

PROGRAM INFORMATION

INVENTORS FOR HEALTH 2019 (I4H)

1. Summary

With the 'Inventors for Health' program (I4H), Stiftung Charité supports individuals and small teams with innovative ideas (Inventors) for inventions in the field of life sciences and medicine as well as the necessary entrepreneurial motivation. Eligible projects are entrepreneurially motivated and are at a very early stage of the innovation process. The program will be realized with funds from the [Private Excellence Initiative Johanna Quandt](#).

In contrast to existing funding instruments with strong project orientation, this program focuses on personal funding. In particular, researchers and clinicians of all career levels above university graduation, but also non-clinically active people, e.g. technical and administrative staff, can apply.

In the course of this program, selected persons go through a consecutive process (I4H incubator) to better and faster transfer the technological potential of research in life sciences and medicine into concrete products and/or services of medical benefit.

The I4H Incubator consists of a pre-phase (Bootcamp) and a main phase (I4H Grant) and provides funding for:

- the identification and elaboration of the idea
- the development of entrepreneurial skills
- prototype development with a strong market orientation as well as
- preparatory measures for a subsequent commercialization, (e.g. via spin-offs or licenses)

The I4H Incubator is run by [Stiftung Charité](#) in close cooperation with [SPARK Berlin](#).

2. Eligibility for funding and eligible projects/ideas

The I4H Incubator is designed for individuals and small teams who are employed at the [Berlin Institute of Health \(BIH\)](#), the [Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin](#) or the [Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine \(MDC\)](#), have at least a university degree, and are not able to pursue their entrepreneurial idea due to their professional obligations.

3. Exclusion criteria

Pure research projects or projects within a spin-off company are generally not eligible for funding.

4. Application and selection procedure

Applications for the pre-phase (Bootcamp) are submitted via an [application form](#) provided by the Stiftung Charité. Usually, entering the main phase requires the successful participation of the pre-phase. By submitting your application, you declare that you accept our [data protection policy](#). The complete application documents must be submitted by

March 25th, 2019, 3 pm to: stiftung.charite@charite.de

Pre-phase

As an entrepreneurially motivated inventor, you apply with your project idea for the pre-phase. The application should contain the following information (please use the application form):

- description of unmet medical needs
- description of your innovative idea to solve this problem
- uniqueness of the new solution
- clinical/ business opportunities
- personal details, in particular entrepreneurial motivation and personal skills
- curriculum vitae

Following a selection process by Stiftung Charité and SPARK Berlin, which includes a Presentation (pitch), successful applicants take part in the pre-phase of the I4H Incubator in Berlin. In this phase, the basics of innovation management and entrepreneurship are taught (bootcamp format):

- problem solving, idea development, conception
- evaluation, feasibility, market analyses
- project management and business development.

Mandatory dates are as follows:

- Bootcamp 1: April 12 - April 14, 2019
- Bootcamp 2: May 3 - May 5, 2019
- Bootcamp 3: May 31 - June 2, 2019

The projects will be developed iteratively and are supported by experienced mentors of the SPARK Berlin network with expertise and practical knowledge. In the first phase, the inventor will participate in a three-month educational incubator using an interactive workshop format with additional support of an interdisciplinary team (recruited separately) to develop a first solution with the goal of changing clinical practice. All clinical indications or strategies (drugs, diagnostics, devices or digital solutions) are considered. Pure research projects or projects within a spin off are generally not eligible.

Main phase

After successful completion of the pre-phase and obtaining the necessary entrepreneurial qualification and attitude, it is possible to apply for the main phase with a revised and further developed project idea. During this funding phase, the inventor will participate in the project management program of SPARK Berlin. In this phase, a strong proof-of-concept for the project will be developed through project management and milestone-oriented activities. Usually, only projects that have been included in the pre-phase of the program can apply for the main phase. Projects will be selected by an highly qualified and independent selection committee in a competitive process that includes a presentation of the project (pitch). A milestone-based development plan is implemented for the accepted projects. The panel of experts unites:

- scientists with entrepreneurial expertise
- experts from other innovation-friendly universities or corresponding affiliated institutes
- representatives of relevant industries
- representatives of public funding bodies and investors.

The selected persons/teams will receive inventor's time (personal leave), i.e. human resources to finance replacement staff, and project funding. In addition, they will be mentored by experts for innovation, entrepreneurship and product development from SPARK Berlin. The proposals will be evaluated on the basis of: Scope of unmet (clinical) need, idea/solution, personal motivation/experience and business opportunity.

5. Funding scope

With I4H, Stiftung Charité supports mentoring measures and events for the mutual exchange and deepening of project management, if necessary on an international level. Of special interest are evaluation and validation of ideas as well as early business development. The maximum funding volume per project for the main phase is 100,000 Euro, usually over a period of 12 to maximally 18 months. The funding period subdivides into separate funding phases of up to six months each. Between the funding phases, project-specific milestones can be re-adjusted (go/no-go decision). The acquisition of external project funds for the further development of the idea is explicitly supported and can be part of the milestones. Examples include competitions like Science4Life, Innovationpreis Berlin-Brandenburg or funding programs like EXIST Forschungstransfer.

6. Use of funds

During the main phase of the program, I4H Grants can be used to further evaluate and validate idea and business model using entrepreneurial skills acquired during the pre-phase. An I4H Grant usually consists of up to three funding phases, up to 6 months each. The I4H Grant usually includes:

Inventor's time, i.e. personnel resources for replacement of staff to realize their own personal leave or leave of the team. Depending on the need for exemption and the respective idea, this can amount to a maximum of 50 percent of a full-time equivalent, usually over a period of 12 months (maximum of 18 months).

Basis of project resources, i.e. material for the elaboration, evaluation and validation of the idea as well as for early business development. As a rule, this covers a maximum amount of 50,000 Euro. An extension of the funding period is not possible.

Usually, funding (I4H Grant) requires the successful participation in the pre-phase of the I4H Incubator. Funded teams take part in the activities of SPARK Berlin.

7. Deadlines and dates

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| Application deadline: | March 25, 2019, 3 pm CET |
| Invitation to presentation for pre-phase: | April 5, 2019 |
| Invitation to presentation for funding phase: | June 21, 2019 |

8. Contact us

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