



Awards Asia 2025

Most Innovative Teacher of the Year

Institution Name	Ki Sum Samson Wong, <i>The University of Hong Kong</i>
Submission title or project name	'In Their Shoes Now': Adapting Immersive Video Gameplay and Design Thinking for Building Medical Students' Grief Literacy
Nominee / key personnel	Mr Ki Sum Samson Wong, Assistant Lecturer, Medical Ethics and Humanities Unit, Li Ka Shing Faculty of Medicine
URL	https://tdg.hku.hk/hub/#/project/634f6dc3cccd9f033e0fc192
Submission	Globally, scholars have reported complicated grief and prolonged grief disorder to be the prominent psychiatric sequelae to bereavement experienced during the Covid-19 pandemic. Recently, an international panel of thanatology educators jointly called for a grief literacy movement to help professionals identify grief more readily and be more proactive in supporting those going through the grieving process. In my medical humanities class, I seek to harness the untapped potential of an award-winning immersive video-game recommended in JAMA medical journal for raising undergraduate medical students' awareness of the agonising anticipatory grief facing family care-givers of dying patients. I have designed an unconventional VR simulation activity to explore: • how this medium can help medical students connect with families of terminally ill patients, and garner insight into the burden of care, grief and bereavement, and • how I could pair the immersive experience with design thinking-based debriefing to scale-up the impact on student learning



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Institution Name	Pornpun Vivithanaporn, <i>Mahidol University</i>
Submission title or project name	Game-based learning to promote student engagement and collaboration in pharmacology education
Nominee / key personnel	Associate Professor Pornpun Vivithanaporn
URL	https://www.youtube.com/@educationramathibodi8019 https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e0hLFhu6tHQ&t=172s
Submission	Most medical students regard pharmacology as an overwhelming subject due to the extensive information they must memorise. To make the learning process more enjoyable, Associate Professor Dr Pornpun Vivithanaporn created PharMatch, an online card game launched in 2021. The game features hand-drawn illustrations to enhance visual memory and is accessible on any device with internet connectivity. Feedback indicated it was highly effective for memorisation, student engagement and class satisfaction scores. The game won the Innovative Teaching Award from Mahidol University in November 2023. This year, Professor Vivithanaporn created print-out PharMatch cards to create serious games in an escape room for 40 paramedic students. She also used these cards to play Clue and Bingo for 206 medical students. These interactive activities have proven to be more effective in boosting students' confidence in their pharmacology knowledge and fostering teamwork and communication compared with traditional classroom methods. Additionally, she has shared her insights on game-based learning with colleagues across Thailand.



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Most Innovative Teacher of the Year

Institution Name	Muhammad Naveed Aasim, <i>Beaconhouse National University</i>
Submission title or project name	Transforming Learning through Innovation and Student-Centred Teaching
Nominee / key personnel	Muhammad Naveed Aasim, Head of BNU Connect and the BS Communication and Immersive Media programme
URL	https://www.bnu.edu.pk/faculty/muhammad-naveed-asim
Submission	Muhammad Naveed Aasim, Head of BNU Connect and the BS Communication and Immersive Media programme at Beaconhouse National University, has transformed teaching in Digital Visual Effects (VFX) through hands-on, experiential learning. Drawing on 15 years of industry experience, Naveed treats his students as professionals, fostering real-world skills and instilling a passion for the VFX field. His continual course enhancements ensure students are up-to-date with industry standards, and his open-door policy encourages students and alumni to seek career advice and technical support. Through BNU Connect, Naveed has also promoted interdisciplinary collaboration across the university, shaping future leaders in media and creative industries. Student testimonials highlight his dedication to their growth, and his proactive, student-centred teaching approach has made a profound impact both within and beyond the classroom.



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Most Innovative Teacher of the Year

Institution Name	David J. O'Regan, <i>University of Malaya</i>
Submission title or project name	The Black Belt Academy of Surgical Skills (BBASS)
Nominee / key personnel	Professor David J. O'Regan, founder and CEO of BBASS
URL	
Submission	Surgical services are a prerequisite for full attainment of local and global health goals. Adverse and unintended results of surgery increase economic burden and without high-quality surgeons, more people suffer distress. The best way to improve surgical quality and performance is through the application of systems engineering combined with innovation, especially in training, that improves accessibility and affordability. Current teaching is limited at all levels. The Black Belt Academy of Surgical Skills (BBASS) was founded by Professor David O'Regan to explore parallels between surgery and martial arts. BBASS has an iterated progression of skills aligned through a "coloured belt" system: this pedagogical instruction approach, guidance and repetition transcends motor learning and eases the instructivist-constructivist tensions encouraging self-discovery. Shortcomings have been addressed using our novel online approach (with a following of 3,630 students in 121 countries) encouraging domestic, purposeful practice on low-fidelity models. This transformative and economic method of teaching could be applied globally.



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Most Innovative Teacher of the Year

Institution Name	Padmanabha Ramanujam, <i>O.P. Jindal Global University</i>
Submission title or project name	Innovations in Game Theory Lessons
Nominee / key personnel	Professor Padmanabha Ramanujam, Dean of Academic Governance
URL	
Submission	Professor Padmanabha Ramanujam, a founding faculty member at O.P. Jindal Global University, has redefined how Game Theory is taught, making it accessible to students from various disciplines. His innovative, non-mathematical approach engages students through relatable scenarios and interactive activities, bypassing traditional math-heavy methods. Using real-life examples, such as group voting on pricing strategies, students intuitively understand complex concepts such as the prisoner's dilemma. A stand-out feature of the course is its use of high-stakes class activities, where students face real consequences, fostering deep engagement. The reverse classroom method further enhances learning by encouraging students to create their own versions of games before formal instruction, sharpening their critical thinking. Professor Ramanujam's approach not only demystifies Game Theory but also equips students with valuable skills in negotiation, strategy and collaboration, leaving a lasting impact that transcends academic boundaries.



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Most Innovative Teacher of the Year

Institution Name	Bai Xuejun, <i>Tianjin Normal University</i>
Submission title or project name	
Nominee / key personnel	Professor Bai Xuejun, Faculty of Psychology
URL	
Submission	As a municipal-level teaching expert beloved by students, Professor Bai Xuejun has pioneered a student-centred ecological teaching method and was the first in China to research frustration tolerance, developing a method tailored for Chinese university students. His “teaching through friendship” approach creates an immersive learning experience, fostering a positive cycle where teachers and students engage in each other’s lives. His exceptional teaching abilities led to the establishment of the nationally recognised “Student Psychological Development and Health” team, and he also served as the chief editor of a curriculum project under a key national programme and has been awarded the National May 1st Labour Medal. His unique teaching methods and humorous, insightful style are highly appreciated by students, who regard him as a model mentor and friend. His teaching methods have been widely imitated by peers, and his guidance has helped students better understand and improve themselves, significantly enhancing their overall abilities.



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Most Innovative Teacher of the Year

Institution Name	Sunit Vijay Jadhav, <i>Symbiosis International University</i>
Submission title or project name	Innovative Approach to Anatomy Education: Integrating Music, Storytelling and Binaural Sound Design
Nominee / key personnel	Dr Sunit Jadhav, Associate Professor
URL	
Submission	Dr Sunit Jadhav, an Associate Professor (Anatomy) at Symbiosis Medical College for Women, is an educational innovator in interdisciplinary education. His approach transformed the anatomy curriculum by offering a multimodal learning experience that effectively integrates the arts and sciences. His innovative approach combines music, storytelling and binaural sound design to enrich medical students' anatomy learning experience. As a professional singer-songwriter, Dr Jadhav increases student engagement through anatomical jingles and immersive sound environments, significantly improving the memory retention of learners. His research focuses on the effects of sound frequencies, particularly binaural beats, on sustained attention and cognitive performance in medical education. In addition, Dr Jadhav integrates storytelling into early clinical exposure, promoting empathy and a holistic understanding of patient care. Under his leadership, the anatomy curriculum has evolved to include advanced technologies such as 3D anatomy atlases and virtual reality that offer a multimodal learning experience.



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Institution Name	Shishir Saxena, <i>Ahmedabad University</i>
Submission title or project name	
Nominee / key personnel	Professor Shishir Saxena
URL	https://ahduni.edu.in/academics/schools-centres/school-of-arts-and-sciences/faculty/shishir-saxena/
Submission	How does one bring innovation to the pedagogy of those disciplines that have been taught uninterrupted for multiple millennia? Indeed, is there any need for innovation in such disciplines, especially in the very part of the world in which they originated? I teach courses in Indian Philosophy and Sanskrit at Ahmedabad University and I have come to firmly believe that there is an acute need for innovation in these two venerable disciplines. During my past five years of teaching, I have attempted to contemporise the pedagogy of these subjects in several ways and I received the Chairman's Award for Experiments to Advance Active Learning from the university earlier this year. In the past year, I commenced an initiative titled Philosophy and Film where I screen a movie on campus, and subsequently discuss the relevant philosophical themes with students.