

IIFH – The March Group Innovator Fellowship

A unique opportunity to work with our innovation partners in an immersive, hands-on experience in a venture investment environment gaining real-world business and entrepreneurial skills while evaluating ag, food and health startups.

- **Fellowship (up to \$50,000):** 9 month stipend*, tuition, fees, accommodation, professional development, travel and conference expenses (not to exceed \$50k).
- **Timeline:** January through August 2024
- **Eligibility:** UC Davis post-doctoral fellows, or PhD students post-QE
- **Program: Part-time Learning and Exposure to Venture Capital (VC) Group:** Fellows will engage both remotely and on the UC Davis campus, and will be exposed to methods, practices, culture and systems of how VCs identify investable ventures, evaluate startups in the food and health arena, and more. This happens simultaneously while continuing fellow's on-campus research commitments.
- **DEADLINE October 15, 2023:** [Click here to apply.](#)

About The March Group

[The March Group](#) ("March") is a VC fund platform committed to supporting and investing in entrepreneurs and companies developing and bringing exponential technologies to food, health and sustainability. March's investment strategy involves becoming recognized as the leading investor in critical and transformative technology solutions, and aims to achieve this by investing into companies and funds that focus on developing core intellectual property around game-changing sustainable solutions that are aligned with globally relevant sustainability trends and benefits.

With over a decade of experience as a team, our General Partners have a proven track record of investments and operations: Harold Schmitz Ph.D. (Senior Scholar at the Graduate School of Management, University of California, Davis; Life Member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and former Chief Science Officer at Mars, Inc.), Christopher Lai (former Director at Horizons Ventures and former Co-Chairman of Celsius Holdings NASDAQ:CELH), Tony Lau (former Head of China and Director at Horizons Ventures) and Stephen Badger (Board Member and two-time Chairman of Mars, Inc.).

Candidates with coursework or experience related to one or more of the following areas (or similar) are strongly desired: synthetic biology, data science, artificial intelligence, clean energy, microbiome & gut health, carbon capture, any sustainability related.

About the Innovation Institute for Food and Health (IIFH)

The IIFH works to catalyze innovation across food, agriculture, and health. Founded on a unique academic-industry partnership and interfacing with both entrepreneurial and research sectors, the institute facilitates development and delivery of commercial products that bring metabolic health to food products and services. We envision this leading to a world where easily attainable metabolic health leads to happier, healthier, longer lives for everyone.

Program Description

Engage with The March Group (~50% time), splitting time between appointment and academic research

- Start date flexible, ideally early January: following selection, anticipate joining Radicle Growth remotely for nine months.
- Learn to support Radicle's efforts in evaluating startups and selecting investable ventures that address selected challenges in food and health.
- Explore Radicle's strategic ecosystem and extensive network of assets in evaluating and vetting competitive investment opportunities.
- The fellow will work closely with Radicle's staff through virtual means. Support is provided for regular in-person meetings and conferences, as needed.
- Learn how investors evaluate investment opportunities and what it takes to commercialize a product
- Perform technical due diligence and market research for new investment opportunities, and prepare written reports summarizing work and report findings at regular teleconferences
- Participate in frequent videoconferences with founders, faculty, investors, academic and commercial partners, and subject matter experts

Engage with UC Davis IIFH Supplemental programming

- Support from monthly face-to-face meetings with IIFH (virtual or in-person), as needed.
- Attend conferences or professional development opportunities as available (access to ~\$10,000 for travel, accommodation and conference engagement).
- Complete the UC Davis MBA school's [Food & Ag Immersion courses](#) in Winter & Spring 2024
- Complete the [IIE's Entrepreneur Academy](#), if not already done so, in Winter 2024
- Attend programming at [Student Startup Center](#) occasionally throughout Winter and Spring 2024, in particular the Student Startup Series
- Engage in IIFH Fellowship activities and check-ins, and perform one-day Twitter Takeover

- In conclusion: provide a brief report and presentation on the results and impact of the fellowship, with the potential to present at IIFH's annual event or equivalent.

Application Requirements

- 1) Completed application form through Google Forms—you must be logged into your UC Davis account to access the application form.
- 2) Resume or CV (PDF)
- 3) Letter of interest detailing current research focus, why the program is of interest to you, and how your career goals align therewith (max. 2 pages, PDF format)
- 4) Letter of support from supervising PI or Major Professor. (max. 1 page, PDF format)
- 5) Optional: Second Letter of Recommendation

Please combine items 2-5 above (in the order they are listed) into one single PDF for submission.

[Click here to apply.](#)

**Compensation note:*

- *PhD-status Fellows must have an active GSR appointment in their department or be able to acquire one. The fellowship covers your **existing or secured** GSR appointment at its current step at a 50% rate for the nine months of the program, regardless of whether you are in the part-time or full-time stage of your VC commitment.*
- *Postdoc salaries are covered by the program at 50% during the nine months of the program.*