



BIOHIVE WITS • MENTOR INTRODUCTIONS

Meet your mentors

Start the conversation. Meet. Connect. Explore.

Keelah Barger



TITLE & ORGANIZATION

Head of Business Development & Operations,
Rebel Medicine

SCIENTIFIC FIELD / DOMAIN

Biochemistry - molecular biology - material
science

BACKGROUND & CAREER PATH

Undergraduate degree in biochemistry; master's in biotechnology; MBA. Transitioned from the lab to business and operations.

LOCATION & EXPERIENCE

Salt Lake City, UT. 5 years.

MENTORSHIP & LINKS

Open to: Career development

Learn more: [LinkedIn](#)

WHERE I FIND JOY

I like being strategic about how to best bring scientific discoveries to the clinic and market. I love translating good science into good products!

Maribel Cedillo



TITLE & ORGANIZATION

Research Assistant Professor, Internal Medicine,
U of U

SCIENTIFIC FIELD / DOMAIN

Lifestyle & behavior change interventions for
collectivist populations

BACKGROUND & CAREER PATH

Doctor of Medical Science in Healthcare Leadership, Business Management, & Digital Transformation.

LOCATION & EXPERIENCE

Salt Lake City, UT. Nine years at the University of Utah.

WHERE I FIND JOY

Innovating.

MENTORSHIP & LINKS

Open to: Career development

Learn more: [LinkedIn](#) · peer-reviewed
manuscripts

Brooke Clark



TITLE & ORGANIZATION

Principal Advisor, Seat 1A

SCIENTIFIC FIELD / DOMAIN

Biotech / life science - people team leader

BACKGROUND & CAREER PATH

Ex-Reursion Head of Talent Acquisition - scaled from 40 to 600 employees through IPO.

LOCATION & EXPERIENCE

Salt Lake City, UT. Over twenty years in recruiting and people leadership, nine years in biotech.

MENTORSHIP & LINKS

Open to: Career development

Learn more: [LinkedIn](#) · [Career Newsletter](#)

WHERE I FIND JOY

My purpose: helping others articulate their value, guiding scientists to connect their work to business impact and patient outcomes, and advising on job search strategy.

Camille Cook



TITLE & ORGANIZATION

CEO & Founder, EvidenX

SCIENTIFIC FIELD / DOMAIN

Biotech, data & diagnostics; AI/ML neural network design, data linkage, RWD/RWE, HEOR, and patient/provider-access technology platforms

BACKGROUND & CAREER PATH

I began my career in direct patient care and progressed through public health and high-complexity diagnostics, ultimately leading global product, evidence, and market strategy across biotech. Over nearly two decades, I've held senior leadership guiding cross-functional teams, shaping organizational strategy, and aligning innovation pipelines with clinical and market needs. Today, as a consultant, professor, and biotech executive, I help drive next-generation AI/ML (biocomputation) diagnostic platforms and patient-access technologies that strengthen both scientific rigor and strategic impact.

LOCATION & EXPERIENCE

Sandy, UT. 18+ years across biotech, diagnostics, digital health, and regulatory strategy. VP of Strategic Marketing at IntadisBio, with deep experience in evidence generation and technology commercialization.

MENTORSHIP & LINKS

Open to: Leadership, strategy & innovation, neural network design, regulatory pathways, patient-access technology, business development
Learn more: [LinkedIn](#)

WHERE I FIND JOY

I'm energized by building technologies that deepen clinical insight and strengthen access to care and outcomes. The work feels most meaningful when I can turn complex scientific and regulatory challenges into practical, scalable solutions for patients and providers. From a leadership perspective, I'm especially passionate about helping people grow from tactical execution into strategic, systems-level leadership-guiding them to see the broader landscape, anticipate impact, and align innovation with organizational vision.

Dennis Cook



TITLE & ORGANIZATION

VP Laboratory Operations, Myriad Genetics

SCIENTIFIC FIELD / DOMAIN

Clinical laboratory operations / high-throughput automation

BACKGROUND & CAREER PATH

Diverse experience spanning academia, clinical molecular diagnostics, biotechnology field service engineering and applications science, paternity/ancestry testing, start-ups and mature companies.

LOCATION & EXPERIENCE

Salt Lake City, UT. Over thirty years to date (and still counting), including fifteen years at Myriad Genetics.

MENTORSHIP & LINKS

Open to: Leadership, technical, and career development

Learn more: [LinkedIn](#)

WHERE I FIND JOY

I love to identify, develop, and orchestrate everyone's special talents to create success far greater for the team than would be accomplished individually.

Leah Frautschy



TITLE & ORGANIZATION

VP Clinical Manufacturing & Site Head, Denali Therapeutics

SCIENTIFIC FIELD / DOMAIN

Engineering - leadership of biotech manufacturing & facility design

BACKGROUND & CAREER PATH

BS in Chemical Engineering (BChE); earned a Master of Engineering Management while working, 10 years after the BChE. Moved into leadership around year 8 and senior leadership around year 12, with more than 30 years in the field.

LOCATION & EXPERIENCE

Denali Therapeutics in Salt Lake City ~5 years; Genentech in South San Francisco for 27 years. Leadership in BioHive WITS; alumna of Alpha Sigma Kappa, Women in Technical Studies.

MENTORSHIP & LINKS

Open to: Career development
Learn more: [LinkedIn](#)

WHERE I FIND JOY

Building and leading organizations in transformation in broad, challenging roles that draw upon the range of my experience-with a lot of learning included.

Sage Frehner



TITLE & ORGANIZATION

Study Director II, Nelson Labs

SCIENTIFIC FIELD / DOMAIN

Microbiology, cell biology, regenerative medicine

BACKGROUND & CAREER PATH

Master's in neuroscience; PhD candidate in molecular biology and biochemistry. Transitioned from academia to industry.

LOCATION & EXPERIENCE

Salt Lake City, UT. Two months in my current role; 10+ years of research experience.

MENTORSHIP & LINKS

Open to: All / any mentorship types

Learn more: [LinkedIn](#)

WHERE I FIND JOY

Research promoting medical advancements! I love helping to build the foundation of future research and knowing that I am helping patients in need.

Amber Gonda



TITLE & ORGANIZATION

Assistant Professor, Brigham Young University

SCIENTIFIC FIELD / DOMAIN

Cancer biology and anatomy

BACKGROUND & CAREER PATH

PhD in Anatomy and Cancer Biology; interests in translational research and medicine.

LOCATION & EXPERIENCE

Provo, UT. I have spent three years in my current role. I participated in Women in Life Sciences at BYU.

WHERE I FIND JOY

In my job, I find the most joy in learning and connecting with others in the learning process. That happens all the time in research discussions, experimental troubleshooting, project planning, and teaching courses.

MENTORSHIP & LINKS

Open to: Career development

Learn more: [BYU directory](#) · [Google Scholar](#) · [LinkedIn](#)

Sandra Hope



TITLE & ORGANIZATION

Professor, Brigham Young University

SCIENTIFIC FIELD / DOMAIN

Immunology, molecular biology, transgenics & nanoinjection technology

BACKGROUND & CAREER PATH

PhD in Veterinary Science, post-doc at medical school, Professor at BYU (22 years). Obtained an Executive MBA after becoming a full professor, with multiple patents and IPs. Started an LLC.

LOCATION & EXPERIENCE

Provo, UT. 22 years as a BYU professor.

MENTORSHIP & LINKS

Open to: Leadership skills development
Learn more: [LinkedIn](#)

WHERE I FIND JOY

I love helping my research teams advance projects by fostering a positive culture where each person's talents support the process and where mental focus and creativity flow.

Katherine Matsumoto



TITLE & ORGANIZATION

VP Corporate Communications, Recursion

SCIENTIFIC FIELD / DOMAIN

Linguistics

BACKGROUND & CAREER PATH

PhD in Linguistics; moved into industry immediately after grad school, working in applied strategy and communications.

LOCATION & EXPERIENCE

Salt Lake City, UT. Fifteen years in strategy and communications.

WHERE I FIND JOY

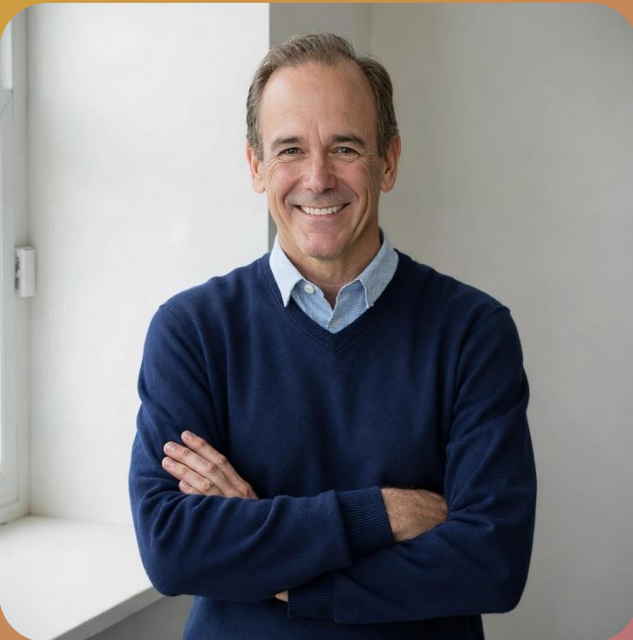
Helping people find their voice, purpose, and resilience.

MENTORSHIP & LINKS

Open to: Career development

Learn more: [LinkedIn](#)

Craig Mosman



TITLE & ORGANIZATION
CEO, NanoKar Therapeutics

SCIENTIFIC FIELD / DOMAIN
Immunology / global health

BACKGROUND & CAREER PATH
JD. Invested in early-stage biotechnology for 26 years and participated in management.

LOCATION & EXPERIENCE
Salt Lake City, UT (NanoKar founded in 2026)

MENTORSHIP & LINKS
Open to: Career development
Learn more: [LinkedIn](#) · [NanoKar Therapeutics](#)

WHERE I FIND JOY
I love helping to make a significant impact on global health. I love the strategy of positioning a company for commercialization.

Jess Nani



TITLE & ORGANIZATION

Marketing and Events Manager, Blackrock
Neurotech

SCIENTIFIC FIELD / DOMAIN

Invasive neurotechnology; medical device
marketing

BACKGROUND & CAREER PATH

Non-traditional path into biotech- background in Technical Writing and Public Relations, spent time in luxury real estate and tourism, then transitioned into the biotech/neuro space.

LOCATION & EXPERIENCE

Salt Lake City. Four cumulative years in my current role. Member of the WITS Leadership Council.

MENTORSHIP & LINKS

Open to: Career development
Learn more: [LinkedIn](#)

WHERE I FIND JOY

Working for an organization restoring function to people with neurological disorders or paralysis drives my efforts every day. Engaging with real people, hearing their stories, and how our work improves their lives makes every ounce of hard work worth it.

Anusha Pusuluri



TITLE & ORGANIZATION

Principal Scientist, Delivery Lead, Seek Labs

SCIENTIFIC FIELD / DOMAIN

Drug delivery and translational sciences

BACKGROUND & CAREER PATH

PhD in Chemical Engineering with training in drug delivery and translational bioengineering; transitioned from academia at UCSB and Harvard into industry roles spanning formulation development, targeted delivery, platform building, and biotech R&D leadership.

LOCATION & EXPERIENCE

Salt Lake City, UT. 12+ years in drug delivery and translational bioengineering across academia and biotech. Former Chair, Gordon Research Seminar on Drug Carriers in Medicine and Biology; peer reviewer for leading drug delivery journals; former Guest Editor, for a special addition of *Pharmaceutics*. Mentored undergraduate women through the UCSB Women in STEM Mentorship Program and supported outreach through EUREKA, SIMS, TechSavvy, and Girls Inc.

WHERE I FIND JOY

I find the most joy in solving cutting-edge problems that can redefine a field and ultimately make a meaningful impact on healthcare and patients' lives. I'm especially energized by working alongside brilliant minds, learning from one another, and collaboratively tackling foundational problems through innovation and creative problem solving.

MENTORSHIP & LINKS

Open to: Both technical and career development
Learn more: [Google Scholar](#) · [LinkedIn](#)

Rebecca Rynders



TITLE & ORGANIZATION

Principal Consultant / Founder, Hoven Clinical, LLC & CAVE, LLC

SCIENTIFIC FIELD / DOMAIN

Clinical research

BACKGROUND & CAREER PATH

BS in Nursing; MS in Pharmacology & Toxicology. Managed a large inpatient research facility for 10 years, moved into biotech clinical development (Recursion, Pathos, Clene), currently building a clinical research marketplace platform.

LOCATION & EXPERIENCE

Salt Lake City, UT. Sixteen years in field. Silicon Slopes Start School, BioHive, BioUtah.

MENTORSHIP & LINKS

Open to: Technical skills development
Learn more: [LinkedIn](#)

WHERE I FIND JOY

Creating tools that optimize and create efficiencies to get solutions faster. I also deeply value collaboration and relationships and love teamwork.

Maliha Tasnim



TITLE & ORGANIZATION

Research Scientist I, Seek Labs

SCIENTIFIC FIELD / DOMAIN

Wet-lab molecular biology — CRISPR therapeutics

BACKGROUND & CAREER PATH

Trained as a physician (MBBS, Dhaka Medical College, Bangladesh) and practiced clinically before moving into research. PhD in Cell Biology (BYU, 2024), postdoc at the University of Utah, now developing programmable CRISPR therapeutics in industry. Path spans zebrafish and mammalian systems, genome editing, and bioinformatics.

LOCATION & EXPERIENCE

Salt Lake City, UT. Over seven years of research experience across genome editing, transcriptomics, and cell/molecular biology; at Seek Labs since January 2025.

WHERE I FIND JOY

What I enjoy most is thinking through hard problems and finding creative ways around them — and I like taking on things I haven't done before, whether that's a new assay, a different delivery approach, or a sequencing analysis. I also enjoy helping earlier-career scientists work through that same kind of problem-solving; I mentored thirteen undergraduates during my PhD.

MENTORSHIP & LINKS

Open to: Technical skills development

Learn more: [LinkedIn](#) · [Google Scholar](#)

Chad Testa



TITLE & ORGANIZATION

CEO, XO Technologies

SCIENTIFIC FIELD / DOMAIN

Swiss army knife for translational research in drug discovery and diagnostics

BACKGROUND & CAREER PATH

PhD in Chemistry, transitioned immediately to industry, where I advanced from Research Scientist to Senior Scientist, Director, Vice President, then CEO.

LOCATION & EXPERIENCE

Salt Lake City area. Twenty-four years of life sciences industry experience, eighteen years of executive experience, including three and a half years as CEO.

MENTORSHIP & LINKS

Open to: Career development

Learn more: [LinkedIn](#)

WHERE I FIND JOY

Passionate about bringing together and working with good people to start and grow businesses.

Steven Valdez



TITLE & ORGANIZATION

Director, Azunic

SCIENTIFIC FIELD / DOMAIN

Wet-lab molecular biology for toxicology & therapeutic development

BACKGROUND & CAREER PATH

15 years of academic cardiac muscle biology culminating in a molecular biology PhD. Recently transitioned from graduate program directly to industry (startup). Cross-trained in venture capital and finance. Lifelong computer nerd.

LOCATION & EXPERIENCE

Salt Lake City, UT. Less than one year in current role. Affiliated with BioHive and BioUtah; Nucleus Fund alumni.

MENTORSHIP & LINKS

Open to: Career development

WHERE I FIND JOY

Scientifically, I love solving hard problems that have broad impacts on human health and advancing our collective understanding of diseases. I have also been fortunate enough to mentor many students and help them navigate the process of career development.

Sebastian Valencia-Amores



TITLE & ORGANIZATION

PhD Candidate, Cell Biology & Physiology

SCIENTIFIC FIELD / DOMAIN

Systems biology — network biology, transcriptomics, epigenomics. Tissue engineering — cardiac tissue engineering, whole porcine heart decellularization

BACKGROUND & CAREER PATH

A.A.S. Medical Assistant, B.S. Neuroscience, PhD candidate in Cell Biology and Physiology.

LOCATION & EXPERIENCE

Provo, UT. Over seven years of research experience.

MENTORSHIP & LINKS

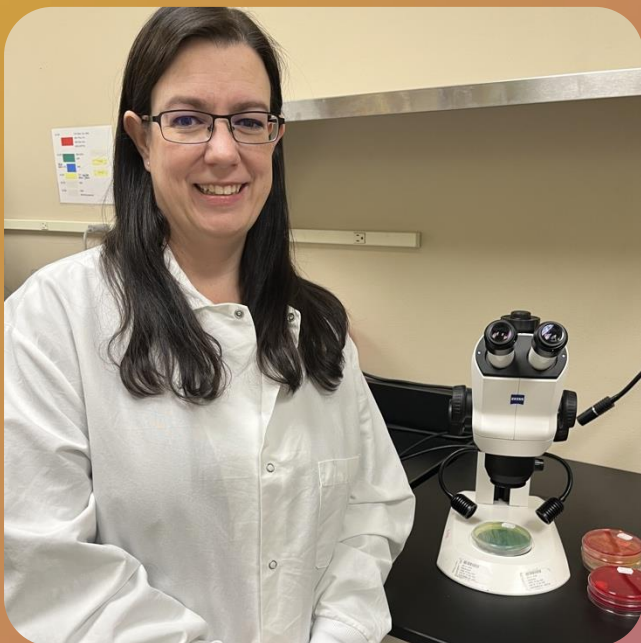
Open to: Career development

Learn more: [LinkedIn](#) · [Google Scholar](#)

WHERE I FIND JOY

Learning something new — especially when we can successfully untangle biological insights from data.

Christine Walton



TITLE & ORGANIZATION
Senior Scientist, Nelson Labs

SCIENTIFIC FIELD / DOMAIN
Microbiology & regulatory science - pharmaceutical & medical device product testing, USP microbiology methods, environmental monitoring, endoscope reprocessing, & microbiological quality systems

BACKGROUND & CAREER PATH
B.S. in Biology with a focus in cellular biology then transitioned into microbiology within the medical device and pharmaceutical industry.

LOCATION & EXPERIENCE
Salt Lake City, UT. Nineteen years with Nelson Labs. Member of multiple regulatory standards bodies: ASTM, ASM, PDA, and ISO.

MENTORSHIP & LINKS
Open to: One- time speed mentoring conversations, technical mentorship in microbiology & lab sciences, Women in STEM

WHERE I FIND JOY
I enjoy helping clients and colleagues solve complex microbiological and regulatory challenges while ensuring product quality and patient safety. I'm especially passionate about sharing knowledge, developing technical expertise in others, and helping emerging scientists build confidence in their careers.

Evita Weagel



TITLE & ORGANIZATION

Co-founder & CEO, Eris Biotech

SCIENTIFIC FIELD / DOMAIN

Small molecule drug development - cancer immunology

BACKGROUND & CAREER PATH

PhD in Molecular Biology; academic and industry experience; entrepreneur.

LOCATION & EXPERIENCE

Salt Lake City, UT. Two and a half years. BioHive Women in Tech & Science Council.

WHERE I FIND JOY

I find the most joy in the process of scientific discovery. I love that science continually gives me opportunities to ask new questions, keep trying, and satisfy my curiosity. I also love teaching and mentoring the next generation of scientists.

MENTORSHIP & LINKS

Open to: Career development

Learn more: [LinkedIn](#)