



Nucleate is a non-profit organization dedicated to empowering the next-generation of biotech leaders

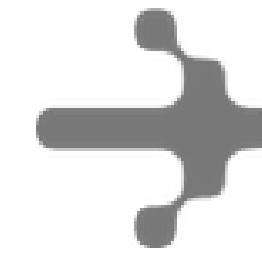
COMPANY FORMATION • PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT • COMMUNITY BUILDING





“Education, not capital, is the earliest bottleneck for biotech innovation”

- 1 Breakthrough **ideas originate in academic** and translational research environments
- 2 Most scientific talent is **never exposed to pathways beyond the lab**
- 3 Early-career scientists **lack access to the education, mentorship, and community** needed to translate ideas into real-world impact



Nucleate was created to build the **missing development layer** between academic discovery and real-world impact.

We operate globally to deliver on our educational mission





Nucleate is a global talent development and translation platform

FROM SCIENTIFIC CURIOSITY TO COMPANY FORMATION AT GLOBAL SCALE

Network

Global network of chapters, researchers, founders, & industry mentors

The Activator

Flagship company formation engine

PATH

Professional development & career advancement programming

Events & Media

Educational resources & continuous ecosystem engagement



The Activator

NUCLEATE'S FLAGSHIP PROGRAM FOR TURNING ACADEMIC RESEARCH INTO REAL BIOTECH VENTURES.

NO EQUITY • NO FEES • TRAINEE FOCUSED • LIFE SCIENCE TAILORED
TAILORED



1



About the program

APPLICATIONS, CURRICULUM, HOW TO APPLY.

1

ROLES

Learn the different roles that you can take to join the program, program, regardless of having your own science or not.

2

TRACKS

Learn about the Eco and Bio tracks tracks supported in the program. program.

3

CURRICULUM

Understand the timeline, resources resources and support provided provided during the program as well as well as the application process. process.



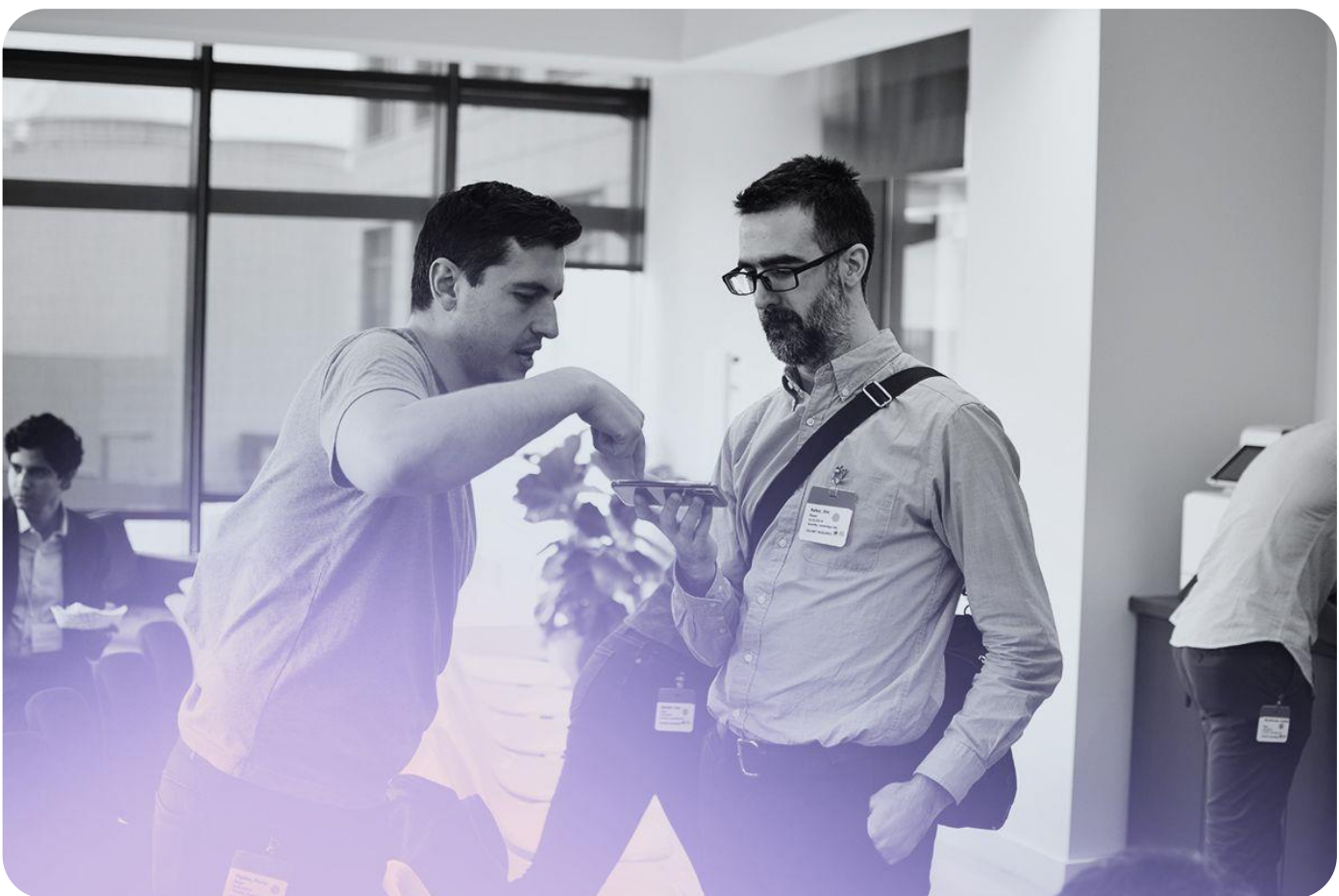
Roles to apply to the activator program

APPLY FOR THE ROLE THAT BEST FITS YOUR GOALS



Inventor

Applies with a technology or idea



Contributor

Joins a team via mutual-matching as a scientific, business, or clinical teammate

Contribute as a:

Scientific

Business

Clinical



Team Affiliate

An existing collaborator who joins the Activator team with the inventor



Expectations & Opportunities Across Contributor Tracks

Scientific Contributors

- Build a venture team with fellow grad students, postdocs & clinical residents
- Develop a clear path to technology commercialization
- Mentorship from leading academic & industry professionals

Business Contributors

- Join a venture team building real market & business strategy
- Evaluate markets for innovations aimed at helping others
- Mentorship from leading academic & industry professionals

Clinical Contributors

- Learn the fundamentals of biotech venture formation
- Gain hands-on experience on a real interdisciplinary venture team
- Build a framework for evaluating unmet clinical needs

60%

of teams connected with investors during the program

91%

of participants enrolled in the alumni network afterward

46%

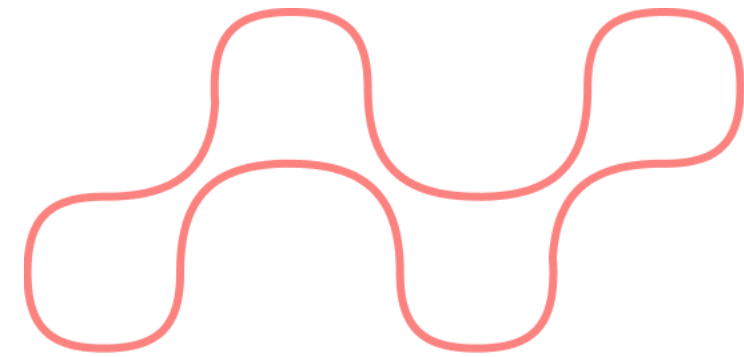
of finalist teams incorporated by program's end



Two tracks focused on big challenges

SELECTING THE RIGHT TRACK HELPS YOU FIND BETTER MATCHES

BIO TRACK



Therapeutics

How do we develop safer and and more effective drugs?

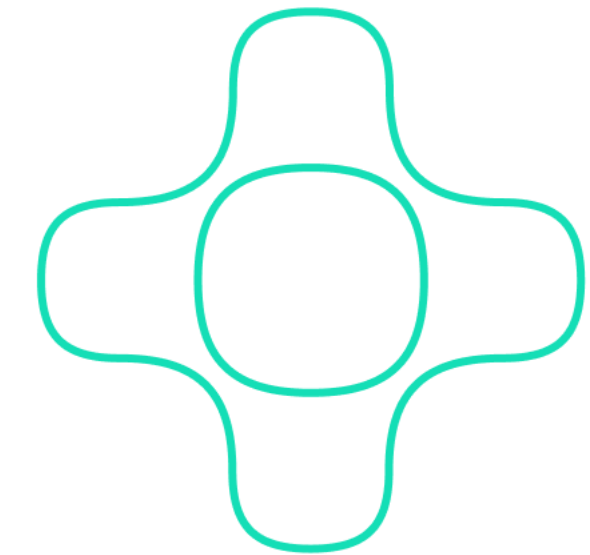
Diagnostics

How do we diagnose diseases diseases more reliably, cheaply, cheaply, and earlier?

Tools

How do we better understand understand and control biological systems?

ECO TRACK



Food & Agriculture

How do we feed humans nourishing food in a sustainable way?

Chemicals & Energy

How do we produce chemicals and energy from more sustainable sources?

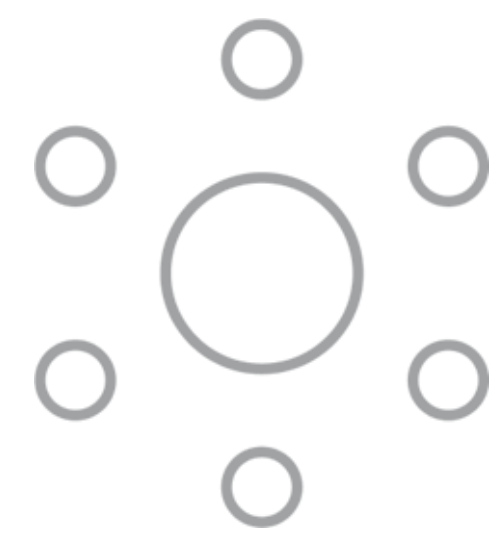
Consumer Products

How do we sustainably manufacture consumer packaged goods & materials?



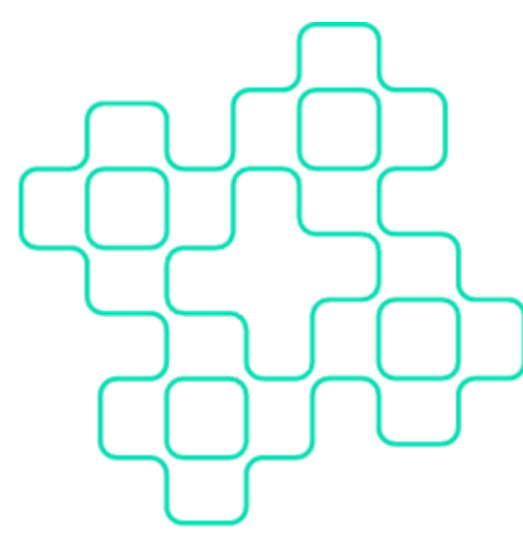
Your year in the Activator

PROGRAM OVERVIEW 2026-2027 CYCLE



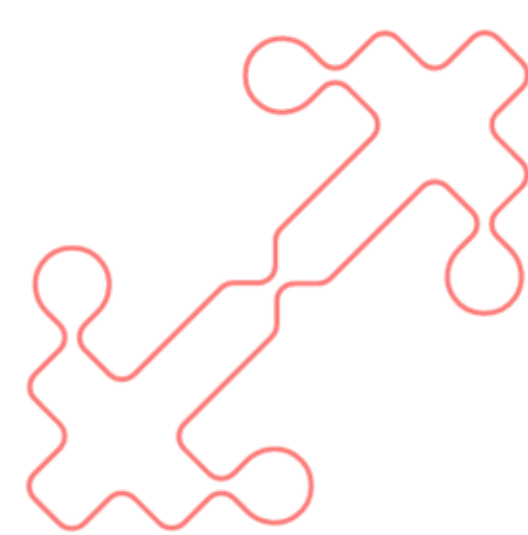
00.
SOURCING
INNOVATORS

JUL - OCT



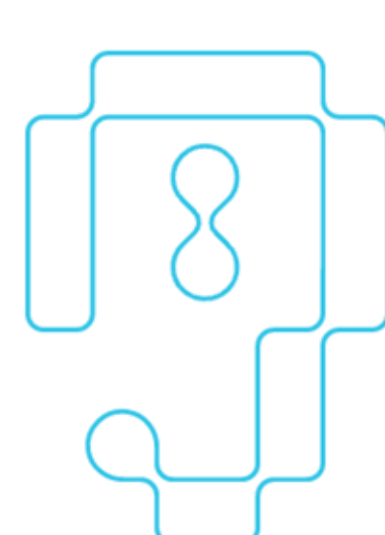
01.
TEAM
FORMATION

NOV



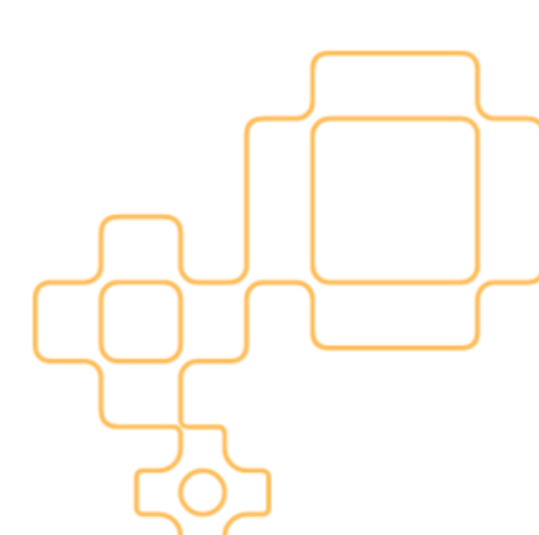
02.
STRATEGY
SUPPORT

JAN - FEB

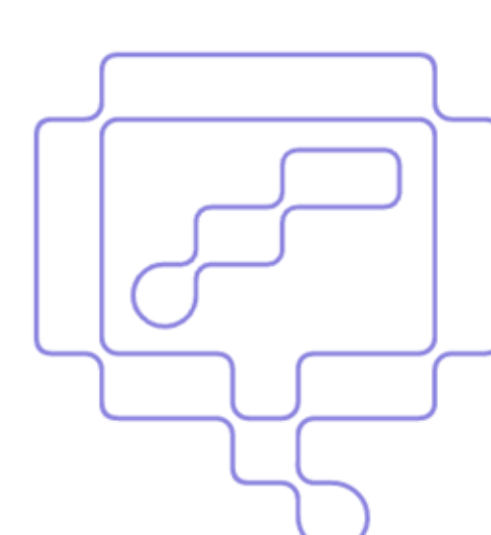


03.
HANDS-ON
WORKSHOPS

FEB - APR



04.
PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT



05.
DEMO DAY / THE
FORUM

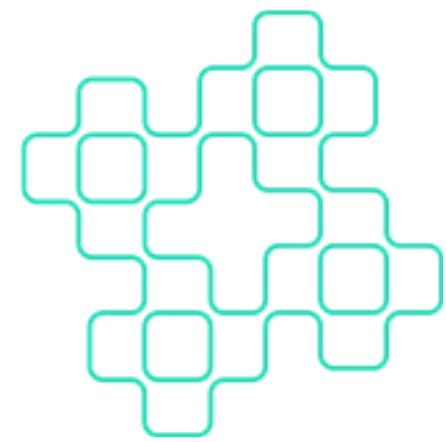
MAY - JUN



06.
GLOBAL
SUMMIT



Your year in the Activator



01 TEAM FORMATION

Align scientists, business trainees, and early professionals interested in building a venture. Facilitate mutual matching.



02 STRATEGY SUPPORT

Industry Mentors:
Long-term guidance from experienced entrepreneurs & biotech executives.

LEGAL STRATEGY

Navigate the IP and corporate law landscapes with guidance from legal experts from our network.

CLINICAL PARTNERS

Work with clinical residents to explore unmet clinical needs and interview KOLs.

COHORT SELECTION
NOV 2026

COHORT LAUNCH
DEC 2026

*Timeline not to scale.



Your year in the Activator



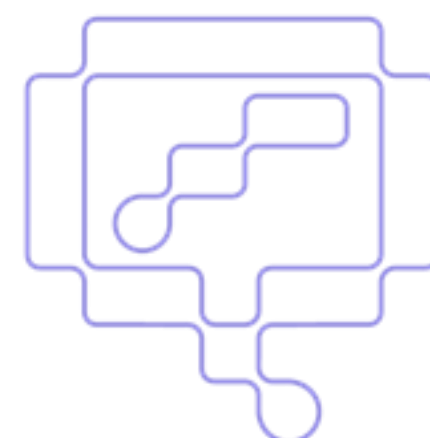
03 HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS

Iterate on key components of a science-first business thesis through deep-dive workshops with industry experts.



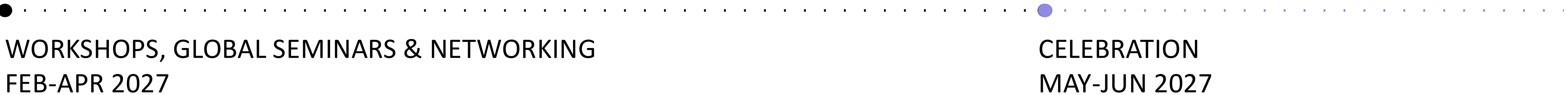
04 PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Private global seminars with top KOLs. Enable networking with faculty, biotech executives, first-time founders, and investors.



05 DEMO DAY / THE FORUM

Teams connect with an audience comprising program mentors, renowned science entrepreneurs, industry veterans, and top-tier investors.



*Timeline not to scale.



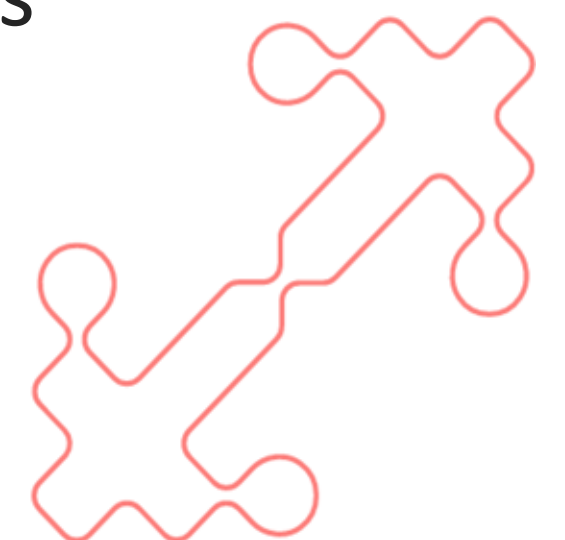
Nucleate Activator: **Regional** Support, **Global** Access

Regional Support

- **Tailored mentorship** from professionals in your geographic area
- **Feedback** from local investors, clinicians, and industry advisors
- Monthly **workshops** (Feb–May) designed for early-stage biotech growth
- **Accountability** through biweekly check-ins and pre-work expectations
- **Opportunities to build** strong bonds with your team and community

Nucleate HQ Programming

- **Advanced seminars** led by global biotech pioneers and venture leaders
- **Opportunities to connect** with Activator teams across 18+ cities and countries
- Strategic **educational content** on IP, regulatory affairs, company formation, and fundraising
- **Access** to demo day judges, accelerator partners, and international collaborators
- **Access** to HQ sponsor perks





Validated track record

OUR FLAGSHIP PROGRAM TAKES NO EQUITY, CHARGES NO FEES, AND IS LIFE SCIENCES TAILORED.

304

ALUMNI COMPANIES

650

MILLION RAISED

900+

JOB



JOSHUA YANG, CEO
glyphic//bio

“We met through Nucleate and quickly started Glyphic with the mentorship we received. **Without Nucleate, Glyphic would never have been formed** - we're fortunate to have had The Activator as our launchpad.”



Manifold Bio



SpearBio



vitralabs



PIONEERA

JUNEVITY



cloverleaf bio

SENSIBLE



RNAREVIVE



Our 2026 cohort included 180 teams sourced from over 400 academic institutes

Technology Distribution

17

REGIONS



180

FINALIST
VENTURE TEAMS



180
teams

2,200

TOTAL APPLICATIONS

Nucleate Alumni Profiles



BEACON BIO

ACQUIRED BY:

Desktop Health™

circa 2020-2021

About

- 3D-printed novel biodegradable elastomer for tympanic membrane repair and replacement
- Nucleate Cohort #2
- Roots in Harvard & Wyss Institute
- Raised \$8M USD in funding, created 9 jobs
- Acquired by Desktop Health in 2021!

Team Members



Nicole Black

Vice President of Biomaterials
& Innovation
Desktop Health



Mischa Jurkiewicz

Senior Manager, Global
Strategic Marketing
Desktop Health

On Nucleate

“The Activator was instrumental in **connecting our team to mentors who genuinely cared about our progress.** [...] By the end of the program, we had constructed a strong pitch deck that led to several additional opportunities.”

NICOLE BLACK

Activator Applications

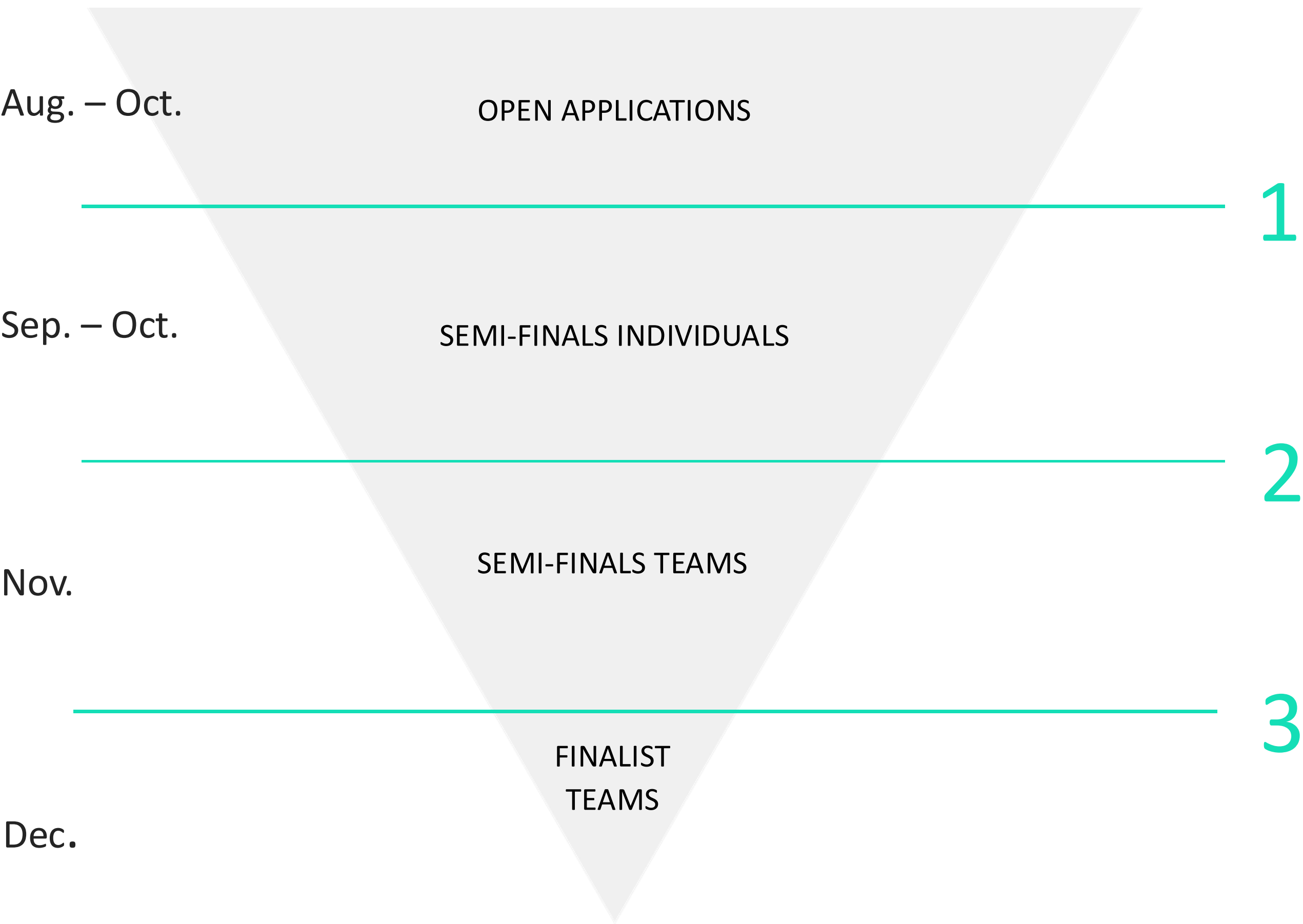
Expectations and the process



2



Path to become a part of the **Activator** cohort



Nucleate leadership selects all applicants on a rolling basis, with an active waitlist – the HQ team will lead a weekly review.

Strong applicants are invited as semi-finalists. Invited semi-finalists can view each other’s profiles on the portal, allowing a longer period for connecting and matching.

Nucleate leadership can facilitate additional formal team formation events, prioritizing meetups through submitted rankings

Nucleate leadership interviews newly formed teams for acceptance into the final cohort.



Expectations of being part of the 2026-27 Activator cohort

Commitment:

- Expect the workload of a 3-credit course
- Attend all regional workshops (occur twice a month) from February to May
 - Submit pre-work at least 48 hours in advance of the scheduled workshop date
 - Submit post-work within 5 days after each workshop
- Missing/Late pre-work and lack of attendance in workshops will lead to removal from the program (at regional chapter's discretion)
- Attend HQ Seminars for additional educational materials

Value for you:

- Become an active part of the 2026-27 Nucleate Activator cohort and network with other biotech co-founders globally
- Connect with potential investors, lawyers, and industry experts for resources and collaboration
- Have the opportunity to pitch your company at our Final Pitch to audience comprising of program mentors, renowned academics, industry veterans, and top-tier VC judges



Before you apply

Have you notified your principal investigator about your interest in participating in Nucleate's Activator program? *

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Planning to

Is the technology based on or related to intellectual property (IP) of a university or university-affiliated institute? *

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Unsure

Have you or the principal investigator previously spoken with your technology transfer office (TTO) about the invention? *

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ I would like help reaching out to my TTO

☐ No, but we have an appointment

Have you reached out to your technology transfer office about your interest in participating in Nucleate's Activator program? *

☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Planning to

☐ I would like help reaching out to my TTO

Screenshot from the application

- **PI approval:** confirm participation, use of lab resources, and ~5–8 hrs/week availability.
- **TTO consultation:** verify **IP status** (disclosure, ownership, obligations, public disclosure plans).
- **Written confirmation:** brief email from PI + TTO approving Activator participation.
- **Non-confidential rule:** no enabling/unpublished details; present high-level science & market only.
- **Multi-institution teams:** align all PIs/TTOs; identify lead institution for IP questions.
- **If you're not the inventor:** ensure you have permission to contribute and no employer conflicts.

Nucleate New York

Regional arm of Nucleate



3

Nucleate New York is led by trainees for trainees



Fatemah Mukadum
NYU



Nancy Zhang
Mount Sinai



Alejandro
G. Perales
Mount Sinai



Shelby Hackenburg
Columbia



Linh Chu
Mount Sinai



Shirley Cai
Columbia



Jillian Hoffstadt
NYU



Sae Yokoyama
Princeton



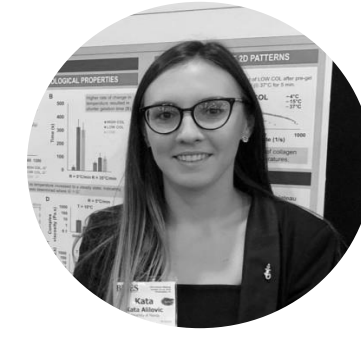
Evelyn Liang
Rutgers



Ruby Setara
Columbia



Christine Yu
Weill Cornell



Kata Alilovic
Weill Cornell



Alexander Chung
Mount Sinai



Elliot Silk
NYU



Sofia Moraes
Rockefeller



Claire Wang
MSKCC



Linsey Zhang
MSKCC



Yang Lu
Mount Sinai



Adelajda Turku
Mount Sinai



Jihyun Park
Columbia



Zaynah Monsoor
NYU



Eneko Garate
Weill Cornell



Maira Nagai
Columbia



Eugene Chung
CUNY



Andrea Simonian
Columbia



Aditi R.
Kumar
Columbia



Himanshu Gupta
Columbia



Pranav Reddy
Columbia



Jethro Prinston
NYU



Rachel Tan
NYU



Claire Coleman
Mount Sinai



Bitu Adel-Zadeh
Einstein



Riya Sancheti
Columbia



Oriol Narcis
Mount Sinai



Benjamin Alva
Princeton



Panteha Behboodi
Stevens



Raquelle Yu
Rockefeller



Harsha Venkatesh
NYU



Jingjie Du
Cornell



Justin Bendesky
NYU



Pulkita Jain
NYU



Siqi Wang
NYU



Anderson Lee
Weill Cornell



Jo Jin
Rutgers



We are committed to enhancing the New York ecosystem

Institutions



Experts & Mentors

Alex Rosay – Cascade Biocatalysts
Alexander Loosley – Mentor Ventures
Amar Patel – Enavate Sciences
Andrew Lee – Northpond Ventures
Artie Arumov - Qiming Venture Partners
Avi Rosenbaum – Advisors.bio
Ben Wang – Chimera Bioengineering
Bradley Coleman - Flagship
Bradley Murray – Xontogeny
Cat Donaldson – Alexandria Launchlabs
Chaemin Lim – A2A Pharmaceuticals
Chris Garabedian – Xontogeny
Chris Walters – Trialspark
Cody Tranberger – Casdin Capital
David Yang – 8VC
Elizabeth Wood – JURA Bio

Emmanuele Chisari – PSI LLC
Francisco Dopazo – Humboldt Fund
Gad Berdugo - EpiVax Therapeutics
Glennis Mehra – BioLabs
Gurdane Bhutani – MBX Capital
Jackie Zummo – Protara Therapeutics
Jake Prigoff – Gaingels
Jane Liew – Oxford University Innovation
JB Michel – PatchBio
Joshua Elkington – Axial
Julie Wolf – 2048 Ventures
Lakshana Huddar – The Engine
Liam Krut – Reinforced Ventures
Marina Balobanova – Health Innovation Capital
Mark Tomishima – BlueRock Therapeutics
Martin-Immanuel Bittner - Arctoris
Michael Fenn – Dewpoint Therapeutics
Mike Norsen – Alexandria Launchlabs
Mimoun Cadosch Delmar - Matterworks

Mitsi Ushio – TARA Biosystems
Monica Berrondo – Macromoltek
Nnamdi Nelson – Northwestern University
Oday Abushalbaq – Alltrna/Flagship
Omar Khalil - Sante
Pablo Lubroth – Hummingbird Ventures
Patrik Erlmann – Boehringer Ingelheim
Rayees Rahman – Harmonic Discovery
Rosario LoButto – Sandoz
Rujual Bains – Pareto Holdings
Sam Cooper – Phenomic
Scott Kanner – Caribou Biosciences
Shelby Newsad – Compound VC
Steve Molino – Clear Current Capital
Tom Ippolito – Chembio Diagnostic
Uri Laserson – PatchBio
Vini Mani – Flagship
Whitney Sneider – Alexandria Launchlabs

Activator 5.0 : We saw a record-breaking number of applications



50+

INSTITUTIONS

Albert Einstein College of Medicine
Carnegie Mellon University
Columbia University
Cornell University
City University of New York
Emory University
Georgetown University
Harvard University

Johns Hopkins University
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Mount Sinai
Memorial Sloan Kettering
New York University
Princeton University
Rice University
Rockefeller University

Stanford University
Stevens Institute of Technology
Stony Brook University
University of California Los Angeles
University of Chicago
University of Pennsylvania
Yale University
Yeshiva University

276

APPLICATIONS

66

INVENTORS

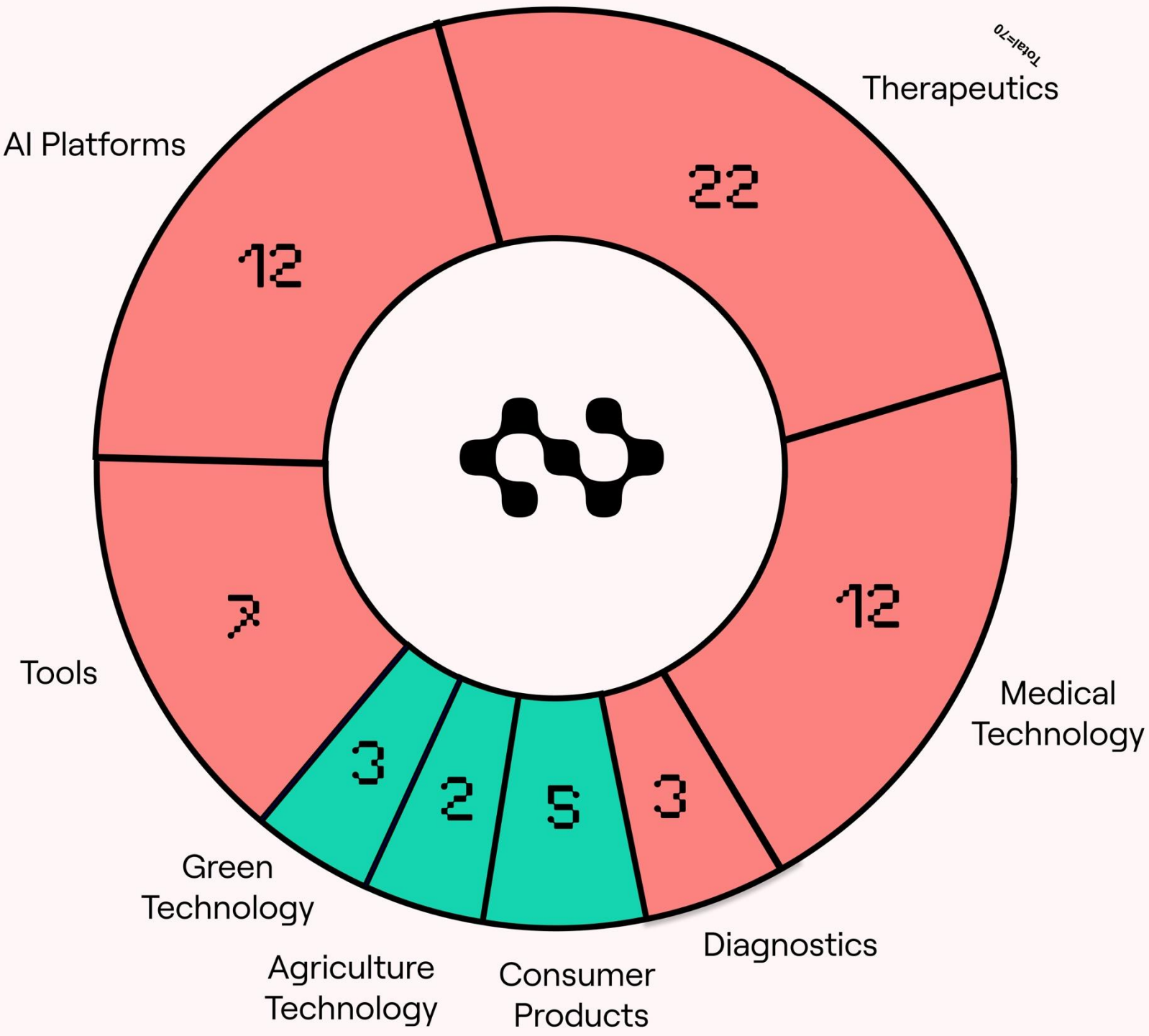
174

CONTRIBUTORS

36

AFFILIATES

Inventor Macro Technology Area



Bio Track

Eco Track

Our Final Cohort was Chosen from a highly Competitive Talent Pool





Nucleate **New York** Activator Highlights



Founded in **2021**

5

COHORTS

64

TEAMS SUPPORTED

12+

MILLION RAISED

2026 Activator



Launched out of stealth with \$3.5M in August 2026
Round was led by Outlander VC



2022 Activator



IND submission for a **First-in-Human Clinical Trial** of an mRNA destabilizer for targeting c-MYC-driven cancers
Phase 1 Trial slated



2022 Activator



Curie.Bio Company
Raised **>\$9M** in Seed Round



2023 Activator



Winners of the 2023 **Alnylam BioVenture Challenge**
2023 Bristol Myers Squibb Golden Ticket at
Biolabs @ NYU Langone





Nucleating the **New York** Biotech Ecosystem

12

COMMUNITY
EVENTS

2k+

EVENT
ATTENDEES

5K+

SOCIAL MEDIA
SUBSCRIBERS



Connect & Collab: Fall Mixer with NYAS



Nucleate NY x Princeton: Approach to Due Diligence



Nucleate NY 5.0 Kickoff



AI4Discover Series: AI for In Vivo Research



Eco Happy Hour



FENWICK

AI4Discover Series Molecules & Machines: AI for Drug Discovery

brownrudnick

Launching Technology Ventures from your PhD

JETRO

Japan External Trade Organization



Bridging Innovation: Japanese Biomedical Startups Showcase & Co-Founder Matching



Lab to Launch: Managing the Transition from Academic Research to Commercialization

Made in NYC, Built for the World: Science, Startups & Opentrons



Early Venture Bootcamp



Women in BioInnovation & Leadership Forum





Platinum



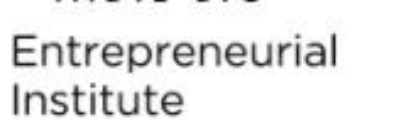
brownrudnick

biolabs @
NYU LANGONE

Silver



Community Partners



External Affairs



innolabs



NEBIUS

Thank you to
our regional
sponsors!



Thanks to our HQ supporters!

PLATINUM



GOLD



VENTURE



LEGAL



BANKING + SPEND



ACCOUNTING



GRANT WRITING



ECOSYSTEM



IN-KIND



PHILANTHROPIC

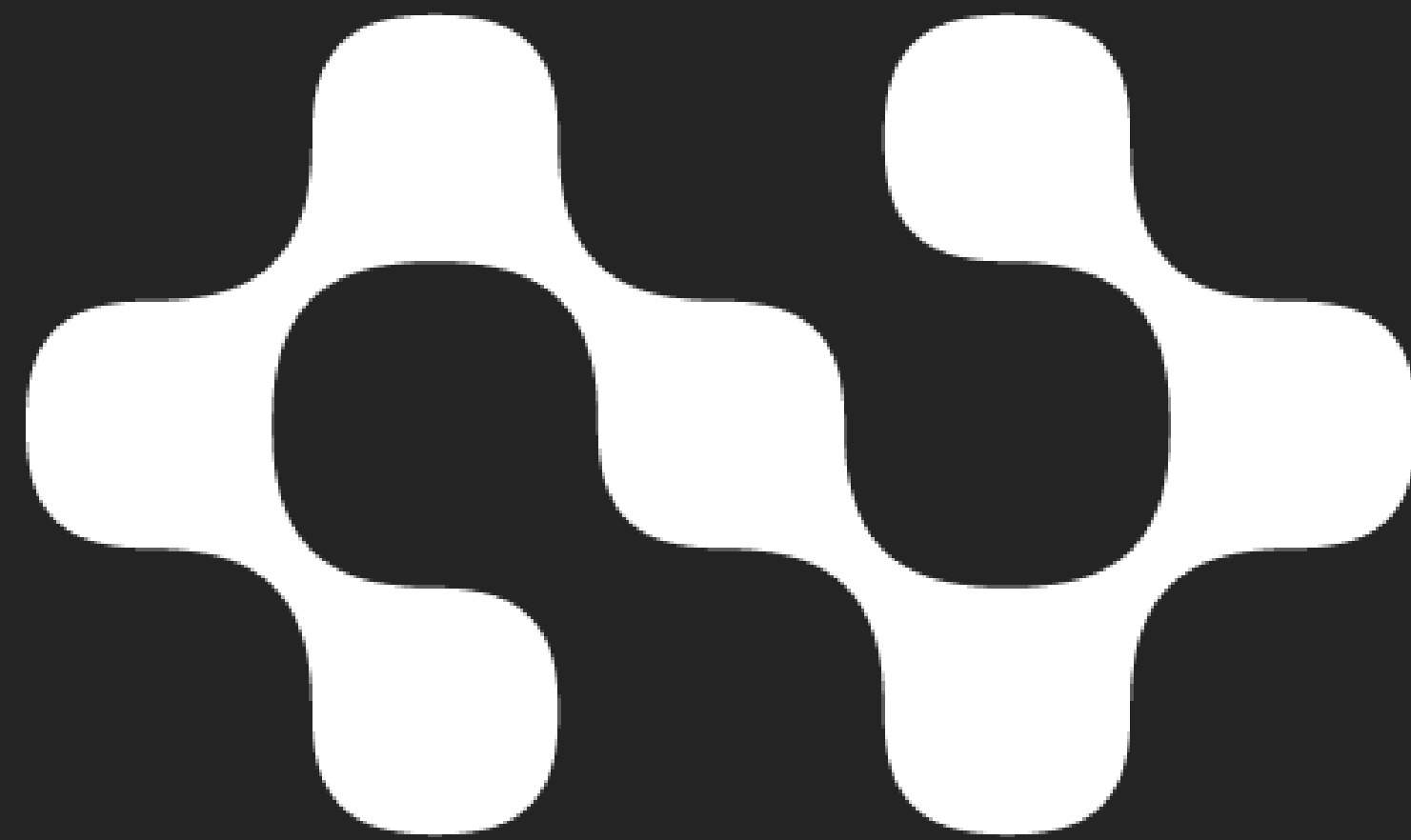




 Nucleate



Be part of our global
community



Find us on LinkedIn!



[apply.nucleate.org](https://www.linkedin.com/company/nucleate)