



INSTITUTO DE INGENIERÍA  
BIOLÓGICA Y MÉDICA  
PONTIFICIA UNIVERSIDAD CATÓLICA DE CHILE

# Growing a network of Clinical Mentors

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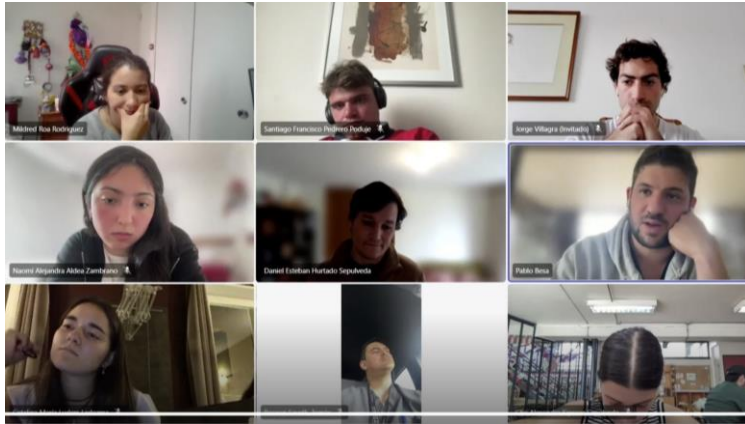
2024-10-22  
BME-IDEA snapshot



[Wikimedia commons](#)

## Context & challenge

- BME capstone projects should be clinically relevant
  - Each of our teams has a Clinical Mentor
- In Chile, few innovators and busy clinicians
  - Difficult to find volunteer Clinical Mentors



# Committee meetings

- Organized by student teams, meet 3x /yr
- Committee includes 2+ experts, PhD or MD or industry
  - brings project-relevant expertise in engineering, innovation, or clinical area



<https://www.flickr.com/photos/testlab/21496317363>

# Unexpected positive effect

- Clinicians transitioning from committee members to clinical mentors
- Clinicians in committee learn how the course works
  - evidences high potential of student teams
  - motivates increased clinician engagement
- 60% of 2024 Mentors are former committee members

# Big effect in a small program

year	projects applied	projects offered	projects selected	mentor previously in committee	percent	mentor previously unconnected	percent
2021	6	5	4	0	0%	0	0%
2022	7	6	5	0	0%	0	0%
2023	6	6	4	2	50%	1	25%
2024	7	6	5	3	60%	1	20%

# Takeaways

- Committee-to-Mentor pathway seems to feed growth of clinical network
- Improvement?: ~~Encourage~~ Require clinical expert in committee
- Are you interested? Let me know!





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