

IIFH – FoodShot Global Innovator Fellowship

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

- **Financial Support:** 6 month stipend*, tuition, fees, accommodation, travel and conference expenses (not to exceed \$50k).
- **Timeline:** Summer 2024 through Fall 2024 (Ideally Mid-June start, but date is flexible)
- **Eligibility:** UC Davis post-doctoral fellows, or PhD students in their last ~2 years of study
- **Part-time Learning and Exposure to Venture Capital (VC) Group:** During the first half of the fellowship (months 1-3), fellows will begin engagement remotely, part-time with VC 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. The fellow will engage in regular virtual (and occasionally in-person) meetings with the VC host. This happens simultaneously while continuing fellow's on-campus research commitments. This time allows the fellow to become oriented with the VC landscape, role responsibilities, and be poised to begin full-time immersion with their VC host during the second half of the Fellowship (months 4-6).
- **Experiential Learning with Venture Capital Group:** During the second half of the fellowship (months 4-6), the fellow transitions to more comprehensive engagement with the VC host to evaluate startups in the ag, food and health industries and identify investable ventures. The full-time element will involve regular travel to various locations around the country (~\$12K travel, accommodation and conference allowance provided).
- **DEADLINE March 10, 2024:** [Click here to apply.](#)

About FoodShot Global

[FoodShot Global](#) empowers bold ideas and innovative companies to accelerate the transformation to a healthy, sustainable and equitable food system. It is a collaborative investment platform of innovators, investors, industry leaders and advocates working to solve our biggest food system challenges. By connecting knowledge, networks and funding across private and public sectors, FoodShot Global creates scalable, impactful, and inspired solutions. FoodShot Global's integrated capital continuum includes the \$500,000+ GroundBreaker Prize for researchers, early stage entrepreneurs, and policy advocates, as well as up to \$10 million in

equity or debt investment for winning for-profit businesses. Along with post-investment resources, FoodShot Global’s blended capital model empowers best-in-class entrepreneurs, researchers and advocates to transform the most critical food system challenges into opportunities for collaborative investment and meaningful change.

Each year, FoodShot Global selects a FoodShot, or a MoonShot for Better Food – an identified obstacle to a healthy, sustainable, and equitable food system. We invite entrepreneurs and innovators to submit businesses that address the FoodShot for funding consideration, while experts in business, research, policy, and academia provide issue-specific insights and nominate candidates for the GroundBreaker prize. FoodShot Global vets and reviews submissions for boldness, viability and impact to determine the best-of-class candidates. Finally, FoodShot Global and its partners award equity, debt, and prize dollars to the finalists, as well as providing post-investment capacity resources to ensure greater scale and impact.

So far, FoodShot Global has launched four FoodShots: Innovating Soil 3.0, Precision Protein, BioActive Foods, and Water.

- Innovating Soil 3.0 represents a long-term commitment to build a new soil operating system by shifting global agricultural production systems from extractive to restorative practices that establish soil as the foundation for a healthier, more sustainable, and more equitable 21st century food system.
- Precision Protein, launched in 2020, looks at the science, production, processing, and personalization of proteins systemically and with heightened rigor in order to build a protein system that is more precisely attuned to human and planetary health, better aligns global and regional supply and demand, increases accessibility, and decreases waste and environmental damage.
- BioActive Foods considers the food/health nexus by taking an integrated systems approach to food and nutrition. It examines how the combination of macronutrients, micronutrients, and phytonutrients, as well as essential fatty acids and fiber, in our diets, can be used to both treat and prevent disease. It also highlights how agricultural practices impact human health via nutrient density, exposure to pollutants and toxins, and air and water pollution
- Water: The Essential Input seeks innovations that protect water as an essential limited resource for aquatic and land-based food and agriculture. Through water, the future of both our land and aquatic foods are inexorably linked. In a world that recognizes water’s essential role in all forms of food production, it is critical to develop solutions that link water to improved outcomes on nutrient cycles, soil health, ecosystem sustainability, and human health.

In the coming year, we will continue with “deep dives” into our previous FoodShots, in addition to launching a new FoodShot. See past program details, finalists and winners here:

<https://www.foodshot.org/portfolio.html>.

Candidates with coursework or experience related to one or more of the following areas (or similar) are strongly desired: sustainable agriculture, climate change and drought resilience, plant breeding technologies, precision agriculture, machine learning and remote sensing technologies, microbiome, connections between agriculture and human health.

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

Phase 1 (3 months): Begin part-time work with Foodshot Global, splitting time between research and virtual engagement with FSG

- Start date flexible, ideally April 3: following selection, anticipate joining FSG remotely for three months.
- At UC Davis: learn to support FSG’s efforts in evaluating startups and selecting investable ventures that address selected challenges in food and health.
- The fellow will work closely with FSG’s staff through virtual means. Support is provided for regular in-person meetings and conferences, as needed.
- Part-time will allow the fellow an orientation to the startup world, familiarize them with the necessary skills and processes, and begin building a framework for constructive engagement.
- Engage in IIFH Fellowship activities and check-ins, and plan one-day Twitter Takeover
- Support from monthly face-to-face meetings with IIFH (virtual or in-person), as needed.

Phase 2 (3 months): Full-time Experiential learning with FSG (remote, with travel as needed)

- Fully immerse with FSG remotely (including ~\$12K travel, accommodation and conference allowance).
- Explore FSG’s strategic ecosystem and extensive network of assets in seeking out, evaluating, and vetting competitive investment opportunities.
- 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
- Assist with designing and executing a development plan, budget, and timeline; liaising with research partners; analyzing data; and writing reports
- Attend at least one in-person food and health industry-related conference
- Engage in IIFH Fellowship activities and check-ins, and perform one-day Twitter Takeover
- In conclusion: provide a brief report 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 on IIFH website. [Click here to apply.](#)
- 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 PI approving the applicant's graduation. (max. 1 page, PDF format)

Please combine items 2-4 above (in the order they are listed) into one single PDF for submission.

**Compensation note:*

- *PhD-status Fellows must have an active GSR appointment in their department or be able to acquire one. The fellowship covers 100% your existing 50% GSR appointment at its current step for the six months of the program, regardless of where you are in your VC commitment.*
- *75% of postdocs salary and benefits are covered by the program.*