

IIFH – Bluestein Ventures 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.

- **Fellowship (up to \$50,000):** 6 month stipend*, tuition, fees, research supplies (\$3k), accommodation, travel and conference expenses (not to exceed \$50k).
- **Timeline:** Late Summer/Fall 2023 through Winter 2024 (Preferred start date October 2)
- **Eligibility:** UC Davis post-doctoral fellows, or PhD students post-QE
- **Part 1: 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. This happens simultaneously while continuing fellow's on-campus research commitments.
- **Part 2: Experiential Learning with Venture Capital Group:** During the second half of the fellowship (months 4-6), the fellow transitions to full-time engagement with the VC in Chicago.
- **DEADLINE May 12, 2023:** [Click here to apply.](#)

About Bluestein Ventures

Bluestein Ventures is a venture capital firm that invests in the future of food with a mission to transform the food system to be better, healthier, and more sustainable. We're looking for game-changing, early-stage ventures across the food industry that redefine how consumers achieve their health and wellness. Bluestein's investments span the entire value chain – both B2C and B2B – with a focus on four areas: high-growth consumer brands, proprietary foodtech, next-gen commerce, and value-add digital technology. We invest between Seed to Series A.

Our portfolio includes Meati, Mori, New Culture, BiomeSense, Filtricine, Fount and more. Learn more about us on [LinkedIn](#) and www.bluesteinvestures.com.

Candidates with coursework or experience related to one or more of the following areas (or similar) are strongly desired: sustainable packaging, food waste management, alternative proteins, molecular farming, novel ingredients (i.e., reduction of salt, oil & sugar), nutrition, food processing, synthetic biology, supply chain, precision fermentation, and the gut microbiome.

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 Bluestein Ventures (~50%), splitting time between appointment and academic research

Start date flexible, ideally October 2: following selection, anticipate joining Bluestein Ventures remotely for three months.

- At Bluestein you'll have a front row seat to witness innovation at the forefront of the food industry, as we integrate our interns into the team from day one.
- The fellow will play a big part in helping our team research foodtech trends and evaluating potential deals.
- Support is provided for regular in-person meetings and conferences, as needed.
- Participate in frequent videoconferences 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 one-day Twitter Takeover
- 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): Onsite experiential learning with Bluestein Ventures in Chicago, IL.

Fully immerse onsite with Bluestein Ventures. Access to funding to cover your accommodation, conferences and travel.

- Accommodation covered by IIFH Fellowship. Continued access to funds for conferences, professional development and related travel.
- Learn how VCs evaluate investment opportunities and what it takes to commercialize a product.
- Conduct introductory meetings with entrepreneurs, support projects for Bluestein portfolio companies and participate in internal fund strategy meetings.

- Perform technical due diligence and market research for new investment opportunities and develop investment thesis by deep diving into one industry.
- Source new investment opportunities and further develop your network in the startup and VC ecosystem.
- 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 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.

Compensation note:

- *PhD-status Fellows must have an active GSR appointment in their department or be able to acquire one. The fellowship covers your existing GSR appointment at its current step at a 50% rate for the six months of the program, regardless of whether you are in the part-time or full-time stage of your VC commitment.*
- *Postdocs salary are covered by the program.*