Wyss Zurich

Wyss Zurich Qualification Criteria

Radically translational

Regenerative Medicine (bench-to-bedside)

- Scope: regeneration of cells/tissue/organs to restore or establish functionality
- "Frozen design/Proof of Concept" of the regenerative technology has been established
- Wyss Zurich supports the advancement of therapies towards the clinic
    - Production of clinical grade material under GMP conditions
    - Production of medical device technologies under ISO regulation
    - First-in-Man studies and early phases of clinical trials (GCP)
- Preclinical studies under GLP conditions may be supported by Wyss Zurich
- High medical need is demonstrated

Robotics (invention-to-product)

- Prototype (software and/or hardware) of a technology must be available
- Wyss Zurich supports the development of the technology towards the market
    - Elaboration of technical specifications (market-driven)
    - Design for production and optimization
    - Trial production
    - Testing and validation up to early beta-testers
- Product or components can move to industrial production at the end of the Wyss Zurich period
- Industry interest and a scalable market exists

Proof of concept (POC) / frozen design

Regenerative Medicine

- POC must have been demonstrated in at least one relevant animal model

Robotics

- Functioning prototype (software and/or hardware) must exist (frozen design already established)

Highly innovative, outstanding research, entrepreneurial

Wyss Zurich has been established to bring together the top experts of ETH and UZH in the fields of Regenerative Medicine and Robotics Technology. The mission of Wyss Zurich is to speed up the translation of outstanding scientific discoveries into new therapies for patients and breakthrough innovations, thereby bridging the "Valley of Death" many academic innovations are facing today. In the field of Regenerative Medicine, a particular focus is given to the translation of medical innovations in first-in-man studies through funding the production of clinical grade materials and clinical trials.
Wyss Zurich supports its members in the design, analysis and elaboration of a business plan of their projects, with the aim to train a new generation of Science/Engineering Entrepreneurs.

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Proprietary IP, freedom to operate (FTO)

- Projects are expected to have IP potential for providing opportunities for sustainable business and growth
- Relevant IP needs to be protected (patent application, software source code)
- Candidates should be able to provide an overview on the competitive landscape to determine whether the development and commercialization of the technology/therapy can be done without infringing valid intellectual property rights of others (FTO)
- Ownership of underlying IP should be with ETH Zurich and/or UZH
- In case, IP is partly/fully owned by a third party, a commercialization agreement is required to ensure that projects get unrestricted/exclusive access to the underlying IP

Leadership, team

- A team leader (science entrepreneur) must be identified prior to the start of the Wyss Zurich project. This person should demonstrate full commitment to pursue the project beyond the Wyss Zurich period, to become an entrepreneur. The team leader should preferably not be a faculty member. Faculty members who are strongly involved with the project may be appointed as Wyss Associate Faculty for the duration of the Wyss Zurich project.
- A clear intention of creating a spin-off company during/after the Wyss Zurich period, where feasible is mandatory.
- Required key positions should be identified and ideally already filled.