



**UCDAVIS**  
Innovation Institute  
for Food and Health

# IIFH March Fund Fellow

A unique opportunity to join our 2021 innovation partners onsite to gain first-hand experience on what it takes to have a successful startup

- **\$70K fellowship:** 1 year salary, tuition, travel, research and conference expenses (up to \$70K by [IIFH](#))
- **Timeline:** Spring 2021 to Winter 2022 (flexible start date, virtual option if required)
- **Eligibility:** UC Davis post-doctoral fellows, or PhD students in their last 1-2 years of study
- **Experiential Learning with Venture Capital Group:** During the first quarter of the fellowship, the fellow will work with the host to evaluate startups in the food system and identify investable ventures, kicking off with an onsite residency in Davis, CA (up to \$10K travel, accommodation and conference allowance provided). During the second quarter upon return to campus, the fellow will engage in regular virtual and in-person meetings to conclude with the venture capital host.
- **Developing and De-risking Innovative Concept:** Using the knowledge gained in the first phase of the program, fellows will have an additional two quarters on campus to conduct critical studies for de-risking a potential technology, product or process they want to develop.
- **DEADLINE Friday, October 30 – OR UNTIL FILLED:** [Click here to apply.](#)

## About The March Fund

[The March Fund](#) is an early-late stage venture capital fund committed to supporting and investing in entrepreneurs and companies developing transformative biotechnologies, machine intelligence, and sustainable nutrition solutions for the evolving consumer landscape and agriculture-food supply chain. They aim to accelerate the emergence of Food 3.0 on a global scale, and create a healthier, more sustainable planet. The March Fund was founded by Christopher Lai, former investor at Horizons Ventures; Dr. Harold Schmitz, former Chief Science Officer of Mars, Incorporated, Life Member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and Senior Scholar at the UC Davis Graduate School of Management; and Wang Rui, former CEO of Red Bull Vitamin Drink Co., Ltd and current Founder & CEO of QiFeng.

## About the Innovation Institute for Food and Health

The IIFH makes uncommon connections between sectors and disciplines to catalyze innovation across food, agriculture and health. It works to accelerate the deployment of products and processes to enable safe, sustainable and secure nutrition for all. Together with strategic partners, IIFH identifies systemic issues as the basis for collaborative programs using both top-down (partner-driven) and bottom-up (investigator-initiated) approaches to formulate systemic solutions. This reduces the time from conception to application for transformative impact.



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## **Program Description**

### ***First Quarter: Experiential learning onsite with The March Fund***

- Start date flexible: following selection, anticipate joining The March Fund for the first quarter at their Davis, CA offices in Spring 2021 (including up to \$10K travel, accommodation and conference allowance).
- Explore The March Fund'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.

### ***Second Quarter: Transition back to UC Davis, splitting time between research and virtual engagement with The March Fund***

- At UC Davis: upon second quarter return to campus, continue to support The March Fund's efforts in evaluating startups and selecting investable ventures that address selected challenges in the food system.
- The fellow will work closely with The March Fund staff through virtual means, but support is provided for regular in-person meetings as needed.

### ***Third and Fourth Quarters: De-risking technology/product/process concept***

- Resume campus research: for remaining two quarters, practice applying The March Fund learnings to conclude research activities (with support for research supplies), exploring the greatest impact and best route to market.
- Enrich learning: through on-campus Entrepreneurship Academy and business plan development, identify potential investors and research the target landscape.
- Support from: monthly face-to-face meetings with the IIFH (virtual or in-person), as needed.
- In conclusion: provide a brief report on the results and impact of the fellowship, and present at the annual Innovator Summit.

## **Application Requirements**

- 1) Completed application
- 2) Resume (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 faculty PI (max. 1 page, PDF format)