WHAT IS MERCK DIGITAL SCIENCES STUDIO?

The Merck Digital Sciences Studio (MDSS) is a collaborative startup accelerator focused on investing, supporting and mentoring biopharmaceutical startups. The 9-month acceleration program will enable startups specializing in digitally enabled technologies for drug discovery, pre-clinical, and clinical development to access Merck's experts and receive personalized mentoring from Centech's advisors. They will also receive US\$100,000 in funding through the Merck Global Health Innovation Fund and the CQDM. Additionally, startups will be awarded OVHcloud credits to enhance their technological capabilities. Through the MDSS network, participants enjoy privileged access to key industrial partners, enabling them to make revolutionary advancements in health technology.

WE ARE SEEKING STARTUPS WITH SOLUTIONS THAT ALIGN WITH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING TARGET AREAS:

Digital Technologies for Preventive Health

Al solutions that span new ways to boost effectiveness in drug discovery & development to Al and digital technology platforms that provide anticipatory health risk.

Platforms for Biologics R&D

Develop platforms that enhance the research and development process for biologics, including proteins and antibodies, with improved data integration and workflow efficiency.

3D Translational Models

Utilize 3D biological models that closely replicate human tissues and organs to increase the precision of preclinical testing and shorten clinical trial timelines.

WHY STARTUPS SHOULD PARTICIPATE?



Mentoring

Receive tailored guidance from health sector experts to refine your business proposal and technology.



Workshops

Participate in specialized sessions with industry leaders to accelerate your startup's growth.



Networking

Increase your exposure to Merck's decision-makers and scientific leaders, paving the way for long-term collaborations.



Investment

Benefit from a \$100,000 USD pre-seed investment from renowned health sector specialists, Merck Global Health Innovation Fund and the CQDM.

WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Your startup is incorporated in Quebec or Canada.

Your solution addresses one or more of the program's targeted areas.

You are available for online activities and follow-up meetings from March to November 2026, and agree to attend three key in-person events in Montreal or at Merck's New Jersey headquarters.

PROGRAM TIMELINE

October 27 to November 28
Application period

JanuaryDue Diligence Process

Early MarchProgram Kick-off

DecemberApplication Review

FebruaryProgram Onboa<u>rding</u>

OctoberGraduation Showcase



