Project Evaluation Process at Wyss Zurich

Our mission is to ensure that promising research results in the fields of **Regenerative Medicine** and/or **Robotics** can be applied in practice more quickly and efficiently. In particular, Wyss Zurich aims at overcoming the so-called “Valley of Death” in clinical translation or product development by providing a unique translational infrastructure and funding. Entrepreneurial teams from ETH Zurich and/or University of Zurich who have technologies ready to be translated into groundbreaking therapies and/or products are encouraged to submit their project to Wyss Zurich. Please do not hesitate to contact the Wyss Zurich Office to discuss your project idea and get the evaluation process started. Applications may be submitted at any time of the year.

Scouting for Project Ideas

In addition to welcoming spontaneous applications, the Wyss Zurich Community and especially the Core Faculty members act as project scouts. After preliminary discussions, promising projects are invited to submit their idea in the form of a Pre-Application, which consists of an Executive Summary (two pages) and a one-pager addressing the Wyss Zurich Qualification Criteria that explains how well your project fits each criterion (description of these Qualification Criteria can be downloaded from the website under About Us > Project Application Process). Wyss Zurich staff may require additional preliminary information, notably with regards to the technical feasibility as to the Wyss Zurich translational infrastructure platforms.

Screening of Pre-Applications by the Wyss Zurich Executive Team

The Wyss Zurich Executive Team together with a subject-matter expert assess Pre-Applications according to the Wyss Zurich Qualification Criteria to ensure projects fit the aims and scope of Wyss Zurich. In addition, the Regenerative Medicine and Robotics platform leaders provide an initial technical feasibility assessment. Selected experts from the Core Faculty or the Wyss Zurich Community may have an advisory role. The Executive Team then decides which proposals to invite to a second stage and reports the outcome to the candidates. Successful candidates will be invited to submit a Full-Proposal.

Pre-Evaluation of Full-Proposals by the Core Faculty

A Full-Proposal should be written in the form of a short technology and business development plan (max. 10 pages; guidelines will be sent to the selected applicants). The Wyss Zurich Team and Platform Leaders will support the project teams in their preparation of a Full-Proposal and conduct a technical due diligence. The project team will present and defend their Full-Proposal at a Core Faculty Meeting. This Pitch presentation (15 min) is followed by a Q&A session (approx. 30 min). The Core Faculty will evaluate proposals according to the Wyss Qualification Criteria, scientific excellence and the due diligence report. Convincing proposals will be recommended by the Core Faculty to the Evaluation Board for final evaluation.

Successful applications will then be finalized with the assistance of the Wyss Zurich Office team and submitted for review by the Evaluation Board.
Evaluation & Recommendation by the Evaluation Board

The Wyss Zurich Evaluation Board, composed of independent specialists with a strong business expertise, performs a review of Full-Proposals recommended by the Core Faculty. Applicants will be invited for a second Pitch presentation (15 min) followed by a Q&A session (15 min). The Evaluation Board will evaluate the projects based on clinical and commercial potential, medical and/or technological need and composition of the entrepreneurial team. The Evaluation Board will recommend projects, which shall be funded as Wyss Zurich Projects to the Co-Directors.

Decision by the Co-Directors

After the Evaluation Board has completed its deliberations, the Wyss Zurich Co-Directors decide which applications will receive Wyss Zurich funding. The Wyss Zurich Co-Directors take into consideration all the advice provided during the evaluation process and make final funding decisions.

Project Start and Annual Review

After a positive decision by the Co-Directors, the Project start date and conditions are negotiated with the Wyss Zurich Office. Once a project has been accepted into Wyss Zurich, it will be reviewed and evaluated by the Evaluation Board on a yearly basis against pre-defined milestones. Based on this Annual Review, adjustments and improvements may be proposed. In the case of progress failure, a project may be terminated.