Flagship VentureLabs Fellows Program

Where Exceptional Innovator-Entrepreneurs Help Create the Next Disruptive Life Science Startups
A Unique Life Science Innovation Enterprise

Flagship Pioneering is a unique life science innovation enterprise founded with the mission to conceive, create, resource and grow first-in-category companies to transform human health and sustainability.

Entrepreneurial scientists at heart, we explore hundreds of venture hypotheses through the firm’s innovation foundry, VentureLabs®. There, Flagship’s world-class team of scientists, innovators and professional entrepreneurs refine and perfect those few hypotheses that will become the market-disrupting companies of the future. Our ventures discover new ways of understanding and therapeutically approaching disease, creating unprecedented biotechnologies in the forms of new drug modalities and generating new product-platform technologies. These are the companies that push the boundaries of science, redefine what is possible, and create new hope and better lives for patients.

VentureLabs is not an incubator or accelerator. It is the first institutional platform to systematize entrepreneurial innovation and build those innovations into first-in-category, unprecedented companies. We don’t incubate—we originate, iterate, found and build. The ideas are ours. We engage in creative science and drive the process through Flagship’s unique, systematic “process for pioneering,” which results in the creation of new ventures far from the bounds of existing knowledge and innovation. We are entrepreneurial scientists at heart.

With an impressive track record since its founding in 2000, Flagship has:

• Fostered or developed over 100 companies, of which more than 50 emerged from Flagship VentureLabs, including Moderna Therapeutics, Seres Therapeutics, Indigo Agriculture, Rubius Therapeutics and many more
• A pipeline of 40 clinical trials for novel therapeutic agents at Flagship companies
• Received more than 200 patents issued to Flagship as an organization
• Created innovation alliances with market-leading companies such as Merck, AstraZeneca, Nestle Health Science, and Bayer’s Division of Crop Science
A Pioneering Portfolio

We Use a Unique Darwinian Process for Company Creation

We begin by asking “what if?” and “why not?”, explicitly distancing ourselves from the boundaries of current knowledge and products to determine where new technologies could solve global problems and transform large markets in human health and sustainability. This creates sets of opportunities that are effectively untouched—true white spaces. We then work together to invent or identify breakthrough technologies in these disruptive intersections, while carefully protecting our IP. The result: companies that are first-in-class and best-in-class.

We Practice the Discipline of “Entrepreneuring”

The difference between “entrepreneuring” and entrepreneurship is the difference between doing and being. We apply repeatable and transferable techniques—honed by the experience of founding and capitalizing over 100 companies—to the systematic creation and optimization of any venture. We have consolidated the learnings that serial entrepreneurs gain over decades and apply them to every company we create.

We Build Field-Dominating IP Estates

From the earliest stages of a new company’s conception, we develop a comprehensive intellectual property strategy to strongly protect our innovations against imitation and follow-on competition. The intellectual property we create not only fuels the immediate projects at hand, but also provides our team with unique insights and a sustainable advantage within the targeted market sector.

We Work with an Ecosystem of Experts for Ideation and De-Risking

We leverage our expansive network of academics, technology practitioners and industry professionals to iterate ideas, reduce risk, and accelerate the creation of disruptive new ventures. Our ecosystem helps inform our development of the selection pressure we use to evolve ideas into startups. We bring discipline and an investment mindset into the earliest stages and apply it consistently throughout the three phases of the VentureLabs process.

We Make Life-Changing Breakthroughs a Reality

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Flagship has consolidated the learnings that serial entrepreneurs gain over decades, and we systematically create and optimize every company we originate.

Through our four-tiered, iterative, Darwinian process, we have created some of the leading companies in human health and agriculture, including:

**Indigo**

Building on Flagship’s expertise in the microbiome, our team of scientists began to look into the complex world of bacteria living in and on plants. In VentureLabs, Indigo Agriculture was born to harness these beneficial microbes to naturally promote plant health and improve productivity. Today, the company has multiple products on the market and was named a 2017 Technology Pioneer by the World Economic Forum.

**Moderna**

Originated in VentureLabs, Moderna is pioneering the development of a new class of drugs, Messenger RNA Therapeutics™, which instruct the body’s cells to produce nearly any protein of interest. CNBC has recognized Moderna four years in a row as one of the “Disruptor 50” and the company has attracted nearly $2 billion in capital.

**Seres**

The result of an Exploration, Seres Therapeutics (NASDAQ: MCRB) is the world’s leading microbiome therapeutics company, with treatments in clinical trials for recurrent Clostridium difficile and ulcerative colitis. The company has received breakthrough designation from the FDA.

Images courtesy of Indigo Agriculture, Moderna Therapeutics, and Seres Therapeutics.
A Program Rooted in Creative, Entrepreneurial Science

If you’re considering an alternative path from academia that allows you to remain engaged in creative science, Flagship’s Fellows Program offers a balance of freedom of thought, imagination, science rooted in reality and rigorous business practice.

The Flagship Fellows Program is unlike a traditional internship or academic fellowship. It provides a rare opportunity to do something different with your graduate training and to apply your scientific expertise, entrepreneurial talents, and self-starter mentality toward creating new ventures.

Science is at the core of Flagship’s fellowship program—a new way of thinking about cutting-edge science that goes beyond splashy headlines to actually impact the health of people and our planet. Each day, Fellows work closely with Flagship’s team of entrepreneurial scientists to explore big ideas, look differently at scientific literature, and generate new vantage points for companies with world-changing potential.

Experience the Art of Creating First-in-Category Companies

We are looking for outstanding, creative scientists, engineers, inventors, and budding entrepreneurs who want to stay rooted in science while pushing the creative bounds of an alternative path. Fellows work hand-in-hand with our seasoned professionals through the “Exploration” phase of Flagship’s process—the point at which we explore ideas with world-changing potential and create a foundational understanding of existing science—and opportunity for original experimentation.

When you work with us you will experience our unique four-phased methodology for creating first-in-class, first-in-category life science companies. Key benefits include:

- Tap into our unique position in the innovation ecosystem
- Network with our team of experts across academia and industry
- Explore the cutting edge of science and technology
- Experience the startup world and our unique company creation process
- Learn how to ideate a thought into a new venture
- Find practical applications for your skills and expertise
- Learn from your peers and some of the brightest minds in the business
- Work in the heart of the vibrant Cambridge, Massachusetts/Kendall Square community

Gateway to Opportunities in the Life Sciences

The Flagship Pioneering Fellows Program is an unparalleled launching point for careers in life science. Whether your goal is to pursue a career at the intersection of science and business, try something different, or gain exposure to Flagship’s world-class network, the Fellows Program offers a unique set of desirable skills and experiences for your next step. Over 100 graduates of our Fellows Program have gone onto exciting careers in life science, including:

- Science-centric roles at leading academic and research institutions, such as Stanford, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, the Broad Institute, Whitehead Institute, MIT, Koch Institute and the Chan Zuckerberg Biohub
- CEO/Founder of their own companies and startups
- Consultants at leading firms such as Bain Consulting and Boston Consulting Group
- Scientists and leaders in global biotech and pharmaceutical companies such as AstraZeneca, Alnylam and Biogen
- Venture firms such as the Column Group and Apple Tree Partners
- Foundational, ground-level positions—such as Senior Scientist, Business Development, and Head of Research—at cutting-edge Flagship startups. Recent examples include Evelo Biosciences, Foghorn Therapeutics, Sigilon Therapeutics, Indigo Agriculture and Inari Agriculture
- Positions within Flagship’s VentureLabs origination and innovation group

A Program Rooted in Creative, Entrepreneurial Science

Sample Curriculum

Each Flagship Fellows Program varies in the exact curriculum as we tackle new and exciting areas of development, science and current events each year. Past examples include:

- Meeting with CEOs from Flagship’s portfolio companies, such as Editas Medicine, Moderna Therapeutics, Syros Pharmaceuticals and others
- Meeting with former fellows who have “graduated” to new careers in developing fields
- Talks from and discussion with experts in functional life science areas such as clinical trials, drug development, and other subjects
- Conversations with dozens of leading scientists and subject matter experts around the world in the Exploration process
- Personal development discussions with Flagship’s partners and talent professionals
- Offsite visits to Flagship pioneering portfolio companies
- Social events within summer cohort and Flagship at large

Experience the Art of Creating First-in-Category Companies

Not Your Typical Fellowship

FELLOWS PROGRAM BY THE NUMBERS

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Details and How to Apply

If you are interested in helping to create the next disruptive companies, then the Flagship Fellows Program might be right for you.

• Timing: June 4, 2018 – August 24, 2018
• Fellows will receive a stipend
• Program takes place at the Flagship Pioneering offices near Kendall Square: 55 Cambridge Parkway, Suite 800 E, Cambridge, MA 02142
• Learn Flagship's process for generating and refining actionable venture hypotheses
• Develop your creativity, adaptability, and ability to innovate
• Work directly with Flagship’s highly-experienced team members—a group of widely recognized scientists, entrepreneurs and executives
• Hear from experts and leaders from Flagship’s extended network, such as CEOs of leading companies
• Build relationships and expand your network with a diverse and highly successful group of peers
• Gain exposure to leaders in science and business providing a highly potent platform for personal growth

Requirements

• Deep scientific or business background aimed at life sciences
• Demonstrated entrepreneurial behaviors
• Academic excellence and self-starter mentality: confident, passionate, persuasive
• Creativity and the ability to solve complex scientific and business problems
• Previous Peace Corps, military, or public service experience considered
• Currently a graduate or post-graduate student (MBA, MS, PhD, MD, etc.) with a scientific background from a top university
• Preferably no more than 1-2 years away from full-time employment

Apply Online
www.flagshippioneering.com