

Seasoned entrepreneur, executive, and Board member. Established the field of precision fermentation. Invented, scaled, and commercialized new-to-the-world bioengineering technologies and novel food ingredients.

Professional Experience

Founder, CEO, Board Member, and Executive Chairman

April 2014 – December 2023

PERFECT DAY*

- Founded the industry-leading precision fermentation company, a pioneer in synthetic biology and food technology; commercialized the world's first nature-identical milk protein ingredients produced through fermentation
- Scaled the company from inception to a \$1.65B valuation over 10 years, with \$75m in revenues and a 20% profit business, leading a team of 300 US-based and 700 India-based employees
- Oversaw the \$87M acquisition of **Sterling Biotech**, an Indian biopharmaceutical manufacturing company
- Worked closely with regulators; achieved FDA (and equivalent) approval in the US, India, Singapore, UAE, and more
- Signed and launched novel products with Unilever, Nestle, Mars, Kroger, Starbucks, and Bel Group
- Introduced one of the fastest-growing products in U.S. grocery, surpassing 5,000 stores within a year
- Raised \$750 million over six rounds of financing from top global investors including Temasek, Canada Pension Plan Investment Board (CPPIB), SK Group, Iconiq, and Horizons Ventures
- Authored numerous technical patent families, e.g. [US9924728](#), [US2022378058](#), [US11457649](#)
- Published a **peer-reviewed LCA** demonstrating environmental benefits – 99% less water, 97% less GHG, 60% less energy
- Profiled in NYT, WSJ, Financial Times, New Scientist, Axios, Fortune, Forbes, TIME, Business Insider, CNN and CNBC
- Personally brought in Bob Iger as a Board member and mentor – [CNBC interview](#)

Board Member

April 2024 – Present



- Board Member at New Harvest, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit pioneering the cellular agriculture industry

Education

B.S., Chemical & Biological Engineering

2009-2013



Awards & Accomplishments

- Advisor to Biden administration on biomanufacturing innovation & capital deployment
- Harvard Case Study ([W24898](#)), 2021
- Fast Company's "World-Changing Ideas", 2022, and "Most Innovative Companies", 2021
- TIME Magazine's "100 Most Influential Companies", 2022, and "Best Inventions", 2020
- Forbes 30 Under 30, Social Entrepreneurs, 2019

Hobbies & Interests

- Instrument-rated pilot with over 700 flight hours (PA-46 piston); commonly transit busy airspaces e.g. NYC, LAX, SFO
- Amateur programmer, network and systems admin; operate an overpowered quasi-enterprise-level home network; manage cluster of VMs and personal machines using Proxmox and NixOS Flakes
- Deploy self-hosted LLM and diffusion models; interested in Multilingual AI (especially Hindi), building tools to expose personal data securely to a RAG system for archiving and generating insights
- Proficient Spanish speaker; learning Hindi – currently read, write, and speak at a beginner level
- **Favorite open-source projects:** Home Assistant for all things home automation; Frigate for AI-enabled security camera multiplexing and monitoring; Immich for "self-hosted Google Photos"
- **Favorite programming stacks:** Elixir + Phoenix for CRUD apps; Vue for lightweight frontends (learning React Native for cross-platform); Python + Torch + CUDA for AI
- **Favorite books:** The Three Body Problem trilogy; Demon Copperhead; Homo Deus