

Press release

Experts from healthcare industry contribute to the unique start-up training program “BioTech Bootcamp”

Application open until August 6

Lund/Martinsried, 31.07.2023 – Bio^M and SmiLe Incubator just announced that their this year’s “BioTech Bootcamp” will provide substantial and unique contributions of over 40 experts from the pharma, biotech and life science industries. The highly rated international and free of charge entrepreneurship program supports young entrepreneurs and start-ups focusing on pharma and drug discovery ideas. The Bootcamp is an eight-week hybrid training program, where ten teams get the unique opportunity to develop and commercialize their business ideas. The compact program provides profound expertise by experts of various disciplines and is rounded off by unique contributions of both sponsors, Merck and Roche.

The application phase of the BioTech Bootcamp ends on August 6th, 2023. Applications from start-ups and entrepreneurs are very welcome and can be submitted via the [BioTech Bootcamp website](#).

Through expert lectures, individual coaching and mentorship, the participants of the “BioTech Bootcamp” receive intense training of over 40 industry experts in entrepreneurship and disciplines like investor marketing, reimbursement, legal aspects etc. The eight-week hybrid training program provides part-time digital bites, like presentations, Q&A sessions and panel discussions and can be flexibly integrated into the daily work. At two on-site visits at the incubators in Lund and Munich, the participants will have the chance to network and show what they have learned in a final “Demo Week”.

This year’s BioTech Bootcamp program is sponsored and supported by two leading global healthcare players, Merck and Roche, which will contribute to the training substantially. These will accompany the first week on-site program at the European life science hotspot of SmiLe in Lund (supported by Merck) and in the last week on-site program at the European life science hotspot at Bio^M in Munich (supported by Roche).

In the first introductory on-site week, **Merck** will exclusively

- Give insights to commercializing biotech products in several lectures by pharma experts
- Develop strategies with teams by exclusive mentoring
- Host an exclusive dinner in Lund hosted by Merck with networking possibilities
- Award two teams with a trip to the Merck M Lab™ Collaboration Center in Molsheim, France, with extensive exchange, discussions, and guided tours with Merck researchers

Roche will extensively support the final “Demo Week”. The Bootcamp teams can look forward to receiving a

- Virtual presentation including Q&A within the framework of the Bootcamp training
- Exclusive visit at the Roche Life Science Competence Center in Penzberg
- „Roche/Creasphere Day“ with program by Roche including networking opportunity with Roche experts

- The chance to win the audience award: day tickets for the startup-focused conference "Bits & Pretzels HealthTech" in Munich in June 2024.

"We are excited to bring Roche's expertise into this year's bootcamp to support start-up teams with biotech ideas in the early stages. Starting a business in the field of life sciences is a big challenge for which good and intensive preparation is essential. Therefore, we are happy to support the participants with our contributions, access to our experts, know-how and networking opportunities", says Dr. **Matthias Zach, Program Lead of Roche's Startup Creosphere.**

Melissa Nackovski, Collaboration Consultant EMEA, Merck KGaA, adds: *"This year marks the third year that Merck will be sponsoring the BioTech Bootcamp together with SmiLe and Bio^M. To watch this program grow from a concept to what it is today has been an incredible journey, one that Merck fully supports. We are engaging with biotech entrepreneurs supporting the development of their ideas into what could potentially be the next big biotech start up. Together with SmiLe, Bio^M and Merck's collective network of expertise, experiences and knowledge sharing, these biotech entrepreneurs will be well prepared on their journey to commercialization. Merck is happy to be part of that journey."*

The BioTech Bootcamp runs between **October 10th and December 7th**, 2023. The application period closes on **August 6th**.

The program is also sponsored by the **European Commission.**

For more information about the program and testimonials from previous participants, please visit our websites:

<https://www.bio-m.org/veranstaltungen/detail/biotech-bootcamp-2023.html> or contact Dr. Stephanie Wehnelt, Start-up Programs Lead at Bio^M, tel: +49 89 89 96 79 29

<https://www.smileincubator.life/biotech-bootcamp/> or contact; Ebba Fåhraeus, CEO of SmiLe, tel: +46 73 400 04 33

About Bio^M

Since 25 years, Bio^M has been the networking organization for the biotechnology industry in Munich and Bavaria, acting on behalf of the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs. Bio^M supports the Bavarian biotechnology and pharmaceutical industry with an extensive network in establishing new business contacts. The cluster management offers interested parties from Germany and abroad central access and a wide range of information about the industry. Especially for prospective company founders, Bio^M offers comprehensive advice and specialized coaching, training and mentoring programs with the virtual start-up incubator inQlab. In addition, Bio^M plans to open its physical incubator MAXL (Munich Accelerator Life Sciences & Medicine) for pre-seed projects and early-stage start-ups in biotech and healthtech in 2024. Since 2011, Bio^M has coordinated the m⁴ Award pre-founding competition in the field of biomedicine, which is sponsored by the Bavarian Ministry of Economic Affairs. Bio^M also organizes a wide range of training courses, events and network meetings. More information under: www.bio-m.org.

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About SmiLe

SmiLe Incubator is a life science business incubator based in Medicon Village in Lund, Sweden. SmiLe offers business coaching, a broad international industry and investor network and a unique laboratory infrastructure with state-of-the art instrumentation. Since the start, SmiLe has helped 100+ entrepreneurs commercialize their business ideas. Currently there are some 30 companies in SmiLe incubator which, together with alumni companies, have attracted more than EUR 717 million in venture capital since 2014. To date, 21 of SmiLe's companies have launched an IPO and these listed companies have a market capitalization of more than EUR 500 million (Q4 2022).

www.smileincubator.life