

IIFH - TechAccel 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 animal health and nutrition 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 1-2 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 animal health and nutrition industry and identify investable ventures, kicking off with an anticipated onsite residency in San Francisco (up to \$10K travel, accommodation and conference allowance provided).
- **DEADLINE November 11, 2022 – OR UNTIL FILLED:** [Click here to apply.](#)

About TechAccel

[TechAccel LLC](#) was founded in 2014 as a first-of-its-kind technology and venture development organization in the agriculture, animal health & nutrition, and food technology sectors.

TechAccel sources, invests in and acquires early-stage innovations. Through collaborations with dozens of universities and research institutions, TechAccel conducts science advancement and de-risking research and development to ready technologies for commercialization. TechAccel also makes equity investments in start-up companies where an adjacent business opportunity exists.



TechAccel is based in Kansas City and has offices in St. Louis at Bio Research & Development Growth (BRDG).

Candidates with coursework or experience related to one or more of the following areas (or similar) are strongly desired: veterinary medicine, animal health, or nutrition, with specific knowledge of companion animals and/or production animals (poultry, livestock, aquaculture). Areas of expertise may include, but are not limited to, infectious disease, vaccines, diagnostics, pain, inflammation, cancer, nutrition, and artificial intelligence/robotics and precision animal management.

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 TechAccel (50% minimum), splitting time between research and virtual engagement with TechAccel

- Start date flexible: following selection, anticipate joining TechAccel remotely for three months.
- At UC Davis: learn to support TechAccel's efforts in evaluating startups and selecting investable ventures that address selected challenges in animal health and nutrition.
- The fellow will work closely with TechAccel'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 TechAccel (onsite or remote, as needed)

- Fully immerse with TechAccel remotely while working out of San Francisco Food & ag Investment offices alongside other IIFH Fellows (including up to \$10K travel, accommodation and conference allowance).
- Explore TechAccel's strategic ecosystem and extensive network of assets in 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
- Participate in managing projects in the animal health and nutrition portfolio. 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 animal health industry-related conference
- Develop and expand a broad-based network of contacts within the animal health and nutrition industries
- 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.