

**The 18th Annual Young Generation Technical & Leadership Conference**  
Newsletter and Final Report for Ygnite 2022  
Reimagined Possibilities

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# Summary of the 18th Annual Young Generation Technical and Leadership Conference Ygnite 2022 Reimagined Possibilities

Authors:



Joy Kim  
Conference Chair  
*MBA Candidate*  
University of Chicago Booth School of Business



Dianne Lee  
Conference Co-Chair  
*PhD Candidate in Chemistry*  
Queen's University



Inseung Kang  
Conference Co-Chair  
*Postdoctoral Associate*  
MIT



Justin Kim  
Conference Co-Chair  
*Electrical Engineer*  
National Institutes of Health



Veronica JungYeon Kim  
Conference Co-Chair  
*Software Engineer*  
Weights & Biases

## Chairs



## Organizing Committee



The 18th annual Young Generation Technical and Leadership Conference (YGTLC), also known as Ygnite, continued its long-standing tradition with fewer number of participants due to the pandemic. Bright young professionals, graduate students, and undergraduate students from various cities across North America and Korea actively participated in sessions designed specifically for their topical interests, broadening their interests, skills, and careers. These workshops and sessions covered subjects such as leadership topics and meditation.

This year, we had a total of 67 attending participants. In total, we had 48% working professionals, 35% graduate students, and 16% undergraduates. The young generation participants ranged in age from 21 to 38 with the median age at 27 years old. Attendees also enjoyed a diversity of geography with 23% from the West Coast, 53% from the East Coast, 4% from the Midwest/Central, and 6% from international. We also worked hard to spread the news to new participants so we could grow our network. Of the people who attended, 31% were first-time participants, and 69% were returning participants.

## Plenary speakers

The purpose of the Keynote session was to empower the participants by exposing them to well-established leaders that influence and impact the Korean-American community. Through engaging talks and Q&A sessions, the speakers were presented as role models for the participants. The speakers were carefully selected and gave talks based on this year's theme of "Reimagined Possibilities". Each speaker demonstrated their accomplishments in their respective fields and impacts they have made during their career.



Kyu Rhee, M.D., MPP, is Senior Vice President and Chief Medical Officer of Aetna at CVS Health. Dr. Rhee oversees all clinical capabilities at Aetna with a focus on enhancing the quality of services provided for members and plan sponsors. In this role, he and his team lead the innovative design and implementation of new integrated health care management strategies and population health solutions. He also focuses on better integrating evidence-based medicine into key medical and personalized management strategies.

Dr. Rhee joined CVS Health from IBM, where he served for a decade as Vice President and Chief Health Officer, and was the lead physician, public health and clinical executive leader for IBM's global workforce of over 350,000 in 170 countries. He had global responsibilities for IBM's efforts to transform health through the use of data, analytics, artificial intelligence, and services for hospitals, health systems, providers, health plans, employers, governments, and life science companies. Most recently, he and his team led many of IBM's global COVID-19 and Culture of Health initiatives.

Before joining IBM, Dr. Rhee served in the federal government as Chief Public Health Officer at the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) and Director of Innovation at the National Institutes of Health (NIH). While at HRSA and NIH, he led numerous national initiatives related to prevention, health care quality, research, health equity and public health.

Dr. Rhee earned his dual medical residency training in internal medicine and pediatrics from Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles, his medical degree from the Keck School of Medicine at the University of Southern California, a master's degree in Healthcare Policy from Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government, and a BS in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry from Yale University. Earlier in his career, Dr. Rhee worked as a National Health Services Corps primary care physician and Chief Medical Officer in diverse community health settings in Washington, D.C., and Baltimore. He also taught and mentored clinical and public health students at George Washington University's Schools of Public Health and Medicine.

Title of Dr. Rhee's lecture was "Rhee-imagined Possibilities: Fireside Chat with Dr. Kyu Rhee", where he shared his extraordinary career, spanning the areas of pediatric and primary care medicine, education, public health, technology, senior management, and more. His unique perspective as a Korean-American leader in the private sector will shed light onto his experiences and takeaways which lead him to his current position at CVS Health.



Marvin Chun leads a cognitive neuroscience laboratory that uses brain imaging and machine learning to study how people see, attend, remember, and perform optimally. One line of work uses brain imaging to read out perceptions and thoughts. Another major project uses brain scans to understand and predict what makes people different.

Chun is the Richard M. Colgate Professor of Psychology with secondary appointments in the Yale School of Medicine Department of Neuroscience, and with the Yale Cognitive Science Program. He also serves as the Dean of Yale College, the first of Asian descent in Yale's 300+ year history. Chun received his undergraduate degree from Yonsei University, his Ph.D. from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and postdoctoral training at Harvard University. He was a graduate student fellow of the Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies. Throughout his career, his research has been honored with several awards, such as the Troland Research Award from the United States National Academy of Sciences, the American Psychological Association Distinguished Scientific Award for an Early Career Contribution to Psychology, and the Samsung Ho-Am Prize in Science. At Yale, his teaching has been recognized with both the Phi Beta Kappa William Clyde DeVane Medal for Distinguished Scholarship and Teaching, and the Lex Hixon '63 Prize for Teaching Excellence in the Social Sciences.

Title of professor Chun's lecture was "Mind Reading with Brain Imaging and Artificial Intelligence", where he shared how brain imaging allows neuroscientists to read out the human mind and to predict individual cognitive performance in domains such as attention and memory. Personalized brain analyses are significantly enhanced by machine learning (artificial intelligence), and in turn, brain computation and cognition can advance the capabilities of artificial intelligence. The marriage of brain science and artificial intelligence will make both more useful for improving people's lives.

# Workshop Sessions

The workshop sessions provided learning opportunities from a speaker, who were experts in their field. Participants had a dynamic engagement with a speaker throughout the session. A workshop session was restarted last year as a virtual format, and it was the most popular session out of all avenues. Participants were connected with a speaker after the session for the future follow up after the conference. Originally, there were two career development sessions lead by Dr. Alex Lee and Dr. Seung Soon Jang. However, Dr. Jang was not able to attend at the last minute due to his personal circumstance. Thus his session was replaced by "Learn to mediate" led by Dr. John Lee.



## **Unlock your Career Potential**

As a young Korean-American Professional, there is a unique set of challenges transitioning to professional society with fierce competition. By the time they learn from their experience and mistakes, they find themselves way behind their peers and often too late to do anything. This workshop will cover the most critical tools and tips for boosting your career at the early stage of your career. Some of the covered topics include How to master office politics and essential communication skills so that you will be heard and recognized. This workshop will also answer many of the most common questions for Young Professionals: Who really controls your next role ? What is the best way to get the position you want and a raise? The presenter will share his catastrophic career mistakes and how he recovered from them. Bring your questions and motivation. This workshop

will make a big difference in your career if you apply them.



## **Learn to Meditate**

Have you been curious about meditation or mindfulness? Have you thought that you'd like to be more present, connected, embodied, or at ease? This session will be a workshop to understand how meditation could help you. We will cover some of the basics of meditation, mindfulness, such as body positions, breathing, and centering. There will be time at the end to ask questions and explore other topics as well.

# Participant Sessions

This year, the program team oversaw the participant-led program sessions, which included lecture sessions, moderated panels, lightning talk, YG session and Posters.



## Lecture Sessions:

Participants who presented through the lecture session avenue shared their research and works to Ygnite attendees. The lectures were divided into the following groupings that then comprised a total of two individual lecture sessions: Lecture 1: CS/Economics and Lecture 2: Healthcare/Lifestyle. Each topic was originally an independent session, however due to the covid, many participants dropped after the registration, all sessions were merged in to two. Each presenter had 10 minute formal presentations followed by 5 minute audience Q&A sessions.

Presenters ranged from undergraduate students sharing their research to professionals who shared about their careers and technology trends. Presenters were asked to submit their material prior to Ygnite for review by the program team to ensure that presentations had limited technical jargon that could distract and/or derail audience engagement. Each presentation was judged based on quality of delivery, engagement of audience, as well as ability to answer questions. The audience, including other presenters, Ygnite participants from other avenues, and additional Ygnite organizers, will evaluate each presentation. The conference mobile app will be utilized for judging. The top two lecturer was awarded a prize during the Award Ceremony Saturday night.



### Moderated Panels:

Ygnite hosted three moderated panels during the conference. These theme-based panel sessions focused on the active engagement between the participants and the panel speakers.

During the application process, participants could request consideration to be a panelist for each of the moderated panels, submitting a bio as well as a paragraph on how their experiences were relevant to the panel theme.

The purpose of these panels was to provide Ygnite attendees a wide diversity of not just panel topics but also a wide variety of voices and experiences within each panel. The themes were the following:

- A. Pushing the Boundaries of Healthcare (or Medical/Health Ethics)
- B. Expanding the Boundaries of the Tech Industry
- C. Overcoming Hurdles in Your Career

The panels themselves constituted of A) Panel speaker's brief introduction of his/her background, B), panel speaker's response to the designated theme/questions and C) anonymous or open Q&A style discussion, all facilitated by a moderator and technical support. This year, the moderators received training on how to facilitate these dialogues and were given questions should none arise from the audience.



### Poster:

The poster session encourages discussion among participants through posters across a variety of different fields, including science, engineering, healthcare, education, careers, and more. All posters will be present through the entire hour (both sessions I and II), and presenters will have a 5 minute oral presentation to accompany their posters and 2 minutes Q and A.

Poster presenters ranged from undergraduate students sharing their research to professionals who shared about their thesis or knowledge. Presenters were asked to submit their poster presentation thesis prior to Ygnite for review by the program team. All posters were set up prior to the session. Each poster presentation was judged based on quality of delivery, engagement of audience, as well as ability to answer questions. The conference mobile app will be utilized for judging. The top three poster was awarded a prize during the Award Ceremony Saturday night.



### Lightning Talk:

In the lightning talk, the presenter will share their inspirational story about how they have successfully “reimagined their possibilities” in a 5 minute presentation followed by a 2 minute audience Q&A session. The presentations are designed to be creative and engaging for audiences with diverse backgrounds

Presenters ranged from undergraduate students to professionals who shared about their careers or life experiences. Presenters were asked to submit their material prior to Ygnite for review by the program team to ensure that presentations had limited technical jargon that could distract and/or derail audience engagement. Each presentation was judged based on quality of delivery, engagement of audience, as well as ability to answer questions. The audience, including other presenters, Ygnite participants from other avenues, and additional Ygnite organizers, will evaluate each presentation. The conference mobile app will be utilized for judging. The top three lecturers were awarded a prize during the Award Ceremony Saturday night.



# Networking and New Programs

Ice Breaker Session: After the opening session on Friday, we carried out ice breaker sessions to help everyone get warmed up for the conference and to get to know each other better. The participants were divided into 3 groups based on their academic/career stages - Undergrad & grad, Industry < 5 years & Research, and Industry 5+ years. The sessions started out with participants playing the Korean game *ddakji* against each other, and the results were used to create teams for the following games. The participants then engaged in team games that required collaboration.



Team Competition: Participants were randomly put into 4 different groups to participate in a total of 6 different stations of games. Each station featured a different game, where each game touched on different skill sets - flip bottles let the participants get warmed up and move around a bit; O/X quiz required the knowledge of random facts; squid game bridge tested out everyone's luck; dungeon escape dealt with problem solving skills; and photo contest brought out the creativity in everyone. Scores were awarded to the winning team for each game, and the final winner was announced during the Gala.



Meal Seating: Meal seatings were carefully pre-arranged, where participants were seated with a different group of people each meal to allow for more networking opportunities. Location, field, academic / career stage, and E (extroverts) vs. I (introverts) from MBTI were used to arrange the meal seatings.



New Programs: We introduced a new program under startup, Idea Pitch Competition, which is discussed in detail under the Startup section.

Raffles: Each participant received a raffle ticket, and more raffle tickets were given to participants throughout the conference based on their participation. The tickets were drawn randomly from the jar. To encourage participants to complete the post-conference survey, we held another raffle. The winner was selected using a random name generator and were notified via email that they had won.

## Startup Program

This is the third year that the Ygnite conference organized a Startup Program. For this year's conference, the program included a series of seminar talks and an Idea Pitch Competition. While there was a number of participants joining the program from Korea via INNOPOLIS in previous years, this cycle did not include participants from Korea due to COVID-19 restrictions. Furthermore, due to COVID, the organizers ran the session to be in a hybrid format, where the invited speakers and judges were able to join remotely. This was specifically enforced to ensure that the startup session does not compromise the invited guests (e.g., judging of the Idea Pitch Competition being poor). However, the program manages to have all competition participants be in person. The organizers mainly focused on recruiting/inviting participants and speakers from the US. The key difference for this year's program was the Idea Pitch Competition, where the focus of the participant's pitch deck was geared towards the 'idea' of a potential startup that he/she may have. Thus, the establishment and funding experience of a startup was not a requirement for the initial application.

Participants were required to submit a pitch deck to join the Startup Idea Pitch Competition and enjoy the full benefits of the entire program. This pitch deck also acted as the preliminary screening process for the Ygnite conference application. In addition, we partnered with KIC-DC (the organization that sponsored Ygnite with \$3000 to be used as a monetary award) to expand the outreach and impact of our Idea Pitch Competition.

Idea Pitch Competition: The competition was one hour and fifteen minutes long, with multiple judges from different ventures acting as judges. Idea Pitch Competition contenders were competing for prizes of \$2000 for first prize, and \$1000 and \$300 for second and third place, respectively. Six total teams (one team had two members) were selected for the competition, and each startup had 3 minutes total to pitch (up to 5 minutes), with 3 minutes for Q&A from the judges. Following the pitch, we utilized an online

survey to evaluate the participant's performance where the score was weight averaged across the judges and audiences (general participants of Ygnite). The final judges included those with extensive knowledge in the entrepreneur sphere: Kyung Ho Yang, Yong Kim, Il Minn, and Josh Lee.



Startup Workshop Seminar: There were a total of three startup seminar talks for this year's conference program. The speakers were carefully chosen to represent diverse backgrounds with distinguished topics of interest such as ones from venture capital and early-stage entrepreneurs. The topics of the workshop seminar were as follows:

- A. Technology Entrepreneurship and Startup Studio - Ian Ryu, PhD
  - a. Ian leads technology partnerships at FedTech - a venture firm at the intersection of entrepreneurship, breakthrough technologies, and mission-driven organizations. Ian oversees everything to do with technology and FedTech's partner relationships. This includes building partnerships with research organizations (e.g. government labs, universities, etc), technology due diligence, working with entrepreneurs, and all other activities to build successful technology-based startups.



**B. A Roadmap to Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Funding - Jung Moon**

- a. Jung Moon is currently serving as Director General at Korea Innovation Center Washington DC by utilizing his extensive public & government private industry. He strives to support Korean technology companies and startups to advance the global markets as well as developing the collaborative technology R&D project between South Korea and the US.



**C. Getting Your First Capital - Josh Lee**

- a. Josh is a senior associate at Catchlight Capital Partners, an active angel investor/advisor, and a mentor at Startup Bootcamp and Impact Collective. He also works with Fortune 500 companies and cryptocurrency ecosystems on developing their NFT strategies as a collector himself. He was formerly at Google and several startups before deciding to work at the VC.



## Ygnite 2022 Awards

Awards	Name
Outstanding Lecture Award 1st Place	Kevin Riutzel
Outstanding Lecture Award 2nd Place	Hunjoo Kim
Outstanding Lightning Talk Award 1st Place	Eunice Lee

Outstanding Lightning Talk Award 2nd Place	Carolyn Hyunsook Oh
Outstanding Lightning Talk Award 3rd Place	Joanne Lee
Outstanding Poster Award 1st Place	Paul Kim
Outstanding Poster Award 2nd Place	Kevin Kim
Outstanding Poster Award 3rd Place	Matthew Jeon
Idea Pitch 1st Place	Sung Hoon Lee
Idea Pitch 2nd Place	Edward Cho
Idea Pitch 3rd Place	Sean Kim

In addition, Ygnite 2022 had on-site raffle. The winners are listed below:

<b>Winners</b>
Dahye Kim Jonathan Kim Eugene Yoon Kathryn Suh Jaehee Cho Flora Yoon Edward Cho Hyunsoo Lim

## Post Conference Comments

### Short Testimony 1:

I think people were very approachable and proactive in welcoming the new comers. I think this should be recognized, praised, and kept for the future events! - Graduate/Professional Student

### Short Testimony 2:

I can't believe how great it turned out after all the hardships that the organizers had to go through due to COVID. Greatly appreciate everyone's hard work in bringing this together and making Ygnite possible. The conference was fantastic and hope to see this connection continue in the next year's Ygnite.

- Professional

Short Testimony 3:

This was one of my favorite Ygnites by far. I recognize that some of this had to do with us being able to gather after many many months of virtual settings, but I also want to name that part of WHY I had so much fun is BECAUSE of how well-thought out the program (including startup) and the networking was, which was further enhanced by the smooth communication and interface from mobile/website and the seamless of admin. All of which needed sponsorship to finance -- and the LINE goodie bags were particularly fun. In all, thank you so much organizers, team leads, co-chairs, and of course chair, for a wonderful return to Ygnite in person. I can't imagine a better way for us to come back in person.

- Professional

Short Testimony 4:

I hope there will be a city tour during the next Ygnite conference. As a first time attendee, I learned many things and professional experiences like poster presentation and networking. I really appreciate it.

- Graduate/Professional Student