

THE YEMAACHI BULLETIN

A Quarterly Newsletter by Yemaachi Biotech



Image source: www.techcrunch.com

Yemaachi participates in S21 batch of Y Combinator

In May we were excited to learn that Yemaachi had been selected as part of the Summer 21 batch of Y Combinator. Established in 2005, Y Combinator (YC) has grown into arguably the most successful startup accelerator in the world. It has invested in over 2000 companies, including the likes of Airbnb, Stripe and Dropbox. Although African companies make up a very small fraction of the YC portfolio (with fewer than 80 African companies in total), this group features some of the fastest growing startups on the continent such as Flutterwave and PayStack. As YC has grown, the application process has become increasingly competitive. Our batch of 377 companies was selected from over 15,000 applications. Of these 377 we are proud to be one of only 15 African companies selected.

Beyond the \$125,000 that YC invests in each company, the batch entails a 3 month accelerator, where founders of each company receive advice and training on how to run a successful startup. *(Continued on Page 4)*

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LET'S CONNECT!



@YemaachiBio



Yemaachi Biotech





All images for this story were provided by the Paemka Lab, WACCBIP

Yemaachi partners with Nufu Festival to raise Breast Cancer awareness in Pinktober

Breasts. Nufu. The girls, mammaries, bazookas, knockers, globes, lifesavers, and muchachas are a relatively modest number of known nicknames for breasts. Monikers describing breasts related to food (melons, coconuts, cantaloupes), milk (milk monsters, milkers, milk jugs), animals (puppies, mosquito bites), double acts (the twins), among others reveal how breasts are embedded in all aspects of the human experience. Breasts, which come in myriad shapes and sizes are the source of complete sustenance for babies, and thus play a vital role in the survival of humanity.

Despite the integral role breasts play in ensuring our existence, they are susceptible to several malignant conditions including breast cancer.

Due to its visibility, breast cancer has been described in ancient texts dating far back to 4,200 B.C. In 2020, female breast cancer surpassed lung cancer as the most diagnosed cancer, with an estimated 2.3 million new cases. While 99% of cases are found in women, men also suffer from breast cancer and account for the remaining 1%.



Above: A volunteer demonstrates how to properly conduct a breast self-exam

Below: A stand displays models of normal and diseased breasts to educate passers-by on signs of breast cancer



FUN FACT...

Humans are the only known mammals whose breasts remain permanently enlarged after sexual maturation (puberty).

Signs of breast cancer include nipple discharge, swollen lymph nodes under the arm or around the collarbone, swelling of the breast, skin irritation or dimpling, breast or nipple pain, nipple retraction, redness, scaliness, or thickening of the nipple or breast skin. Globally, Black women experience the worst outcome and among Ghanaian and Sub-Saharan women, breast cancer is associated with disproportionately high mortality rates.

The elevated mortality rate observed in Ghanaian women is largely due to the high proportion of patients presenting at healthcare facilities with advanced disease. Late presentation stems from myths, fear and a profound lack of breast cancer awareness. According to the World Health Organization, early detection is the cornerstone to successfully treating breast cancer, hence encouraging individuals to seek early help promotes survival. With the gloom and doom typically accompanying the disease, Nufu takes a fun approach of breast cancer advocacy to enlighten women and men about the disease, dispel myths and celebrate breasts in a bid to ensure early detection and treatment.

Nufu Festival was created in 2018 out of the need to minimize the number of women who present with advanced-stage disease characterized by precipitously low chances of survival. Activities include media appearances, discussions, demonstrations, giveaways and fun activities. Considering the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, free tests will be administered to attendees to determine prior exposure to the virus.



Commuters stop by the NufuFest stand at Tema Station, a busy transportation hub in the Greater Accra region of Ghana



Dr. Lily Paemka advertises NufuFest and discusses Breast Cancer prevention measures on radio

Attendees will have the opportunity to interact with breast cancer scientists, healthcare practitioners and advocates. Performing regular breast self-exams and routine screenings are key ways to go about early detection. Check your bumps for lumps.

Happy African Pinktober!

Breast Cancer Study

We are excited to begin work on our first research study on Breast Cancer in African women. We look forward to sharing more details on this study over the next month!

Yemaachi participates in S21 batch of Y Combinator (continued from Page 1)

The sessions are led by YC alumni who are themselves founders of successful businesses and so speak from personal experience. These sessions were extremely useful and have gone a long way towards shaping how Yemaachi will approach the next few years.

AN EARLY STEP TOWARDS BUILDING A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESS

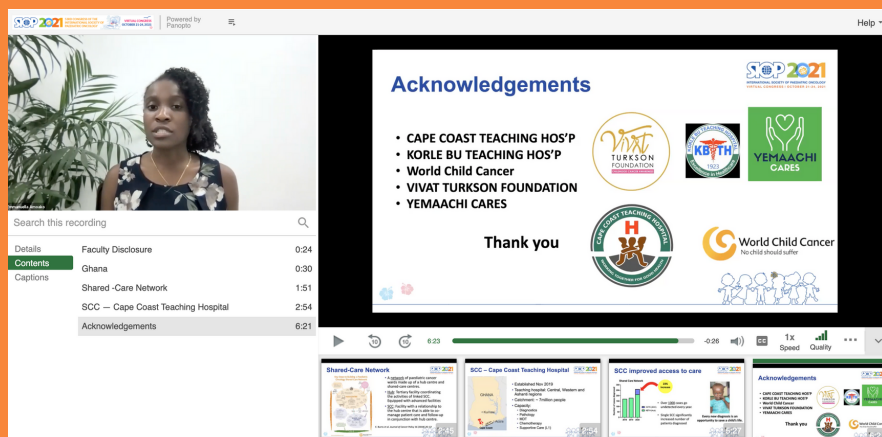
Beyond the expert advice, the most enjoyable thing was the camaraderie between batchmates. It was great to interact with other founders and learn from each other's experiences, celebrating the "wins" and

commiserating when things were difficult.

As with every YC batch, the process culminated in Demo Day when we had the opportunity to pitch to the extensive investor network associated with YC - a great learning experience that yielded priceless exposure.

The first lesson you learn from YC, is that selection to YC is in itself not a guarantee of success; it is just an early step towards building a successful business. While we will keep our feet firmly planted on the ground, knowing there is a lot of work ahead of us, we are grateful that we got to take this important step.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE LAST QUARTER



SIOP (INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY OF CHILDHOOD CANCERS) 2021 AWARD

Head of Clinical Affairs, Dr. Emmanuella Amoako, was one of four awardees of "Best of SIOP Global Health Free Papers 2021". Her paper, titled "Pediatric Oncology in a Shared-Care Center in Ghana - A Review of Cases Seen in the First Year of Operation" was presented at the Education Day event of SIOP's annual conference, which was held virtually this year.

RESEARCH CONFERENCE PANEL

Yemaachi hosted and moderated a panel titled "Building Sustainable Scientific and Technological Ecosystems in Africa" at the 2021 WACCBIP Research conference. The distinguished speakers were Lucy Quist, Managing Director at Morgan Stanley; Dr. Fred McBaganluri, Investor and President of Academic City College; Bright Simons, President, mPedigree; Prof Gordon Awandare, Director, WACCBIP. Attendees online and in person were very engaged in and inspired by the conversation and Yemaachi received lots of positive feedback on the event.

HGE SUMMIT 2022

Head of Genetics Research, Dr. Lily Paemka has been selected to serve on the planning committee of the Third International Summit on Human Genome Editing. The multidisciplinary committee is currently made up of 18 members from 11 nations. The three-day Summit will be held in March 2022 at The Francis Crick Institute in London, where international stakeholders representing the academic, medical, regulatory, bioethical, and patient communities will discuss global considerations regarding human genome editing.