



IIFH – The March Group 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.

- **\$50K fellowship:** 6 month salary, travel, tuition, research and conference expenses (up to \$50K by [IIFH](#))
- **Timeline:** Winter 2023 to Summer 2023 (flexible start date, virtual option if required)
- **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 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).
- **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 the food system and identify investable ventures, kicking off with an anticipated onsite residency in San Francisco (up to \$12K travel, accommodation and conference allowance provided).
- **DEADLINE November 11, 2022 – OR UNTIL FILLED:** [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 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, the 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.

Program Description

Phase 1 (3 months): Begin part-time work with The March Fund (50% minimum), splitting time between research and virtual engagement with TMF

- Start date flexible: following selection, anticipate joining The March Fund remotely for three months.
- At UC Davis: learn to support TMF'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's staff through virtual means. Support is provided for regular in-person meetings, 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.
- Support from monthly face-to-face meetings with the IIFH (virtual or in-person), as needed.

Phase 2 (3 months): Full-time Experiential learning with The March Fund (remote, from Davis or San Francisco)

- Fully immerse with TMF remotely, while working either from Davis or out of San Francisco Food & Ag Investment offices alongside another IIFH Fellow (including up to \$12K travel, accommodation and conference allowance).
- Explore TMF'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 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.