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Fannin Innovation Studio 2016 Fellows Announced

Five distinguished awardees join coveted life science commercialization apprenticeship

Houston, TX (September 8th, 2016) – Expanding its commitment to growing biotechnology and life science entrepreneurs and business professionals through experiential learning, Fannin Innovation Studio announces the 2016 recipients of its two-year fellowship. Nearly tripling the class size from 2015, the new fellows are graduate and postdoctoral professionals with a background in STEM fields and are poised to learn the business aspects of commercializing novel biotechnology discoveries. As in previous years, the 2016 fellows have demonstrated scientific rigor and intellect, and have an interest in managing early-stage life science companies.

The rigorous multi-step process that applicants undergo for the prestigious fellow positions ensures that Fannin’s program is able to further develop only those students with the greatest enthusiasm and potential for continued growth. Fannin strives to provide an in-depth opportunity to support the fellows as they build the future of life sciences in Houston.

Fannin Innovation Studio would like to recognize and congratulate the following 2016 FIS Fellowship awardees:

- **Dipali A. Date**, Cellular and Molecular Biology Ph.D. from University of Toledo – previously served as research associate and project coordinator at NovelMed Therapeutics in Cleveland, Ohio
- **Junchen Diao**, Systems Biology Ph.D. from University of Texas-Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences, UTHealth/MD Anderson – previously an intern at Fannin and founder of JCBiomed LLC.
- **Michelle Ho**, Bioengineering Ph.D. from Rice University – previously served as postdoctoral fellow with a joint appointment in the Bioengineering Department at Rice University and the Gynecologic Oncology Department at MD Anderson Cancer Center
- **Michael Jenkins**, Economics B.S. from George Mason University – previously an intern at Fannin and coordinator at Houston Angel Network
- **Carrie McAllister**, Neuroscience Ph.D. from University of Kansas – previously served as postdoctoral fellow in the Center for Addiction Research at the University of Texas Medical Branch

“Expanding Greater Houston’s pool of experienced biotech entrepreneurs is critical to the growth of our region’s life sciences ecosystem,” said Fannin managing partner Dr. Atul Varadhachary. “The response to this program was tremendous by an extremely

competitive candidate pool which resulted in an exceptionally strong class of fellows. These talented individuals are entering a path to becoming the leaders or CEOs of tomorrow's biotech startups."

Working alongside company principals, the 2016 fellows will be placed in managerial roles of early-stage startups and provide guidance through the practical aspects of commercializing innovation including product development, market analysis and regulatory requirements. Once they complete the fellowship, many may ultimately go on to serve as CEOs of Houston's up-and-coming life science startups.

Fannin also maintains an internship program, which often feeds into the fellows program. Interns work for shorter periods alongside fellows and company principals on a roster of startup companies commercializing promising technologies including devices, therapeutics and diagnostics.

"With this 2016 combined fellows and internship class, Fannin has exceeded 100 students since the program's inception six years ago," adds Dr. Atul Varadhachary. "We believe these combined classes at Fannin create the largest life science management program of its kind in the U.S. We continue to be excited about the future of the interns, fellows and the Fannin program."

Fannin partners with local academic institutions to help support the needs of their trainees, including their graduate students, medical students, residents and fellows. Fannin has hosted interns or fellows from the leading local institutions, including: Baylor College of Medicine, Houston Methodist, Rice University, Texas Children's Hospital, The Texas Medical Center biodesign program, The University of Houston, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center, UT Health, and the University of Texas Medical Branch.

"Nearly half a million university students are taking entrepreneurship courses across the country and many of these new entrepreneur initiatives focus on the future of healthcare," said Leo Linbeck III, Fannin's founder and Chairman. "The significant growth in our apprenticeship program and interest from higher education institutions to collaborate with us highlights the demand for developing entrepreneurs in the life science industry."

About Fannin Innovation Studio

Houston-based Fannin Innovation Studio is an early-stage life sciences development group focused exclusively on commercializing medical technologies. Fannin partners with life science innovators to co-found startup companies by providing a pooled management team, central office space and seed funding. To further bridge the commercialization gap, Fannin's internship and fellowship programs provide aspiring entrepreneurs with hands-on development experience with its portfolio companies.

For more information, visit www.FanninInnovation.com or email innovate@fannininnovation.com.

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