Tim Fu tore his ACL playing Ultimate Frisbee in October 2009, just as he was applying to MIT Sloan to study and develop renewable energy models. Injured, he dove into his physical therapy exercises, only to taper in enthusiasm as he healed.

“I did it every day for about three weeks,” he said. “Somewhere between three weeks and a month, I would do 50 percent of what I was supposed to.”

Fu wondered how therapists could work with patients to ensure physical therapy regimens were completed.

Enter PT Games, Fu’s startup to design Kinect for Xbox 360 games that assist in physical therapy exercises, built with the input of therapists. The Kinect is a video game platform that responds to human movement.

“It seemed like such a huge opportunity to make the service better,” he said. “Ultimately, we want to deliver a video game first for physical therapy patients and then for the general fitness audience.”

Fu and three partners began development of PT Games’ first game during the summer, but they are not alone in the field. Led by Wii Fit, health and fitness video games are gaining traction and appealing to people beyond the traditional young male video game-playing demographic.

Fu believes PT Games has a unique edge.

“No one really puts it together into a medical application,” he said. “I think we have something special between the therapist, the game, and the patient. And later, between the trainer, the game, and the patient.”

Video game development is an accidental future for Fu, whose passion lies in the development and marketing of renewable energy models, the reason he came to MIT Sloan in the first place. A mechanical engineering graduate from Cornell University, his solar design team there formed a residential green home design firm, ZeroEnergy Design. Fu moved to New York City to work as an HVAC engineer at Jaros Baum & Bolles. Projects there included the new World Trade Center development.

But Fu—like many of the young innovators at MIT Sloan—saw a better model for what he was doing. His intentions are no less than colossal: find ways to build large-scale renewable energy enterprises supported by a community of like-minded investors. This spring, Fu led an MIT Sloan Clean Energy Study Tour to the island of Samso in Denmark, where many residents own shares in the 21-turbine wind farm that powers the entire island, with saleable energy to spare.

“I think there’s demand out there from people who want to invest, but just don’t know how or have the options right now,” Fu said about the United States.

The traditional challenges abound. The national energy infrastructure is built on a gas and oil model. Outside of a few small regions, Americans have shown resistance to the arguable unsightliness of wind turbines. And investment cost may feel prohibitive to many.

“We’re hoping to address some of that,” Fu said. “A lot of people who bought into renewable energy are early adopters. Someone’s getting (the financial benefit), and right now it’s big investment companies and private equity firms. We’d like to give that financial return to the end users.”