**Mass Challenge 2018**

**CYDAN SCHOLARSHIP FOR RARE DISEASES**

FAQ

**What is Cydan?**

Cydan II is a venture-backed orphan drug accelerator that identifies and de-risks programs with therapeutic and commercial potential. Cydan focuses on selecting promising disocovery programs with well-understood biology from academia, industry and other sources. Data generated during a rigorous de-risking process enables formation of stand-alone companies and strategic partnerships.

**What is the Cydan Scholarship for Rare Diseases?**

Cydan’s Scholarship for Rare Diseases, Therapeutics, Social Impact and Medical Devices will identify and support startups that are working to improve the quality of life for families and patients with orphan diseases and accelerate therapeutic options and diagnosis of rare disease.

**What is the exact criteria of this scholarship?**

The startup or startups must be working within these fields:

* Therapeutics for rare disorders
* Translational - Pre-IND therapeutic approaches
* Focus on rare acquired and genetic condiditions
* Agnostic to therapeutic modality - small molecules, peptides, proteins, antibodies, , sRNA, etc.
* Secondarily approaches to expedite rare disease diagnosis or support tools to assist patients with rare disorders
* Technology that supports and improves the quality of life of patients with rare disorders
* Impact the lives of patients and their caregivers by creating networks and applications to foster collaboration, patient assistance and guidance

**2018 Cydan Scholarship**

**We will award $5000 per start up selected and will provide guidance and support during Mass Challenge 2018 and beyond.**