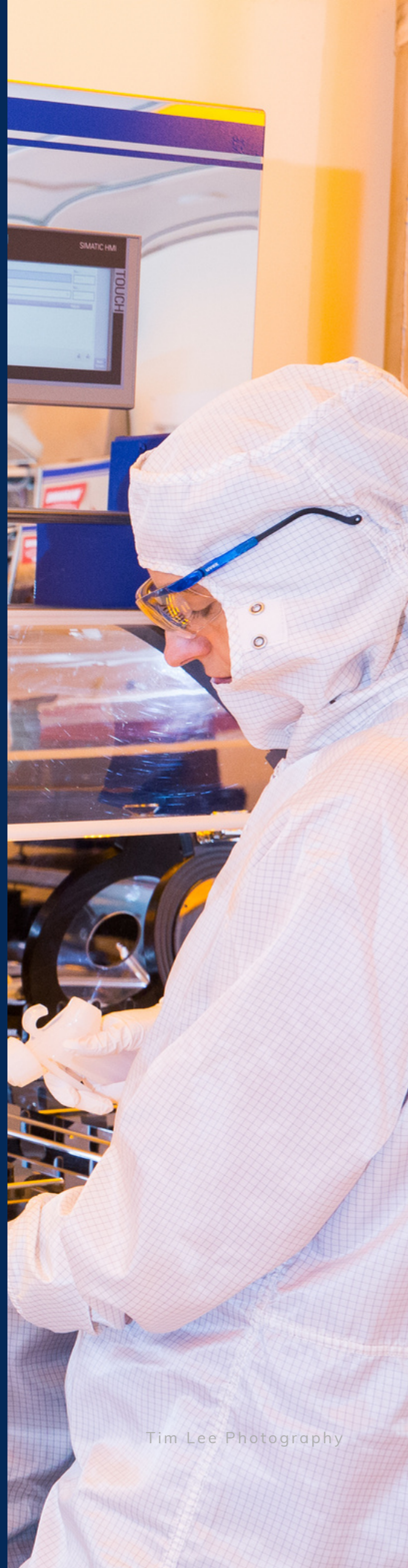


ANNUAL REPORT

DICE DIVERSITY & INCLUSION IN
COMMERCIALIZATION &
ENTREPRENEURSHIP
SPRING 2022

 COLUMBIA | TECHNOLOGY VENTURES



Tim Lee Photography

ABOUT US

Studies by the National Science Foundation and university researchers show that certain populations remain underrepresented in health sciences and engineering on a national basis, particularly within the commercialization and entrepreneurship community. As a result, the amount of venture capital and investment dollars flowing to companies led by members of underrepresented groups is disproportionately low.

Columbia's program for Diversity and Inclusion in Commercialization and Entrepreneurship (DICE) aims to address this problem by providing early-career support to individuals from underrepresented communities who are interested in technology commercialization and entrepreneurship.

DICE provides dedicated access, education, networking, and funding opportunities to Columbia graduate students and postdocs from traditionally underrepresented groups who are interested in careers in life science and physical science entrepreneurship and commercialization. DICE is administered by Columbia Technology Ventures, the technology transfer office for Columbia University.

OUR PROGRAM

22

**PARTICIPATING
STUDENTS**

13

**DEPARTMENTS
REPRESENTED**

3

**EDUCATION
SESSIONS**

7

**FIRESIDE
CHATS**

DICE participants completed educational workshops and had the opportunity to participate in the Lab-to-Market bootcamp where they worked in groups with business and engineering students to learn the fundamentals of life sciences entrepreneurship and the process of bringing a life sciences product from the lab to the market.

EDUCATION & BOOTCAMP



DICE participants had the opportunity to join the Life Science Accelerator Bootcamp, a course designed to give academic investigators an overview of the early development aspects of therapeutic design and commercialization. Assignments sharpened students' communication and teamwork skills. Additionally, they completed workshops on Lean Launchpad methodology and Intellectual Property and Negotiations.



MENTORSHIP & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES

Mentorship is a key component of early career development. Through the DICE program, participants were given the opportunity to meet with CTV's Executives in Residence and DICE sponsors who offered career advice. Participants were also provided with resources to aid their job searches.



FUNDING SUPPORT

Upon successful completion of the program, DICE participants were each given a one-time stipend of \$1,000 to be used for professional development.

OUR FIRESIDE CHATS

DICE's fireside chats were candid conversations with experienced entrepreneurs, industry executives, and venture capitalists from traditionally underrepresented populations. Speakers discussed their career paths, challenges they faced, and their recommendations to DICE participants as they prepare to enter industry.



RIDHI TARIYAL, MBA | NEXTGEN JANE

APRIL 26, 2022

Ridhi Tariyal is the CEO and co-founder of Nextgen Jane, a genomic startup focused around advancing women's reproductive healthcare. Ridhi gave an overview of her career trajectory and provided guidance to students interested in entrepreneurship and transitioning from benchwork to business-oriented roles.



ROBERTO ROSAS, MBA | HEALTH INNOVATION CAPITAL

MAY 3, 2022

Roberto Rosas is a Principal at Health Innovation Capital, where he leads due diligence and investment execution efforts across several sectors and indications to address the unmet medical needs of pediatric patients. Roberto spoke with students about his path into health innovation and venture capital.



ESMERALDA RAMIREZ-PEÑA, PHD, MPH | HEALTH INNOVATION CAPITAL

MAY 3, 2022

Dr. Esmeralda Ramirez-Peña is a Senior Oncology Fellow at Health Innovation Capital and a postdoctoral fellow at the National Cancer Institute. Dr. Ramirez-Peña shared with students her story and perspective on transitioning from a career in the lab to commercializing innovation.



ULYSSES WILLIAMS III, JD | PALL LIFE SCIENCES

MAY 10, 2022

Ulysses Williams III is a Patent Attorney for Pall Life Sciences, a biotech company providing innovative products and services to help support life sciences research. Ulysses walked DICE participants through his career and provided insights into tech commercialization from an intellectual property perspective.



ADAM SHARKAWY, PHD | MATERIAL IMPACT

MAY 11, 2022

Dr. Adam Sharkawy is a Co-Founder and Managing Partner at Material Impact, a unique venture fund that focuses on investing in and building companies with material-based technology innovations, and serves as a member of the Board of Directors for several companies. Dr. Sharkawy gave a talk on entrepreneurship as the cross-section of innovation and leadership and shared with DICE participants valuable insights from his career in helping to build successful companies.

OUR FIRESIDE CHATS



ELIZABETH WAYNE, PHD | CARNEGIE MELLON UNIVERSITY

MAY 17, 2022

Dr. Elizabeth Wayne, an advocate for women and minority representation in academia, provided insights into her path from a physics student to faculty member at Carnegie Mellon University. Dr. Wayne highlighted experiences as a woman in science and provided guidance to students interested in a career in academic innovation.



ALYSSA JARVI, PHD | FORESITE CAPITAL

MAY 24, 2022

Dr. Alyssa Jarvi is part of the investment team at Foresite Capital that evaluates the technological feasibility of healthcare innovations. Dr. Jarvi walked DICE participants through a day in the life of a VC and shared what entrepreneurs should look for when selecting VC partners.



TINIA PINA | RE-NUBLE

MAY 31, 2022

Tinia Pina is the Founder and CEO of Re-Nuble, a social enterprise and agriculture technology company headquartered in New York City. An advocate for sustainable waste management, regenerative agriculture, and climate-smart agriculture, she provided insights from her career in management and business development roles within the sustainability industry over the last ten years.

OUR MENTORS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES



Kris Vulgan
Co-founder and Managing
Partner, Ferocity Capital

Kris provided office hours to discuss early stage investing and career advice with DICE participants.



Linda Dujack, PhD
Former VP of Worldwide
Regulatory Affairs, Johnson &
Johnson

Dr. Dujack provided participants with mentorship and feedback on translating their ideas and research into commercial opportunities.



Adam Sharkawy, PhD
Co-founder and Managing
Partner, Ferocity Capital

Dr. Sharkawy provided mentorship and career advice to students interested in material based-technologies and entrepreneurship.



Colin Foster, MBA
CEO, iSci Management

Colin offered career advice and project feedback to DICE participants interested in biotech and life sciences commercialization.

OUR MENTORS & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT RESOURCES



Peter Tollman, PhD, MBA
Senior Partner Emeritus and
Senior Advisor, Boston
Consulting Group

Dr. Tollman provided office hours to discuss careers in consulting and provide guidance on running an organization.



Jonathan Friedlander, PhD, MBA
Principal, Digitalis
Ventures

Dr. Friedlander spoke with DICE participants about entering the VC world after receiving a PhD.



Tom Brennan
Principal, ECHO Investment
Capital

Mr. Brennan discussed early stage investing and provided guidance on tech commercialization and careers in venture capital with DICE participants.



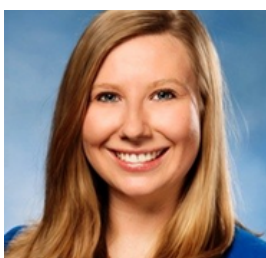
Dennis Purcell, MBA
Founder, Aisling Capital

Mr. Purcell provided office hours to discuss the biotechnology industry and life sciences investing with students.



Lona Vincent, MPH
Strategy and Innovation Design
Leader, Johnson and Johnson

Lona offered office hours for DICE participants to discuss innovation and strategic planning.



Kelsey Kerstetter
Career Coach and Marketing
Coordinator, Gardner Innovation
Search Partners

Kelsey provided resume reviews and feedback to DICE participants.

DICE participants also received weekly emails with events, job opportunities, and seminars related to life science and physical science entrepreneurship and relevant diversity and inclusion initiatives.

VENTURE ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES



Orange Grove Bio
Preclinical drug investment and
development platform

Orange Grove Bio (OGB) provided DICE participants with the opportunity to intern and work with Columbia-based therapeutics-focused research teams who are a part of the OGB Mentorship Program & Pitch Contest.



Newlab
Multi-disciplinary
technology based center

Newlab provided DICE participants with three venture engagement internship opportunities and the ability to connect and engage with their network of 216+ startups.

TESTIMONIALS

"I heard about DICE from my departmental career advisor. I absolutely enjoyed every part of the program! From inspiring fireside chats with mentors to insightful sessions on science commercialization, I'm glad to have been exposed to all of this knowledge."

— William Yakah, Institute of Human Nutrition, DICE Participant '22

"DICE provided us with information about the resources and organizations you can contact within the city to help you on the process of building up a commercialization idea, which was very useful to me. I found the educational sessions useful into understanding the principal causes of failure on innovation (will never forget Juicero)! I particularly liked the IP and Negotiations exercise and the way we could interact with other participants."

— Arturo Pacheco-Solana , Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, DICE Participant '22

"Everyone [program mentors] was very helpful and professional. Thank you so much to the DICE team for being super supportive and attentive to our needs! I really, really enjoyed this program and it helped with my academics! The slides that our presenters had were very helpful and I will use them to refer to in the future."

— Martin Acosta, Department of Chemical Engineering, DICE Participant '22

SPONSORS

DIGITALIS COMMONS

Digitalis Commons was founded in 2018 as a non-profit platform to create public-interest technology solutions to complex problems in health. Through the projects and programs it initiates, and the individuals and organizations it partners with, Digitalis Commons strives to build open, frontier-advancing, and scalable solutions that have an outsized impact on health.

Digital Commons believes that openness drives innovation through the distribution and adaptation of knowledge, it builds and supports solutions that can impact the greatest number of people through the intelligent application of institutional infrastructure, expertise, and capital, and it partners with those who embrace industry-disrupting trends and technologies.

J. Gurwin Foundation

The J. Gurwin Foundation was established in 1959 by Joseph Gurwin, a Lithuanian immigrant and prominent Jewish industrialist. Mr. Gurwin came to the United States in 1936, alone, at the age of 16 to continue his studies. In the years that followed, his parents, friends, and relatives perished in the Holocaust. He was the lucky one which motivated him to use his accumulated wealth and leadership positions to help insure that future generations would never meet a similar fate. By supporting Jewish philanthropic causes in the US and abroad, he believed that supporting higher education, advancing tolerance and community would strengthen the bonds that keep us united.

Today, the Foundation continues its commitment to the values established by its founder. Together, Joseph's daughter, Laura Flug, and granddaughter, Danielle Flug Capalino, have focused on extending their reach to undervalued communities, to women's issues and on supporting basic science and early stage technologies in healthcare to advance the vision first established over 60 years ago.

PARTNERS



OUR FUTURE

The DICE program provided a platform for Columbia pre-doctoral and post-doctoral scientists from underrepresented groups to access networking, mentorship and education around life science and physical science commercialization, a component of science that is often overlooked in traditional academic training. Feedback from the inaugural and 2022 cohorts have reinforced the importance of DEI programs for early career scientists and with the generous support from Digitalis Commons and the J.Gurwin Foundation, the program will continue for another cycle. With generous support from Columbia's Herbert Irving Comprehensive Cancer Center, the program is expanding to include a seminar series and networking opportunities for early career faculty, where data supports significant increase in innovation from faculty when there is early exposure to patenting and commercialization.

