



2024 ACE Awardee Tessa Hill Presents at Davis Science Café

Ocean acidification is a major problem for shell-building organisms, like oysters, mussels, clams and coral reefs. For about two decades, [2024 ACE Awardee Tessa Hill](#) and her colleagues have partnered with Marin County-based Hog Island Oyster Company to explore ways to mitigate the effects of ocean acidification on shellfish. Hill and her colleagues monitored seven seagrass meadows in six different estuaries in California for about six years, tracking the chemical shifts that occurred in the water. "We found that seagrass meadows improved the water chemistry for the surrounding waters over 65% of the time. Additionally, we found that sediment inside seagrass beds can have up to twice as much stored carbon as the sediment and estuary around it. This rate is a rate three times higher than terrestrial forests," said Hill at the latest [Davis Science Café series](#). The research was supported by various funding agencies, including Sea Grant California, the State of California Ocean Protection Council and [UC Davis Venture Catalyst](#).

[Read More](#)

PITCH DAY

MoFo ScaleUP Palo Alto



CALL FOR PITCH DECKS

Pitch Day Palo Alto

Venture Catalyst partner [Morrison Foerster](#) is excited to announce a two-track, in-person Pitch Day in Palo Alto on September 26! Companies are invited to submit their pitch decks for one of two pitch sessions - the first geared toward the life sciences sector, and the second focused on general technology innovation. Finalists will have the opportunity to pitch to a panel of local venture capitalists focused on their chosen sector. To submit your pitch deck for consideration, please send a non-confidential deck and any relevant questions to PitchDayPA@mofo.com by **Friday, August 2, 2024**.

[Learn More](#)

UC Davis Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship Business Development Fellowship Applications Now Open

Applications are now open for the 2024-2025 Business Development Fellowship Program, hosted by the [Mike and Renee Child Institute for Innovation and Entrepreneurship](#). The 9-month program is designed to provide UC Davis graduate students, Ph.D. candidates, and postdoctoral researchers with the opportunity to enhance their entrepreneurial skills through MBA-level coursework and extensive networking opportunities. Participants will engage in five core courses, join the [UC Entrepreneurship Academy](#), and have the chance to compete in the [Big Bang! Business Competition](#). The program is intensive, requiring a commitment of 15-20 hours per week, and aims to prepare fellows for careers in industry or to launch their own startups.



[Apply Here](#)

LifeSpace Labs Launches Flex Bioculture Program



UC Davis Venture Catalyst [DRIVE](#) partner, [LifeSpace Labs](#), has launched a one-of-a-kind Flex Bioculture program right in our backyard! The Vacaville incubator now offers advanced fermentation and cell culture bioprocessing services to startups, researchers, and academic institutions. This innovative service is designed to connect startups with in-demand bioreactor systems, empowering

them to thrive in the dynamic landscape of biotechnology. LifeSpace Labs' hands-on approach supports innovators with efficient and scalable solutions, from early process development to commercialization.

[Learn More](#)

UC Davis-associated Startup TurtleTree Launches Partnership with Strive Nutrition

[TurtleTree](#), a UC Davis-associated startup that does its research and development out of the Venture Catalyst DRIVE partner [Lab@AgStart](#) in Woodland, has announced a second partnership to use its product in new food offerings. The startup announced last week that it's partnered with [Strive Nutrition Corp.](#), a Wichita, Kansas-based company that makes plant-based and lab-produced milk beverages. Under the partnership, Strive will use TurtleTree's lab-grown lactoferrin, LF+, in a number of upcoming products, including an immunity support beverage and a protein powder.



[Read More at Sac Biz Journal](#)

Funding Opportunities

ARPA-H SBIR/STTR Grant Opportunities

ARPA-H just released new SBIR/STTR opportunities with topics ranging from personalized nutrition as medicine to precision brain targeting to cell sorting and gene delivery wearables. Applicants may select Phase I (\$600,000 for up to two years), Fast-Track (\$600,000 for up to two years for Phase I, and up to \$3,500,000 for up to 3 years for Phase II), or Direct-to-Phase II (\$3,500,000 for up to 3 years) depending on the topic. [Learn more](#). Deadline: July 26, 2024

EPA SBIR/STTR Solicitation/BAA

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), as part of its Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) program, is seeking proposals from startups and small businesses to develop novel environmental technologies. [Learn more](#). Deadline: August 21, 2024

DOE Electronics Scrap Recycling Advancement Prize (E-SCRAP)

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recently launched the Electronics Scrap Recycling Advancement Prize. This three-phase competition will award up to \$4 million to competitors to substantially increase the production and use of critical materials recovered from electronic scrap - or e-scrap. [Learn more](#).

Deadline: September 4, 2024

NIH Small Business Transition Grant

The Small Business Transition Grant for New Entrepreneurs Notices of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) aim to support career development and the conduct of research and development under a new entrepreneur's direction. Optimal PDs/PIs for this award are early-career scientists and professionals with research, technology development, and/or healthcare delivery skills and experience, but limited entrepreneurial and independent (non-mentored) research leadership experience. [Learn more](#). Deadline: September 5, 2024

Agriculture and Food Research Initiative - Foundational and Applied Science Program

To meet the growing population's food needs, we must develop innovative, safe, and sustainable management strategies for livestock, crops, and critical underlying resources. Applications that address climate change, food and nutrition security, expanding markets for producers, indigenous traditional ecological knowledge, and equity for underserved producers are welcome. [Apply here](#). Deadline:

December 31, 2024

Growth Factory - Accelerating Venture-Backable Startups

The goal of this local startup accelerator is to help founders of pre-seed to seed stage venture backable companies located in the Greater Sacramento Region rapidly achieve product-market fit, positioning them to raise funds and achieve revenue of \$1M in ARR within 18 months. Applications are open on a rolling admissions basis. [Apply here](#).

UC Davis Office of Research - Links to Funding Sources

Browse the listings of funding announcements provided by sponsoring agencies and other pertinent information about obtaining critical research funding. [View the complete list here](#).

Educational Opportunities

Choose Folsom: NCID Pitch Nights

Please join the Northern California Innovation District the 3rd Thursday of every month to hear from local start-ups. [Register here](#). Date: July 18, 2024 | 5:00-6:30pm PDT

Startup Pitch Workshop

Selected startups will present their 5-minute startup pitch and receive valuable feedback from experienced pitch coaches. If your pitch impresses the judges, you'll be invited to present to local angel investors at the Choose Folsom NCID pitch night. [Learn more](#). Date: July 24, 2024 | 5:30-7:00pm PDT

2024 Lean Innovator

Join the Carlsen Center at Sac State for a 10-week-long cohort program supporting pre-seed startups in gaining traction with their customers. The curriculum and program focuses your efforts on doing the

things that matter in gaining traction, so you can engage customers while gaining evidence that systematically de-risks your startup. [Apply here](#). Deadline: July 28, 2024

Techstars Venture Deals Course Summer 2024

Presented by Techstars in collaboration with Kauffman Fellows, the Venture Deals 6-week course is based on the book *Venture Deals*, written by Brad Feld and Jason Mendelson, and was created with the goal of eliminating the massive information asymmetry between the entrepreneur and investor. [Apply here](#). Deadline: July 29, 2024

NHLBI Webinar - From Target to Translational Funding

This presentation will provide an overview of key elements of early-stage drug development to consider when seeking translational funding. It will delve into the significance of protein target selection, pharmacological target validation, and clinical tractability, emphasizing the importance of these factors to funding groups. [Register here](#). Date: July 30, 2024 | 9:00-10:00am PDT

OUP Webinar: Meet the VC's - Climate Tech

Join the second installment of OUP's Meet the VCs series, this time focused on ClimateTech, with Christina Karapataki of Breakthrough Energy Ventures and Kyle Teamey of RA Capital. [Register here](#). Date: July 31, 2024 | 9:00am PDT

NorCal Entrepreneur Hub

The NorCal Entrepreneur Hub is a dynamic online platform that enables innovators, startup founders, and small business owners to find and connect with the right resources for their business, including investors, universities, mentoring programs, networking groups, training programs, and more. This FREE regional tool is a great place for any startup founder or small business owner to get started and/or look for resources as you grow. [Learn more](#).

Regional Events

SacTech Social July 2024

Come have a drink at Hop Gardens and join an incredible group of folks to learn about tech, meet new friends, start collaborations and maybe even find a job or hire a new dev! [RSVP here](#). Date: July 25, 2024 | 6:00-8:00pm PDT

Startup Happy Hour

Come join for a fun evening at Alaro Craft Brewery in Sacramento! Network, relax, and connect with fellow startup enthusiasts. Featuring the founder and CEO of Plum Identity, John Coss. [RSVP here](#). Date: July 30, 2024 | 5:00-7:00pm PDT

1 Million Cups

Present your early-stage company to your peers. Or just grab a coffee and listen.
Date: [Every Wednesday](#)

Business Casual: Get Your Creative Biz Together

Every fourth Saturday of the month, Atrium's mentorship team will be hosting a free business basics discussion group. Growing your creative business can seem like a daunting task. Atrium is here to help take your ideas from the drawing board to the boardroom with free "get started right" business workshops for creative startups. Come with a laptop and a ready-to-grow mentality. [Register now](#). Date: Ongoing

California Life Sciences Institute FAST Advisory Program

Get the coaching you need to perfect your business model. [Apply now](#). Date: Ongoing

Bay Area NSF Innovation Corps Immersive Short Course

Join the weeklong immersive course for university researchers and early-stage startup founders. [Apply now](#). Date: Ongoing

Industry Events

Salesforce Dreamforce 2024

The self-proclaimed largest AI event in the world - learn how to transform your company into an AI Enterprise. [Learn more](#). Dates: September 17-19, 2024

GFX24 Venture Summit

GFX24 is a 2-day Venture Summit & Startup Showcase that offers a unique opportunity to engage with key decision-makers and explore groundbreaking solutions in industries such as Future of Food, Health & Medicine; Smart Cities, Transportation & Climate; and Enterprise AI, Data & Security. [Learn more](#). Dates: October 9-10, 2024

SOSV Climate Tech Summit

The SOSV Climate Tech Summit aims to convene the climate tech startup ecosystem of founders, investors, technologists, corporates, policymakers and media to discuss the extreme challenges ahead. [Learn more](#). Dates: October 14-18, 2024

TechCrunch Disrupt 2024

Disrupt is where you'll find innovation for every stage of your startup journey. Whether you're a budding founder with a revolutionary idea, a seasoned startup looking to scale, or an investor seeking the next big thing, Disrupt offers unparalleled resources, connections, and expert insights to propel your venture forward. [Learn more](#). Dates: October 28-30, 2024

About Venture Catalyst

UC Davis Venture Catalyst supports the development of new UC Davis-associated ventures fueled by university research and technology. Venture Catalyst offers several innovative programs that bridge the gap between early-stage research and commercialization and provide entrepreneurs the resources, support, and connections needed to successfully form and grow technology-based startups. With a focus on accelerating technology-led economic development in the Davis-Sacramento region, Venture Catalyst also works closely with partners in the regional innovation and economic development ecosystems.

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