

## Innovative Structured Career Paths for Biomedical Research





## 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 18 months in the context of parental leave.

BIA is part of the QUEST Center for Transforming Biomedical Research established to further understand and overcome the hurdles of the translational process.

### **BIA offers the following types of support:**

- BIH Charité Clinician Scientist Program
- BIH Charité Junior Clinician Scientist Program
- BIH-MD and BIH-TRENAL-MD Student Research Stipends
- Digital Clinician Scientist Program (from 2019)
- Translational PhD Grants (from 2019)
- Mobility and Innovation Fund

**More information on BIA and its activities can be found at:**  
[www.bihealth.org/en/academy/](http://www.bihealth.org/en/academy/)

# BIH Charité 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 Path

### Junior Clinician Scientist

- 20% protected time
- 2 years
- clinical mentor
- target agreement

Research stipends

Medical school

Junior Clinician Scientist

Year 1

Year 2

### Clinician Scientist

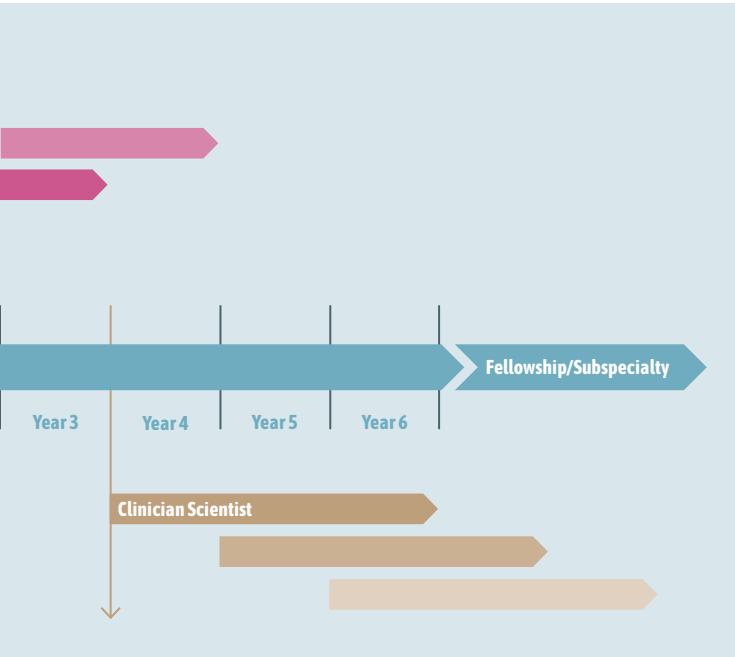
- 50% protected time
- 3 years
- clinical/scientific mentor
- target agreement
- structured curriculum

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«), high impact scientific publications, 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 two 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/fellows returning from abroad are also eligible to apply for the CSP. Precondition is that they have a position at Charité in prospect.

**Calls for both tracks are twice a year advertised via:**  
[www.bihealth.org/en/news/calls/](http://www.bihealth.org/en/news/calls/)



## **BIH-MD and BIH-MD-TRENAL Student Research Stipends**

### **Aims**

BIH-MD and BIH-MD-TRENAL 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**

Regular BIH-MD Research Stipends are open for all translational research projects and are announced annually. BIH-MD-TRENAL Research Stipends focus on translational research project focusing on kidney research and are awarded twice a year. TRENAL Stipends involve a 6-month research stay, funded through DAAD, at the University College London (UCL) or at Yale University.

### **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. or Dr. med. dent. qualification. A stipend of € 1,200 per month for 6 to 12 months for the Berlin-based part of research projects is granted if selected for funding. DAAD-funding for experimental work in Yale or London amounts to € 925 or € 675 per month, respectively.

## **Translational PhD Program (from 2019)**

### **Aims**

The BIH Translational PhD Program supports graduate students translational PhD research projects. PhD candidates and their projects are co-supervised by a PI-tandem consisting of a basic researcher from MDC or Charité and an established clinician from the Charité Faculty. Each project should contain at least one rotation in a clinically oriented research laboratory.

### **Application and Funding Details**

Eligible to apply are PI-tandems with their chosen PhD candidate who are able to host and supervise a student for three years. Funding includes the personnel costs for a PhD student position for three years with an option to apply for a 1-year extension upon evaluation. Calls will be announced annually.

## Digital Clinician Scientists (from 2019)

### Aims

The aim of this novel »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 are allotted 50% 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 applications (see above).

**All Calls are advertised and can be applied for via:**  
[www.bihealth.org/en/news/calls/](http://www.bihealth.org/en/news/calls/)



BIH Charité Clinician Scientist Retreat 2018

 **@berlinnovation**  
**www.bihealth.org**

**Berlin Institute of Health (BIH)  
BIH Biomedical Innovation Academy**

Anna-Louisa-Karsch-Straße 2  
10178 Berlin | Germany

T 49 30 450 543 022

F 49 30 450 7 543 002

academy@bihealth.de

**Head (interim) of BIH Biomedical  
Innovation Academy**

Dr. Iwan Meij

iwan.meij@bih-charite.de

**Head (interim) of BIH Biomedical  
Innovation Academy &  
Head of the Clinician Scientist Office**

Dr. Nathalie Huber

nathalie.huber@bih-charite.de