

Berlin Health Innovations
Call for Applications

BIH DIGITAL HEALTH ACCELERATOR PROGRAM 2019

BRING YOUR DIGITAL HEALTH INNOVATION TO PATIENTS by Bridging the Gap between Research and Medical Application

Dear Digital Health Innovators at BIH, Charité and MDC:

Berlin Health Innovations, the joint technology transfer office of the Berlin Institute of Health and Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, is now accepting applications for the 2019 Digital Health Accelerator program.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The objective of the Digital Health Accelerator is to provide end-to-end, hands-on support to innovators at BIH, Charité and MDC in translating research results and discoveries in the area of digital health into medical applications to improve patient outcomes and optimize healthcare costs.

The program is structured into two stages:

Stage 1: Rapid Prototype Development (2019)

- **Phase 1 (March-May):** Selection process (written application, project deep dive, pitch day)
- **Phase 2 (June-July):** Program set-up (administration/logistics)
- **Phase 3 (August-November):** Preparatory courses, core acceleration phase of stage 1
- **Demo Day (late November):** Presentation event with politicians, life science/healthcare industry, investors, and other key innovation ecosystem partners.

Stage 2: Product/Start-up Development up to Launch (2020-tbd)

(Note: This stage requires completion of the prior program stage. Only best projects will be supported. In case of start-up formation, a role for a BIH/Charité/MDC innovator along continued occupation in academia/clinic can be defined.)

- **Phase 1 (January 2020-tbd):** Program structure and timeline are project-specific (e.g., product and business model development, clinical validation, certification, funding acquisition, preparation of license/industry cooperation/start-up formation)
- **Program Completion (tbd):** Reach of milestone agreement-based project objectives, or project termination, or license/industry cooperation/start-up formation.

BENEFITS

- **Flexible Funding:** We believe in the principle of “Smart Money”, i.e., **flexible financial support** to account for each project’s specific priority needs at the time of the program. Funding can be used towards material costs incl. service providers, investment costs, and personnel costs (Sachkosten inkl. Dienstleistungen, Investitions- und Personalkosten). Each team can receive **funding and services amounting up to a six-digit amount in program stage 1**. For program stage 2, additional, project-specific funding and services are provided.
- **"Protected Time" for Participants with Clinic Obligations:** To help ensure sufficient time to work on your innovation, and as applicable, the program offers “protected time” of up to 50 percent for up to two key team members during the stage 1 core acceleration phase (August-November 2019).ⁱ
- **Expert Mentoring:** Teams in the program will have **free access** to general and individual sessions specific to their needs by internal and external mentors, e.g., industry experts, product developers, coders, designers, market researchers, legal and regulatory experts, financial experts, and communication professionals for pitch training.ⁱⁱ
- **Free Co-working Space at BIH:** Program location is the BIH head office at Anna-Louisa-Karsch-Str. 2, 10178 Berlin, centrally located near Hackescher Markt. Join this **innovation community** for seamless access to coaches and mentors, benefit from synergies with fellow teams, and get in touch with alumni of last years’ programs for guidance.

REQUIREMENTS

- **Eligibility:** Eligible for the program are faculty and staff of BIH, Charité, and MDC, e.g., clinicians, scientists, graduate students, and post-doctoral researchers.ⁱⁱⁱ As BIH seeks to maximize the diversity of its funding programs, women scientists/clinicians, individuals with disabilities, and individuals from underrepresented racial and ethnic groups are especially encouraged to apply.
- **Project Requirements:** The Digital Health Accelerator program supports digital health projects in any medical specialty. The following project requirements apply:
 - Projects must apply a **digital technology**, e.g., AR/MR/VR, ML/AI, mobile, sensors
 - Projects must be of **translational character**, i.e., aim at the commercialization of a solution as medical application. Basic research projects (DFG-like) are not eligible.
 - Teams need to be **physically present** in the co-working space for the majority of work time to enable focused work and benefits in the community of mentors and peers.
- **Selection Criteria:** Project selection criteria are as follows:
 - Significance of addressed unmet medical need/pain point
 - Uniqueness/key differentiators of solution
 - Technology readiness level/solution maturity
 - IP situation
 - Commercial potential
 - Feasibility of development path (technology, regulatory, costs, time)
 - Entrepreneurial team.

APPLICATION PROCESS AND KEY DATES FOR STAGE 1

The application process for the Digital Health Accelerator Stage 1 is structured into three steps:

- **Step 1: Written Application**
 - Visit the program website to access further information and application documents <https://www.bihealth.org/en/dha-2019/>
 - Complete the application documents (application form, optional application for protected time, signature page). Note: In cases where the applicant is not the PI, the principal investigator (Arbeitsgruppenleiter/in bzw. Kostenstelleninhaber/in) needs to co-sign.
 - **Email complete application documents prior to the application deadline (March 15, 2019, 1:00 PM CET) to: bhi-dha-2019@bihealth.de**
- **Step 2: Project Deep Dive with Interdisciplinary Experts**
 - Selected projects will be invited to a **Project Deep Dive based on the application documents** in an in-person meeting with an interdisciplinary group of experts (incl. medical/clinic, technology, IP, legal/regulatory, business) **(March 26-28, 2019)**.^{iv}
- **Step 3: Pitch Day with External Selection Committee**
 - Selected projects will then be invited to a **Pitch Day** to present their projects to a selection committee of external experts **(May 21-23, 2019)**.^v

Program invitations are scheduled for early June 2019. The selection process for the program stage 2 will be announced during program stage 1. Note: Exact dates, times, locations are subject to change and will be communicated in due time.

MORE INFORMATION

- Tim Huse, Head of Life Science Incubator and Digital Health Accelerator, tim.huse@bihealth.de, 030 450 543 036
- Dorothee Döpfer, Program Manager Digital Health Accelerator & Community Building dorothee.doepfer@bihealth.de, 030 450 543 041

Join the Accelerator and Make a Difference in Patients' Lives!

ⁱ Project budgets are determined based on individual project's needs. We encourage applicants to identify key work packages and resource needs for substantial progress towards commercialization of the solution during the program (August-December 2019). Participation in this program is generally compatible with other funding instruments as long as work packages and/or other benefits are distinct. Funding of "protected time" for up to two key team members must not overlap with other granted protected times, e.g., Clinician Scientist Program, and requires administrative eligibility and the institution continuing to fund the residual time. Financial demands will be evaluated carefully to maximize the number of supported projects. Prior to the final funding decision, the project plan will be evaluated together with you and may be adjusted.

ⁱⁱ All relevant project team members, i.e., team leads and team members working on digital health aspects, are expected to attend all mentoring/coaching activities on a regular basis.

ⁱⁱⁱ Each application must be signed or co-signed by a principal investigator (Arbeitsgruppenleiter/in bzw. Kostenstelleninhaber/in), who needs to be an employee of BIH/Charité/MDC. To ensure the successful completion of this program, the PI needs to confirm that the duration of his/her employment contract at BIH/Charité/MDC covers at least the duration of the project stage 1.

^{iv} Participation by at least the team lead or one other team representative is mandatory for consideration for the program.

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