



GLOBAL FACULTY TRAINING PROGRAM

Launch Biodesign at Your Institution

STANFORD BYERS CENTER FOR
BIODESIGN

About the Program

For more than a decade, Stanford Biodesign has helped universities, academic medical centers, and other organizations around the world build their own health technology innovation education offerings.

The **Global Faculty Training (GFIT) program** is foundational to this effort. The intensive five-month experience uses a “train-the-trainer” model to prepare faculty members for leadership roles in teaching the need-driven biodesign innovation process, catalyzing health technology innovation projects, and nurturing an innovation community in your local ecosystem.

The faculty who join the GFIT program will:

Learn by doing - Experience the biodesign approach by working on a real-world health technology innovation project on an interdisciplinary team.

Develop confidence as an instructor - Gain the skills to teach biodesign and mentor teams on their health technology projects.

Launch or expand a program - Understand the critical challenges and opportunities associated with leading a biodesign program, and the ecosystem of experts, investors, and advisors required to support it.

Join a global community - Become part of a respected global network of health innovation educators committed to helping each other as we collectively strive to improve patient care around the world.



“In the GFIT program, our unique goal is to prepare you to teach the Biodesign process. So, in addition to learning the methodology through a hands-on, team-based project, we also share how to mentor innovation projects, how to run innovation courses, and how to lead innovation programs, through best practices that we have learned at Stanford for more than 20 years.”

– **Ravi Pamnani**
Assistant Director,
Global Faculty Training Program

A Growing Global Impact

Sixty-seven educators from a dozen countries have completed the program since 2014. These trainees, in turn, have gone on to launch high-performing Biodesign programs, fellowships, courses, and health technology incubators that have educated hundreds of aspiring health technology innovators and spawned dozens of health technology projects and start-up companies.



AUSTRALIA

BELGIUM

BRAZIL

CHINA

ISRAEL

JAPAN

KENYA

RWANDA

TAIWAN

THAILAND

UNITED KINGDOM

UNITED STATES

Faculty Spotlights



Rodrigo Bornhausen Demarch became chief innovation officer at Hospital Albert Einstein in Brazil and launched an 8-month hospital-based fellowship program for health technology innovators. He also founded two start-ups, one of which is a health IT company that was recently acquired.



Anna (Peng-Ting) Chen who has run Biodesign courses for years based on knowledge gained from the Biodesign textbook, reshaped her approach to teaching at National Cheng Kung University in Taiwan and invested more extensively in cultivating ecosystem collaborations to further support trainees. More than 600 people have participated in NCKU Biodesign courses since 2011, with 10+ start-ups created.



Yujiro Maeda established a Biodesign department at the University of Tokyo that has trained more than 1,000 people in single and multi-day workshops. In addition, he leads a structured 10-month fellowship program with four fellows per year. Trainees from the fellowship have launched seven start-ups to date.



Matthew Oldakowski catalyzed a network of Biodesign-like pilots and ongoing programs across Australia that have trained over 800 people, in addition to co-founding a start-up based on his project during the GFIT program. Five companies have emerged so far from the flagship Perth Biodesign program that he leads.



Yonina Ron joined Biodesign Israel's team of instructors at Rambam Hospital, guiding two multidisciplinary teams of 5-6 physicians, engineers, and business people per year, as part of their year-long innovation program. As head of the Israeli Society for Pediatric Ophthalmology, she also leads one-day workshops on the biodesign innovation process for society members.



Jowy Tani launched the Biomed Accelerator at Taipei Medical University to help start-ups emerging from academic environments in Taiwan further validate their needs, develop their concepts, and prepare for commercialization. The accelerator has incubated more than 50 companies and now attracts international applicants.



“Learning the Biodesign process gave me a solid grasp of the ins and outs of health tech innovation, from identifying unmet clinical needs to crafting prototypes, developing business plans, and launching companies. Thanks to the program, I’ve launched two start-ups, with one of them acquired by a Nasdaq-listed company within five years of leaving Stanford. Not only did I develop solutions from the ground up, but I also gained the know-how to teach the Biodesign process. This led me to kick off the first Latin American Biodesign Fellowship in 2023, hosted at Hospital Israelita Albert Einstein in Brazil.”

– Rodrigo Bornhausen Demarch
2017 Global Faculty Trainee

Two Tracks to Meet Your Needs

Both program options run from January to June.



The **in-person**, full-time track is conducted at Stanford University. This option requires participants to relocate to Northern California for the majority of the training period and dedicate ~40 hours per week to the program. As a result, trainees gain a deep understanding of the subject matter, benefit from a truly immersive experience, forge strong connections with the Stanford Biodesign team, and gain contacts across the Silicon Valley health technology network.



The **virtual**, part-time track enables participation by trainees who are unable to relocate or dedicate more than 10-15 hours per week to their educational experience. These individuals learn and apply all the same content through formal and informal online and virtual interactions. They also are invited to Stanford for a one-week kick-off visit in late January / early February for intensive hands-on time to work with their team, as well as a two-week visit at the end of May / early June to share their work and network within the Stanford Biodesign community.

Ready to Get Started?

Participation in the Stanford Biodesign GFIT program is by application. Candidates will be asked to provide a resume or CV, written statement about their goals for joining the program, and a letter of recommendation from their sponsoring institution. They also will be asked to complete a virtual interview. Selection decisions will be made on a competitive basis.

For more information, visit our website at biodesign.stanford.edu. For questions specific to your institution, please email biodesignfit@stanford.edu.

