

### RESEARCH INSTITUTION

# EMPOWERING MEDTECH ENTREPRENEURS: SCTIMST-TIMed SPARKS INNOVATIONS IN HEALTHCARE

SCTIMST-TIMed is the Technology Business Incubator of Sree Chitra Tirunal Institute for Medical Sciences and Technology, Trivandrum established in 2015. TIMed has been established for encouraging innovation and entrepreneurship in medical technologies through technology business incubation support to innovators, startups and industry. TIMed provides much needed mentorship, funding, networking opportunities, clinical and investor connects as well as basic facilities and services that a Medtech or healthcare startup requires.

TIMed is funded and supported by Department of Science & Technology, Government of India. The innovators and startups of TIMed are supported through various programs funded by Government of India like the flagship NIDHI Program of DST, SIIP program and BIG funding of BIRAC, Technology Transfer Office of NBM, BIRAC. TIMed also strives to support its startups through corporate social responsibility funds.

Startups and innovators go through a selection process before they are admitted to TIMed. Constant need-based support and mentoring is provided to healthcare innovators at various stage of entrepreneurship. Some of the startups supported by TIMed have won accolades at National level and the recent

ones include:

- National startup award in Health & Wellness sector, 2021 - won by Sascan Meditech Pvt. Ltd. given by Department of Pharmaceuticals, Govt. of India.
- Sascan Meditech bagged the best startup in medical devices category in the pharma and medical device startup challenge conducted by startup India, 2021.
- Anjali Mashelkar award for social innovation to Dr. Subash Narayanan, founder of Sascan Meditech, 2021.
- Ms. Sonia Mohandas, Co-founder of Wafer Chips won the women entrepreneur grant from KSUM, 2021.
- Evelabs Pvt. Ltd. bagged innovations award at PHIC Expo, Chennai, November 2021.

TIMed extends incubation support to startups and entrepreneurs who are involved in medical device or healthcare technology development. Both physical and virtual mode of incubation are promoted at TIMed. Incubatees also include startups who have taken the technology transfer from SCTIMST. TIMed thus extends support and services to entrepreneurs and also facilitating faster

bench to bedside translation of the technologies developed at SCTIMST through its incubation activities.

Incubatees are provided with mentoring support on various aspects including idea validation, technology and technical assessment, business plan development, preparation for fundraising, pitch deck preparation and also providing clinical, industry and vendor connects. Incubatees get the opportunity to access and avail the infrastructure including clean room (class 10,000) for pilot production, 3D printers, laser cutters, design software, high end workstations etc.

Some of the products developed by our startups and launched in the market include the Telemedicine cart (by Mobilexion Technologies), OralScan for oral cancer screening (by Sascan Meditech), Driipo – smart drip infusion monitor (by Evelabs), and Biocalculus remote cardiac monitoring (by Wafer Chips Technosolutions).

TIMed is partnering with various national funding agencies such as DST and BIRAC in implementing some flagship schemes. This includes:

**NIDHI PRAYAS PROGRAM OF DST, GOI:** This program caters to idea-stage entrepreneurs with a physical product offering. Innovators will be provided with technical mentorship, access to core facilities, networking, other services include patent search and filing, clinical connects, developing business plan etc. A DST PRAYAS SHAALA has also been set up with high end equipments required for medical device development and assembly which includes 3D printers, laser cutters, pick and place machine, 3D design softwares, high end workstations etc. Several prototypes have been developed and many of the innovators have received follow up funding support and also filed or granted Indian and international patents.

**The main objectives of TIPS are:**

- Enhance academia-industry inter-linkages

- Creation of IP awareness Program
- Provide increased opportunities for academia to translate knowledge into products and technologies
- Developing linkages with academic centers for setup of TTOs

**NIDHI SEED SUPPORT SCHEME OF DST, GoI:** NIDHI SSS provide early-stage funding support to TIMed incubatees. This would enable them to take their venture to next level and facilitate towards their success in the marketplace. The start-ups would be supported primarily for Product development, Testing and Trials, Test Marketing etc.

**SOCIAL INNOVATION IMMERSION PROGRAM OF BIRAC, GoI:** The programme is aimed at creating a pool of biotech and biomedical “Social Innovators” who can identify needs and gaps within communities and then can bridge the gaps either through an innovative product development or services. Most of the Social innovators who are mentored through the program are successful in raising the follow-on funding or starting their own enterprise.

**TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER OFFICE (TTO) OF NBM, BIRAC, GoI:** A TTO named TIPS@TIMed has been set up at TIMed to facilitate research, development, collaborations and technology commercialization in Kerala, Tamil Nadu (except Chennai) Pondicherry and Andaman regions. Several IP & TT awareness workshops for Academic Institutions in the region are being conducted regularly and partnerships inked with several Institutions in the region.

