Innovative Structured Career Paths for Biomedical Research

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At a Glance

The Berlin Institute of Health (BIH) is a biomedical research institute focusing on innovative translational research. It was founded in March 2013 by Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin and Max Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine in the Helmholtz Association (MDC). BIH brings together the synergetic scientific research competence of the two institutions, creating a novel structure for translational research.

BIH Biomedical Innovation Academy’s (BIA) overall goals are to develop an innovative training pipeline and to facilitate a community of next-generation Clinician Scientists and biomedical innovators. BIA provides funding and mobility opportunities for associated basic biomedical researchers and clinicians at all early academic career levels.

BIA specifically promotes women in their academic career and is committed to a good work-life balance. Program participants have e.g. the possibility to pause their personal support by up to 36 months (max. 18 months per child) in the context of parental leave.

BIA offers the following types of support:
→ BIH-MD Student Research Stipends
→ BIH Charité Junior Clinician Scientist Program
→ BIH Charité Clinician Scientist Program
→ BIH Charité Junior Digital Clinician Scientist Program
→ BIH Charité Digital Clinician Scientist Program
→ BIH Charité Advanced Clinician Scientist Program
→ Medical Scientist Program (forthcoming)
→ Mobility and Innovation Fund

More information on BIA and its activities can be found at: www.bihealth.org
**BIH-MD Student Research Stipends**

**Aims**

BIH-MD Student Research Stipends guarantee the research time required for excellent doctoral work whilst pursuing a Dr. med. or Dr. med. dent. degree.

**Structure and Contents**

BIH-MD Research Stipends are open for all translational research projects and are announced annually.

**Application and Funding Details**

Eligible to apply are medical students and students of dentistry enrolled at Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin who are registered for a Dr. med., MD/PhD or Dr. med. dent. qualification. A stipend of € 1,200 per month for up to 12 months is granted if selected for funding.

**BIH Charité (Junior) Clinician Scientist Program**

**Aims**

The BIH Charité Clinician Scientist Program (CSP) provides a unique opportunity for young medical doctors to combine their clinical training with protected time for research. This structured career path fosters translation of scientific discoveries into application and strengthens the innovative capacity of academic medicine. It was recommended as a »best practice model« in 2015 by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

**Structure and Contents**

During clinical specialization, Clinician Scientists and Junior Clinician Scientists are allotted 50% or 20% of their working hours as »protected time« to exclusively conduct research, respectively. Both programs offer their members a structured curriculum including clinical, scientific, and transferable skills training. The appointment of clinical and scientific mentors, as well as progress and feedback meetings, ensure guidance and support both for the research project itself and for the career development of the (Junior) Clinician Scientist.

Participants within the CSP are expected to have completed both their residency and their postdoctoral teaching qualification (»Habilitation«) at the end of the program.

**Application**

Eligibility criteria for both tracks are a completed doctorate (at least »magna cum laude« for the Junior Program, at least »magna cum laude« or »cum laude« with sufficient other achievements for the CSP), scientific publication record appropriate for the career stage, a demonstration of a continuous scientific research interest and a promising project outline. Candidates for the Junior Clinician Scientist Program must have completed less than three years of residency training and must be employed by Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin. Candidates for the CSP must have completed at least three years of their residency training and they must be employed by Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin. Residents returning from abroad are also eligible to apply for the CSP. Precondition is that they have a position at Charité in prospect.

All Calls are advertised and can be applied for via:

www.bihealth.org
**BIH Charité (Junior) Digital Clinician Scientist Program**

**Aims**
The aim of this »digital science« career track is to prepare academic clinicians for the challenges of the emerging technological transformation of medicine, extending the already existing successful Clinician Scientist Program with the new structural element of digital science training.

**Structure and Contents**
During clinical specialization, Digital Clinician Scientists and Junior Digital Clinician Scientists are allotted 50% or 20% of their working hours as »protected time« to exclusively conduct research. The regular CSP curriculum is extended with training blocks focused on particular emerging technologies/methodologies in innovative formats. Tailor-made mentoring of participants is ensured through so called »Translational Technology Teams (TTT)« which bring together leading experts in computational sciences with clinicians and experimentalists. Award holders within the Digital CSP are expected to have completed both their residency and their postdoctoral teaching qualification (»Habilitation«) at the end of the program.

**Application**
Eligibility criteria are the same as for regular CSP and JCSP applications (see above).

**BIH Charité Advanced Clinician Scientist Program**

**Aims**
Advanced Clinician Scientist Program (AdCSP) is designed as a target-group and career-phase specific, sustainable support program, which strives for a close integration of individual and institutional support. The primary goal of the program is to simultaneously incentivize the fellows and recognize the permissive academic culture of the respective clinics or institutes.

**Application and Funding Details**
Eligible to apply are Charité Clinics with single or tandem candidates. The target group comprises habilitated specialists (or specialists with habilitation-equivalent achievements) whose specialist qualification preferably does not date back more than four years (no specialties), or senior physicians in the early phase.

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**Career Path**

**Junior (Digital) Clinician Scientists**
- 20% protected time
- 2 years
- clinical and scientific mentor
- translational technology teams (JDCSP)
- target agreement

**Advanced Clinician Scientists**
- 25 - 50% protected time
- 3 - 6 years

**Biologische Kompetenzzentren Berlin (BKB)**

**Aims**
The aim of the program is to prepare academic clinicians for the challenges of the emerging technological transformation of medicine, extending the already existing successful Clinician Scientist Program with the new structural element of digital science training.

**Structure and Contents**
During clinical specialization, Digital Clinician Scientists and Junior Digital Clinician Scientists are allotted 50% or 20% of their working hours as »protected time« to exclusively conduct research. The regular CSP curriculum is extended with training blocks focused on particular emerging technologies/methodologies in innovative formats. Tailor-made mentoring of participants is ensured through so called »Translational Technology Teams (TTT)« which bring together leading experts in computational sciences with clinicians and experimentalists. Award holders within the Digital CSP are expected to have completed both their residency and their postdoctoral teaching qualification (»Habilitation«) at the end of the program.

**Application**
Eligibility criteria are the same as for regular CSP and JCSP applications (see above).