McGill | Ventures

2025-2026

HTIL IMPACT REPORT

Health Tech Innovation Lab



The healthcare innovation fellowship

Deloitte.

Thank You to Deloitte for Supporting the HTIL Fellowship as McGill Ventures' Lead Sponsor

Deloitte’s programme sponsorship, kickoff hosting, and healthcare adoption expertise helped prepare 19 Fellows for work with six healthcare innovators.



Programme sponsorship

Lead sponsorship of the fellowship and its six partner project teams.

Kickoff & workshops

Hosted the cohort and six expert sessions to prepare teams for healthcare projects.

Healthcare adoption

Erik Landriault examined stakeholder incentives, workflow, procurement and privacy barriers during workshop series.

EXPERTISE BEHIND THE FELLOWSHIP

ECOSYSTEM PARTNER

Clinical Innovation Platform

Clinical needfinding and research guidance through McGill and the MUHC.

PROJECT PARTNERS

Cura Therapeutics

OPSIS

Fulcra

Sarcoma AI

Eli Health

Aerocardia

WORKSHOP CONTRIBUTORS

Gowling WLG

Deloitte

CTI Life Sciences Fund

OdysIQ MedTech Strategists

Esplanade Ventures

Fulcra Ortho

Enda Technologies

Tissue Tinker

THE COHORT & PROJECT WORK

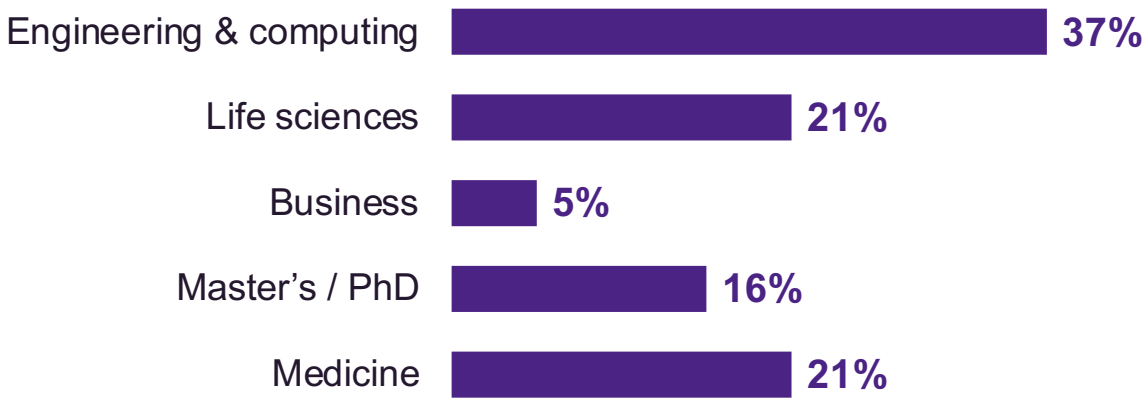
HTIL is McGill Ventures' healthcare innovation fellowship. Strategists work directly with startups and clinical researchers to deliver prototypes, scientific research and commercial analysis.

6
PARTNER PROJECTS

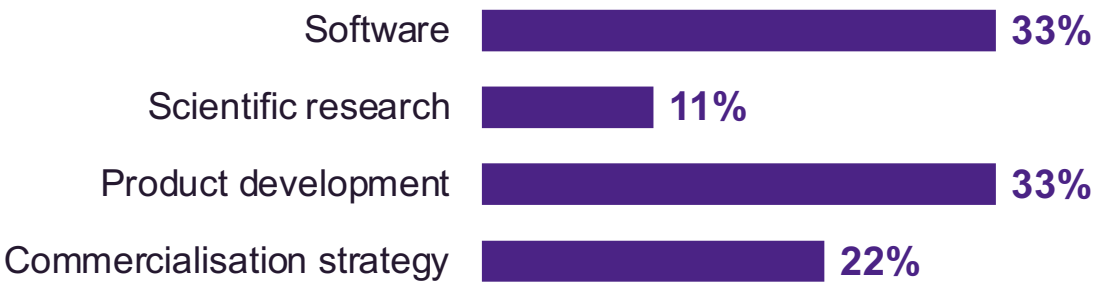
19
STRATEGISTS

14
MENTORS & EXPERTS

Fellow backgrounds



Project work



HOW THE WORK MOVED FORWARD

From a defined partner challenge to a delivered project, teams worked through four stages.

01 Kickoff at Deloitte

Six expert sessions covered adoption, venture building, funding and development.

02 Partner-defined challenges

Founders and clinical researchers defined the need, evidence and deliverable.

03 Work & partner feedback

Teams developed software, analysis, models and user research with partner input.

04 Showcase & handover

Teams handed over reports, applications and recommendations with next steps.

AT THE KICKOFF







EXPERT SUPPORT FOR THE PROJECT TEAMS







Healthcare adoption



Erik Landriault, MSc

Deloitte

Stakeholder incentives and the barriers to implementation.

Venture building



Philippe Thompson, MBA

OdysIQ MedTech Strategists

Problem definition, business models and the value proposition.

Fundraising



Dana Matzen, PhD

CTI Life Sciences Fund

Funding routes and the evidence investors look for.

Clinical needfinding



Jake Barralet, PhD

Clinical Innovation Platform

A specific care need, a user and a useful project outcome.

Startup decisions



Dr. Sheldon Elman

Esplanade Ventures

Failure patterns and assumptions to challenge early.

IP, law & data privacy



Mathieu Santos-Bouffard

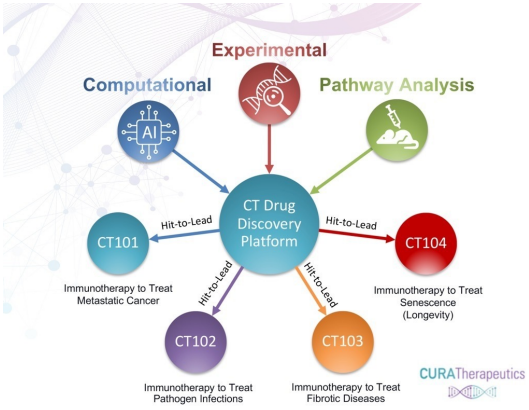
Gowling WLG

Constraints that shape development and defensibility.

CURA THERAPEUTICS

Five indications assessed for CT101

Cura is developing CT101, a multimodal immunotherapy for metastatic solid tumours. HTIL compared oncology indications to clarify where the therapy could compete.





5 metastatic cancer indications assessed

The analysis compared unmet need, standards of care, patient populations and market estimates across five indications, alongside competitor development and financing.

22 slides of commercial analysis delivered

Treatment gaps pointed to potential CT101 differentiation in immune-cold, treatment-resistant cancers. The report gives Cura a basis for comparing indications, refining positioning and preparing investor discussions.

NEXT STEP Prioritise indications; validate commercial and fundraising assumptions.

HTIL STRATEGIST TEAM



Sophia Mahiout
BSc, Microbiology & Immunology



Albert Huang
BSc, Microbiology & Immunology

ELI HEALTH

A shortlist for saliva-based testosterone sensing

Eli Health develops at-home saliva hormone monitoring. HTIL assessed a split-aptamer sandwich lateral-flow assay concept for direct, non-invasive measurement of free testosterone and cortisol in saliva.



Computational structural modelling



HTIL DELIVERABLE

Literature review and structural models produced a shortlist of aptamer candidates and configurations. Weekly reviews with Eli's scientists refined the recommendations, narrowing the designs to test before further investment in the lab.

VALIDATION PRIORITIES

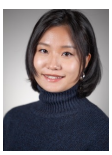
2 design constraints

Self-annealing

Binding under physiological conditions

NEXT STEP Test shortlisted candidates in Eli's lab under physiological conditions.

HTIL STRATEGIST TEAM



Yanchen Dong
PhD, Human Genetics



Ishtiaque Hossain
PhD, Biochemistry



Mutian Feng
BSc, Neuroscience

OPSIS

One screen for scans and surgical tools

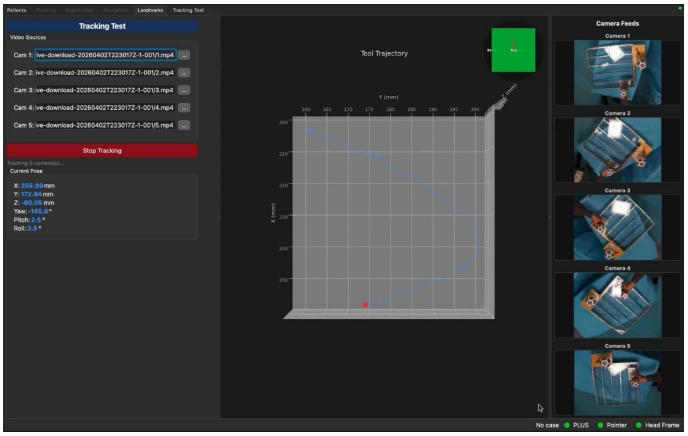
OPSIS is developing camera-based technology to show where surgical tools are positioned alongside medical scans.

THE CHALLENGE

The tracking system needed software to bring medical scans, planned tool paths and instrument movements together on one screen.

WHAT HTIL BUILT

Four HTIL fellows built a prototype for loading scans, identifying areas of interest and planning tool paths. It brings medical images together with camera views and a 3D view of tool movement.



HTIL's surgical tracking prototype

THE RESULT

5 recorded camera views tested

Tests located the tool and its direction in recorded video.

A prototype OPSIS can demonstrate and test.

WHAT COMES NEXT Connect live camera feeds and measure tracking accuracy.

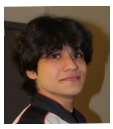
THE HTIL FELLOWS



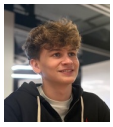
Yue Quian Zhang
Med-P / 2026



Letizia Marello
BEng, Bioengineering / 2026



Samaksh Khandelwal
BA, Computer Science & Statistics / 2026



Louis Landreau
BEng, Electrical Engineering / 2029

SARCOMA AI

Preparing scans for cancer research

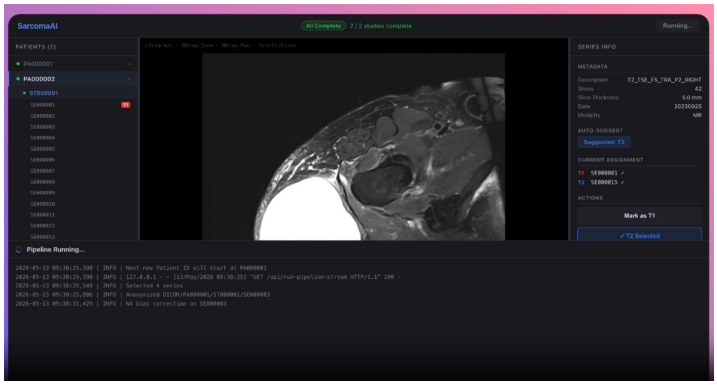
McGill researchers are developing AI to predict how sarcoma, a type of cancer, may progress in individual patients.

THE CHALLENGE

Before scans can support cancer research, teams must review them, remove identifying details and prepare the images for analysis. These steps were split across separate tools.

WHAT HTIL DELIVERED IN 8 WEEKS

Four HTIL fellows brought these steps into one desktop app, with saved settings, progress tracking and a record of each step. They also delivered a practical guide for future teams working across institutions.



THE RESULT

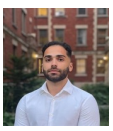
One repeatable process for preparing scans

"They helped develop applications to anonymize, clean, and preprocess our image data"

Dr. Anthony Bozzo
Clinical Innovation Platform

WHAT COMES NEXT Pilot with a research institution and connect scans to the AI model.

THE HTIL FELLOWS



Justin Kashi
MSc, Bioengineering / 2025



Aaron Menezes
U1 Software Engineering



Anastasiya Gudymenko
U1 Medicine

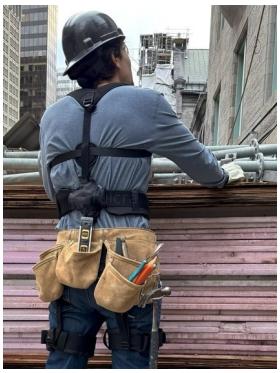


Rukun Dou
U1 Medicine

FULCRA

Commercialization strategy for Flexa

Fulcra is a Montreal medtech startup developing Flexa, a spinal support device for rehabilitation care. HTIL assessed the markets and stakeholders that could shape its adoption.





Flexa in use / Credit: Fulcra



Strategists with Fulcra's co-founders

MARKET & ADOPTION RESEARCH

Research covered market and stakeholder needs, regulation, IP, reimbursement and marketing. Weekly reviews with leadership refined the recommendations around Fulcra's commercial, clinical and operational priorities.

HTIL DELIVERABLE

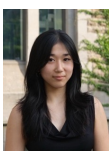
A strategy report and CEO presentation brought the research into recommendations for commercial and operational decisions, prompting direct feedback from leadership.

Continued collaboration

1 Fellow continued the collaboration through a summer internship.

NEXT STEP Refine commercial priorities and validation questions with leadership.

HTIL STRATEGIST TEAM



May Sun
BS, Cell Biology & Anatomy / U3



Milana Farah
BEng, Bioengineering 2026



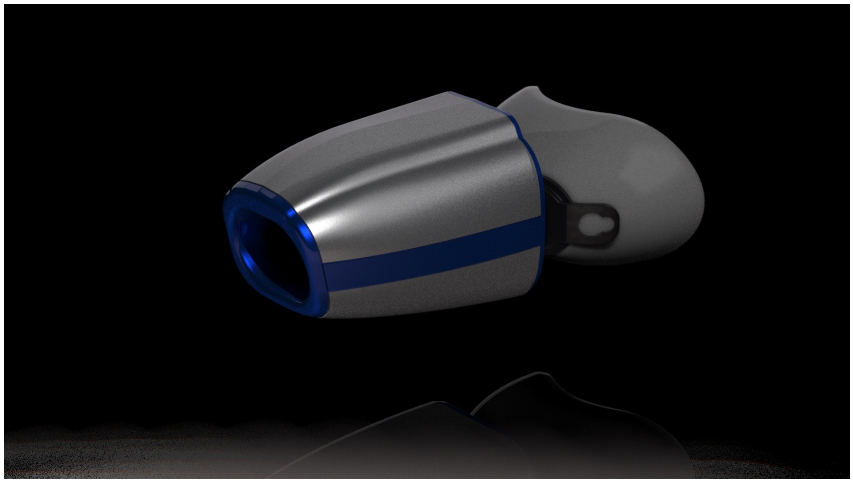
Tomás Bruschi Ferreira
BCom, Economics for Management / U1

HEALTHTECH / PROJECT 06

AEROCARDIA

35

standardised user interviews



Aerocardia is developing a wearable to monitor cardiopulmonary health and performance metrics. HTIL investigated users' expectations and the factors influencing adoption and sustained use.

HTIL DELIVERABLE

The team delivered product recommendations based on competitor benchmarking and 35 standardised interviews covering trust, usability, data privacy, ergonomics and accessibility.



NOTABLE RESULT

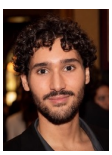
Recommendations were discussed directly with leadership and informed ongoing product refinement.

NEXT STEP Interview users on updated designs and assess how findings were applied.

HTIL STRATEGIST TEAM



Georgio Gholam
Medicine



Abed Abualhaj
BSc, Chemical Engineering



Maria Castro
BSc, Computer Science & Biology

THE STRATEGIST EXPERIENCE

Perspectives from the people behind the projects

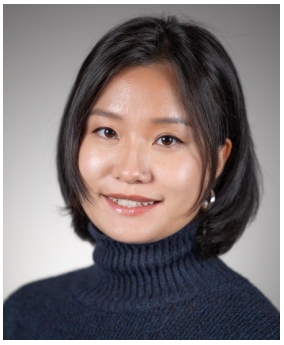


Tomás Bruschi Ferreira

BCom, Economics for Management

Fulcra project team

HTIL gave me hands-on experience at Fulcra that pushed me beyond my BCom background. My work through the program led to a summer internship, allowing me to continue contributing to the team.

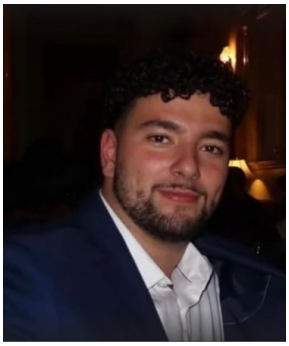


Yanchen Dong

PhD, Human Genetics

Eli Health project team

HTIL was my bridge from the bench to the startup world. My Eli Health project taught me to see commercialization as a way to connect research to the general public. I now bring that lens to Front Row Ventures, evaluating early-stage ideas from student founders on campus.



Georgio Gholam

Medicine

Aerocardia project team

Through HTIL, I worked with Aerocardia on market research, competitor analysis, and gathering feedback from potential users to support the development of its cardiopulmonary monitoring device. This experience broadened my clinical perspective by helping me understand how medical devices evolve from an idea into a tool that must meet patient needs, fit into everyday use and demonstrate meaningful value.

THE NEXT HTIL FELLOWSHIP

The next programme will build on this cohort's technical work and venture research, with more time for partner feedback and clearer follow-through on how deliverables are used.

12 **weeks per project**

Longer projects with more room for development, testing and partner feedback.

+ **a larger cohort**

A broader mix of disciplines and more capacity for partner-defined challenges.

→ **more fellow support**

We are looking to bring on more mentor expertise and resources for fellows to leverage during their projects.

Partner the Next HTIL Cohort

Bring a healthcare project, support the cohort, or contribute expertise to the next programme.

William Prato-Deriet
B.Eng 29'

william.prato-deriet@mail.mcgill.ca **HTIL Director 2026-2027**



THE TEAM BEHIND HTIL

The program team brought the cohort, partner projects and expert sessions together.



Canyu Wu

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Associate

MDCM 29'

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William Prato-Deriet

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Aditya Ranjan

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Guillame Bouramia

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Kirin DeJacobson

Associate

BCom, 27'

kirin.dejacobson@mail.mcgill.ca

THANK YOU

To the people who made the work possible



To our Fellows, mentors and program team, thank you for your work.

To **Deloitte** and every workshop and ecosystem partner, thank you for your support and expertise.

Get Involved:

Support our next cohort of fellows: william.prato-deriet@mail.mcgill.ca

Apply to be a HTIL fellow at cohort 27': QR code above