

FIPA: FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQ)

This FAQ provides an overview of the UC San Diego MedTech Accelerator (MTA), with specific focus on the Faculty, Innovator & Physician Affiliate Program (FiPA).

GENERAL OVERVIEW: What is the UC San Diego MedTech Accelerator?

The UC San Diego MedTech Accelerator (MTA) is a founder-focused commercialization program operated by the Institute for the Global Entrepreneur (IGE) within the UC San Diego Jacobs School of Engineering. The program is designed to help founders translate medical and deep technology innovations—such as medical devices, diagnostics, digital health tools, and enabling technologies—into viable startup companies.

The MTA emphasizes customer discovery, market validation, business model development, regulatory and reimbursement awareness, and investor readiness. The program is not a class; it is an accelerator built for teams actively working to bring an innovation to market.

Faculty, Innovator & Physician Affiliate Program (FiPA)

What is the FiPA Program?

FiPA (Faculty, Innovator & Physician Affiliate) is a selective affiliate pathway within the UC San Diego MedTech Accelerator ecosystem. It is designed to support faculty, clinicians, and experienced innovators who bring validated technologies, clinical insight, or translational research and seek structured commercialization support without enrolling in the full Stage 1 accelerator cohort.

FiPA participants often include:

- UC San Diego faculty and physicians
- Clinician innovators
- Experienced entrepreneurs
- Licensees of UC San Diego intellectual property

Q1: Is FiPA an accelerator cohort?

No. FiPA is not a cohort-based program. It is a tailored engagement model that provides strategic, milestone-aligned support based on the participant's stage of development and commercialization needs.

Q2: Who is eligible for FiPA?

FiPA is intended for:

- Faculty-led innovations
- Physician innovators
- UC San Diego IP licensees
- Industry-experienced founders with deep domain expertise

Participation is by invitation and is determined based on readiness, strategic alignment, and fit within the broader IGE and MedTech Accelerator ecosystem.

Q3: What type of support does FiPA provide?

FiPA participants receive customized support aligned with their stage and goals, which may include:

- Commercial strategy advising
- Customer discovery guidance
- Introductions to investors and industry partners
- Regulatory, clinical, and translational pathway support
- Integration into the broader IGE innovation ecosystem

Support is intentionally flexible and designed to complement existing academic, clinical, or industry responsibilities.

Q4: What level of commitment is expected?

While FiPA is not cohort-based, participants are expected to demonstrate:

- Consistent engagement
- Active participation in agreed-upon activities
- Ongoing customer and stakeholder discovery
- Accountability to defined milestones

The effectiveness of FiPA depends on meaningful founder engagement.

Q5: What is expected in return for participation?

While there is no financial or equity requirement, the MedTech Accelerator is built on a pay-it-forward philosophy.

Participants are expected to:

- Engage seriously and professionally in the program
- Represent UC San Diego with integrity within the broader innovation ecosystem
- Contribute back to the community over time—through mentorship, participation, advocacy, or philanthropic support—as their companies mature and succeed

Our goal is to cultivate a sustainable ecosystem in which successful founders help support and elevate the next generation of UC San Diego innovators.

PROGRAM COST & EQUITY

What is the cost to participate in the UC San Diego MedTech Accelerator?

There is no cost to participate. The MedTech Accelerator is supported by IGE and the UC San Diego Jacobs School of Engineering as a no-fee, no-equity program designed to advance UC San Diego-affiliated innovation. Participants are not charged tuition or program fees.

Does the MedTech Accelerator take equity in participating startups?

No. The UC San Diego MedTech Accelerator does not take equity in participating companies. Unlike many accelerators, the MTA is intentionally structured to remove financial and ownership barriers so founders can focus on customer discovery, validation, and building mission-driven companies.

FINAL NOTES

The UC San Diego MedTech Accelerator and FiPA are high-touch commercialization platforms built for teams serious about translating innovation into impact. Program structure, engagement pathways, and invitations are determined by readiness and execution—not by application volume or academic interest.

For additional questions, please contact the MedTech Accelerator team at the Institute for the Global Entrepreneur.