



IIFH—AgFunder 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 food and health startups.

- **Financial support:** 6 month stipend*, travel, tuition, accommodation, research and conference expenses (capped at \$50k by [IIFH](#))
- **Timeline:** Winter through Spring 2025 (Ideally mid-January start, but date is flexible)
- **Eligibility:** UC Davis post-doctoral fellows, or PhD students post-QE
- **Eligibility:** UC Davis post-doctoral fellows, or PhD candidates who have passed their QE
- **Part-time Learning and Exposure to Venture Capital (VC) Group:** During the first half of the fellowship (months 1-3), fellows will begin work 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 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), which is also remote.
- **Experiential Learning with Venture Capital Group:** During the second half of the fellowship (months 4-6), the fellow transitions to full-time work with the VC host to evaluate startups in relevant industries. The full-time element should involve regular travel to various locations around the country (funds for travel, accommodation and conference allowance provided).
- **APPLICATION DEADLINE September 29, 2024 – OR UNTIL FILLED:** [Click here to apply.](#)

About AgFunder

Founded in 2013 and based in Silicon Valley, AgFunder is a leading venture capital firm with a mission to solve some of the world's most pressing challenges. We focus on deeptech and deep science startups that are pioneering innovations that can profoundly impact food, agriculture (F&A), and planetary and human health. Our investment scope spans cutting-edge fields such as AI, robotics, drones, biotech, materials science, photonics, and therapeutics.

What makes us different? We have grown 10x in the last 3 years - to \$300M AUM - and our approach is grounded in the belief that transformative solutions to global F&A challenges often originate beyond traditional sector boundaries. The best way to drive innovation in food and agriculture isn't necessarily through those industries directly, but through the frontier technologies



that enable breakthroughs across multiple verticals. By investing in these platforms early, we enhance our potential for higher returns and accelerate their positive impact on the F&A sector.

Some of our portfolio highlights include:

- **Nium:** Developing nano-particle catalysts poised to revolutionize green energy and fertilizer production.
- **Atinary:** Self-driving labs exponentially accelerating R&D in catalysis, materials science, and pharma.
- **Mimetic Medicines:** Advanced peptide technology with potential applications in both human and animal health.
- **Uviquity:** Sustainable photonic processes replacing outdated chemical methodologies.

At AgFunder, you won't just source and diligence innovations—you'll help shape the future of entire industries. Join us on this journey.

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 AgFunder (50% minimum), splitting time between appointment and academic research

Start date flexible, must be between January 15 and June 15: following selection, anticipate joining AgFunder remotely for three months.

- Learn to support AgFunder efforts in evaluating startups and selecting investable ventures that address selected challenges in food and health.
- The fellow will work closely with AgFunder staff through virtual means. Support is provided for regular in-person meetings and conferences, as needed.
- Participate in frequent video conferences with founders, faculty, investors, academic and commercial partners, and subject matter experts
- 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 a blog post.
- Attend the Student Startup Series on Fridays at the Student Startup Center
- Support from monthly face-to-face meetings with IIFH (virtual or in-person), as needed.



- Access to funds for attending conferences and professional development opportunities.

Phase 2 (3 months): Full-time experiential learning onsite with AgFunder

- Fellow to join AgFunder at either remotely or with frequent trips to the San Francisco office in Winter 2025 (including up to \$10K travel, accommodation and conference allowance).
- Explore AgFunder's strategic ecosystem and extensive network of assets in evaluating and vetting competitive investment opportunities.
- Learn what kind of companies and technologies are considered investable and engage with expert consortium members to understand opportunities in food/agriculture innovation.
- Gain invaluable knowledge about what investors look for in entrepreneurs.
- 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 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.

- **PhD-status Fellows must have an active GSR appointment in their department or be able to acquire one with their PI. 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.*