



**APPLY
NOW**

A national entrepreneurship training program designed to bridge the translational gap for cardiovascular innovations.

Funded and organized by the **Translational Biology and Engineering Program**, at the University of Toronto and the Ted Rogers Centre for Heart Research, in partnership with the Health Innovation Hub.

Founded in 2018, ECHO is a 12-month online training program with the main objectives to:

- (1) Provide entrepreneurship training, mentorship, partnership and funding opportunities for innovators of cardiovascular technologies.
- (2) Create more successful start-ups in the cardiovascular health sector.
- (3) Accelerate the application of cardiovascular innovations and their transfer from bench to bedside.

ECHO is comprised of a unique combination of five complementary modules.



Module 1. PRINCIPLES OF ENTREPRENEURSHIP

October - December 2023

The MaRS Entrepreneur's Toolkit Workshops are a collection of experiential and hands-on workshops that are facilitated by veteran entrepreneurs. It targets such fundamental entrepreneurship principles as value proposition, business model, finance fundamentals, marketing and communication and pitching to investors.

WORKSHOPS (2 HOURS / SESSION)

Workshop Theme	# of Sessions	Session Deliverables
Value Proposition 1 & 2	2 sessions	Understanding the Lean Startup approach and way of validating problems and ideas with potential customers. Writing a viable value proposition and a process for validating the proposition.
Business Model Canvas 1 & 2	2 sessions	A sustainable business model for your new venture and a process for validating the model.
Finance Fundamentals	1 session	Forecasting and determining pricing for a medical company and a cash-flow forecast for your business.
MarCom Toolkit 1 & 2	2 sessions	Key marketing and communication components that will contribute to a cost-effective, high impact MarCom strategy and increased opportunities for growth.
Pitching to Investors 1 & 2	2 sessions	Creating a powerful pitch that you can use to engage investors or other important stakeholders.



Module 2. HEALTH VENTURE ROUNDS

January - June 2024

A series of interactive workshops focused on key subjects pivotal to the success of early stage start-ups in the health sector such as market research, corporate governance, intellectual property, regulatory strategy, clinical trials, quality systems, health technology assessment, procurement, funding and government resources, and investments, and partnerships. They are facilitated by academic, industry and government subject matter experts.

WORKSHOP THEME	SESSIONS TOPIC
Market Research	1. Market research resources
Legal Aid	2. Corporate finance and governance 3. Patents and intellectual property
Technology Transfer	4. How to get started...the right way
Regulatory and Clinical Trials	5. Regulatory requirements 1 6. Regulatory requirements 2 7. Clinical trial planning and execution 8. Quality management systems essentials for medtech start-ups
Reimbursement & Procurement	9. Introduction to health technology assessment (HTA) 10. Reimbursement strategies for Canadian entrepreneurs
Funding, Investments & Partnerships	11. Government funding and resources for Canadian entrepreneurs 12. Investor perspectives on healthcare and life sciences startups 13. Equity, diversity and inclusion in entrepreneurship 14. Team building, mentorship and collaborations



Module 3. LESSONS FROM LEADERS

January - June 2024

A webinar series in which successful entrepreneurs and business leaders will share their experiences in commercializing technologies in the cardiovascular health sector. Guest speakers include executives and founders of medical device, biotechnology and digital health companies.

Stay tuned for speaker list!



Module 4. COMMUNITY OF MENTORS

Successfully-ranked ventures will become clients of the Health Innovation Hub (H2i), a University of Toronto campus-linked accelerator, and will have access to its various resources. Visit h2i.utoronto.ca for more information.



ECHO ventures will also participate in Accelera sessions – round table discussions focused on topics that are central to the issues and challenges faced by very early stage start-ups.

ECHO ACCELERA (1HOUR/SESSION)

Session 1: Networking and Collaboration	Jan 2024
Session 2: Business Model	Mar 2024
Session 3: External Funding & Commercialization Milestones	Jun 2024



Mission: To **Educate, Enable, Partner** and **Facilitate** early stage entrepreneurs on the commercialization of Health Matters

 **191** Companies
 **\$157 M** Economic Value
 **125** Mentors

- ✓ Network of multi-sectoral advisors
- ✓ Peer-to-peer mentorship by H2i start-ups
- ✓ Quarterly meetings with lead H2i mentor
- ✓ H2i events (e.g. Accelera Program)
- ✓ Professional funding
- ✓ UofT libraries and market research



Module 5. IGNITE START-UP FUNDING

July - October 2024

The program will culminate with pitch training, private pitch sessions and ECHO PITCH 2024 - a public pitch competition event, where the program ventures will have the opportunity to win start-up funding from a \$250,000 pool.

There will also be opportunities for follow-on funding via our partners.

CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

Limited space available - apply now!

ELIGIBILITY

Any Canadian-based researcher, clinician, student and/or entrepreneur developing cardiovascular technologies and innovations is eligible to apply.

COMPETITIVE ENROLLMENT PROCESS

Application

Please complete the application forms and submit by **11:59 pm EDT on Monday, August 14, 2023.**

Interviews

Interviews will commence September 2023 for select applicants. The program begins October 2023.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

Ventures accepted into the ECHO Program are required to:

- Participate in each program module for 12 months beginning October 2023
- Attend a minimum of 80% of the program's virtual workshops and webinars
- Become an H2i member and engage with H2i mentors
- Participate in ECHO PITCH 2024, the final pitch competition, for the opportunity to win start-up funding

Please visit tedrogersresearch.ca/ECHO for instructions and forms



For more information on the ECHO program, please contact Soror Sharifpoor: soror.sharifpoor@utoronto.ca

The ECHO program is funded and organized through the Translational Biology and Engineering Program in partnership with the Health Innovation Hub (H2i). The Translational Biology and Engineering Program is the University of Toronto component of the Ted Rogers Centre for Heart Research, focused on heart failure research across the lifespan. H2i is a University of Toronto campus-linked accelerator facilitating the commercialization of health matters.