Promising NUS Start-up Award for 2 firms

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LIFE sciences took centre-stage at this year’s Innovation and Enterprise Awards (I&E) as companies and researchers from the sector won big at the event.

BioMers Pte Ltd and ClearBridge BioMedics Pte Ltd emerged winners of the Promising NUS Start-up Award for successfully converting technologies from NUS laboratories to commercialised products.

The Outstanding NUS Innovator Award went to a husband-wife team for their ecological efforts to save horseshoe crabs and their work with the “Factor C” enzyme. Traditionally obtained from horseshoe crab blood, the enzyme can now be made in a lab.

The team consists of Ding Jiaok Ling from the Department of Biological Sciences of the NUS Faculty of Science and Ho Boa from the Department of Microbiology of the NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine.

BioMers and ClearBridge BioMedics each received $100,000 in prize money while the team of Prof Ding and Assoc Prof Ho received $10,000.

“We established the I&E Award with the objective of inspiring and motivating other young entrepreneurs and innovators within the NUS community,” said Wong Poh Kam, director of the NUS Entrepreneurship Centre and co-chair of the I&E Award organising committee. The Award is in its second year and is co-organised by the NUS Society (NUSS) and NUS Enterprise.

Joshua Kuma, co-chair of the I&E Award organising committee, said on behalf of NUSS: “This initiative gives our alumni and the NUS community an opportunity to showcase and publicise their achievements as entrepreneurs and innovators to the wider community.” Dr Kuma is also director of the PSB Academy.

The awards were given out yesterday at the Enterprise Connection Gala Dinner, a networking dinner under InnoveFest 2012 that was attended by about 300 entrepreneurs, innovators and investors.