

Digital health at the core of the new partnership between CSS and the EPFL Innovation Park

This partnership between CSS and the Innovation Park sees the launch of the Future of Health Grant programme, which will enable start-ups to accelerate their growth with the help of financing and the expertise of industry partners. Any start-up delivering a digital health solution is invited to apply by 15 August.

The rise of digital health will benefit everyone

Digital health will revolutionise the healthcare system for the better. This innovative sector is at the core of the strategy adopted by health insurer CSS and is one of the main areas on which the EPFL Innovation Park focuses in its mission to effectively support start-ups in the region. These two institutions have now joined forces to create a financial support programme known as the Future of Health Grant.

The programme aims to boost the development of a range of new digital health solutions, including the creation of connected devices, remote and online treatments, new forms of prevention, and health information and advice. There are numerous benefits, notably shorter time frames, improved diagnostic accuracy, personalisation of medicine, and lower costs.

The Future of Health Grant complements the approach to innovation initiated by CSS with the creation of the CSS Health Lab (2015) in collaboration with ETH Zurich and the University of St. Gallen and the launch of the SwissHealth Ventures investment fund (2020). "With the Future of Health Grant programme, CSS is reinforcing its strong roots in French-speaking Switzerland and its willingness to actively support innovation in digital health for the benefit of the insured persons and the entire Swiss healthcare system," says Philomena Colatrella, CEO of CSS.

From the point of view of the EPFL Innovation Park, "The creation of a digital health hub on campus will bring additional momentum to an ecosystem in French-speaking Switzerland that is already highly effective. This future digital health competence centre, and the associated network, will thus facilitate the emergence of new disruptive solutions," notes Jean-Philippe Lallement, CEO of the EPFL Innovation Park.

Call for digital health projects launched on 15 June

The Future of Health Grant is aimed at start-ups that have reached the stage between completion of laboratory research and the Series A round of funding. The support on offer takes many forms including a financial component of up to CHF 50,000 per project for one year, accompanied by a programme of coaching by entrepreneurs and mentoring by healthcare and life science experts. The aim of this support is to transform innovative ideas into products and services that sustainably meet the expectations of patients and healthcare providers. All projects and start-ups in the field of digital health from all over Switzerland can submit their application until 15 August 2022.

The names of the selected start-ups will be announced in September. In the meantime, the Future of Health Grant will expand its cooperation activities to include health partners from French-speaking Switzerland and beyond.

Details of this call for projects can be found at www.future-of-health.org
The press release is available at www.css.ch and www.epfl-innovationpark.ch

More information

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Brief portrait of the CSS Group

The CSS Group, headquartered in Lucerne, was founded in 1899. This long-standing company insures 1.68 million people and, with a premium volume of around CHF 6.55 billion, is one of the country's leading health and property insurers. It is the leader in basic insurance: 1.51 million people put their trust in CSS, which is always close to its insured persons throughout Switzerland thanks to its about 100 agencies and around 2,700 employees. As a health partner, CSS accompanies its clients when it comes to staying healthy, actively becoming healthy or living better with illness.

Brief portrait of the EPFL Innovation Park

The EPFL Innovation Park is positioned as the main innovation and entrepreneurship hub in Western Switzerland. It supports disruptive innovation and technology transfer from EPFL and other regional academic partners. It is a dynamic workplace that hosts 200 high-tech start-ups, SMEs and R&D centers of large companies and their 2500 employees. Over the years, the EPFL Innovation Park has developed a series of unique start-up training, incubation and acceleration programs in collaboration with a dynamic community of industry experts, investors, venture capitalists and government agencies. It also offers training and networking workshops for startup leaders and founders to develop new innovation initiatives