

## Venture Catalyst Upcoming Events

### Integrating Market Access and Reimbursement Strategies in Medical Technology Development Webinar

- **Speaker:** Jessica Holmes, Founder and Principal of Regency Market Access Consulting, LLC
- **Date and Time:** October 25, 10:00-11:15 AM PDT
- **Location:** Virtual (Zoom registration required)

In the rapidly evolving landscape of medical technology, establishing robust market access and reimbursement strategies are critical components that can substantially impact a product and company's success: from obtaining funding to successful commercialization. This lecture will discuss the significance of these elements within the broader context of strategic and tactical planning for technology development.

[Register Here](#)

### Demystifying SBIR/STTR Budgeting Workshop

- **Speaker:** Andrew Newman, CPA at Newman Associates
- **Date and Time:** November 14, 4:15-6:00 PM PST
- **Location:** [Aggie Square Launch Space, 2270 Stockton Blvd, Sacramento](#)

Are you interested in writing a federal SBIR/STTR grant and a little confused by the budgeting process? Or perhaps you're an entrepreneur who has an SBIR/STTR and want to know what to do next to keep your financial compliance in good standing? Join Andrew Newman CPA, Venture Catalyst, and Advocacy Chiefs to learn about the basics of building an SBIR/STTR-aligned budget and how to set yourself up for smoother compliance for the pre-award, post-award, and closeout phases of these grants. Register below to secure your seat!

[Register Here](#)

### Bringing Impact Investors into your Funding Mix Knowledge Exchange

- **Speaker:** Alfredo Silva, JD, at Morrison Foerester LLP (MoFo)
- **Date and Time:** December 3, 4:15-6:00 PM PST

- **Location:** [Aggie Square Launch Space, 2270 Stockton Blvd, Sacramento](#)

Is your startup focused on having a social and/or environmental impact? Join Venture Catalyst, Aggies for Climate Action and Equity (ACE) and your like-minded peers to find out what impact investors look for, learn how their expectations may differ from other private investors, and explore some legal mechanisms to ensure your startup stays mission-aligned regardless of investor type.

[Register Here](#)

## UC Davis and BioInnovation Institute Partner to Improve Protein Nutrition on Global Scale

UC Davis announced an expanded collaboration with the [BioInnovation Institute](#) (BII) to accelerate commercialization of discoveries in protein nutrition important to consumers around the world.



“Protein nutrition has always been a challenge in many parts of the world,” said Justin Siegel, professor of molecular medicine at UC Davis and faculty director of IIFH. “Now with the wildly successful introduction of GLP-1 drugs such as Ozempic and Wegovy treating obesity and metabolic health concerns, protein nutrition for maintaining lean body mass presents new innovation opportunities in the food tech startup community.”

Siegel is a cofounder of [Digestiva](#), a startup based on a UC Davis invention making better protein nutrition more affordable for all consumers.

[Read More](#)

## UC Davis-associated Startup MARAbio Raises \$19M to Bring New Autism Blood Test to Market

**MARAbio**

UC Davis-associated startup [MARAbio](#), a precision immunology company whose mission is to detect, treat and prevent Maternal Autoantibody Related Autism, has closed \$19 million in Series A financing led by MAK Capital One, LLC (MAK), the New York-based investment management firm. The funding round is open to new investors through year-end 2024.

Maternal Autoantibody Related Autism (MARA) is a biological subtype of autism caused by the presence of a pattern of distinct autoantibodies in a mother. The discovery of MARA represents a major scientific breakthrough in

the earlier and pre-symptomatic detection of autism in a child. Shown to be associated with more severe or profound forms of autism, MARA is estimated to comprise approximately 20% of all individuals with autism. MARAbio's breakthrough science enables earlier behavioral intervention and treatment for children with autism, the benefits of which have been demonstrated in numerous clinical studies.

[Read More at PR Newswire](#)

## SBA Names Woodland's AgStart Leader of Central Valley Innovation Cluster Effort



The Small Business Administration named Woodland-based [AgStart](#), as the leader of an innovation cluster for agriculture, food and related technology in California's Central Valley.

Under the award, the SBA designated AgStart as the administrator to drive a Regional Innovation Cluster initiative supporting innovative small businesses and entrepreneur support organizations.

"Our region has the size, scale, technology and crop diversity to be a leading innovation hub for AgriFood Technologies, and this SBA award recognizes this potential," said chairman of AgStart, John Selep. AgStart is also a member of the [Venture Catalyst DRIVE Network](#).

[Read More at the Sac Biz Journal](#)

## UC Davis-associated Startup Pheronym Granted Patent for Plant-Parasitic Nematode Biocontrol Breakthrough

UC Davis-associated startup [Pheronym](#), an ag-biotech pest management company, has been granted its second US patent, this one focused on plant-parasitic nematode (PPN) biocontrol. The patent for Pherocoat™ will help address the pressing need for a natural, non-toxic approach to PPN control. According to *The Fight against Plant-Parasitic Nematodes: Current Status of Bacterial and Fungal Biocontrol Agents*, PPNs pose a major threat to food security and plant health, with estimated annual global economic losses \$173 billion.



Pheronym is also currently recruiting for a chemical biology/ecology position and fermentation and bioprocessing scientist:

- [Chemical Biology Research associate application link](#)
- [Fermentation and bioprocessing scientist/engineer application link](#)

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## Funding Opportunities

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### **VentureWell Ecosystem Futures Fellowship**

Lead the future of innovation at your higher education institution with the VentureWell Ecosystem Futures Fellowship. This new fellowship focuses on scalable science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) innovation and entrepreneurship (I&E) ecosystem solutions through the lens of environmental and social sustainability and inclusive innovation. This program offers professional development, immersive learning experiences, and a supportive community of leaders. [Learn more](#). Deadline: October 23, 2024

### **Activate Fellowship 2025 Cohort**

Activate is accepting applications for its 2025 Fellowship, a two-year program supporting early-stage science entrepreneurs with funding, technical resources, and mentorship. This program is ideal for scientists and engineers looking to transform technological breakthroughs into market-ready businesses. Successful applicants will join a community of over 249 Fellows, leveraging a network that has raised \$2.4 billion in follow-on funding. [Learn more](#). Deadline: October 23, 2024

### **I-CREATE Accelerator + Prize Challenge**

This 6-month program will include monthly, interactive seminars covering the activities and steps to successfully take your innovation from ideation to market launch. After reviewing applications for alignment with the BARDA mission and areas of interest relevant to medical devices or diagnostics, I-CREATE will select six teams to receive wrap-around accelerator support services, who will ultimately compete for a cash prize of up to \$50,000 USD. [Learn more](#). Deadline: November 1, 2024

### **NHLBI's Catalyze Preclinical Program Expression of Interest Submissions**

The Catalyze Program initiatives support product development, including product definition small molecules, biologics, devices, diagnostics and enabling technologies and transformative platforms through five grant funding opportunities. Catalyze preclinical services support preclinical development activities from end-stage proof-of-concept, through preclinical development and US regulatory approval. Applicants request specific services to advance their technology. [Learn more](#). Deadline: November 21, 2024

### **Breakthrough Energy Fellows**

The Breakthrough Energy Fellows program is now accepting applications for its Cohort 5, offering three fellowships: Innovator, Business, and Explorer. This program is aimed at individuals developing early-stage climate technologies with the potential to significantly reduce greenhouse gases. Innovators and Explorers should apply if they are working on breakthrough solutions, whether already incorporated or at the research phase. [Learn more](#). Deadline: December 2, 2024

### **Climate Program Office FY2025 Modeling, Analysis, Predictions, and Projections Program**

CPO advances science and informs decisions for climate adaptation, resilience, and mitigation through NOAA and the U.S. Global Change Research Program. Its research addresses urgent climate challenges, fosters innovation in Earth and social sciences, supports key reports like the National Climate Assessment, enhances NOAA's capabilities for drought, heat, and flood information, and educates the next generation of experts to support NOAA's climate mission. [Learn more](#). Deadline: December 9, 2024

### **Regional Resilience Innovation Incubator**

The Regional Resilience Innovation Incubators (R2I2) is a cross-directorate NSF solicitation led by the

Directorate for Geosciences (GEO) and the Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIP). R2I2 will support community- engaged team science to co-design high-impact solutions to climate-related societal challenges that leverage recent advances in fundamental climate change and Earth system science research. [Learn more](#). Deadline: December 16, 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](#).

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## **Educational Opportunities**

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### **AgriFoodTech Entrepreneurs Resource Program**

The Sacramento Entrepreneurial Growth Alliance and the leadership of AgStart are offering no-cost expert-driven support to enable AgriTech startup to become investment-ready and strategically positioned for market entry. [Learn more](#). Date: Ongoing

### **Eva Garland Consulting: Department of Energy Funding for Emerging Businesses Webinar**

EGC is pleased to present the third session of their three-part Fall 2024 Grant Webinar Series this October: Department of Energy Funding for Emerging Businesses. This webinar will cover the fundamentals of the DOE SBIR / STTR program, including eligibility, application process, useful resources, success rate, tips in preparing a competitive proposal, as well as insights on ARPA-E and other non-dilutive funding opportunities available at the DOE. [Register here](#). Date: October 23, 2024

### **Building Collaboration: UC Davis and Lawrence Berkeley National Lab**

Join us for a virtual morning with our colleagues from Lawrence Berkeley National Lab! We'll cover an overview of the Lab and UCD leadership on research priorities, details on unique user facilities and how to access them, and info on internship programs. [Register here](#). Date: October 23, 2024

### **Catalyze "Speak to the Experts" Webinar**

Catalyze Office Hours are an opportunity for anyone engaged in or interested in translational science to informally connect with several members of the Catalyze technical team. Come with questions about the Catalyze program, the application process, general medical product development, or simply drop in to listen to the conversation! [Register here](#). Date: October 30, 2024

### **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](#).

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## Regional Events

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### Startup Happy Hour

Come join for a fun evening at Alaro Craft Brewery! Network, relax, and connect with fellow startup enthusiasts. Featuring Elizabeth Connolly, President of Trifecta Nutrition. [RSVP here](#). Date: October 29, 2024 | 5:00-7:00pm PDT

### 2024 Sacramento Inno Awards

The Sacramento Inno Awards is a recognition and celebration of innovation in the Sacramento region and the people and organizations behind innovation. [Get tickets here](#). Date: November 14, 2024

### 1 Million Cups

Present your early-stage company to your peers. Or just grab a coffee and listen.

Date: [Every Wednesday](#)

### 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

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## Industry Events

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### Seed Central: California Seed Association's Fall Student Tour & Career Fair

Join Seed Central for an engaging networking event at UC Davis, focused on advancements in agricultural technology and industry collaboration. This event brings together innovators, researchers, and professionals to exchange ideas and foster partnerships in the seed and agbio sectors. Don't miss this opportunity to connect with leaders in the field. [Register here](#). Date: October 17, 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

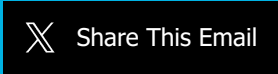
### Seed Central: The Essential Networking Event

This networking event will focus on the latest trends in seed technology and agricultural innovation. Featuring a Job Panorama with Sakata Seed America panelists who will discuss their respective jobs, and what sort of teams it takes in each functional area of the company to go from research through production, supply chain, operations, sales and marketing, all the way to the market. [Register here](#). Date: November 14, 2024

**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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