, and an IT expert, to ensure solutions remain holistic.



Roles & Expectations

07

Every team is a mix of skills and perspectives. Typical roles may include:

- **Patient/Caregiver Advocate** – sharing lived experience and shaping solutions.
- **Developer/Designer** – coding, prototyping, and design.
- **Healthcare Expert/Researcher** – ensuring medical and scientific accuracy.
- **Policy/Advocacy Representative** – aligning with public health goals and feasibility.

Expectation: Respect, listen actively, and collaborate openly!

Code of Conduct & Inclusivity Guidelines

Rare Impact 2025 is built on respect, inclusivity, and empathy. All participants agree to:

- Foster safe and inclusive spaces for diverse voices.
- Avoid discrimination, harassment, or exclusionary behaviour of any kind.
- Recognize and value patient perspectives as equal to technical or clinical inputs.
- Uphold fairness and integrity during presentations and submissions.



Accessibility Features

08

- **Live captioning & ASL interpretation** during key sessions.
- **Screen reader**–friendly tools for accessibility.
- **Multilingual support** for broader participation across APAC countries.
- **Low-code/no-code platforms** are available so even non-technical participants can contribute.
- **Flexible timings** across phases to accommodate time zones and personal commitments.

Our motto: Innovation works best when everyone can join the conversation.

The hackathon JOURNEY....

Pre-Hackathon Preparation (3–4 weeks before kickoff)

Ideation & Kick-off (24th – 25th November 2025)

Phase 2: Demos, Pitches & Judging (22nd –23rd January 2026)

Phase 3: In-Person Meet-Up & Way Forward (24th– 25th February 2026)



Pre-Hackathon Preparation

Your journey begins even before Day 1!

- **Orientation & Onboarding** – organizers present key problem areas, and tech sessions introduce you to the collaboration tools.
- **Team Matchmaking** – get introduced to your team members officially!
- **Challenge Briefs Released** – read about the real-world problems you'll tackle.
- **Mentor Connections** – get paired with mentors from healthcare, tech, or patient advocacy.

Think of this phase as packing your “innovation toolkit” before the adventure starts.

PHASE 1

This is where the magic begins!

- **Opening Keynote** – hear from the organizers!
- **Challenge Deep Dive** – understand the scope and priorities.
- **Solution Building** – brainstorm with your team, sketch ideas, and start prototyping.
- **Mentorship Check-ins** – mentors provide live feedback to strengthen your ideas.

Goal: Move from problems to promising solutions.



AGENDA- PHASE 1 (DAY 1- TECHNICAL ONBOARDING): 24th Nov, 2025

DATE	TIME (IST)	SESSION	DESCRIPTION	DURATION (in mins)	REMARKS
24-Nov-25	9:30 - 9:45	Welcome & Opening Remarks	Opening remarks and introduction to Hackathon - Dr. Ratna	15	Joined by all participants and mentors.
24-Nov-25	10:00 - 10:15	Country Team Introductions and Technical Onboarding: 7 country introductions (5-7 min each); followed by the introduction of their respective mentors. Participants may leave and rejoin during their country's slot.	Philippines	105	12:30 - 12:45 Philippines Time
24-Nov-25	10:15 - 10:30		Singapore		12:45 - 13:00 Singapore Time
24-Nov-25	10:30 - 10:45		Malaysia		13:00 - 13:15 Malaysia Time
24-Nov-25	10:45 - 11:00		Thailand		12:15 - 12:30 Thailand Time
24-Nov-25	11:00 - 11:15		Vietnam		12:30 - 12:45 Vietnam Time
24-Nov-25	11:15 - 11:30		Nepal		11:30 - 11:45 Nepal Time
24-Nov-25	11:30 - 11:45		India		11:30 - 11:45 Indian Time

AGENDA- PHASE 1 (DAY 1- HACKATHON LAUNCH): 24th Nov, 2025

DATE	TIME (IST)	SESSION	DESCRIPTION	DURATION (in mins)	REMARKS
24-Nov-25	14:00 – 14:10	Opening- Dr. Ratna Devi (CEO, DakshamA Health)	Formal Launch of Hackathon	10	14:00 – 14:15 Indian Time
24-Nov-25	14:10 – 14:20	Alexandra Heumber Perry (CEO, RDI)	WHO resolution and its significance for regional and National action plans	10	9:45 – 10:00 Switzerland Time
24-Nov-25	14:20 – 14:30	Guest Speaker	Patient Led and Patient Delivered- How the Hackathon can be a gamechanger for Patient Led Innovation	10	9:45 – 10:00 Switzerland Time
24-Nov-25	14:30 – 14:40	Guest Speaker- Eric Mansion (Pharma GM, Sanofi SE Asia and India)	The Hackathon as a bold and Innovative strategy led by patient groups	10	17:00 – 17:15 Singapore Time
24-Nov-25	14:40 – 14:55	Keynote- Dr. B. S. Charan (ADG, DGHS, MoH, GoI)	The confluence of Digital and health-India leading by example for rare diseases	15	14:45 – 15:00 Indian Time
24-Nov-25	14:55 – 15:05	Monica Ferrie (Executive Director, APARDO)	Regional collaboration- the key to collective action	15	20:30 – 20:45 Melbourne Time
24-Nov-25	15:05 – 15:10	Closing Remarks – Day 1	Recap & next-day instructions.	5	

AGENDA- PHASE 1 (DAY 2- IDEATION SESSION): 25th Nov, 2025

DATE	TIME (IST)	SESSION	DESCRIPTION	DURATION (in mins)	REMARKS
25-Nov-25	08:00 – 08:30	Morning Briefing	Recap of Day 1 and outline of deliverables for Day 2. Unique breakout links shared.	30	Joined by all participants and mentors.
25-Nov-25	08:30 – 12:30	Team Breakout Session – Part 1	Teams work in country-wise Zoom rooms with mentors to define problem statements. Organizers/jury may visit rooms.	240	Unique link/ virtual breakout room for each team
25-Nov-25	12:30 – 13:30	Midday Check-In	Informal progress check with organizers & tech support.	60	
25-Nov-25	13:30 – 16:30	Team Breakout Session – Part 2	Teams develop solution concept & draft 1-page concept note.	180	
25-Nov-25	16:30 – 17:00	Submission & Wrap-Up	Each team must submit a 1-page concept note via shared link by 17:00 IST (using provided template) summarizing the problem statement, proposed solution, and roles of stakeholders.)	30	Official close of Phase 1.
25-Nov-25	17:00 – 20:00	Optional Collaboration Window	Breakout rooms remain open for teams wishing to continue discussion informally.	180	Voluntary participation; no facilitation after 17:00 IST.

PHASE 2

Time to showcase your hard work!

- **Pitch Preparation** – refine your prototypes and prepare your presentations.
- **Live Demo Sessions** – teams present their ideas to the jury and audience.
- **Judging & Feedback** – expert jury evaluates on the basis of impact, patient-centeredness, feasibility, and innovation.
- **Results Declared** – finalists are announced and celebrated.

Goal: Share your innovation and inspire others with your vision.

PHASE 3

An exciting opportunity to take things further !

- **Finalist Showcase** – meet in person, demonstrate prototypes, and network with partners.
- **Celebration & Recognition** – winners honoured, partnerships built.
- **Way Forward Planning** – explore mentorship, funding, and pilot opportunities.

Goal: Transform hackathon ideas into sustainable real-world solutions.

Post-Hackathon

The journey doesn't end here!

- **Continued Mentorship** – finalists and promising teams receive guidance to refine solutions.
- **Funding Pathways** – connections with partners, investors, and institutions.

Your innovation could go beyond the hackathon and touch lives across the region.





Evaluation & Recognition

Judging Criteria

All submissions will be evaluated by a diverse jury of experts from healthcare, technology, policy, and patient communities. Projects will be assessed on:

- **Impact & Relevance** – Does it address a real and urgent need in rare disease communities?
- **Patient-Centred Design** – Were patient voices included in shaping the solution?
- **Innovation & Creativity** – Is the idea original, bold, and future-focused?
- **Feasibility & Scalability** – Can it realistically be implemented and expanded?

Prizes & Recognition

- **Winning Teams** – winners and promising teams will be guided by expert's post-hackathon to run a real-life pilot of their project.
- **Prototypes Showcased** – winning projects will be highlighted across DakshamA Health, PAIR Academy, and partner networks.
- **Certificates** – all participants will receive e-certificates acknowledging their contribution.
- **Funding** – chosen prototypes will receive funding for pilot project (with a scope of future scale-up)



Resources & Tools

Technology Stack

Here are the main platforms you'll be using throughout Rare Impact 2025:

- **Collaboration & Communication** – Zoom, Microsoft 365
- **Development & Design** – GitHub
- **Hackathon Management** – HackerEarth (for project submissions & judging)
- **Accessibility Tools** – Otter.ai (live captions), StreamText, Be My Eyes (optional integration) – *tentative*
- **Event Website** – registration, submissions, hosting & security

Tip: Familiarize yourself with at least one collaboration tool and one design tool before kick-off.

Submission Guidelines

To ensure your project is evaluated smoothly:

- Submit via the steps discussed during PHASE 1, before the deadline.
- Include:
 - Team details & roles
 - Problem statement tackled
 - Prototype demo (video/screenshots)
 - Solution pitch (short write-up)
 - Tech stack used
- Ensure your files are accessible and well-labelled.



About the Organizers

DAKSHAMA HEALTH

Dakshama Health is a public health-focused patient organization dedicated to advancing equity in healthcare, with a special emphasis on rare and genetic disorders. Through its flagship Rare Reach Initiative, Dakshama works to strengthen patient voices, build advocacy platforms, and create collaborative solutions that bridge gaps in diagnosis, care, and policy.

PAIR ACADEMY

PAIR Academy is a hub for patient advocacy, innovation, and research. With a strong network across the Asia-Pacific, PAIR Academy champions patient-centred design and promotes multi-stakeholder collaborations to address unmet needs across healthcare.

Together, Dakshama Health and PAIR Academy have partnered to launch Rare Impact 2025, ensuring that both innovation and lived experience go hand in hand.



Important Contacts

13



More Information



Register Now

<https://www.dakshamahealth.org/Hackathon.html#register>

Please navigate to the registration section and select the stakeholder category that best represents you (PAG, HCP, technical expert, policymaker, student, researcher, etc.).



Our Website

www.dakshamahealth.org/Hackathon.html



Our Email

communications@pairacademy.org