A pitch competition to empower academic women entrepreneurs

**ABOUT**
A virtual mentor program and pitch competition designed to take national action around the disparity of women academic inventors forming university startups, Equalize 2021 is presented by Washington University in St. Louis and Osage University Partners.

**WHY APPLY?**
“I couldn’t have asked for a better mentor. We had a follow up meeting and he volunteered to help me further. As an early stage project, I am looking for additional funding so I look forward to increasing my network.”
— Sandhya Kortagere, Drexel University, 2020 Winner

**APPLICATION GUIDELINES**
- Product concept no more than 4 years from IND or product launch
- Team must hold a pending or issued patent or copyright
- No formal incorporation required — if a startup has been formed, the company should not have raised more than $1M USD
- Ability to attend at least one, 1-hour meeting per month January-September 2021
- Team must include a woman founder with an academic appointment at a research institution
- Technology in one of three set categories

**CATEGORYS**
- **MedTech**
  - Diagnostics, Medical Devices, Research Tools with Patient Applications
- **Physical Sciences/Technology**
- **Therapeutics**

**PROCESS & SCHEDULE**
- **Dec. 31, 2020**
  - Pitch applications due
- **Jan. 31, 2021**
  - 18 pitchers announced, 6 in each category:
    - MedTech
    - Physical Sciences/Technology
    - Therapeutics
- **Feb. – March 2021**
  - Pitcher seminars
- **April – Sept. 2021**
  - Pitcher/Mentor monthly 1:1 meetings
- **Sept. 22, 2021**
  - Pitch event

**MENTORS & JUDGES**
- **Julie Cherrington**
  - Life Science Executive
- **Jay Lichter**
  - Avalon Ventures
- **Jay Parrish**
  - Arch Venture
- **Elise Miller Hoffman**
  - Cultivation Capital
- **Jeff Hersh**
  - Chief Medical Officer, GE Healthcare
- **Mitzi Krockover, MD**
  - Principal & Senior Consultant, SSB Solutions Golden Seeds

(see equalize.wustl.edu for complete list)

Learn more about this one-of-a-kind event: equalize.wust.edu