

LIFE SCIENCE TN

Conference Venture Forum

OCTOBER 9-11, 2013

NASHVILLE MUSIC CITY CENTER

in partnership with



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LIFE SCIENCE TENNESSEE NOW ACCEPTING VENTURE FORUM APPLICATIONS

The 2nd annual business competition will feature Tennessee's leading emerging life sciences companies

Nashville, Tenn. – Life Science Tennessee (LifeSciTN) is pleased to announce a call for applications for the second annual Venture Forum to be held during the 2013 LifeSciTN Conference at the Music City Center in Nashville, Tennessee October 9-11. The forum is part of the LifeSciTN Conference that brings together industry experts, investors and innovators during the two and half day conference. LifeSciTN has partnered with the Kauffman Foundation's iStart business competition platform for this year's forum.

The Venture Forum meets a growing need to bridge the gap between researchers, entrepreneurs and venture capitalists in Tennessee. The forum is designed to create an interactive and vibrant atmosphere in which to create partnerships and raise capital.

"Tennessee is home to a number of emerging life sciences companies with significant potential," said Tom Ballard, Director of Innovation and Entrepreneurial Initiatives with Pershing, Yoakley & Associates and LifeSciTN Board Member. "The Life Science Tennessee Conference and Venture Forum provides a unique opportunity for these companies to gain much needed interactions and feedback from, not only potential investors, but industry veterans as well," said Ballard.

The business competition will offer Tennessee's most promising emerging life sciences companies the opportunity to present in front of the entire conference audience including investors from across the country, industry experts and four TNInvestco Funds that regularly invest in life science companies: Innova Fund, Limestone Fund, MB Venture Partners and Tri-Star Technology Fund. Investment decisions are made independently from the Venture Forum selection and judging process.

The Venture Forum competition winner will be awarded a cash prize and a package of in-kind services from our Venture Forum sponsors. Details to be announced at a later date.

The Venture Forum is structured as a business competition. Chosen company participants will be partnered with a mentor to review company fundamentals and to refine their pitch presentation in preparation for Venture Forum session during the Life Science Tennessee Conference in Nashville, TN October 9-11. The chosen participants will deliver their pitch presentations in front of the full conference audience.

The call for applications is open now through August 19, 2013.

To be eligible for the competition companies must be based in Tennessee and may have received prior seed funding, but no series A financing. Strong candidates will have:

- a clearly defined understanding of market need and how the innovation addressed the need;
- a clear plan for the development of the innovation into a commercial proposition, including any regulatory pathways; and
- a plan of overall risk reduction and marker assessments that are very specific to the innovation.

A total of five companies will be chosen to present at the conference in October. At least one company from each of the states' regions (East, Middle and West) will be chosen.

The Life Science Tennessee Venture Forum is sponsored by iStart, an application and judging tool powered by the Kauffman Foundation. iStart is a platform for business competitions and a networking site for aspiring entrepreneurs, mentors and advisors to connect with each other and to bring business ideas to market. iStart is managed by the Kauffman Foundation. The Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation is a private nonpartisan foundation that works to harness the power of entrepreneurship and innovation to grow economies and improve human welfare.

Applications will be judged by Life Science Tennessee partners including venture capitalists, business advisors and life science industry executives.

Important Dates

July 1	Application Window Opens
August 19	Application Window Closes
September 3	Participants announced and paired with mentors
October 10	Pitch Presentations at the Life Science Tennessee Conference and Venture Forum

For more information on the Venture Forum contact Sally Anderson Parker at 615-242-8856 or sanderson@lifesciencetn.org.

For more information on the LifeSciTN Conference and Venture Forum visit

<http://lifesciencetn.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=77>

For more details on the Venture Forum visit: <http://lifesciencetn.org/displaycommon.cfm?an=1&subarticlenbr=72>

To apply to the Venture Forum go to <http://lifescitn2013.istart.org/>

About Life Science Tennessee:

Life Science Tennessee is a statewide, non-profit, member organization whose mission is to advance and grow the life sciences industry in Tennessee through advocacy, partnerships and alignment with economic and workforce development. LifeSciTN members and life sciences companies are located in all nine geographical regions of Tennessee and include industry subsectors: biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, medical devices, diagnostics, agricultural biosciences, research and educational institutions, clinical research organizations and other related activities.