

# Bio-entrepreneurship a must for early diagnoses

» THE application process has been completed for the fifth of the BIO Startup Program, which is supported by the Investigative Pharmaceutical Companies Association (AIFD) and is managed by ReDis Innovation.

Some 56 applications from 12 different cities, including Van, Kayseri, Şanlıurfa and Aydın, were made to the BIO Startup Program, which aims to contribute to the growth of entrepreneurs in the field of biotechnology.

As a result of the evaluation made, 14 bio-entrepreneurs were entitled to participate in the program. Bio-entrepreneurs, who will first complete the online training program, will be included in the three-day Bio-entrepreneurship Camp, where they will receive mentorship and attend workshops conducted by expert trainers and leading professionals in the industry.

Three bio-entrepreneurs to be identified as a result of evaluating presentations at Demo Day will enter the preparatory camp before going to San Diego to attend the world's largest biotechnology organization, BIO Convention. Bio-entrepreneurs will have the opportunity to work on road maps and participate

in one-on-one mentoring sessions in areas such as regulation, patents and communication to have productive contacts with global actors. Besides, BIO Partnering preparations will be made before the BIO Convention.

Bio-entrepreneurs, who will start the U.S. program with Bios Entrepreneurship Boot Camp, which is the BIO Convention's exclusive program for startups from all over the world, will meet with different actors of the international ecosystem, such as investors, global companies and incubation centers in San Diego during the BIO Convention. BIO Convention, which is expected to host 8,000 companies and 20,000 people from 70 countries, offers an important opportunity to follow scientific and technological developments in biotechnology, to contact with different actors of the global biotechnology ecosystem, and to make one-on-one meetings for collaborations.

Cengiz Aydın, AIFD investment policies and corporate communications director stated that the applications made to the BIO Startup Program from different cities are very pleasing.

"In this period, when the basic research part of the pharmaceutical research and development (R&D) process in the world is increasingly carried out through startups, we are happy to provide an accelerator and facilitating role in enabling entrepreneurs operating in the field of biotechnology and life sciences in Turkey to access global networks and interact with global players," Aydın said. "We aim to continue contributing to the life sciences and health biotechnology fields in Turkey with our entrepreneurs who will participate in the BIO Startup Program, the fifth of which will take place in 2020."

"When we compare it with the results of last year, we see that more startups that have formed a team structure are participating this year," he further stressed. "It is noteworthy that the majority of applications consist of two to three or four to five teams, as well as seeing the participation of teams of 13 and 14," Aydın added.

## 14 FINALIST BIO-ENTREPRENEURS

Virasoft is developing digital pathology

software for clinical diagnoses, while Lumi-Labs is developing a new generation of hemostatic medical devices with molecular modeling, synthesis and analysis.

GlaucoT, on the other hand, develops neuroprotective glaucoma treatment with non-drug and noninvasive techniques, and Micronos develops a microfluidic-based global coagulation scales analyzer, providing a fast and accurate diagnosis in heavy bleeding.

While Biogenuslab develops platforms used in biotechnological drug development studies, Meinox works on personalized treatments in medical and veterinary applications and protein develops inhibitors and conducts studies to modulate the molecular mechanisms of diseases.

Meanwhile, Araltek Medical Device Designing develops a heart pump that can be used as a heart support system during medical interventions, as well as a long-term circulation support system and software using the centrifugal blood pump.

PortMera develops molecular chemical analysis methods with noninvasive methods, providing accuracy tests of counterfeit and

sub-standard drugs with the help of smart chemical sensors.

Pacem Medical Technology provides antimicrobial treatment and software systems for dental and gum diseases with plasma technology, as GlakoLens provides treatment for glaucoma disease with smart contact lenses, wearable reading, recording and tracking systems.

Funkto# brings an interactive method to the literature research with its innovative search engine that processes medical information, and Oruba Medical Technology develops a uroflowmeter that measures urine amount and speed and operates automatically, sterile and without operator need to provide various health tests and follow-up.

Lastly, IsTech Group is developing a virtual reality-based (VR) simulation system that can be used in medical education to eliminate the complications and wrong intervention errors during the surgical operation, while Alice White Rabbit Biotechnology and Medical R&D Consultancy provides cerebrospinal fluid measurement with CerebroPress.