

What is the Activator?

The [Activator](#) is Nucleate's flagship program, representing the largest trainee-led biotech accelerator in the world. Budding ventures in the lab are given top resources and guidance to break ground in human and planetary health.

What is the Global Virtual Activator?

Nucleate is a global organization, dedicated to fostering the development of tomorrow's biotech leaders at scale. Activator is usually held at Nucleate's core chapters—those with relatively developed biotech ecosystems—underscoring the need for a virtual, borderless offering for early-career trainees situated elsewhere to launch their ventures. [To date, the Global Virtual Activator \(GVA\) has hosted 36 teams representing 20 countries, 72 institutions and 4 continents.](#)

Who should apply?

Inventors: you have venture-ready tech (e.g., lead compound, platform) developed in your academic lab.
Contributors: you are a technical (PhD), business (MBA), or clinical (MD) trainee eager to join a team.
Teams typically consist of lead inventor(s) and contributors representing all three core functional areas.

Timeline:

- Now: Applications Open
- 10 October 2026: Applications Close
- November–December 2026: Final Cohort Selection
- January 2027: Team Bonding and Mentor Matching
- February–May 2027: Workshops + Seminars
- June 2027: Demo Day

What do teams gain?

- Affiliation with Nucleate Activator brand
- Exposure to investors in Nucleate network
- Equity-free accelerator experience
- Industry-leading mentorship and guidance
- Pitch awards from Eli Lilly and Alnylam
- Additional partnerships under negotiation to be added as further cohort team benefits

Testimonials

"GVA has been an invaluable experience for our team at this early stage of company building. The feedback we received helped refine both our scientific and commercial strategy, while the global network opened doors to new collaborations and conversations that have continued beyond the programme."

Dr. Brendan Sieow
Founder, Terus Therapeutics
GVA 25–26 alum



Geographical Distribution of GVA 2025–26 Finalists

Please contact global@nucleate.org with inquiries!

To Date:

790 teams

\$650 M USD raised

303+ companies incorporated

1 alumni acquisition