

# Start your next research project in 32 hours

## FacMed Hack #1 — Digital Phenotyping of Mental Health

Fri 6 – Sat 7 November 2026 · Campus Biotech · ~50 participants · 6 challenges

For doctoral students, postdocs and clinicians · everything in English

**3 ECTS** through the Lemanic Neuroscience Doctoral School (LNDS) — *confirmed*





## What's in it for you

Mental health is among the heaviest burdens the health system carries, and among the least well measured. Geneva now has the instruments — the **digital-phenotyping platform** at Campus Biotech. What it needs is **well-posed problems, and people like you to pose them.**

|                |                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Build</b>   | A working prototype against a real clinical need, over one weekend, with AI-assisted development — in a team mixing clinicians, engineers and researchers                          |
| <b>Learn</b>   | Three evening courses in October: digital phenotyping & the Swiss data rules · vibe coding / AI-assisted development · grant writing with the UNIGE Research & Grants Office (RGO) |
| <b>Advance</b> | The strongest projects go forward with the RGO toward the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), Horizon Europe and philanthropy — between November and March                   |
| <b>Credit</b>  | <b>3 ECTS</b> through LNDS for doctoral students — <b>confirmed</b>                                                                                                                |

## Step 1 — Submit needs. That is how you apply

“A way to do **X**, for population **Y**, with outcome **Z**. ”

*A way to spot relapse warning signs from everyday smartphone patterns, for patients after a first psychotic episode, with the care team alerted days before crisis.*

*A way to pool sensor data across small studies, for mental-health researchers with cohorts of 20–50, with findings that replicate at multi-site scale.*

One sentence. It names who is affected and what would count as better — and it deliberately leaves out the solution. **Two to ten minutes to write.**

- **Contributing needs is the application.** No separate form, no CV round.
- **A voucher of at least CHF 500** goes to the strongest contributor.
- **The competition closes 30 September** — but you can contribute until 30 October.

**facmed-hack.pages.dev/en/needs** — unige, hug, epfl, chuv, fcbg and wysscenter addresses contribute straight away

## Step 2 — Write needs with us, over food and drinks

Thursday 17 September 2026 · 17:00–19:00 · Campus Biotech

Two hours of writing needs together, with **clinicians in the room** to argue a half-formed need into shape on the spot.

Needs written in a room full of people come out visibly better than needs typed alone into a form — and it is a good evening.

**Spots are limited** — sign up at **[facmed-hack.pages.dev/en/events](https://facmed-hack.pages.dev/en/events)**

Depending on success, there may be later dates for need sprints.

## Step 3 — The weekend

| Fri 6 Nov                                                    | Sat 7 Nov                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 11:00 welcome · lunch                                        | 08:30 breakfast + standup                                                |
| 13:00 <b>challenge pitches</b> — six, from the needs library | 09:30 build · mentoring rotations                                        |
| 14:30 <b>team formation</b>                                  | 13:30 final sprint                                                       |
| 15:00 build                                                  | 17:00 <b>public finals</b> — jury of researchers, clinicians and funders |
| evening hacking, optional                                    | 18:30 awards · 19:00 celebration in town                                 |

### Two things to know before you say yes:

1. **All team code goes on a GitHub repository**, committed before, during and after the weekend.
2. **We assemble the teams**, matched on your preferences and on how a challenge fits your own research — so the weekend serves your thesis.

## For doctoral students — it is also a course

Confirmed by the Lemanic Neuroscience Doctoral School (LNDS). 3 ECTS,  
15 September – 15 January, ~71 hours:

|   | Part                                                                                           | When                                                | Hours |
|---|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------|-------|
| 1 | <b>Ten need briefs</b> — diverge widely, then write ten up properly. No prior knowledge needed | 15 Sep – 6 Nov                                      | ~10 h |
| 2 | <b>Three evening courses</b> , ≤1 h pre-work each                                              | 15 · 22 · 29 October, 17:00–19:00<br>( <i>tbc</i> ) | 9 h   |
| 3 | <b>The hackathon</b>                                                                           | 6–7 November                                        | 32 h  |
| 4 | <b>Follow-up + a real grant proposal</b>                                                       | due early January                                   | ~20 h |

You pass on three things, all pass/fail: your briefs, your team's work over the weekend, and the proposal — **judged independently by the RGO** on the criteria it applies to real submissions.

**A generous quota is reserved for LNDS students** — yet depending on demand, seats may be limited. Register early.

**Postdocs, or not in LNDS?** Come anyway — the RGO follow-through toward SNSF, Horizon Europe and philanthropy is open to everyone, and it is the part that matters most at your stage.

## Do this now

1. **Register and submit 10+ needs** before **30 October** → [facmed-hack.pages.dev/en/needs](https://facmed-hack.pages.dev/en/needs)  
— before **30 September** to have a chance to claim the prize
2. **Sign up for the need sprint** of 17 September → [facmed-hack.pages.dev/en/events](https://facmed-hack.pages.dev/en/events)
3. **Doctoral students:** keep the evenings of **15, 22 and 29 October** free — 17:00–19:00 (*tbc*)
4. **Mark your calendar** for the hackathon — **Friday 6 November, 11:00 → Saturday 7 November, 19:00**

Questions — just write to us.

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