MIT Sandbox
Long-Haul Covid & Lyme
Entrepreneurship Program

Mahnaz Maddah, May 7, 2021
Overview

- Student-led entrepreneurial solutions to problems associated with Lyme and Long-Haul Covid
- Pilot summer program
  - Open to MIT undergraduate and graduate students
  - 10 weeks; mid-June to August.
  - Application is due by May 15, decisions are announced on May 17
  - Supporting students with funding and mentoring, requiring weekly reports
  - Potential for continued fall support in MIT Sandbox
Why Lyme & Long-Haul Covid?

- Lyme disease, a collection of infections caused mainly by ticks, is the fastest growing vector-borne infectious disease in the US, projected to affect 55.7 million people in the US by 2050.

- Inaccurate diagnosis: Testing is flawed with reported an average of 56% sensitivity. Compare with 99.7% sensitivity of HIV antibody testing.

- Ineffective therapeutics: Three weeks of antibiotics, but the illness is not fully resolved, causing severe chronic symptoms in many cases.

- Long-haul Covid presents a similar need, on a global scale, with many people suffering from a range of chronic and autoimmune diseases caused by the infection.
Areas of opportunity

- Data collection - e.g. platforms or technologies to acquire, collect or bring together data
- Disease prevention
- Surveillance technologies - e.g. tick and tick-borne pathogen surveillance
- Patient stratification - e.g. to identify patients who have higher chance of developing a chronic condition
- Diagnostics & Therapeutics
- Monitoring & Patient awareness
How does the program support you?

✓ Funding
  ■ Full-time or part-time
  ■ Prototype development expenses (upon review)
  ■ Potential for continued fall support in MIT Sandbox
  ■ Team of students are also supported

✓ Mentoring
  ■ A network of experts in Lyme and Covid
  ■ Experienced entrepreneurs
  ■ Workshops

✓ Free resources
  ■ Work Space
  ■ AWS
  ■ Related Data Sets

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Program Stipend Rates

**Full-time = 40 hrs/week**
Part-time = 20 hrs/week or less

Undergraduate Student Stipend:
  Full-time = $5K/summer
  Part-time = $15/hour

Graduate Student Stipend:
  Full-time = $7K/summer
  Part-time = $20/hour
Who can apply?

- You are an MIT undergraduate or graduate student
  - Grad students may need an agreement from their research advisor

  and if you fall under any of the following:

  - Have a novel idea on how to address a particular need related to long-haul Covid or Lyme disease
  - Have an expertise in proven technologies and are interested in applying your knowledge to long-haul Covid or Lyme disease
  - Interested in healthcare entrepreneurship and want to join an existing team (Sandbox will do the team matching)
  - Are a current/recent MIT Sandbox team member interested in exploring the application of your concept to address long-haul Covid or Lyme disease
How to apply?

• Apply by filling out the application form on Sandbox Website
  ■ Basic info
  ■ Clear description of your idea, expertise or interest
  ■ CV

• Submit by **May 15 (sooner is appreciated)**
• Decisions will be announced on **May 17**
Email us: sandbox-healthcare@mit.edu

Join our Slack channel: sandbox-healthcare-community