

Press release

Basel, 8 September 2017

BaseLaunch Accelerator gains another healthcare partner

Pharma and diagnostics company Roche has joined Johnson & Johnson Innovation, Novartis Venture Fund and Pfizer to become the fourth healthcare partner on the committee of the BaselArea.swiss accelerator program for healthcare startups.

BaseLaunch welcomes another strong partner in Roche, the world's largest biotech company, which now completes the healthcare partner committee. BaseLaunch provides promising healthcare startups with access to funds, expertise, infrastructure and industry contacts, and integrates them into one of the most dynamic biotech and healthcare ecosystems in Europe. The program, initiated and operated by BaselArea.swiss, collaborates closely with digitalswitzerland's Kickstart Accelerator. In addition to Roche, BaseLaunch is backed by the original partners Johnson & Johnson Innovation, Novartis Venture Fund, Pfizer and other public and private partners. "The fact that BaseLaunch has attracted the support of three of the world's leading healthcare companies as well as one of the most prominent corporate venture funds makes our program unique in the world and once again demonstrates the importance of Switzerland as a center for the life sciences, with the Basel region as its driving force," says Christof Klöpffer, CEO of BaselArea.swiss.

"This partnership with yet another top player in the life sciences industry represents a significant added value for the startups participating in the BaseLaunch accelerator program and strengthens us in our mission to provide the most promising healthcare innovators with the best possible support to develop their business ideas," adds Alethia de León, Managing Director of BaseLaunch.

112 projects were submitted by the closing date of June 30. By mid-September, the selection committee, which includes representatives from each of the healthcare partners, will select around ten of the most promising projects. Each project will receive a grant of up to 10,000 Swiss francs in the first phase of the program. The company founders will then work closely with the BaseLaunch team and a network of experienced entrepreneurs and consultants to build their business case. Startup companies selected for the second phase will receive financial support of up to 250,000 Swiss francs.

BaseLaunch

BaseLaunch was set up in 2017 by BaselArea.swiss, in partnership with digitalswitzerland's Kickstart Accelerator, to promote inward investment from the healthcare sector. BaseLaunch has set itself the task of accelerating the development of promising and pioneering healthcare startups and strengthening the leadership position of the Basel region as the pre-eminent life sciences hub. The accelerator program offers funding, expertise, infrastructure and industry access to promising new ventures, and integrates them into one of the most dynamic biotech and pharma ecosystems in Europe. BaseLaunch enjoys the backing of healthcare partners Johnson & Johnson Innovation, Novartis Venture Fund, Pfizer and Roche as well as other public and private partners. Projects are reviewed by a selection committee, which includes the following members: Dr. Fabian Buller, Director New Ventures, Johnson & Johnson Innovation, Dr. Phillipe Dro, CEO, NeMoDevices, Trudi Haemmerli, CEO and Director, PerioC Ltd, Managing Director, TruStep Consulting GmbH, Dr. Anja König, Global Head Novartis Venture Fund, Dr. Alex Mayweg, Venture Partner, Versant Ventures, Dr. Nathalie ter Wengel MD, European Head External Science and Innovation, Pfizer and Dr. Jakob Busch-Petersen, Intrapreneur, External Innovation, Therapeutic Modalities, Roche.

For more information, please visit: www.basellaunch.ch.

Important dates:

Phase I: September 14 – December 7, 2017

Phase II: January 2 – December 21, 2018

BaselArea.swiss

BaselArea.swiss is the office for promoting innovation and inward investment for the northwest cantons of Basel-Stadt, Basel-Landschaft and Jura. BaselArea.swiss currently employs 18 people and has an annual budget of 3.6 million francs, provided by the three cantons and by the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO). The core function of BaselArea.swiss is to promote the strengths of northwest Switzerland as a center for business and to help both Swiss and foreign entrepreneurs and companies implement their innovation and business projects in the region. With its extensive information platform and regular innovation reports, BaselArea.swiss contributes to the sustainable positioning of the Basel region as a leading center for innovation and commerce.

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