

Communication Re: TechNovum Delay

Greetings UT Health Innovators and nascent Entrepreneurs,

As you know, all of society has been impacted by the global SARS-CoV-2/COVID-19 pandemic and is an example of how global events can affect us personally, our plans, and those we hold dear. TechNovum is no exception. Accordingly, we have chosen to postpone the start of the coaching-related activities of TechNovum Cohort # 2 until January 2021. Please see the table below listing the original schedule and our new schedule taking into consideration effects of COVID-19.

	Original: Kickoff 6/17/2020	Post-COVID-19: Kickoff 1/13/2021
Action:	Deadline	Deadline
<i>Call for applications</i>	3/1/20	3/1/20
<i>***I-Corp @ UTSA Market Validation, 3-week course. Moved to an Online course for now. ***</i>	3/1 – 5/1	Fall 2020
<i>Application deadline</i>	5/1/20	10/7/20
<i>Applicant interviews</i>	5/19-21/20	11/9 -20
<i>Inventor Validation Assignment Due</i>	6/3/20	12/4/20
<i>Applicant Selection and Notification</i>	6/5/20	12/14/20
<i>Cohort 2 Kickoff</i>	6/17/20	1/13/21
<i>Cohort 2 Session 1</i>	6/24/20	1/20/21
<i>Cohort 2 Final Session 14</i>	9/30/20	5/5/21
<i>Demo Day (Date TBD)</i>	10/12-16/20	5/17-21/21

While the delay is regrettable, your TechNovum Co-Directors and Program Coordinator are planning to use this time to greatest effect, and we suggest all who wish to apply to participate in Cohort 2 do likewise. Note the new application deadline of 10/7/2020 (**highlighted**). Six months is really not that far off, and there are a number of things you can do now to be even better prepared to “pressure-test” your new venture *idea* and/or launch your startup company leveraging the TechNovum Accelerator. Specifically, we highly recommend all hopeful Cohort 2 participants:

- If you have not already prepared an invention disclosure form (IDF) fully describing the invention around which you intend to build your company and submitted it to the UTHSA-Office of Technology Commercialization (OTC), we strongly recommend you do so as quickly as

practicable. This is because the most basic prerequisite to participate is a formally disclosed and fully vetted IDF on file with OTC, and that has received a positive recommendation regarding management of the invention.

- Assuming a positive IDF, prepare and submit [an application to participate in TechNovum Cohort 2](#) NOW! In any event, apply on or before the deadline of October 7, 2020.
- Positions for Cohort 2 are limited. Regardless of the amount of time remaining until the deadline – it is never too early to apply. By applying now, you will have communicated your intentions and secured a place in the queue. You, your application and your nascent company can then benefit from ongoing dialogue and support from the TechNovum staff. There is plenty to do! For example:
 - Use the time to “pressure-test” your product/company ‘idea’ by participating in the I-Corps Program with our colleagues from UTSA. Perform ‘customer discovery’ and ‘market validation’ interviews. Avoid the #1 reason of the [Top 20 Reasons Startups Fail](#) – lack of an objective, demonstrable market need for the product/service.
 - Get a team together. Even at this early stage, recruit a business lead to drive the company forward.
 - Establish the legal entity (company formation), understand the university conflict-of-interest and conflict-of-commitment guidelines relevant to startup companies.
 - Many other practical matters about which TechNovum can provide guidance.

We are all looking forward to a return to normalcy. But there are many things university investigator/entrepreneurs can do ***now*** to prepare. Your TechNovum Team are happy to provide guidance at any point in the process. If you have any questions, reach out to TechNovum@uthscsa.edu, John Fritz (fritzja@uthscsa.edu) or Sean Thompson (thompsons3@uthscsa.edu).