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US-Singapore collaboration to promote R&D activities on Digital Therapeutics

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With a focus on Digital Vaccine Project using AI in precision disease prevention



The Heinz College of Information Systems and Public Policy, in the US, will work with the National University of Singapore (NUS) Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine (NUS Medicine) and School of Computing (NUS Computing), and with the firm FriendsLearn, to promote joint research and development activities of mutual interest. The research will use artificial intelligence (AI) in precision prevention of disease via innovative digital therapeutic solutions such as digital vaccines.

One of the primary areas of work will be identifying opportunities for exchanges, cooperation, and joint research and development in relation to the Digital Vaccine Project. The project entails the context-sensitive design and extensive field evaluation in school settings of an AI-powered, gamified digital therapy solution on mobile devices for trustworthiness, health literacy, and health outcomes related to healthy lifestyles and precision prevention of disease in children. Digital vaccines use neurocognitive training, implicit learning, and immersive gaming in regular “doses” to encourage healthier behaviors in children, safely and effectively priming neurodevelopment and gut biome health. This induces and reinforces changes at the neuro physiological level underlying behaviors and choices during the critical habit-forming stage of childhood.

FriendsLearn, a biological and health technology company with offices in San Francisco and Chennai, India, is a pioneer of digital vaccines and a transnational partner with Carnegie Mellon of the Digital Vaccine Project.

The project will also involve exchanging scientific, academic, technical, and related information of mutual interest, for which each party holds intellectual property rights, and identifying opportunities for commercializing them. In addition, the universities and FriendsLearn will organize and take part in joint academic and scientific activities such as seminars and conferences.