

Nucleate 2024-2025 Impact Report

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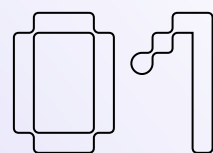
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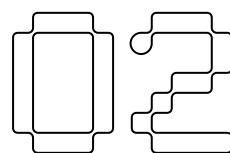
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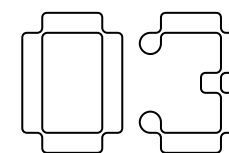
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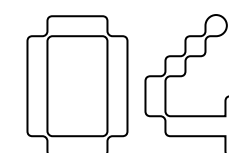
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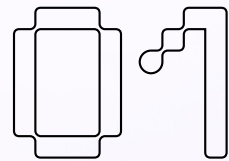
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NUCLEATE OVERVIEW





Foreword

Every year, Nucleate continues to grow because of the passion and teamwork of our volunteer leaders who dedicate thousands of hours to advancing our shared mission across the globe. This year's Impact Report is more than a summary of metrics — it's a celebration of the chapters and change-makers who power our organization from every corner of the world.

From local teams setting new standards of excellence in community building, to Activator alumni advancing clinical pipelines and launching climate tech startups, to mentors and partners opening doors behind the scenes — this report is about them. Their leadership, passion, and resilience are Nucleate's greatest resource and the source of our strength.

What began as a grassroots effort just a few years ago has evolved into a global force in life sciences innovation. Today, Nucleate spans continents, disciplines, and ecosystems —

proving that student-led innovation isn't just possible, it's powerful.

Our work at Nucleate is not driven by a central office or a single headquarters — it's fueled by a distributed network of empowered regional leaders who understand their communities better than anyone else. Our impact emerges from a constant exchange of strategy, ideas, and support between HQ and chapters. It's this decentralized model, united by a shared vision, that makes Nucleate unique.

We hope this year's Impact Report highlights the incredible talent, dedication, and global reach of our community. And we hope it leaves you inspired by what's possible when the next generation leads.

As we look ahead, we invite you to join us — whether as a mentor, partner, or future founder. Together, we're shaping a future of bold ideas, shared purpose, and lasting impact.

With gratitude,



Zach Cogan
Co-President
PhD Candidate, UCSF



Heer Joisher
Co-President
PhD Candidate, Harvard





Our Vision of Impact

At Nucleate, our mission is to empower the next generation of biotech leaders through free, open-access, and trainee-led programming that bridges academia and industry. Our vision is a world where bold scientific ideas can rapidly be deployed as tangible, real-world solutions — advancing human and planetary health through life sciences innovation.

We define impact as the enduring, positive change generated by our work — evaluated not only through quantitative metrics, but also through broader, long-term outcomes. All our activities and programs are designed to continuously advance innovation in the life sciences, whether by accelerating the translation of academic research into viable ventures, cultivating the leadership skills of emerging biotech founders, or fostering productive collaborations between scientific and industry stakeholders.

Quantitatively, we track metrics such as portfolio funding raised (USD), companies incorporated, jobs created, event participation (regionally and globally), and leadership demographics across our global network. As of this report, Nucleate Activator Alumni have raised over \$550 million and created more than 800 jobs — all in service of expanding access to innovative healthcare and improving lives worldwide.

Qualitatively, we look at the broader growth and influence of our community — ranging from skills and leadership experience gained, to the reach of mentorship networks, the strength of cross-sector collaborations, and the lasting relationships that drive scientific progress and innovation.

For this year’s Impact Report, the Impact Team is shining a spotlight on the heart of Nucleate: our people. Academic

trainees, start-up founders, and industry professionals alike bring extraordinary dedication, creativity, and vision to advancing our mission. This report celebrates their contributions and the collective progress they make possible.

The methodology of this report draws on a comprehensive set of sources, including internal data from chapter leadership and alumni — covering deal metrics, surveys, engagement records, and narrative team reports — as well as public databases. The curated key metrics, outlined above, reflect the August 2024–July 2025 program cycle. Together, these inputs provide a robust, data-driven view of Nucleate’s reach and performance against key KPIs. We are proud to share this report as a testament to Nucleate’s impact and as a springboard for exploring exciting opportunities ahead.



Sarah Chong
VP Impact, NYC
PhD candidate, New York University



Max Manzanarez
VP Data Strategy, SF



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VP Innovation, UK
PhD candidate, Oxford University



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Director of Research, UK
PhD candidate, King's College London



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Director of Ops and Strategy, Boston
Business Development Associate, XtalPi



Brianna Berrios
Director of Community and Events, NYC
PhD candidate, New York University



Devanshi Agarwal
Director of Women's Initiative, San Diego
PhD candidate, UCSD





Nucleate Executive Leadership

FTE



Oliver Dodd, PhD
Executive Director



Caroline Steingard, PhD
Global Dir. Of Finance



Julia Zhao, PhD
Global Director of Activator



Federico Caso, PhD
Director of ARIA Partnership



Stefan Dienstag
Associate Director of ARIA Community

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Outgoing Co-President
PhD Candidate, Harvard University



Zach Cogan
Outgoing Co-President
PhD Candidate, UCSF



Dante Dennis Acenas
Incoming Co-President
PhD Candidate, Unwiversity of Washington

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EVP Partnerships
Deferred MBA Candidate, Harvard University



Jei Diwakar, PhD
EVP Culture
Postdoctoral Researcher, Helmholtz Zentrum Munich



Shruti Sridhar
EVP, Global Education
PhD Candidate, National University of Singapore, Cancer Science Institute (CSI)



Jen Kosmatka
EVP Org Dev
PhD Candidate, MIT



Willie Xiang
EVP Org Dev
MBA (graduated), University of Chicago Booth



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EVP, Global Education
PhD Candidate, University of Texas (UT) Southwestern Medical Center



Isabella Atilio
EVP Comms
PhD candidate, University of Miami



Onkar Date
EVP Global Strategy
PhD Candidate, National University of Singapore



Inga Van den Bossche
EVP Research
PhD Candidate, University of Oxford



Willy Njeru
EVP Ops + People
PharmD Candidate, University of Rhode Island

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Marketing Strategy Associate, Johns Hopkins Medicine International (JHMI)

Angela Li

VP, Comms
Psychology, University of Waterloo

Olivia Kuckhahn

VP Emerging & Associate Chapters, Americas
PhD Candidate, University of Minnesota

Max Manzanarez

VP Data Strategy
Data Analyst, Nucleate

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Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Johns Hopkins University

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PhD Student, McGill University

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MS Student, Yeshiva University

Ankita Lakhar

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VP, Comms
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Justus Florian Graf

VP EMEA
Visiting Researcher, Broad Institute of MIT and Harvard

Sarah Chong

VP Impact
PhD Candidate, NYU

Daniel Lin

VP
PhD Candidate, Université Paris Cité & The Rockefeller University

Jared Cristobal

VP
MBA Candidate, University of Southern California





Nucleate by the Numbers

Nucleate is a 501(c)(3) non-profit dedicated to empowering the next generation of biotech leaders. As a global organization, we democratize biotech education, spark new intellectual communities, and build bridges within and across ecosystems. We accomplish our mission through providing open-access programming, events, and resources. Our flagship program, The Activator, focuses on increasing the quality and quantity of new biotech ventures addressing the world’s most pressing challenges.

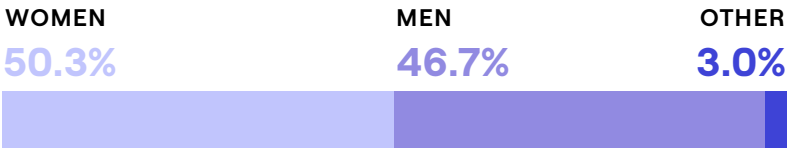
PROFESSIONAL ADVANCEMENT AND TRAINING HUB (PATH)

BD101: Run in partnership with Genentech, BD101 is a free six-session course for graduate-level trainees that introduces the fundamentals of life sciences business development.

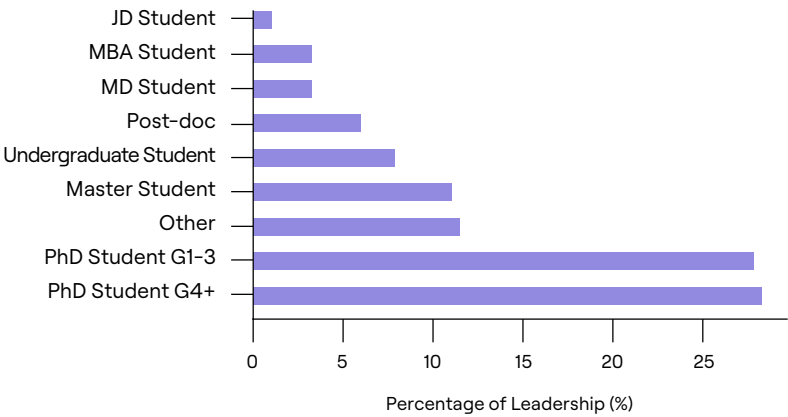
WOMEN LEADING LIFE SCIENCES: Highlighting and connecting established and emerging women leaders through a series of virtual talks and in-person dinners designed to inspire, share stories, and build community across the life sciences.

LEADERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS

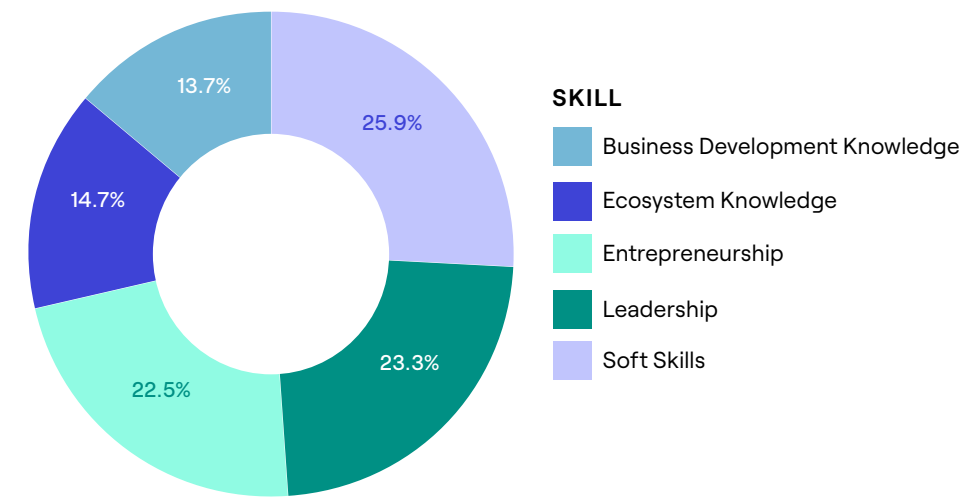
Nucleate consistently achieves gender parity:



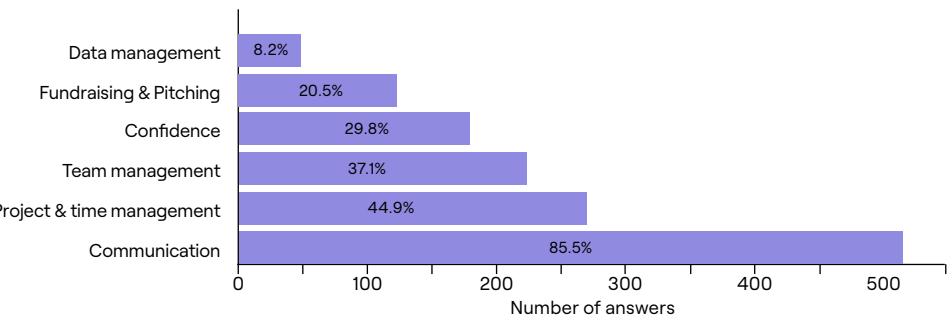
DEGREE BACKGROUND



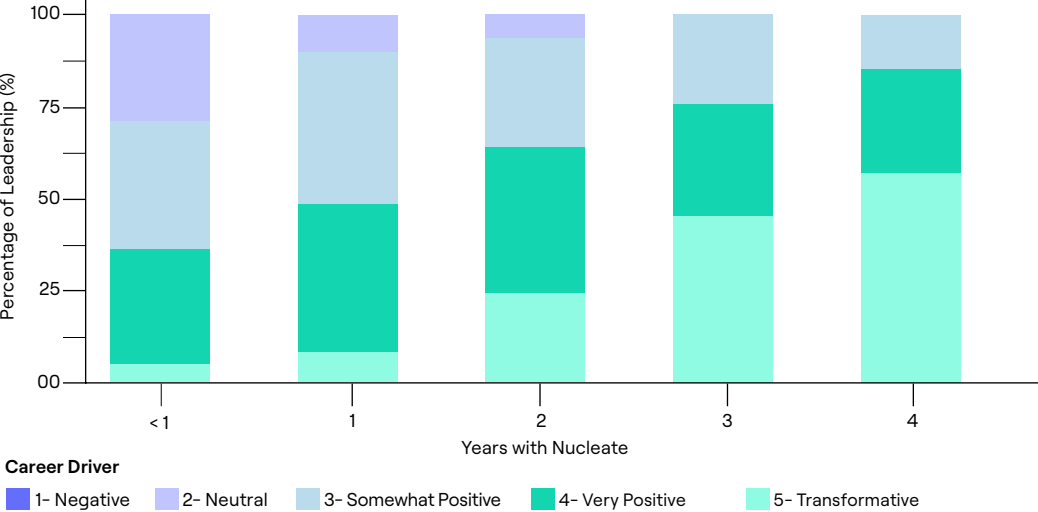
SKILLS GAINED BY NUCLEATE LEADERSHIP



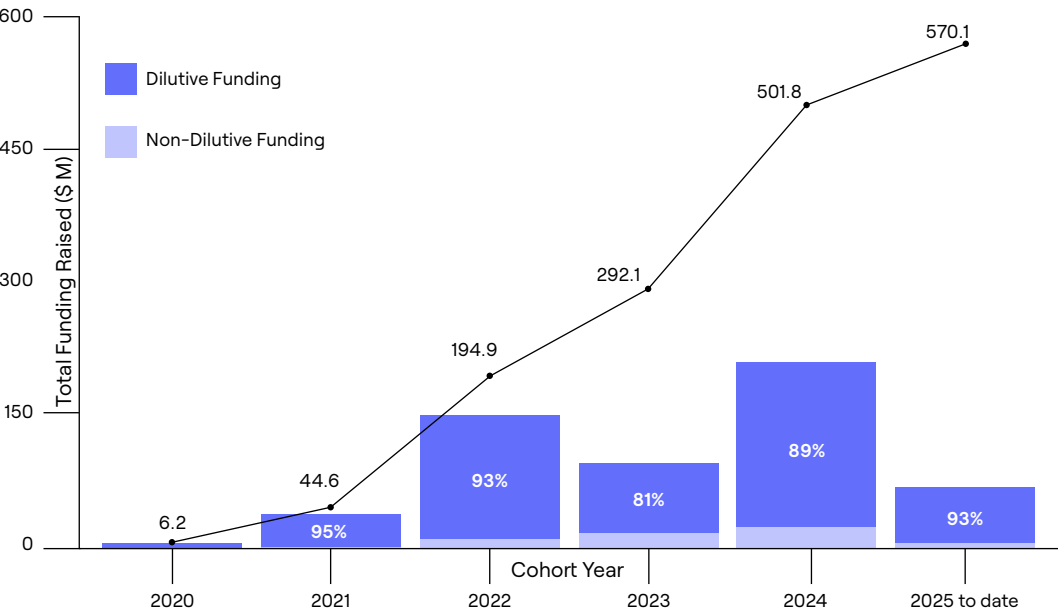
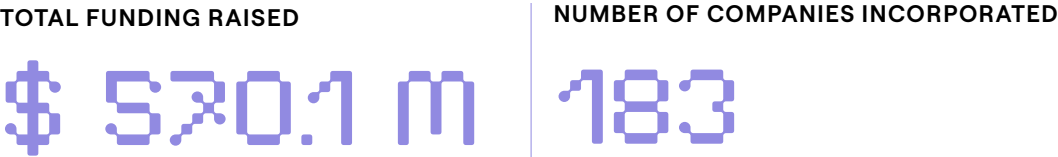
SKILLS GAINED BY NUCLEATE LEADERSHIP



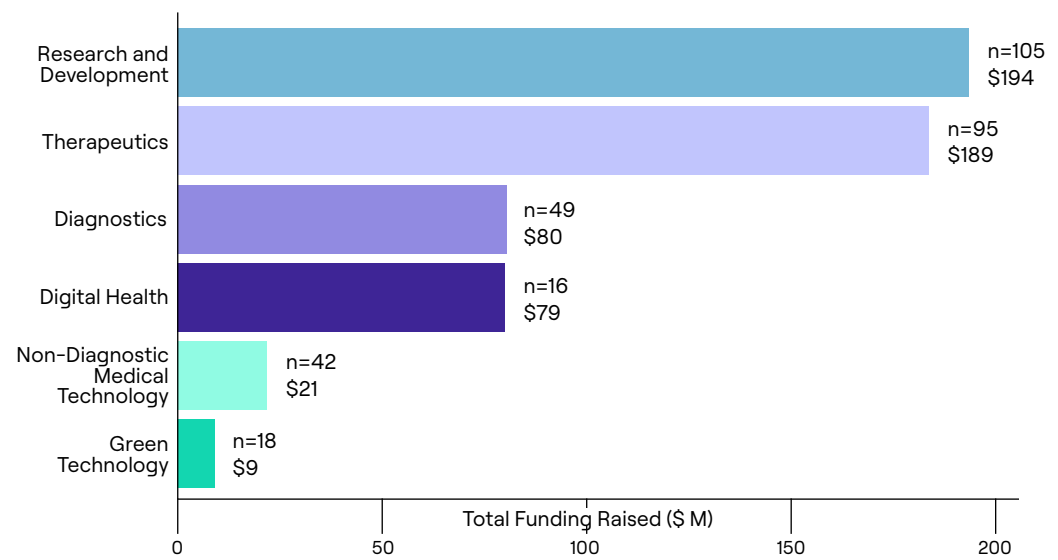
ORGANIZATIONAL IMPACT ON NUCLEATE LEADERS



CUMULATIVE ACTIVATOR ALUMNI FUNDING



TECHNOLOGY TYPE AND CORRESPONDING FUNDING RAISED BY ACTIVATOR ALUMNI



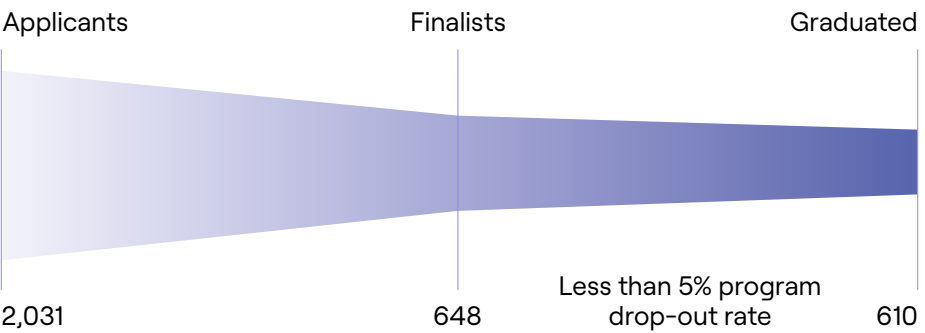
Activator

THE ACTIVATOR SINCE ITS INCEPTION IN 2019

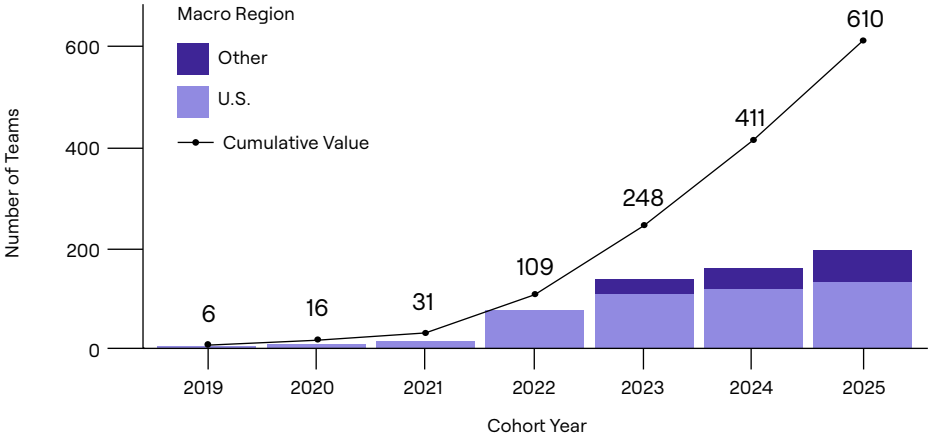
We are dedicated to fostering the development of early-career academics, guiding them to transform their research into real-world contributions in the global biotech sector. The Activator is the catalyst, providing the skills and resources needed to turn groundbreaking ideas into trailblazing life science ventures addressing human (Bio track) and planetary (Eco track) health. The Activator program has enrolled over **600** teams, who have raised more than **\$570M** USD and created over **800** jobs in the past **7** years.



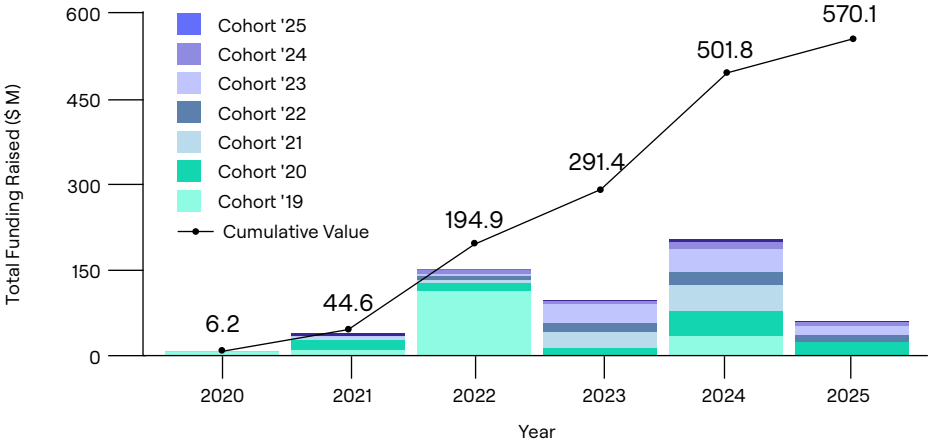
ACTIVATOR 2024-2025 COHORT



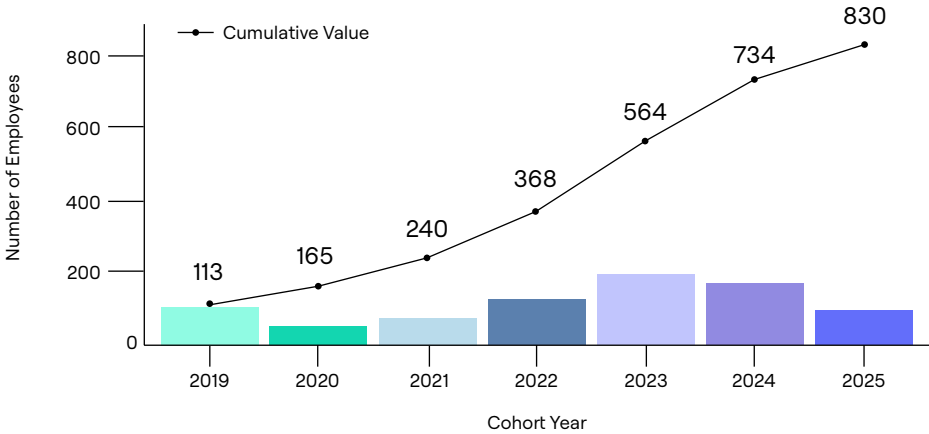
ACTIVATOR COHORT GROWTH



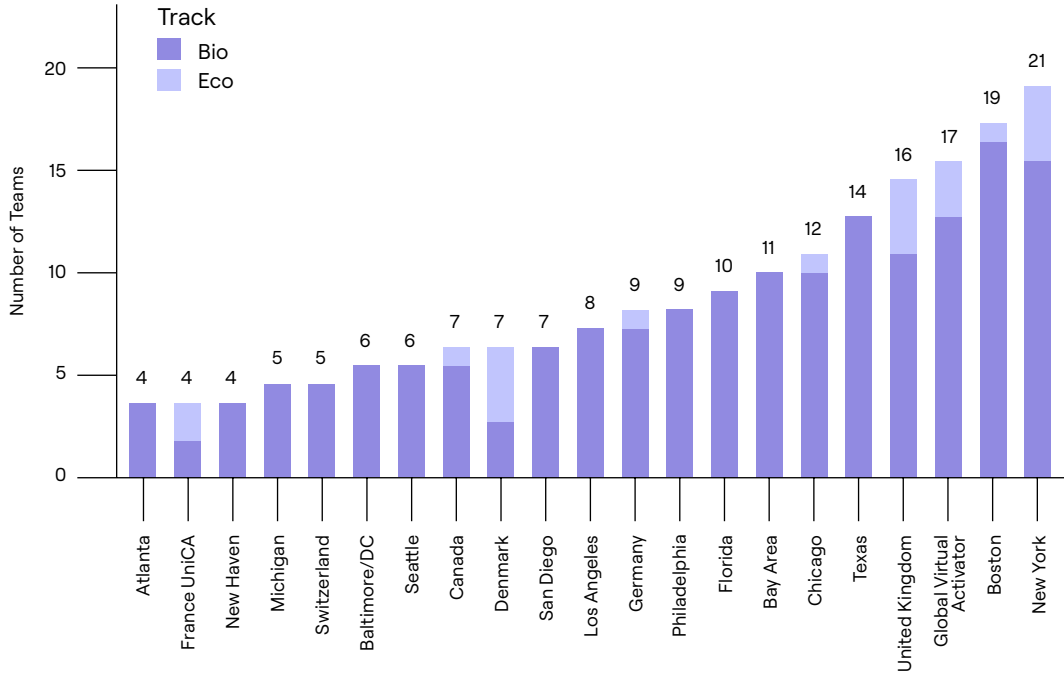
FUNDING RAISED BY ACTIVATOR TEAMS



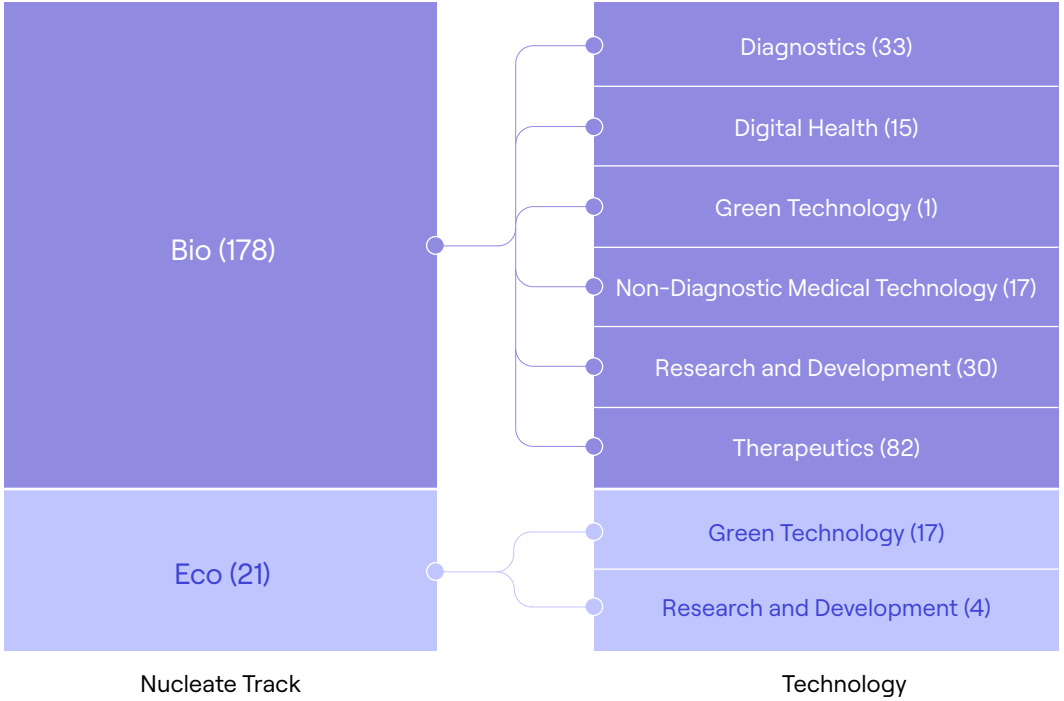
JOBS CREATED BY ACTIVATOR TEAMS



2024-2025 COHORT DISTRIBUTION



2024-2025 COHORT TECHNOLOGY TYPE





Alumni Summit 2024

The Nucleate Alumni Summit 2024 marked a significant evolution in scale and impact. Held at the 1440 Multiversity retreat center in the serene forests of Scotts Valley, the setting fostered outdoor networking and meaningful conversations. Distinguished speakers included Rick Klausner (Founder & Chief Scientist, Altos Labs), Alexander Titus (Commissioner, NSCEB), and panelists such as Vineeta Agarwala (General Partner, a16z), Tom Kalil (CEO, Renaissance Philanthropy), and Jennifer Heller (Partner, McKinsey & Co.). The summit emphasized in-depth dialogue through small-group fireside chats and expanded opportunities for global partner collaboration. The event was executed seamlessly through the efforts of a dedicated international volunteer team.



“The Nucleate Alumni Summit has blown me away. Clearly it represents something that has touched an extraordinary desire and an extraordinary need; which is to bring young people together who want to be entrepreneurs and who want to figure out how to change the course of human health.”

➤ RICK KLAUSNER, Founder & Chief Scientist, Altos Labs

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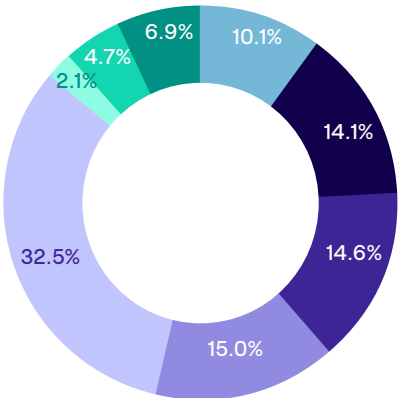
Brex

JOHNSON JOHNSON
INNOVATION | LABS

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
SANTA CRUZ

467

ATTENDEES

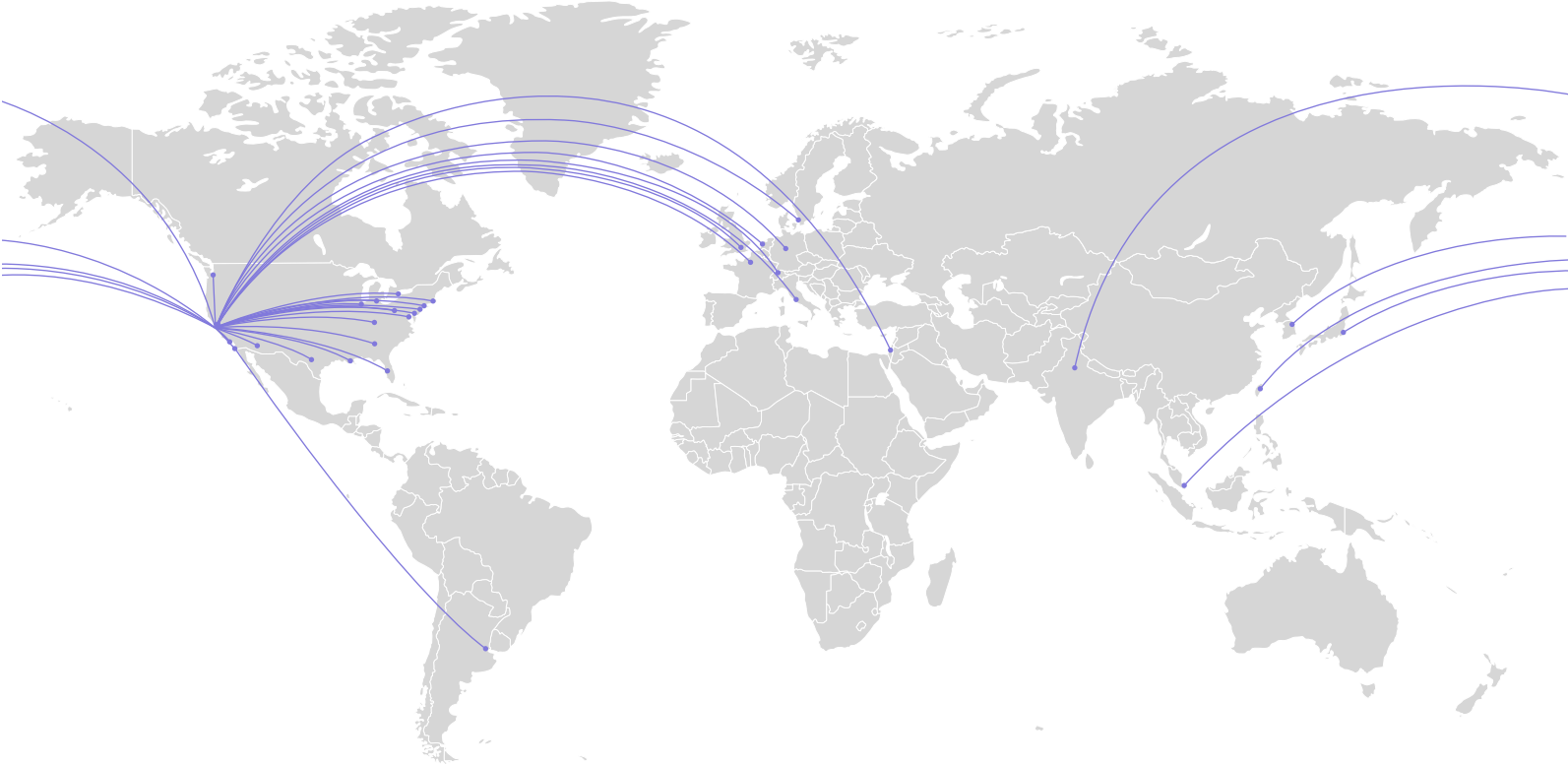
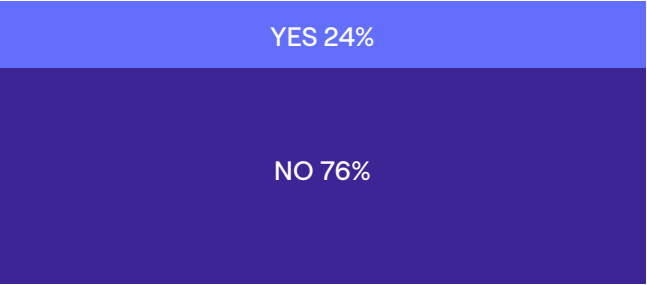


- New to Nucleate
- Nucleate Alumni
- Nucleate Sponsor
- Nucleate Activator 2024 Participant
- Nucleate Leadership
- Nucleate Expert/Mentor
- Other Program Participant
- Summit Speaker

245

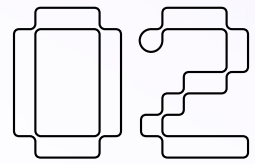
ATTENDEES PROVIDED WITH SUMMIT TRAVEL PACKAGE

Is this your first encounter with Nucleate?



Participation in the Nucleate Summit was truly global, with leadership from 16 of the 20 Chapters attending.





HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR





Alumni Highlights

➤ **CHERI ACKERMAN (CEO, Co-founder)**



To Cheri, microbial ecology represents the future of health. While scientists have traditionally studied microbes in isolation or undefined mixes — approaches that overlook natural interactions — Concerto’s flagship platform, kChip, is changing the game. Having already generated 40 million standardized data points, kChip provides measurements of microbial interactions at scale, allowing the team to map microbial networks and understand ecosystem dynamics.

The platform addresses unmet needs in both research and product development. With over 1.4 million data points produced daily (each from a miniature microbial community), kChip uses randomization to rapidly “bottom-up” construct and evaluate millions of microbial combinations, solving the industry’s current experimental bottleneck. Key functional readouts, like gene expression or microbial abundance, are then used to train AI models that predict how untested microbial mixes might behave. This capability gives Concerto a major advantage in developing high-impact microbial products like its current therapeutic for atopic dermatitis, now in clinical trials!

Cheri’s journey began in 2019 when she and her cofounders joined the inaugural cohort of Nucleate’s Activator Program. She was paired with three mentors (Vinit Nijhawan, Retsina Meyer, and Daniel Schoener) from the Boston biotech ecosystem who helped their team bridge science and business, from raising early-stage funding to growing a strategic network. As a first-time founder, Cheri saw these mentors as true champions, saying she “showed up with 150% every time she talked with them and leaned into their advice on storytelling.” That accessibility, made possible by the program’s structure, became a key part of Nucleate’s impact.

The Activator Program also helped sharpen Concerto’s business model. Before Nucleate, the Concerto team hadn’t yet defined their market or strategy, but they were unshaken in the value kChip could bring. Through mentorship, the team came to a pivotal realization: the most valuable company they could build would be one that owns its data and uses it to unlock transformative products. That insight became a guiding principle and helped drive Concerto’s growth, including raising over \$23 million to date.



RAISED OVER

\$ 23 m

IN SERIES A FUNDING
+ ENS-002 FOR ATOPIC
DERMATITIS IN ADULTS CURRENTLY
IN CLINICAL TRIALS

“We want to help people avoid eczema and infections. Impact is really about changing someone’s life experience and shifting how we see microbes, not as germs but as allies in health.”

➤ **MIROSLAV GASPAREK (CEO, Co-founder)**



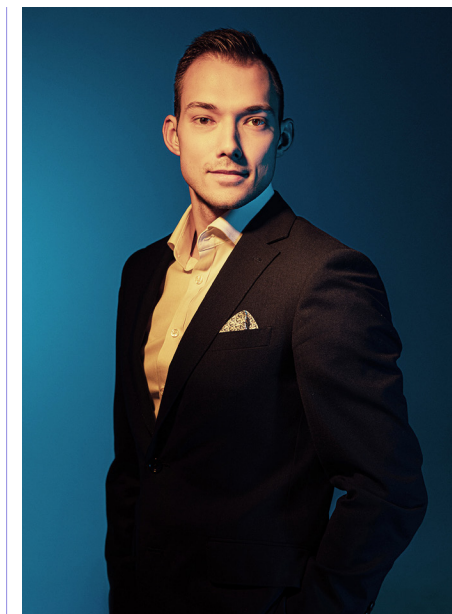
Aiming to spotlight success within the European Nucleate community, we spoke with Miroslav (Miro) Gasperek, PhD, co-founder of Nucleate UK and CEO of Sensible Biotechnologies. Founded in 2021, Sensible has grown into a 27-member team and raised over \$10 million in funding, counting Ginkgo Bioworks and Y Combinator among its early partners.

Sensible is developing the world’s first modular platform for design and synthesis of next-generation mRNA. While mRNA holds enormous potential across vaccines, oncology, and protein-replacement therapies, current manufacturing methods fall short. A common issue is contamination with double-stranded RNA (dsRNA) which can trigger unwanted immune responses. Sensible’s cell-based method offers a scalable, pure, and non-immunogenic alternative, with potential to set a new industry standard.

Participation in Nucleate’s Activator program played a key role in Sensible’s early development. For Miro, the experience reinforced the importance of aligning scientific innovation with a clear commercial strategy. It also helped refine the company’s go-to-market approach and provided a framework for navigating challenges of early-stage biotech.

As the company expanded from two founders to a full team, it introduced a multi-layered leadership structure that includes experienced hires from GSK and Merck. The company culture emphasizes clear strategic direction, trust in senior leaders, and thoughtful delegation. This structure has allowed the founding team to focus on long-term vision and platform development.

Reflecting on his journey, Miro shared several key lessons: commit fully, surround yourself with experienced people, stay intellectually humble, and choose your co-founders carefully. These decisions have been central to Sensible’s growth. Looking back on the experience, the team strongly recommends the Activator program, calling it “the fastest way to get your feet wet in life-science entrepreneurship.”



RAISED OVER

\$ 13 m

IN PRE-SEED & SEED.
CURRENTLY PARTNERING WITH
[GINKGO BIOWORKS & NVIDIA](#)

“Our platform already outperforms legacy methods in certain metrics, and we are very excited about what we have achieved so far. However, this is still just the beginning—what I care about most is patient-centric translational impact. I will consider Sensible successful when our technology leads to approved medicines and alleviates human suffering.”

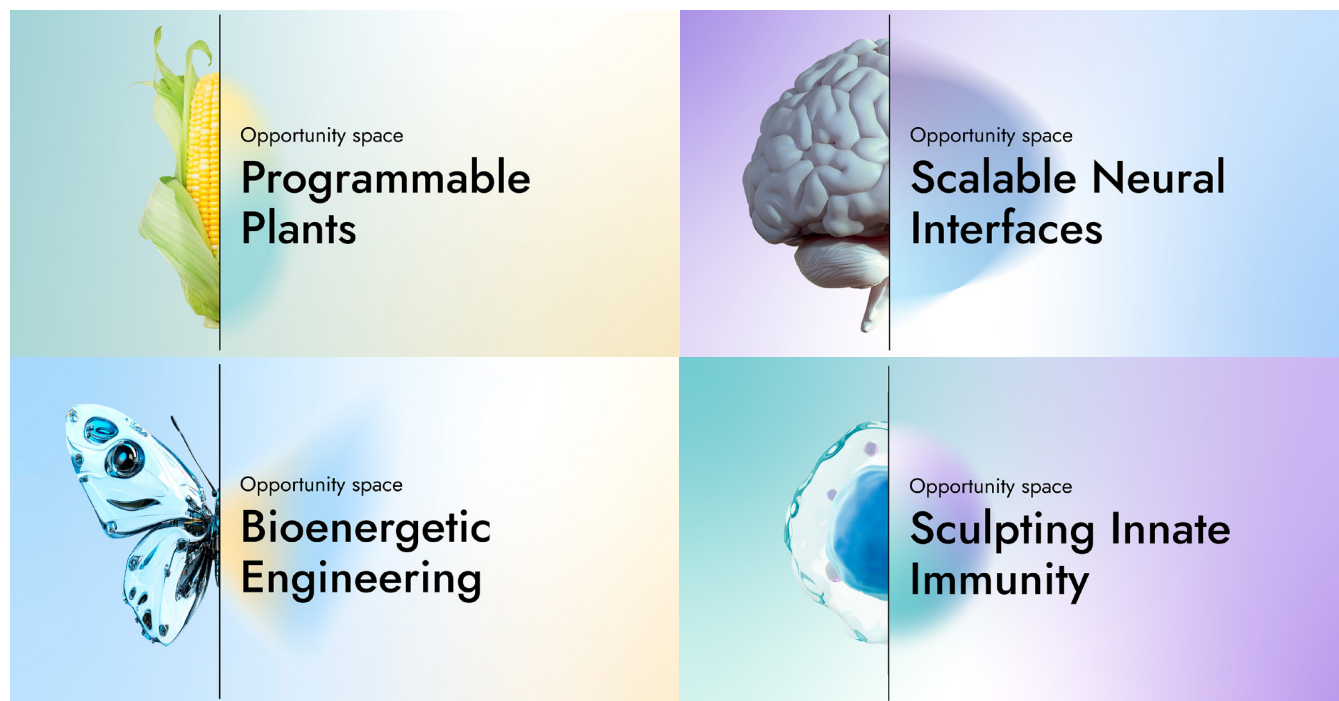




ARIA + UK Partnership

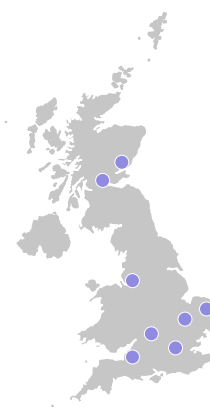
The Advanced Research + Innovation Agency (ARIA) is the UK's bold R&D funding agency, created to unlock transformative scientific and technological breakthroughs. Led by Programme Directors, ARIA targets high-impact, underexplored areas where strategic funding can unlock transformative innovation. Current opportunity spaces include Programmable Plants, Scalable Neural Interfaces, Bioenergetic Engineering, and Innate Immunity.

To accelerate its mission, ARIA works with Activation Partners – organisations that develop the entrepreneurial ecosystem in the UK and support the translation of ARIA's future technologies. By establishing these partnerships, ARIA aims to operate with greater speed, flexibility, and proximity to the communities where breakthrough ideas take shape. Together with Nucleate UK, other Activation Partners include Convergent Research, Google DeepMind, Renaissance Philanthropy, Pillar VC, Venture Café, Fifty Years, Amodo Design, and Cambridge University Health Partners.



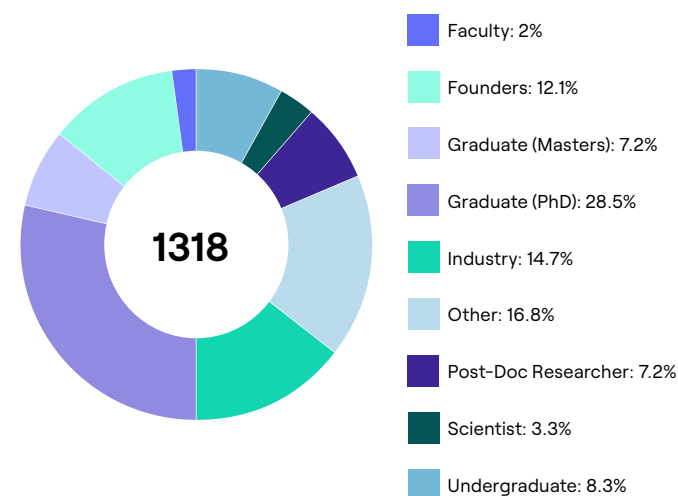
As an Activation Partner, Nucleate UK supports ARIA in developing an outstanding biotech innovation pipeline. Over the past year, we have worked to deepen our understanding of the UK's academic and early-stage science landscape and accelerate the translation of scientific research into successful ventures through our Activator programme.

Our partnership with ARIA has enabled us to significantly expand the number and quality of our events, particularly to identify and support emerging talent in programmable plants – one of ARIA's key opportunity spaces. Looking ahead to Year 2, we're excited to extend this work across additional opportunity spaces.



As part of our mission to drive innovation and engage with leading eco talent across the UK, we launched the Eco Roadshow – a month-long series of informational events focused on outreach. The primary goal was to connect with previously untapped institutions that may house talented academics interested in Nucleate's initiatives and in funding opportunities within ARIA's programmable plants opportunity space.

COMMUNITY COMPOSITION



ARIA SPONSORED

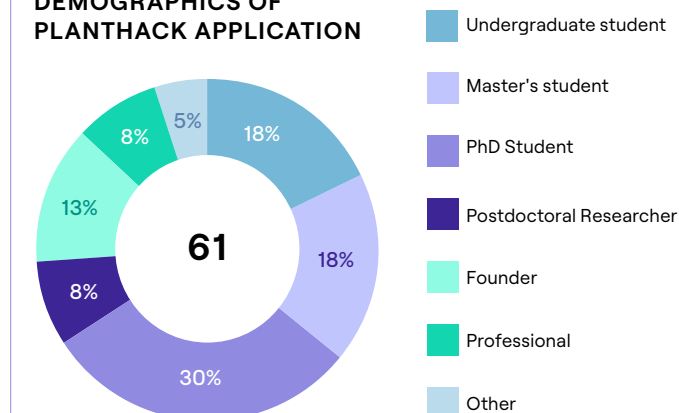
24
EVENTS
WITH
1831
ATTENDEES
70%
NON-RECURRING

“The ARIA partnership has been transformational for Nucleate UK. In less than a year, it has allowed us to reach scientists and innovators far beyond our previous capabilities, truly making us a national community. The structure we're building together is on a path to redefine scientific translation in the UK, directly accelerating the creation of new and impactful biotech ventures.”

➤ **FEDERICO CASO**, Nucleate Director of ARIA Partnership

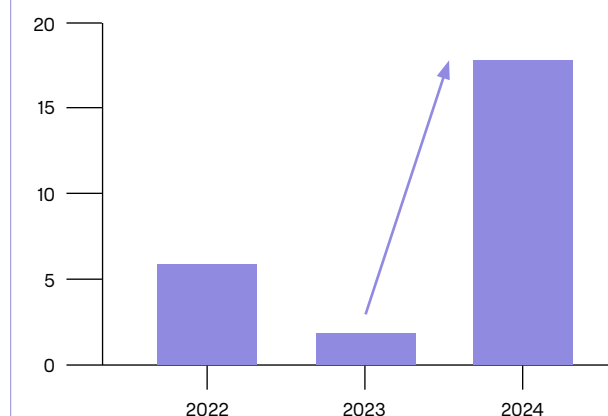


DEMOGRAPHICS OF PLANTHACK APPLICATION



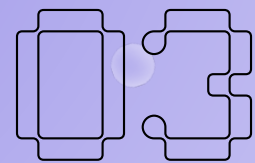
Together with ARIA, we organised PlantHack, a two-day hackathon bringing together 15 institutions to build an interdisciplinary community focused on reimagining the UK's crop system. Against the backdrop of climate change and overreliance on a handful of staple crops, the event explores how emerging technologies – like AI and synthetic biology – can unlock the potential of underutilised and native plants.

ECO ACTIVATOR APPLICATIONS



9X INCREASE IN ECO TRACK ACTIVATOR APPLICATIONS IN 2024 AS COMPARED TO 2023. THERE WERE 4 ECO FINALIST TEAMS IN THE 2024 ACTIVATOR PROGRAM, ONE OF THEM RAISING £3M.





GLOBAL CHAPTERS



NORTH & SOUTH AMERICA

Boston
Bay Area
New York
Los Angeles
Seattle
Chicago + Michigan
Texas Hub
New Haven
Pennsylvania
San Diego
Baltimore | DC
Research Triangle Park
Atlanta
New Orleans
Arizona
Rhode Island
Florida
Canada
Argentina



EUROPE

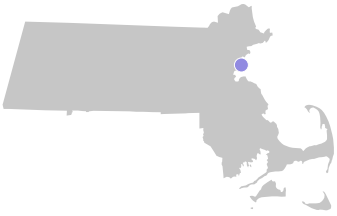
United Kingdom
Denmark
France
Germany
Switzerland
Baltics
Italy
Netherlands
Spain
Norway



MIDDLE EAST & ASIA

Israel
Singapore
Taiwan
South Korea
Australia
India
Japan





SPONSORS



Nucleate Boston is where it all began. Originating from the Harvard Biotech Club in 2019, Nucleate Boston was founded by Soufiane Aboulhouda (PhD, Harvard) and Marissa Pettit (MBA, Harvard), who recognized that early-stage biotech innovators lacked the resources and structure to turn bold ideas into real companies. While Boston is rich with professional biotech organizations and events, few were designed with trainees in mind. What began as a student-led initiative to bridge this gap quickly evolved into a movement that redefined how academic science meets entrepreneurship.

Since launching the Activator program, the Boston chapter has run six successful cohorts and worked with over 100 teams. Its leadership team has included 100+ volunteers since 2019 and has helped more than 200 early-stage innovators to date. Boston’s unique position as a dense hub of pharma, academia, and finance makes it an unparalleled setting for translational science.

As Nucleate’s first and flagship chapter, Boston has helped shape the identity and trajectory of the entire organization. It remains the heart of the network — a springboard for ideas and people transforming life science from the ground up.

Boston’s strength lies not only in its biotech ecosystem but in its people — and we prioritize building strong, in-person connections across our network.

This year alone, we’ve collaborated with organizations like Eli Lilly, McKinsey & Company, and RA Capital to host events ranging from workshops to networking dinners. The Forum, our largest public event celebrating the Activator cohort, welcomed over 200 attendees. Other recent highlights include the Bayer Co.Lab Catalyst Lab Award Event; Synergy in Innovation: Inspiring Stories of Startup-Pharma Partnerships hosted with Sanofi; and the Summer Ignition Party hosted with The Engine during the international BIO conference. These events aim to spark real conversations and open doors for trainees exploring the biotech landscape.

Our leadership community is equally active. We’ve hosted team-building events and socials across the seasons to foster connection within the group.

ACTIVATOR STATS

CUMULATIVE FUNDING RAISED BY ACTIVATOR TEAMS

\$ 422 m

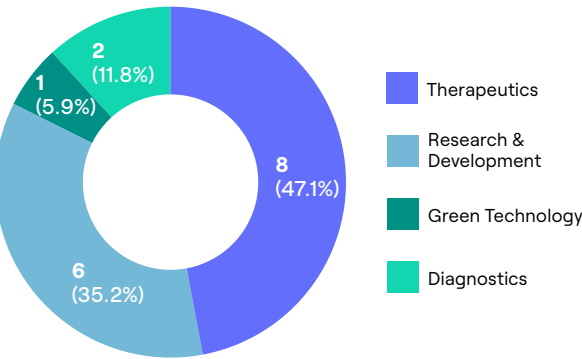
DILUTIVE FUNDING

96%

NONDILUTIVE FUNDING

4%

TECHNOLOGY TYPE (2025)



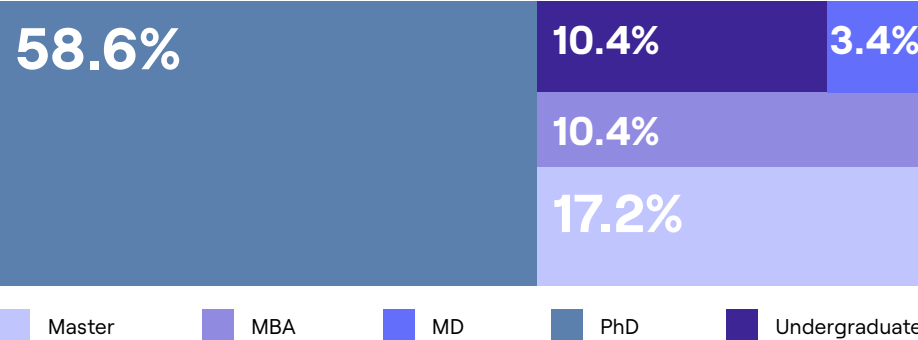
CUMULATIVE INCORPORATED COMPANIES:

41

JOBS CREATED:

403

LEADERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS



EVENTS HOSTED 33

TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTENDEES 1946



Boston Leadership EOY Celebration - June 2025

The Boston chapter’s impact is tangible. Most Activator teams go on to incorporate, secure seed and Series A rounds, win competitive grants, form major industry partnerships, and create jobs across the local biotech ecosystem. Some notable examples include InGel Therapeutics and Concerto Biosciences, which have their first compounds in the clinic. These outcomes underscore Boston’s role not just as a training ground but as a true engine for biotech innovation and company creation.

“Being a part of this organization has brought me clarity on my career path and professional goals, while also connecting me with incredible people. It’s been so much fun to grow alongside everyone and be part of this amazing community.”

> JASMIN JOSEPH-CHAZAN, Co-MD 2025, Nucleate Boston

Institutes collaborated with:





Founded in 2021 by Zach Cogan, Tobias Schmid, and Abhishek Gupta, Nucleate Bay Area was among the first chapters established to complement the region’s thriving biotech ecosystem and to support academic trainees seeking to transition into the life sciences industry. With a dense concentration of biotech companies in South San Francisco and a growing network of startups stretching from the North Bay to San Jose, the Bay Area is a global leader in biotech innovation. Its vibrant industry is tightly interwoven with world-class research institutions such as Stanford University, UC campuses, and the Gladstone Institutes, fostering a unique synergy between academia and industry. Nucleate Bay Area emerged as a vital hub to connect students and researchers across these institutions, creating a cohesive community at the intersection of innovation, mentorship, and venture creation. Acting as a liaison between early-stage talent and the region’s expansive biotech network, the chapter helps bridge academic discovery with industry application.

In 2024, the chapter launched its inaugural “Equitable Strategies for Early-Stage Startups” event as part of the Activator Workshop series. The event emphasized equity, inclusion, and connectivity in an increasingly complex economic and social landscape. By focusing on equitable funding, inclusive hiring, and sustainable team building, the workshop empowered emerging biotech entrepreneurs to lead with intention and build ventures that reflect the diverse communities they aim to serve.

ACTIVATOR STATS

CUMULATIVE FUNDING RAISED BY ACTIVATOR TEAMS

\$ 28.6 m

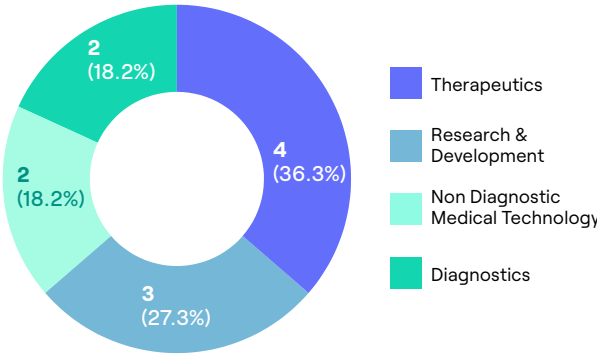
DILUTIVE FUNDING

90%

NONDILUTIVE FUNDING

10%

TECHNOLOGY TYPE (2025)



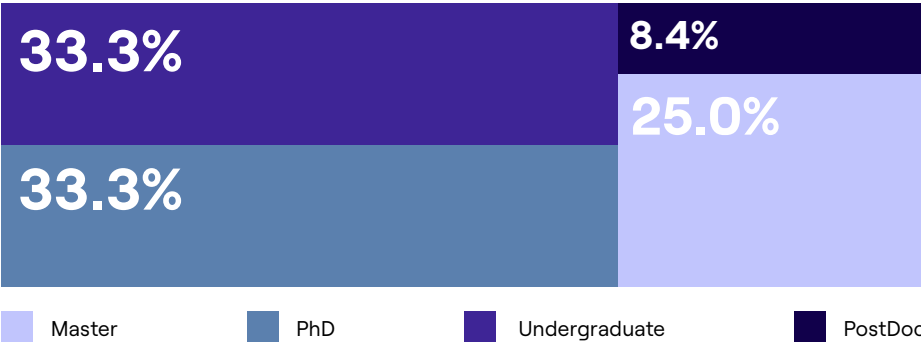
CUMULATIVE INCORPORATED COMPANIES:

13

JOBS CREATED:

44

LEADERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS



EVENTS HOSTED

8

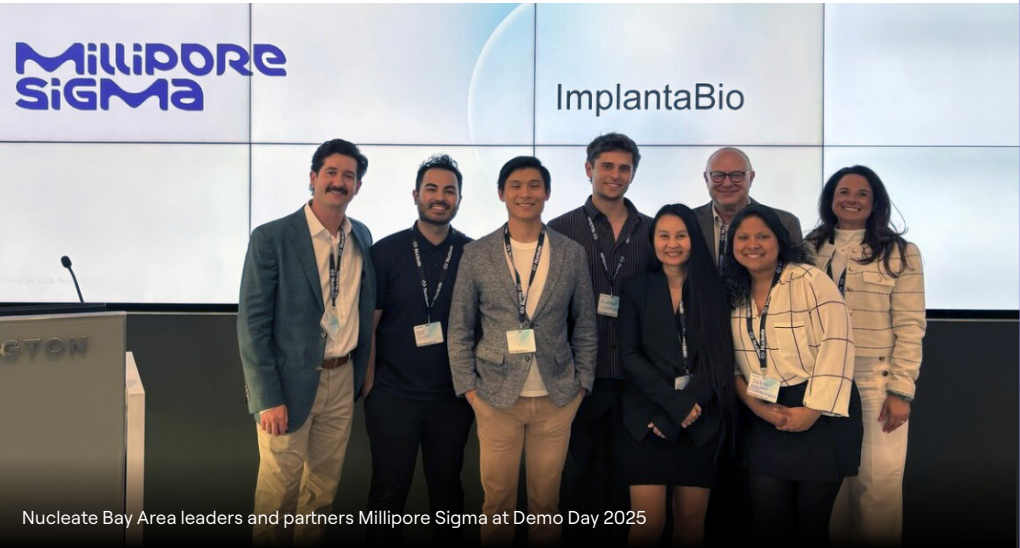
TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTENDEES

325

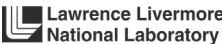
The Bay Area biotech ecosystem thrives on its world-class universities, abundant venture capital, and rich talent pool. Home to leading biotech companies and startups, it benefits from proximity to tech giants that drive innovation at the intersection of AI and life sciences. Incubators like QB3 and MBC BioLabs support early-stage ventures. A culture of risk-taking, rapid scaling, and interdisciplinary collaboration propels advances in therapeutics, diagnostics, and synthetic biology, making the Bay Area, and Nucleate Bay Area, a global leader in biotech commercialization and innovation.

“The Bay Area Chapter would like to highlight Loubaba, a valuable member of our Activator Program Leadership Team. Loubaba played a key role in organizing and managing all the workshops in this Activator session. Her work beyond supporting multiple workshops in leading both the Fundraising Workshop and the Founder’s Workshop significantly contributed to their success. Thank you, Loubaba, for your exceptional dedication, commitment, and leadership. The entire Bay Area chapter deeply appreciates your hard work!”

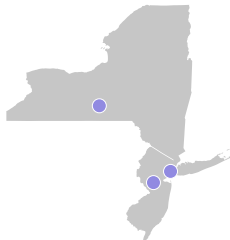
BRENDA AMETEPEE, JDEI Director of Bay Area



Institutes collaborated with:



NEW YORK CITY



SPONSORS

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ELEVATE
RESEARCH PROPERTIES

Emerging
Innovations
Consulting

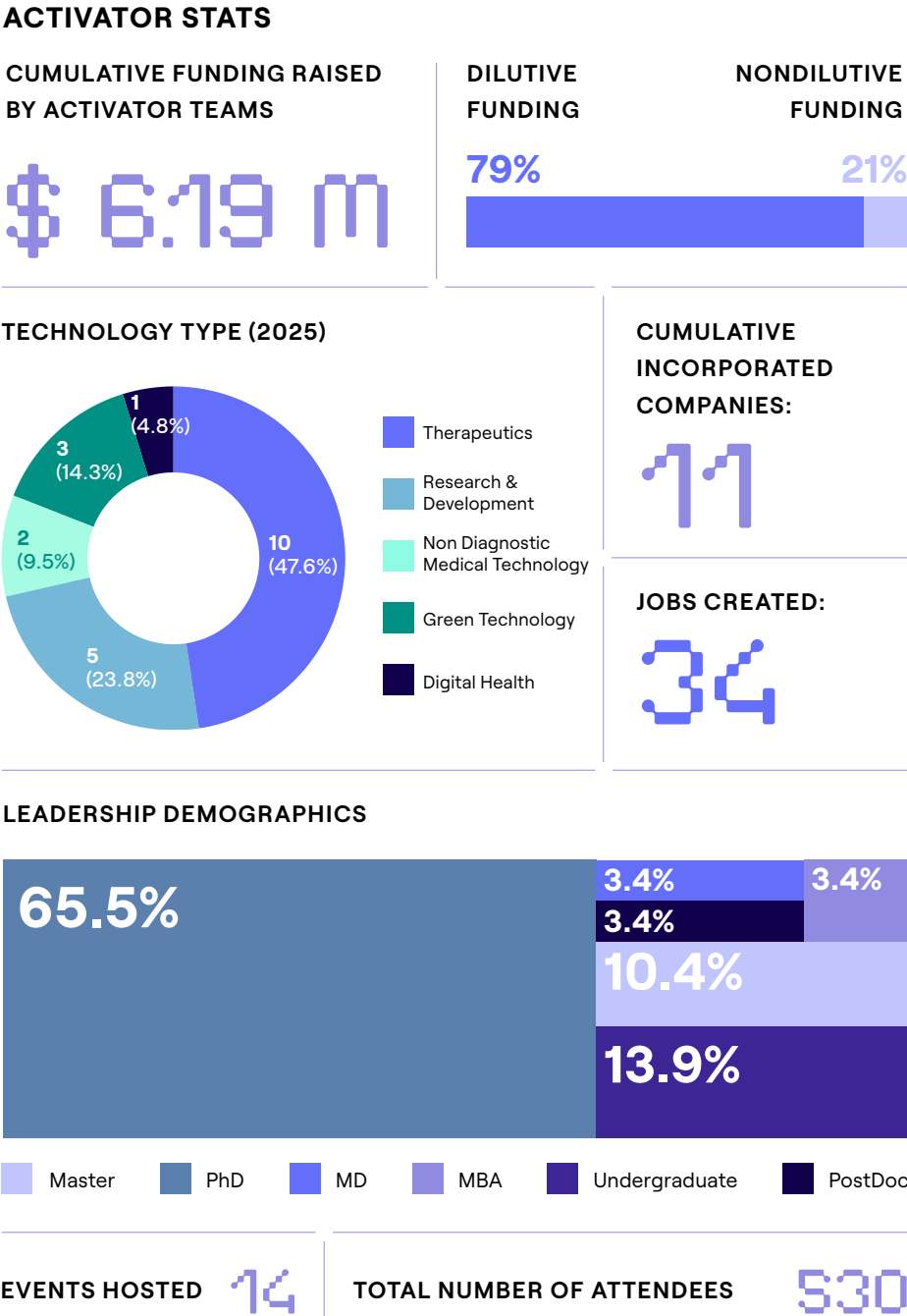
Lambda

DIMENSION

Founded in 2021 by Joseph Borello, Michael Retchin, Arielle Strasser, and Merouane Ounadjela, Nucleate New York has quickly emerged as a driving force in one of the world’s leading biotech hubs. Situated in a uniquely dense and diverse ecosystem – home to global pharma, major VC firms, and top-tier research institutions – Nucleate NY has built a thriving, close-knit community despite the city’s scale.

The chapter brings together innovators from over 25 academic institutions – including Columbia University, Weill Cornell Medicine, CUNY, Princeton University, and Stony Brook University – and is supported by mentorship from more than 100 leading companies across the life sciences sector. The chapter’s success is fueled by mission-driven leadership and a commitment to cultivating both community and real-world skill sets. In addition to its flagship Activator program, Nucleate NY hosted a range of events, including leadership gatherings, professional development workshops, community brunches, and Nucleate’s first-ever AlxBio Hackathon – creating valuable opportunities for insight-sharing, fundraising, and networking. A highlight of the year was the Alumni Networking Showcase at Innolabs, supported by Pliancy and Brex. The event featured a “State of the NYC Biotech Ecosystem” panel and flash pitches from past Activator teams, drawing over 100 investors, founders, and researchers for an evening of insights and connection.

Building on the momentum of the Alumni Showcase, the New York team launched its inaugural Forum with partnerships from NYCEDC and Fenwick, spotlighting the region’s scientific and entrepreneurial talent by bridging cutting-edge academic research with industry and investment. The event reinforced Nucleate NY’s role as a catalyst and convener in New York’s rapidly evolving biotech landscape. Today, Nucleate NY continues to empower the next generation of biotech founders and drive translational innovation across the Greater NYC area.



BioHack is Nucleate’s first-ever AlxBio hackathon, bringing together computational and bench scientists to solve real lab problems. Hosted with generous support from Lightning AI, Simons Foundation, NYU eLab, Lambda, and Dimension, the event drew nearly 280 applicants, with 13 teams participating. Judges and mentors from academia, industry, and VC supported the event, signaling strong regional demand. The winning team, Klik, with members Iris Sun, Raina H., Yiyang Yu, Ethan Xu, and Diana Bello, proposed using AI to predict carbohydrate binding for novel proteins. BioHack’s success led to its expansion to Pittsburgh and globally through Nucleate’s new BioHack initiative.

“Joining Nucleate was one of the best decisions I made last year. The reach and impact of Nucleate NY are incredible, and it’s been an absolute joy to support entrepreneurial researchers from various institutions. Hearing how much Activator team members appreciate Nucleate’s presence; something that was clearly needed in this space, has been truly motivating. I laughed, I learned, and I had the privilege of working alongside some of the brightest, most driven minds I’ve ever met.”

> VIKAS MALIK, Director of Events



LOS ANGELES



SPONSORS



Nucleate LA was launched to connect the growing number of life sciences trainees in Los Angeles with real opportunities in biotech innovation. Founded by Alex Kim and Adhi Sikhand, with the goal of expanding access to venture creation and translational research, the chapter bridges leading institutions such as UCLA and USC to foster a cohesive, inclusive community of aspiring biotech founders. By serving as a central hub, Nucleate LA empowers trainees to explore entrepreneurship, build interdisciplinary teams, and engage with local biotech leaders.

The Los Angeles biotech ecosystem is both vibrant and diverse, anchored by organizations such as Biotech Connection LA, LA BioSpace, Magnify at CNSI, LA Cleantech Incubator, Women in Bio – LA, and communities like Life Sciences & Health Tech Entrepreneurs. These initiatives support networking, mentorship, wet-lab and co-working space access, and professional development across academia, industry, and policy. Nucleate LA complements these efforts by filling a unique gap: providing open-access, trainee-led programming focused specifically on translational research and early-stage venture building.

This year, Nucleate LA partnered with Nucleate Paris to host a fireside chat as part of the Global Strategy and Life Sciences program. The event featured Dan Gober from Biocom LA and Estelle Botbol from Speedinvest in Paris, who discussed the similarities and differences between the LA and European biotech ecosystems. Drawing from their experiences in venture and life sciences, the speakers highlighted the importance of cross-ecosystem collaboration and the evolving landscape of global biotech innovation. This event exemplified Nucleate LA’s role as not only a regional connector but also a platform for international dialogue, helping local trainees gain global perspective while contributing to the broader life sciences community.

ACTIVATOR STATS

CUMULATIVE FUNDING RAISED BY ACTIVATOR TEAMS

1.89 M

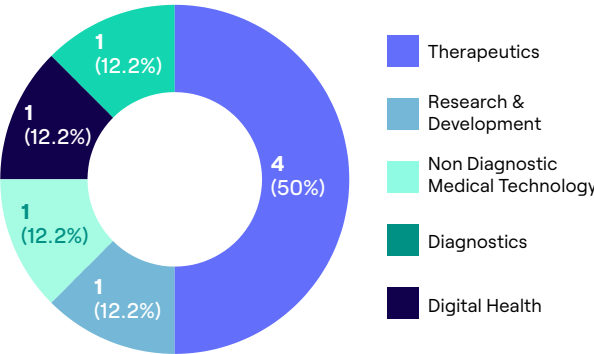
DILUTIVE FUNDING

54%

NONDILUTIVE FUNDING

46%

TECHNOLOGY TYPE (2025)



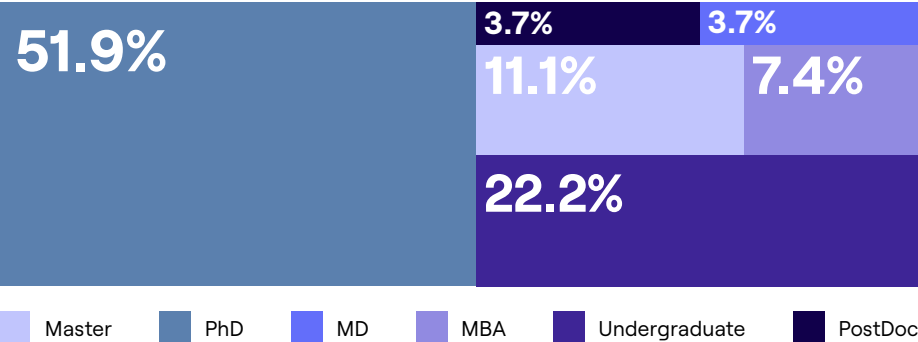
CUMULATIVE INCORPORATED COMPANIES:



JOBS CREATED:



LEADERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS



EVENTS HOSTED

15

TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTENDEES

1286

Los Angeles’ biotech ecosystem sits at the intersection of life sciences, entertainment, and digital innovation. Anchored by UCLA, USC, and Caltech, it leads in regenerative medicine, gene therapy, and biomedical engineering. With a diverse talent pool, rising VC interest, and lower costs than the Bay Area, LA offers a competitive edge. Its creative culture and media presence boost science communication. Hubs like BioscienceLA and LA BioSpace support early-stage ventures. Nucleate LA leverages this ecosystem to empower trainees to launch inclusive, translational biotech ventures across Southern California.

“I found out about Nucleate through Nicoletta, who’s in my lab and is one of the co-MDs this year at Nucleate LA. The other organizations I was involved in were more academically focused, so I wanted to get involved in something that was more career-focused and related to biotech, a field I eventually want to get into. Nucleate seemed like an opportunity that would help me understand the stakeholders in the local area for this field.”

➤ DAVID JOHNSON, Director of Operations, LA. PhD Candidate, Materials Sciences and Engineering at University of Southern California (USC)



Institutes collaborated with:





Nucleate Seattle was founded in 2022 by Melih Yilmaz and Dante Dennis Acenas II at the University of Washington with a shared passion for biotech entrepreneurship. Despite limited experience, the founding team embraced the mindset that the best way to learn was to build. Within six months, the chapter launched its first Activator cohort with five teams, secured initial regional sponsors, and began cultivating a vibrant community of entrepreneurial trainees across the Pacific Northwest. Seattle’s biotech ecosystem is anchored by world-class research institutions like UW and Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center. Existing programs such as the Buerk Center for Entrepreneurship and various student biotech clubs laid a strong foundation, while Fred Hutch’s commercialization efforts — seen in successful spinouts like Juno — demonstrated the region’s translational potential. Institutes like ISB and global health-focused nonprofits added further depth. Nucleate Seattle entered this high-innovation ecosystem to connect and amplify these efforts, serving as a synergistic platform for spinouts and scientific collaboration.

Over two years, the chapter has expanded its reach with a mailing list of over 700 subscribers and a LinkedIn following nearing 1,000. These channels enable promotion of community events, celebration of leadership’s scientific progress, and engagement with biotech stakeholders across the Seattle area. The chapter’s leadership now includes members from multiple institutions, fostering collaboration and integration across the region’s academic and entrepreneurial networks. Through sustained outreach, meaningful programming, and deep local engagement, Nucleate Seattle continues to bridge the gap between academic discovery and startup formation — building a community of future biotech leaders and helping shape the trajectory of innovation in the Pacific Northwest.

ACTIVATOR STATS

CUMULATIVE FUNDING RAISED BY ACTIVATOR TEAMS

\$ 230 K

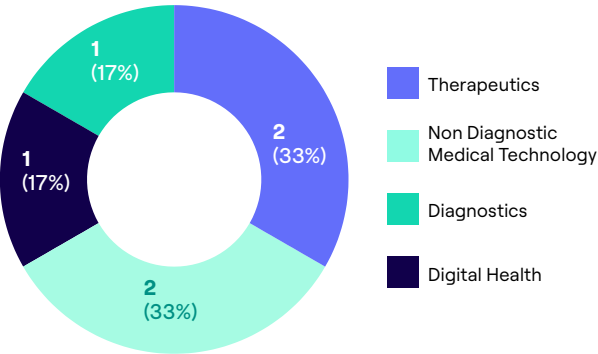
DILUTIVE FUNDING

0%

NONDILUTIVE FUNDING

100%

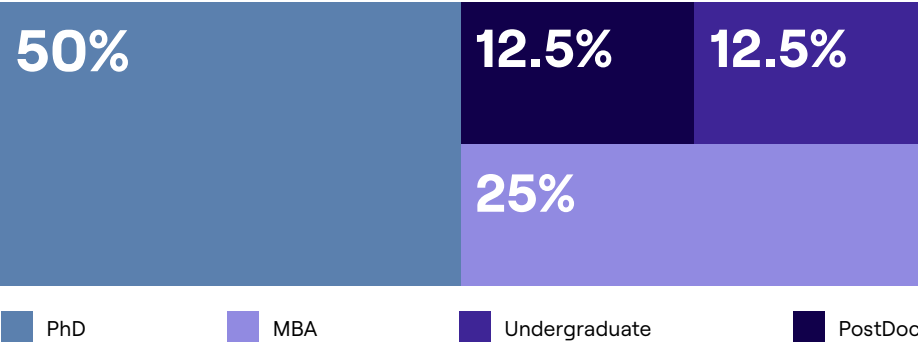
TECHNOLOGY TYPE (2025)



CUMULATIVE INCORPORATED COMPANIES:



LEADERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS



EVENTS HOSTED 13

TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTENDEES 821



Seattle’s biotech ecosystem stands out for its top-tier research institutions like Fred Hutch and UW, a strong nonprofit-commercial culture, and access to philanthropic capital. The region excels in cancer, immunotherapy, and global health, with a robust spinout pipeline supported by Nucleate and collaborations bridging academia, startups, and tech leaders like Microsoft and Amazon. Accelerators such as CoMotion and Life Science Washington Institute, alongside Nucleate, foster entrepreneurship. Philanthropic funders help de-risk early-stage ventures, creating a dynamic, mission-driven ecosystem distinct from more commercially focused biotech hubs.

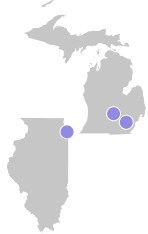
“Volunteering with Nucleate Seattle has been a game changer for my professional development. It opened my eyes to the wide range of career paths available to life science PhDs and helped me build valuable skills in business development, venture capital, and strategy. It also accelerated my professional network—through conversations with potential partners, biotech leaders at events, and greater confidence in networking. I highly recommend Nucleate to any early-career scientist looking to explore biotech and gain real-world, industry-relevant experience.”

> IRIS STONE, Director of Partnerships for Nucleate Seattle

Institutes collaborated with:



CHICAGO + MICHIGAN



SPONSORS



Nucleate Chicago was founded in 2022 by Andrew Hunter, Shuvam Chaudhuri, and Will Cisneros to address a key translational support gap for life science trainees in the Midwest. Backed by top institutions like Northwestern, UChicago, and UIC, the chapter quickly built strong ties with local incubators and investors and grew its leadership to over 20. That same year, Nucleate Michigan was launched by Shree Padma Metur and Desnor Chigumba at the University of Michigan. The chapter has since expanded to include Michigan State University, the University of Toledo, and others — and has remained women-led since its founding.

Together, Nucleate Chicago and Michigan co-host the Forum, an event that highlights the strengths of both regions. Chicago’s ecosystem includes Portal Innovations, MATTER, 1871, iBIO, and the Chicago Biomedical Consortium, giving teams access to clinical partners, pharma leaders like AbbVie and Baxter, and translational investors. Michigan offers a cross-institutional network that includes Ann Arbor SPARK, MichBio, and the Michigan Biomedical Venture Fund, with programs supporting venture fellowships and commercialization. By combining Chicago’s infrastructure with Michigan’s regional connectivity, the Forum underscores how the Midwest is becoming a stronghold for biotech innovation beyond the coasts.

Nucleate Chicago’s standout event this year was the Women Leading Biosciences dinner, an event celebrating female leadership across biotech and academia. With over 30 applications, 10 attendees from the Chicago and life sciences community joined for candid discussions on leadership and equity. The leadership team also held five in-person gatherings that strengthened collaboration and built a high-trust culture. Nucleate Michigan partnered with Vivacqua Crane IP Law and the Michigan Institute for Clinical and Health Research (MICHR) to host an “IP & Regulatory Strategy” workshop. This session gave Activator teams expert guidance on navigating early biotech development and was praised as one of the program’s most actionable events. The chapter’s focus on connecting trainees to regional experts and critical resources supports translational research and startup growth across Michigan’s expanding biotech ecosystem.

ACTIVATOR STATS

CUMULATIVE FUNDING RAISED BY ACTIVATOR TEAMS (CHICAGO)

\$ 17.3 m

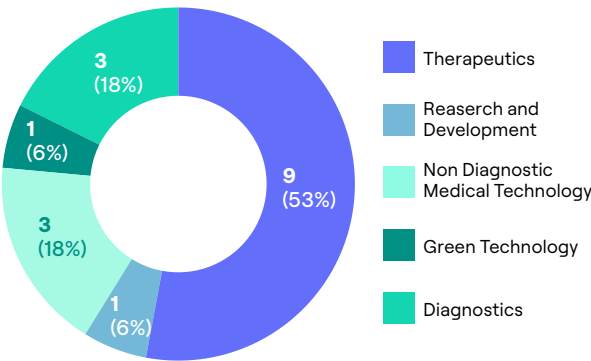
DILUTIVE FUNDING

92%

NONDILUTIVE FUNDING

8%

TECHNOLOGY TYPE (2025)



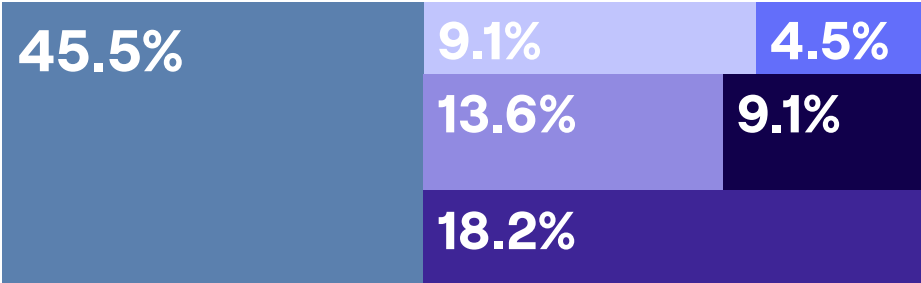
CUMULATIVE INCORPORATED COMPANIES:

6 CHICAGO 3 MICHIGAN

JOBS CREATED:

32 CHICAGO 2 MICHIGAN

LEADERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS



Master PhD MD MBA Undergraduate PostDoc

EVENTS HOSTED 21

TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTENDEES 797

Nucleate Chicago’s Activator program supported Alnair Therapeutics, a University of Chicago spinout developing a novel oncology drug delivery platform. Alnair has since raised over \$1 million in pre-seed funding and secured \$175,000 from the George Shultz Innovation Fund. In Michigan, the chapter launched the state’s first student-run Life Sciences Career Fair, connecting more than 100 trainees with biotech employers. The event’s success earned support from Ann Arbor SPARK to expand in 2025, reflecting the region’s growing role in Midwest biotech innovation and career access.

“I joined Nucleate to be part of a community driving change, and it’s inspiring to watch teams grow and shine at the final showcase.”

JAY TEAMER, Leadership, Nucleate HQ (formerly Chicago 2023–2024)

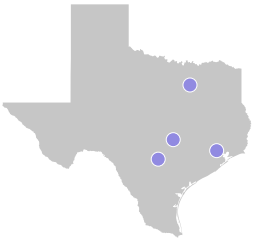
“My role has allowed me to connect with innovative minds in Michigan while helping foster a supportive biotech community.”

AMANI DJOUADI, Director of Partnerships, Nucleate Michigan



Institutes collaborated with:





Nucleate Texas was founded in August 2021 by Manwal Harb following an acquisition of the Houston city chapter from the BioVentures accelerator with Enventure. Recognizing the need for a sustainable, statewide infrastructure, early leaders — including Eric David, Conner Hutcherson and Ryan Margolis — focused on expanding Nucleate to Dallas. By March 2022, formal leadership structures were established, enabling coordinated, multi-city support for biotech innovation. This foundation led to the launch of Texas’s first Activator program in Fall 2022, followed by new program expansions in Austin (2023) and San Antonio (2024). Over three years, Nucleate Texas has become a unifying force for academic founders and biotech mentors across the state. Its leadership team has grown from 10 members in 2021 to 42 in 2024, reflecting the initiative’s expanding scope and statewide influence. Texas’ life sciences ecosystem is anchored by institutions such as UT Austin, Rice University, UT Southwestern, Texas A&M, and the Texas Medical Center. Organizations like BioAustinCTX, Bio North Texas, and various university-linked entrepreneurship programs further support regional innovation. Nucleate fills a vital gap by guiding academic founders through mentorship, programming, and venture-building, translating scientific research into impactful biotech companies. Together, these efforts underscore Nucleate Texas’s central role in building a connected, mission-driven biotech ecosystem across the state.

ACTIVATOR STATS

CUMULATIVE FUNDING RAISED BY ACTIVATOR TEAMS



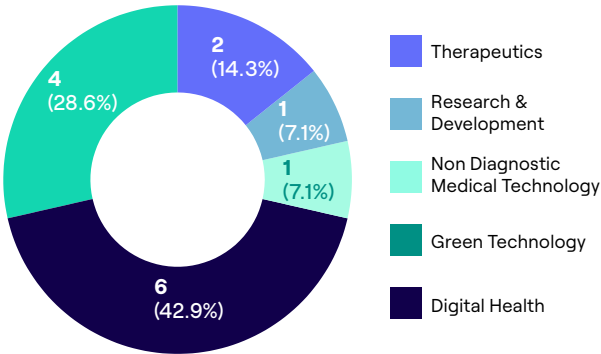
DILUTIVE FUNDING

4%

NONDILUTIVE FUNDING

96%

TECHNOLOGY TYPE (2025)



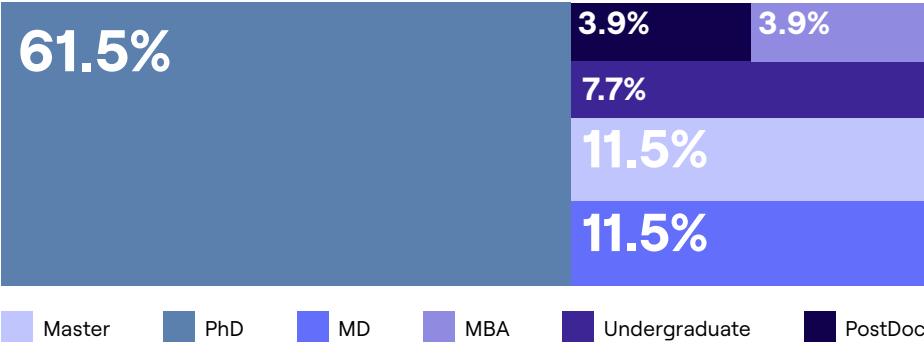
CUMULATIVE INCORPORATED COMPANIES:

9

JOBS CREATED:

28

LEADERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS



EVENTS HOSTED

10

TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTENDEES

300



Nucleate Texas’ annual Demo Days have become a cornerstone of the state’s biotech ecosystem, drawing 250–400 attendees from San Antonio, Austin, Houston, Dallas and beyond. These events showcase founder-led ventures from top institutions, connect innovators with investors, and foster statewide collaboration. The consistent success of Demo Day highlights the growing strength of Texas’s life sciences community. Local startups are achieving impressive fundraising success, often rivaling Boston and the Bay Area — momentum fueled by strong regional partnerships and sponsors committed to advancing early-stage biotech innovation across the state.

“I came into my PhD knowing that academia was never my endgame – Nucleate has helped me explore all of the wonderful opportunities in biotechnology, and prepare for a life after education with a great deal of confidence. In this rapidly evolving global environment, your network can be your greatest asset, providing access to cutting-edge information, job opportunities, and potential collaborations. Even seemingly small interactions with other leaders, founders, and partners have made a world of difference in my career.”

> ANTONIO CORDOVA, Nucleate Texas Regional MD

Institutes collaborated with: AUSTIN AREA



DALLAS–FORT WORTH AREA

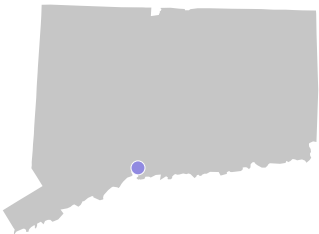
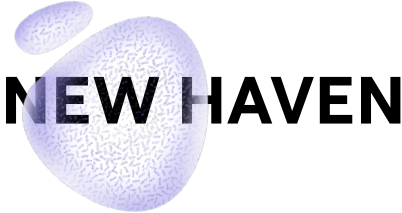


HOUSTON AREA



SAN ANTONIO AREA





SPONSORS



PARTNERS



Founded in 2022 by Yale Immunobiology PhD students Anjali Ramaswamy and Stephen Lanahan, Nucleate New Haven was created to help technical founders transform academic research into startups. Since its inception, the chapter has supported 20 early-stage ventures across four Activator cohorts (A22–A25), spanning three institutions. What began as a five-member team has grown to over 15 leaders supporting Growth, Operations, Partnerships, and Ventures. Backed by partners including DTN Ventures, Wiggin and Dana LLP, BioLabs NewHaven, Yale Ventures, and the Tsai Center for Innovative Thinking at Yale (CITY), the chapter continues to expand its regional impact. Positioned within Connecticut’s growing biotech corridor, Nucleate New Haven thrives through its close integration with the Yale innovation ecosystem. Many Activator teams are Yale spinouts grounded in years of research, and the chapter now holds an official collaboration with Yale Ventures, the university’s tech transfer office. This partnership enables joint events, shared mentorship networks, and direct access to innovation infrastructure. BioLabs New Haven—co-located with Yale Ventures — offers startups lab space and community resources, giving early-stage teams an all-in-one environment to grow.

In 2024, Nucleate New Haven also partnered with Wiggin and Dana LLP to provide legal support for founders, from incorporation to IP strategy. This legal access complements the chapter’s newly established Entrepreneur-in-Residence network, which Yale Ventures has generously shared with us. This partnership significantly strengthens the hands-on support we can provide through expert-led workshops. Looking ahead, the chapter is building new collaborations with JPMorgan and the Nucleate NYC chapter to expand its reach for the 2026 Activator cycle. More than a launchpad, Nucleate New Haven functions as a fully integrated biotech innovation hub. From scientific rigor to entrepreneurial execution, the chapter makes translational research actionable—bridging the gap between academic discovery and real-world impact in the life sciences.

ACTIVATOR STATS

CUMULATIVE FUNDING RAISED BY ACTIVATOR TEAMS

\$ 660 K

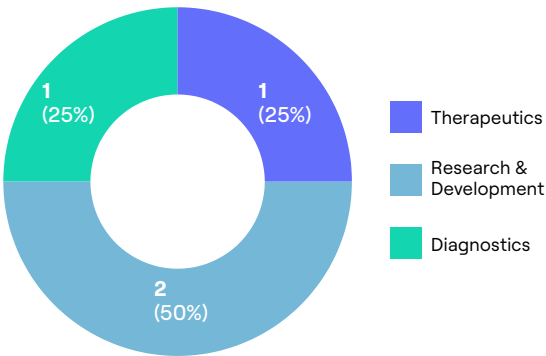
DILUTIVE FUNDING

76%

NONDILUTIVE FUNDING

24%

TECHNOLOGY TYPE (2025)



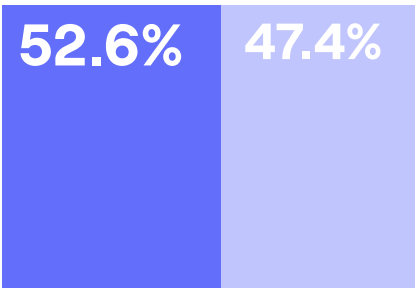
CUMULATIVE INCORPORATED COMPANIES:

4

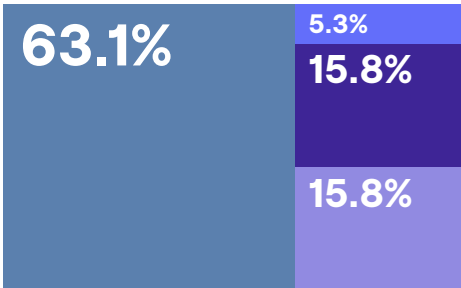
JOBS CREATED:

18

LEADERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS



Man Woman



PhD MD Undergraduate MBA

EVENTS HOSTED 13

TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTENDEES 90

Since launching in 2021, Nucleate New Haven has helped catalyze 16 spinout companies — averaging four per year — primarily from Yale, with others from UConn and Jackson Labs. Four ventures have incorporated and raised nearly \$5 million. Each spinout is backed by patents and rooted in rigorous research, including our entire 2025 cohort. This sustained impact highlights the strength of the Activator model, which equips academic founders with the structure, mentorship, and resources needed to translate breakthrough science into high-potential biotech ventures poised for real-world impact.

“At Nucleate New Haven, I’ve had the opportunity to have a front-row seat to learn about company formation, whether from the activator co-founders or from entrepreneurial keynote speakers. I’ve also built a rich and engaging network of future biotech leaders.”

➤ REINA DESROULEAUX, VP of Operations



Institutes collaborated with:



PENNSYLVANIA

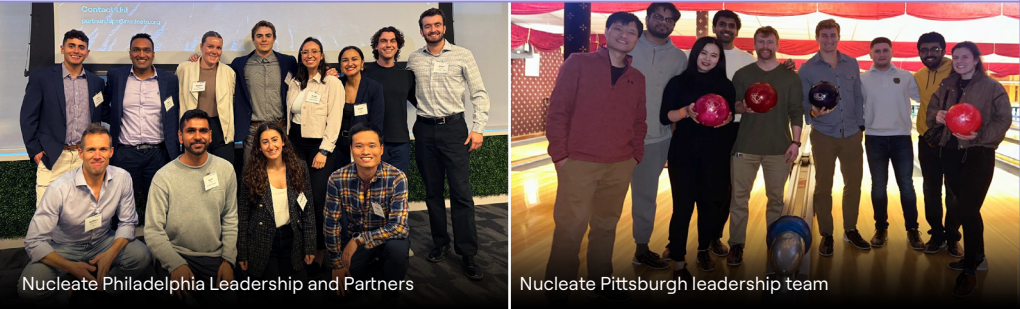
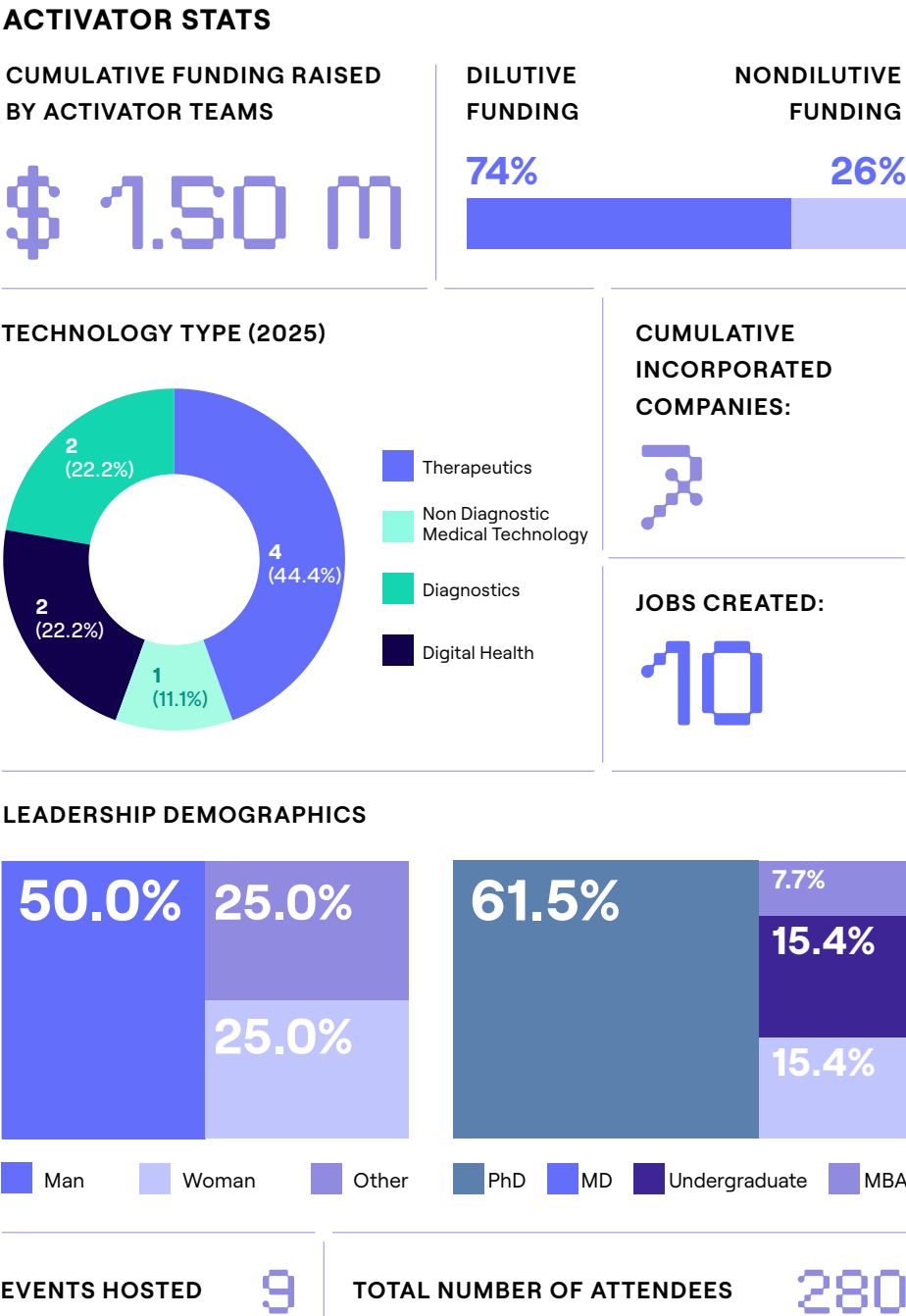


Nucleate’s presence in Pennsylvania reflects the strength of two vibrant ecosystems—Philadelphia and Pittsburgh—that have now come together under one banner: Nucleate Pennsylvania (Nucleate PA). The story began in 2021 with the launch of Nucleate Philadelphia, founded by Dhairya Patel and Adrienne Jo. The chapter rapidly established itself as a central node in the state’s life sciences community, building partnerships with leading institutions such as the University of Pennsylvania, Drexel, Jefferson, CHOP, and Wistar, and industry players like B+Labs, CIC, BioLabs, Morgan Lewis, and MilliporeSigma. By its fourth Activator season in 2025, the chapter had already supported 20 alumni teams, many rooted in the region’s breakthroughs in cell and gene therapy.

In 2022, Nucleate Pittsburgh was founded by two Carnegie Mellon students to extend Nucleate’s mission to Western Pennsylvania. Anchored by CMU’s strengths in engineering and AI and the University of Pittsburgh’s biomedical research powerhouse, the chapter quickly built partnerships across UPMC Enterprises, local startups, and venture funds including Reinforced Ventures and 1517 Fund. In 2024, Nucleate Pittsburgh launched its inaugural BioHack, drawing 200+ participants and nearly 20 teams tackling mentor-driven challenges. Branded the region’s “Premier Life Sciences Competition,” it became a national model and helped spark a global BioHack initiative with the New York chapter.

The two chapters formally converged through a regional Activator pilot in 2024, which proved transformative. A standout success came from Mito Robotics (originally MitoAI), a Pittsburgh-based team that won Demo Day honors and secured \$1 million in funding from Draper Associates. Building on this momentum, the partnership was formalized in 2025 with the creation of Nucleate PA—a unified hub spanning both cities.

Together, Nucleate PA now hosts a statewide Activator program and ecosystem events, connecting diverse institutions and industries. By blending Eastern PA’s leadership in cell and gene therapy with Western PA’s engineering and computational strengths, Nucleate PA is catalyzing the growth of a truly statewide biotech hub.



Nucleate PA is more than a merger of two chapters—it’s a platform where students, trainees, and young founders gain access to mentorship, networks, and opportunities that accelerate their ideas into impact. Philadelphia anchors the program in cell and gene therapy, drawing on institutions like Penn, Drexel, CHOP, and Wistar, while Pittsburgh contributes world-class strengths in engineering, AI, and biomedical research. Together, they form a pipeline that connects ideas from lab to market across the state.

The chapter’s signature events—Activator Demo Day and the Pittsburgh BioHack—have become proving grounds for talent and technologies, attracting leaders from startups, venture firms, law, and industry. With each season, the network grows deeper, the projects more ambitious, and the outcomes more tangible. By uniting two complementary ecosystems, Nucleate PA is helping Pennsylvania stake its claim as a national leader in life sciences innovation.

“Nucleate has provided experiences that are not typically available to graduate trainees, and this newfound perspective has helped me to better understand and tell the story of life science innovation.”

> ROBERT TRUDEAU, Co-MD Philadelphia Chapter '24 - '25



SPONSORS



Nucleate San Diego was one of the first chapters established outside of Boston, founded by Sammi Sison and Amir Ferry. Recognizing the lack of opportunities for academic trainees across San Diego’s world-class research institutions to engage with biotech innovation, they launched the chapter to bridge this gap. As one of Nucleate’s earliest regional hubs, the San Diego chapter has also played a pivotal role in shaping the organization’s broader mission and infrastructure. San Diego’s life science and biotech ecosystem is rapidly expanding, with institutions like UC San Diego, The Salk Institute, and The Scripps Research Institute serving as major innovation anchors. Nucleate San Diego works closely with key partners such as Biocom California and Connect to further strengthen this ecosystem, acting as a vital conduit between academic talent and biotech industry stakeholders.

This past year, Nucleate San Diego partnered with Diversity and Science Lectures (DASL), a CZI-funded initiative, to host a three-part event series focused on advancing equity in the biotech workforce. One of these events, held during the BIO International Convention, drew over 500 attendees from academia and industry and featured leaders like Dr. Christalyn Rhodes (Eli Lilly), Dr. Sonya Neal (UCSD), Dr. Tyler Brown (OUTBio), and Dr. Tari Suprpto (Novo Nordisk). These events reinforced Nucleate SD’s commitment to equity in STEM, while also building bridges between academia, pharma, venture capital, and nonprofit sectors within San Diego’s thriving biotech landscape.

ACTIVATOR STATS

CUMULATIVE FUNDING RAISED BY ACTIVATOR TEAMS

\$ 5.49 m

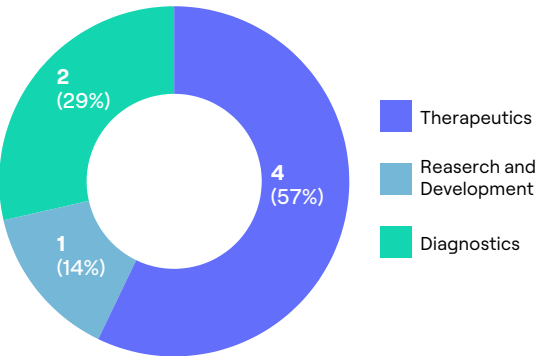
DILUTIVE FUNDING

74%

NONDILUTIVE FUNDING

26%

TECHNOLOGY TYPE (2025)



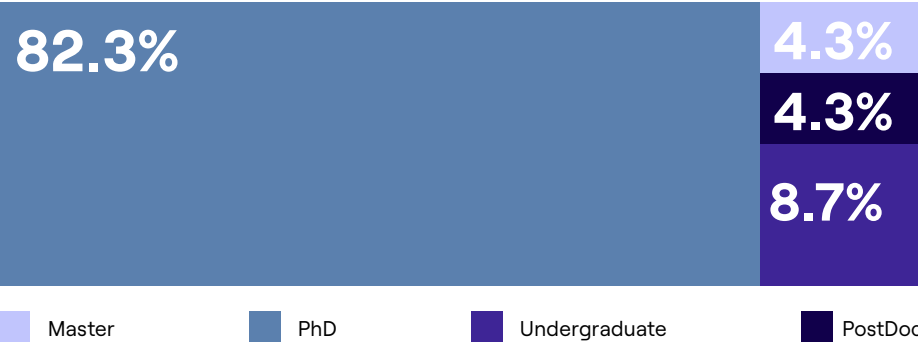
CUMULATIVE INCORPORATED COMPANIES:



JOBS CREATED:

35

LEADERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS



EVENTS HOSTED

16

TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTENDEES

315

The SD ecosystem is truly unique because it blends strong research excellence and resilience in the life sciences with the more laid-back San Diego culture — it is the Biotech Beach, after all! Its life sciences community is deeply translational, with numerous institutions driving research toward real-world impact. Innovation clusters in La Jolla, Torrey Pines, and Sorrento Valley — home to top research centers, big pharma (Pfizer, Eli Lilly, J&J), and VCs (ARCH Ventures, ARE Investments) — foster cross-pollination of ideas and collaboration, creating a dynamic, resilient, and distinctly San Diego environment for biotech innovation.

“As a graduate student, much of our work is done independently, which can sometimes feel isolating. Being part of Nucleate has been incredibly fulfilling—it’s a space to collaborate with talented peers, exchange ideas, and grow both as a leader and as a person. It’s where I’ve found my sense of belonging, which in turn continues to motivate me in my daily research.”

➤ XIAOXUE LIN, PhD student at UCSD, Communications at Nucleate SD



Institutes collaborated with:



BALTIMORE | DC



SPONSORS



J.P.Morgan



Nucleate Baltimore | DC was launched in 2020 after Taylor Cottle, Marta Majcherska-Agrawal, and Gosia Latallo participated remotely in Nucleate’s Boston-based Activator program. Inspired by its impact, they set out to bring the same resources, mentorship, and opportunities to life science trainees across the DMV. As program alumni, they built a local hub to support entrepreneurial talent and expand access to venture building in the region.

Baltimore’s biotech ecosystem is vibrant and expanding, anchored by institutions like UMBventures, Johns Hopkins Technology Ventures, The GRID, Pharmapreneurship®, and the Pava Center. Community groups like BioBuzz, Students for Non-Academic Careers, and the Hopkins Biotech Network offer additional support. A major catalyst is the \$4 million NIH REACH grant to UMB and UMBC to boost biomedical entrepreneurship. Nucleate Baltimore | DC complements this ecosystem by supporting academic founders through mentorship, community, and hands-on venture building.

The DMV sits at the crossroads of science and policy, with leading universities, proximity to NIH and FDA, and a strong biotech hub in Bethesda. Baltimore stands out for its research strength, federal investments, inclusive innovation, and growing startup scene in areas like Port Covington.

Nucleate Baltimore | DC hosted an intimate dinner with JPMorgan’s Life Sciences Banking team, led by Jalen Williams, bringing together biotech founders, investors, and industry leaders. The event offered alumni a unique chance to engage with JPM professionals and share updates on early-stage ventures.

We also launched our Women Leading Life Sciences Dinner Series to champion women innovators and spark dialogue in cancer immunology. Highlights included powerful insights from Dr. Suzanne Topalian, a pioneer in cancer immunotherapy, and Dr. Ashani Weeraratna, a leader in cancer research and public health. One guest shared, “The session was truly inspiring... enabling young scientists to connect with mentors and peers alike. The insights shared and connections made will undoubtedly inspire future generations to push boundaries and pursue their passions in science.”

ACTIVATOR STATS

CUMULATIVE FUNDING RAISED BY ACTIVATOR TEAMS

\$ 3.20 m

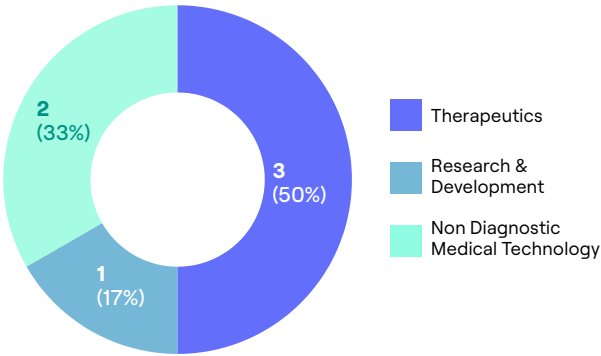
DILUTIVE FUNDING

0%

NONDILUTIVE FUNDING

100%

TECHNOLOGY TYPE (2025)



CUMULATIVE INCORPORATED COMPANIES:

5

JOBS CREATED:

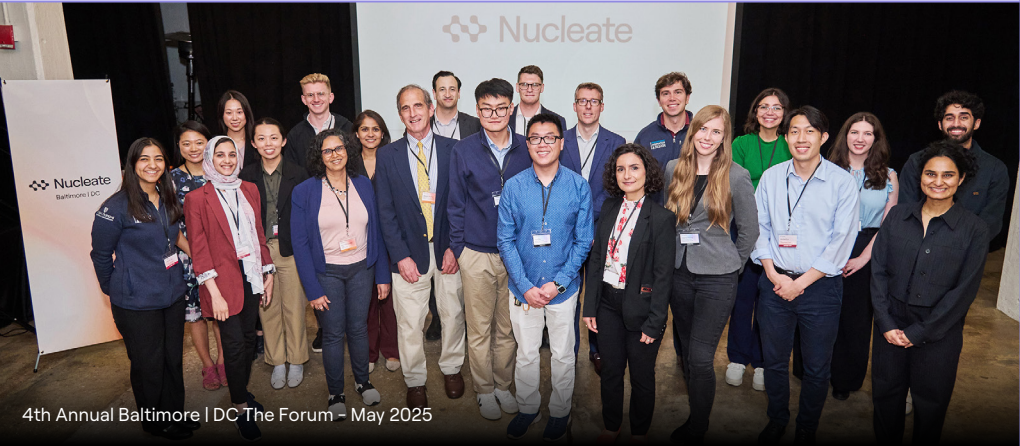
21

LEADERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS



EVENTS HOSTED 26

TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTENDEES 280



Prompt Diagnostics, a Baltimore-based startup, exemplifies the impact of Nucleate’s Activator program. Founded by Dr. Alexander Trick, the team developed a portable platform for rapid, low-cost infectious disease diagnostics. During the 2024 Baltimore Activator, they refined their model and formed strategic partnerships. Since graduating, they’ve secured \$600,000 from the Maryland Innovation Initiative and a \$258,558 NIH SBIR Phase I award to develop multiplexed STI diagnostics. Prompt’s success reflects Baltimore’s growing strength as a hub for translational research and biotech innovation.

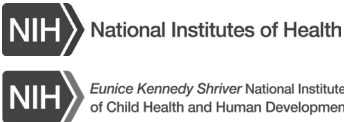
“After discovering Nucleate last year, I was inspired to bring its opportunities to the University System of Maryland. It’s been incredibly rewarding to watch Activator teams grow and to build strong connections within Nucleate’s global community. The enthusiasm from trainees and institutions across the DMV reflects a strong commitment to biotech innovation. I’m honored to be part of Nucleate Baltimore | DC and excited to help the ecosystem thrive.”

> JESSICA CORNELL, Managing Director 2025, Nucleate Baltimore | DC

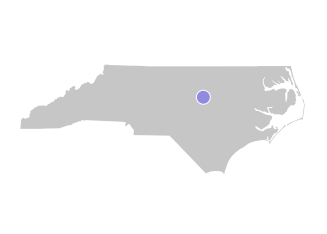
Institutes collaborated with:



Georgetown University







SPONSORS







SPONSORS



Founded in 2021, Nucleate RTP plays a vital role in the Research Triangle Park’s biotech ecosystem. The chapter has run the Activator program for three years and sent a team to the Global Virtual Activator once. Leadership rotates annually, with current co-Managing Directors Glory Dan-Dukor and Jahnelle Jackson continuing the work of earlier leads, including Victoria Goldenstein, Briana Vickerman, Selin A., and Elana Lockshin. While RTP hosts several commercialization programs, many focus on faculty-led ventures. Nucleate fills a key gap by empowering graduate students, postdocs, and professional trainees—groups often overlooked in traditional tech transfer. Through cross-institutional collaboration, hands-on venture building, and structured mentorship, Nucleate provides a cohort-based experience that helps trainees build startups around university or independent technologies. This approach sets it apart from one-off events or grants offered by groups like NCInnovation or NCBiotech. RTP’s innovation ecosystem is anchored by Duke, UNC-Chapel Hill, and NC State, supporting biotech, agtech, and environmental science. Its concentration of life science companies, strong biomanufacturing infrastructure, and relatively low cost of living make it an ideal environment for early-stage ventures.

A standout initiative is the annual “Sustainability in Biotech” event, hosted with MilliporeSigma, which unites students, startups, and industry leaders around environmentally conscious innovation. Another highlight is the Pitch Innovation Session, a supportive platform for first-time trainees. With 50+ attendees and positive feedback from judges, it offers a low-barrier entry into entrepreneurship. What distinguishes the chapter is its deep mentor network—industry, academic, and startup leaders who are eager to support and empower trainees, reflecting RTP’s collaborative and inclusive innovation culture.

GOALS FOR 2025-2026

Goal 1: Expand program involvement through targeted recruitment and greater engagement with GVA teams

Goal 2: Increase sponsorships through meaningful partnerships

“The people I’ve met through Nucleate have become not only incredible colleagues but genuine friends. As Partnerships Director, I’ve had the chance to connect with investors, founders, and experts across the country—it’s been an amazing launchpad for a career in entrepreneurship. I’ve never felt more globally connected.”

➤ **ELLIE GUILFOYLE**, Director of Partnerships

The Nucleate Atlanta chapter was founded in 2022 by Mighten Yip. Mighten helped to build the foundation of Nucleate in the Atlanta life sciences community. In 2023, Amisha Patel and Mikaela Rahman continued the initial momentum in Atlanta, establishing Nucleate as a core part of the entrepreneurship journey for early-stage founders. In 2024, Daniel Aziz expanded the reach of Nucleate Atlanta's chapter to new universities in Atlanta and added clinician consultations for each Activator team.

The chapter has now completed three years with a live Activator program, producing fourteen Activator teams in total, with about three members on average. While there are entrepreneurship courses and excellent technology transfer offices in the Atlanta ecosystem, they’re restricted to members of specific universities. There are no similar mentorship and startup development programs in the Atlanta ecosystem that are dedicated to life sciences and accessible to students from any institution.

The leadership team grew to 12 members in 2024 and hosted students from four different institutions.

The largest demo day to date occurred in 2024 with over 100 attendees and was hosted at Portal Innovations. Feedback on the demo day was that pitch quality was higher in 2024 than at any previous demo day in Atlanta. We hosted an NIH NCI SBIR workshop with two panelists who are program directors at the NIH. We hosted four events in total, bringing in students from five different institutions. We developed a strong partnership with Georgia Tech's Quadrant I office, helping us to better reach founders at Georgia Tech. We started new relationships with Georgia State University and Kennesaw State University to begin recruiting founders in upcoming years. There’s strong interest in the region in careers as life sciences investors. We have been establishing relationships with investors in the region to launch a venture series in 2025–2026.

"I joined Nucleate as a postdoc after relocating to a city where I knew nobody and felt unsure about pursuing academic research as a career. After one year in leadership, I forged many friendships, and I’m now creating opportunities for scientists in our ecosystem to cultivate the commercial skills needed to bring their ideas to market."

➤ **HUNG-JEN WU** (INCOMING CO-MD)

01

02

03

04

25

NUCLEATE IMPACT REPORT 2024-2025



NEW ORLEANS



SPONSORS



Nucleate’s New Orleans chapter was founded in 2023 and officially launched that fall with an event at the New Orleans BioInnovation Center. The founding team set out to bring a student perspective to the city’s growing biotech ecosystem. Since then, they’ve built a 16-person leadership team spanning several universities.

The chapter works with partners including the Tulane Innovation Institute, the BioInnovation Center, the Albert Lepage Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation, and the Idea Village to advance biotechnology in the Crescent City. They’ve hosted networking events connecting students and industry professionals, led informational workshops, and spotlighted local biotech careers and companies. Each spring, their Bright Kids in Biotech event invites high school students to pitch ideas — sparking early interest in innovation and entrepreneurship. Through these efforts, they’ve cultivated a community of over 300 innovators and leaders.

Nucleate New Orleans aims to help establish the city as a life sciences hub where groundbreaking ideas thrive, diverse talent is supported, and local and global impact is made. A highlight from the past year was the chapter’s event during New Orleans Entrepreneur Week: a “Biotech Career Catalyst” workshop with PlansConnect, where attendees learned to craft elevator pitches, network effectively, and refine their LinkedIn presence.

With its cultural richness and strong academic institutions — including Tulane, Loyola, LSU School of Medicine, and the University of New Orleans—New Orleans is emerging as a biotech hotspot. Nucleate New Orleans is proud to be part of the community making that future a reality.

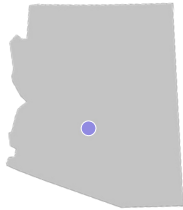


Nucleate New Orleans leadership team

“Being part of Nucleate has not only expanded my perspective on the future of biotech in the Gulf South but also given me the tools to catalyze collaboration in a meaningful, sustainable way. As a medical student, I know that medicine is always evolving and having an opportunity to be on the forefront of growing innovation and driving collaboration between academia and industry in NOLA has helped me build a strong foundation as an aspiring physician scientist and innovator.”

➤ SAMMY VODOVOZ, Co-MD
Nucleate New Orleans

ARIZONA



SPONSORS



In the past two years, Arizona’s life sciences ecosystem has grown to over 3,600 companies, generating a \$43.6 billion economic impact in 2023—up 13% from two years earlier. The state is home to three major research institutions — Arizona State University, the University of Arizona, and Northern Arizona University — alongside leading biotech organizations like TGen, Mayo Clinic, and MD Anderson, plus a rising network of biotech incubators.

Founded in 2022, Nucleate Arizona connects students and trainees to this dynamic ecosystem. Our programs complement university tech transfer offices by preparing young researchers to take ideas from lab to product. Through panels, mentorship, and the Genesis Spotlight webinar series, we guide participants through IP strategy, tech transfer processes, founder readiness, and commercialization.

In just two years, we’ve reached more than 1,000 students, researchers, and biotech leaders; built partnerships with VCs, law firms, and real estate sponsors; and launched educational programs across ASU and beyond. As Arizona advances toward becoming a national biotech hub, Nucleate plays a key role in transforming the state’s robust research pipeline into real-world impact.

A highlight of the past year was the Nucleate Arizona Ideathon — a one-day innovation challenge where more than 50 students tackled biomedical and ecological problems using the Business Model Canvas framework. Teams developed solutions, value propositions, and roadmaps, then pitched their concepts to industry judges. Designed to demystify venture creation and lower barriers to entry, the Ideathon served as both a launchpad for future founders and a community-building event connecting students, mentors, and professionals across Arizona’s growing life sciences landscape.

“I sought student involvement and challenges at ASU and learned of Ideathon through my genetics recitation. I have never enjoyed an ASU event like this one, and it was thanks to the collaboration of Nucleate AZ. The event challenged me to create a pitch for the first time, and it provided me with new connections, more resilience, and better critical thinking for when I go into a real pitch. The community of students and researchers made me feel further connected with ASU because it presented me with aspects of a researcher’s mindset I had never thought of, like how market strategy, a roadmap, and customer relations affected the development and release of products and innovations into the world. I’m prepared to innovate further and turn ideas into applicable solutions thanks to Ideathon!”

➤ IDEATHON ATTENDEE



Nucleate Arizona at the 2025 Inaugural Ideathon (at Arizona State University)

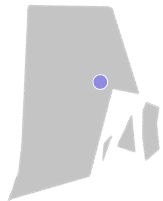
GOALS FOR 2025-2026

Goal 1: Run the Genesis Webinar and Ideathon at ASU; build the BioLaunch at ASU club event schedule to further boost engagement

Goal 2: Continue fortifying education content by expanding the Ideathon to other universities such as UofA to promote the University TTO’s



RHODE ISLAND



SPONSORS



Beginning in the fall of 2024, Nucleate Rhode Island hit the ground running thanks to motivated students from Brown University and the University of Rhode Island quickly assembling into a cohesive and productive team. State-sponsored investment into the local life science industry recently provided key infrastructure for becoming a biotech innovation hub, including 30,000 sq. ft. of new incubator lab space in the Jewelry District. Our Nucleate chapter now looks to foster Cambridge-like entrepreneurial spirit within our R1 universities and fill that lab space with startups pioneering the next generation of biomedical solutions. Leveraging both Nucleate’s extensive network of mentors and proximity to the Boston chapter will bolster startups and elevate Rhode Island’s visibility on the national biotech stage.

Our first event, an info session held at Narragansett Brewery, brought together students, faculty, and founders to discuss the local ecosystem’s bright future over refreshing summer ales. Several attendees drove in from MA—including our very own Oliver Dodd and Caroline Steingard—highlighting the attention being paid to our state’s momentum.



From Left: Devin Bemis and Joe Inger, founding Co-MDs at their chapter launch event at Narragansett Brewery

"Rhode Island was desperately needing student-centered biotech venture support, which is why we've been met with resounding positivity and encouragement at every step. Our chapter has steadily been steering our small state's life science ecosystem towards the outsized innovation engine it is poised to become."

➤ DEVIN BEMIS,
Co-Managing Director

GOALS FOR 2025-2026

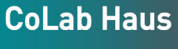
Goal 1: Continue hosting PATH:Inside events and engage with community members

Goal 2: Source 2-3 Rhode Island-based teams for the Boston Chapter's Activator, and facilitate their participation in the program

FLORIDA



SPONSORS



Launched in Fall 2022, Nucleate Florida supports academic founders and accelerates biotech innovation statewide. Co-founded by University of Miami PhD candidates Natalie Ricciardi and Chloe Kirk, the chapter was created to address a clear gap: while interest in life science entrepreneurship was rising, local resources to support startup formation were limited.

Now in its third year, Nucleate Florida has run the Activator program for two years, supporting 13 early-stage biotech startups with tailored mentorship, pitch coaching, and strategic guidance. The 15-member leadership team spans from Tallahassee to Miami, and four members — including both co-founders — have earned their PhDs since launch. The chapter is now led by Co-Managing Directors Olivia Bosquet, Avni Bhalgat (both from University of Miami) and Ashleigh Abbott (University of Florida).

Nucleate Florida is the only student-focused life sciences accelerator in the state and the only active organization connecting students across Florida universities. We bridge academia and industry through free, in-person events that link life science trainees with the broader biotech community. Over the past two years, we’ve hosted 30+ events, including 20+ networking sessions, with our largest drawing over 350 attendees from 500+ registrants.

Florida’s biotech sector is on the rise, home to six R1 institutions, top-ranked universities, and a growing number of patent-producing research centers. Unlike plateauing growth in traditional biotech hubs, Florida continues to see record-breaking VC rounds and increasing biotech establishments. With strong academic infrastructure, growing capital, and a dynamic startup culture, Florida — and Nucleate Florida — offer the ideal environment to translate research into real-world innovation.

"Being part of Nucleate Florida has been transformative. It connected me with other students eager to explore opportunities beyond academia and engage with the biotech ecosystem. I realized Florida’s potential lies in fostering these connections."

➤ LEONOR TELES, Research Director

"The program helped us turn our idea into a product and taught us to evaluate company growth through regulatory and market perspectives. It also emphasized the need for legal mentorship before fundraising."

➤ PRODIA, Activator 2024

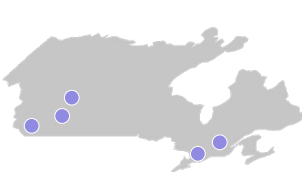
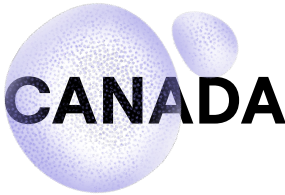
"The program showed me how the network of people and information practically fits into building processes, going beyond theoretical knowledge."

➤ LDD, Activator 2024



Nucleate Florida leadership after their Demo Day event





SPONSORS

Founded in 2023 by Lucas Penny and Dan Voicu, Nucleate Canada began with a vision to strengthen and connect bio-innovation communities across Canada’s growing life sciences sector. The initial plan was to build Nucleate Canada gradually on the East Coast, focusing on Toronto and Montreal. However, this quickly evolved into a national initiative, fueled by the incredible interest and enthusiasm from students eager to help shape Canada’s future in biotechnology and life sciences. Today, Nucleate Canada encompasses the country’s main biohubs in Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal.

The 2024–2025 season was Nucleate Canada’s inaugural cohort and included 7 teams, 24 students, and spanned 4 provinces. We have seen Nucleate Canada bridge the gap between entrepreneurial scientists and industry, addressing a key unmet need in Canada’s life sciences innovation ecosystem. While several campus groups and national organizations support student founders, few focus specifically on life sciences or translational research. Nucleate complements these efforts by fostering a community centered on biotech innovation, mentorship, and venture creation. We connect students with local and international founders, investors, and stakeholders, providing invaluable insights into the bioeconomy. Through our Activator Program, Nucleate equips students and trainees with the skills, networks, and mindset to translate scientific discoveries into real-world impact.

Canada’s defining advantage is its nationwide network of world-class research hubs—University of Toronto, McGill, UBC, and University of Alberta, to name a few—producing cutting-edge life science research. Nucleate Canada is present in each hub, allowing for cross-pollination of ideas, talent, and mentorship. In recent years, government and university programs have deepened their commitments to entrepreneurship and innovation. Combined with grassroots initiatives, a strong mentor network, alumni angels, and seasoned founders, Canada is well positioned to sustain its momentum and build a thriving life sciences innovation ecosystem.



“This first year of Nucleate Canada was incredibly empowering. It was inspiring to see teams evolve into scientific founders and learn to pitch their business. Their growth over just a few months was exponential, with impressive patents and clear passion to commercialize their work. It’s clear that Nucleate is not only necessary in Canada but has global relevance..”

➤ LUCAS PENNY, Nucleate Canada coMD



SPONSORS

Founded by Argentinian PhD students Gustavo Carrizo and Sofia Aramburu, Nucleate Argentina was born from a shared vision to unlock the country’s biotech potential and empower the next generation of founders. While pursuing their research in the U.S., both became involved with the Nucleate community and saw the need for a platform to bridge Argentina’s strong academic talent with the tools for venture creation — largely absent in the local academic environment.

Since launch, the chapter has become a key player in Argentina’s biotech ecosystem. More than 500 students have participated in in-person BioHackathons, and the chapter has built an online network of 1,500 Instagram followers and 800 LinkedIn connections. In 2025, Nucleate Argentina is running its third Genesis program, bringing together 12 students for three months of startup ideation, mentorship, and expert-led workshops. The program has earned praise from mentors and industry leaders for the quality of its teams and final pitches.

Argentina’s biotech sector is growing, supported by active VCs, biotech-focused universities, and a strong academic community — half of Latin America’s Nobel laureates are Argentinian. Yet most local venture programs focus on spinning out existing lab-based technologies, leaving many scientists without entrepreneurship training until they first meet investors. Nucleate Argentina closes this gap by equipping students with the skills, networks, and mindset to turn scientific ideas into successful ventures.

“Through this program I was able to complement my academic background with knowledge about the creation of startups, intellectual property, team building and entrepreneurship, among other subjects that aren't usually talked about or taught in the traditional academic scene. We learned how to go from a simple idea to a startup that could receive funding, it was an amazing formative experience for my career.”

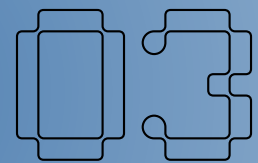
➤ MARCO MANCINI, Genesis Cohort 2023, current Co-MD



GOALS FOR 2025-2026

Goal 1: Continue to grow out network and leadership team

Goal 2: xCreate a federal approach for our events and programs, successfully carry out Genesis



GLOBAL CHAPTERS



NORTH & SOUTH AMERICA

Boston
Bay Area
New York
Los Angeles
Seattle
Chicago + Michigan
Texas Hub
New Haven
Pennsylvania
San Diego
Baltimore | DC
Research Triangle Park
Atlanta
New Orleans
Arizona
Rhode Island
Florida
Canada
Argentina



EUROPE

United Kingdom
Denmark
France
Germany
Switzerland
Baltics
Italy
Netherlands
Spain
Norway



MIDDLE EAST & ASIA

Israel
Singapore
Taiwan
South Korea
Australia
India
Japan





UNITED KINGDOM



SPONSORS



COVINGTON



Nucleate UK was founded in 2022 by James Bayne and Miroslav Gasperek to address the lack of support for academic trainees in the UK interested in commercializing their research. The chapter quickly built momentum, fostering connections across the UK ecosystem to help scientists recognize the commercial potential of their technologies through the Activator program. Today, the leadership team includes over 70 volunteers dedicated to empowering the next generation of biotech leaders.

The UK biotech ecosystem is entering an exciting era, marked by the launch of ARIA, the Advanced Research and Invention Agency, positioned as the UK’s counterpart to DARPA. ARIA’s initial £800 million budget was allocated to run until 2025-26, with at least £1 billion committed over the spending review period ending in 2030. As one of ARIA’s selected Activation Partners, Nucleate UK is proud to contribute to advancing transformative scientific breakthroughs by accelerating the translation of academic innovation into real-world impact. Strategic partnerships with The Sainsbury Laboratory, Amino Collective, Oxford Nanopore Technologies, WuXi Biologics, and FullCircle have significantly expanded the resources available to our founders.

Our collaboration with ARIA has enabled high-impact events and deep engagement with the broader UK academic network — reaching centres beyond the Golden Triangle, including Norwich, Bristol, Manchester, and Dundee. These events have helped disseminate biotech expertise across the early-career researcher community, including a standout session with Peter Barrett of Atlas Venture. Underpinning all efforts is a robust and growing mentor network, including seasoned experts in venture capital, biotech entrepreneurship, academic-industry crossover, and pharma leadership. Many mentors return annually, providing consistent and invaluable guidance to founders. Through these efforts, Nucleate UK continues to play a central role in shaping the future of biotech innovation across the United Kingdom.

This year, Nucleate UK achieved its highest-ever application numbers, leading all global chapters in submissions, including a ninefold increase in Eco Track Activator applications. The Eco Track featured its largest cohort to date, including three agri-tech ventures and one focused on carbon capture; among them, a team has already raised over \$3 million in pre-seed funding. In parallel, the Bio Track supported 12 teams working on therapeutics, diagnostics, and R&D innovations.

ACTIVATOR STATS

CUMULATIVE FUNDING RAISED
BY ACTIVATOR TEAMS

\$ 34.5 m

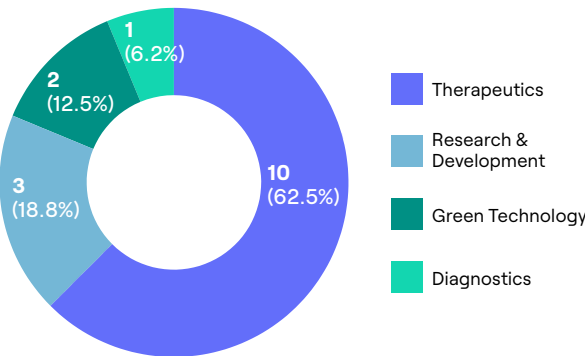
DILUTIVE
FUNDING

81%

NONDILUTIVE
FUNDING

19%

TECHNOLOGY TYPE (2025)



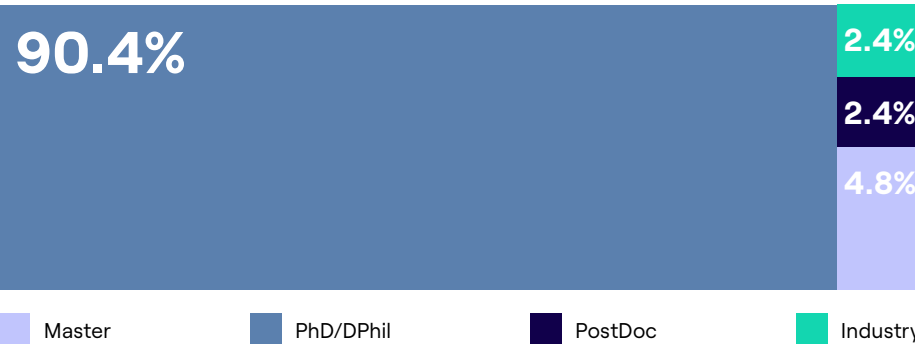
CUMULATIVE
INCORPORATED
COMPANIES:

13

JOBS CREATED:

62

LEADERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS



EVENTS HOSTED 33

TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTENDEES 2430



The Leadership Team at the 2025 UK Forum

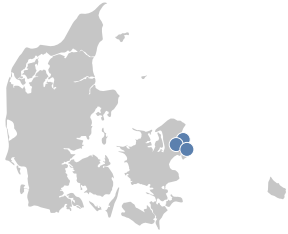
Nucleate UK’s alumni include Sensible Biotechnologies, which raised \$4.2M and partnered with Ginkgo Bioworks, and Xterna, which has secured lab space and is already hiring its first employees. We are also excited to have launched the first Eco Roadshow, reaching five cities this year and strengthening the UK’s eco-biotech network. Nucleate UK also launched The Forum with Covington & Burling, bringing together 200+ biotech leaders in a format now replicated globally. Past Forum speakers like Dame Molly Stevens and Sir Mene Pangalos exemplify Nucleate’s mission to bridge academia and industry through commercialization and national innovation strategy.

“It’s been a pleasure working alongside Nucleate UK, aside from helping our Activator Alumni build their companies, it has been a privilege to support our leadership in realising their ambitions within biotech.”

> ALYA MASOUD, Director of Nucleate UK

Institutes collaborated with:





SPONSORS



Launched in September 2023 by Carlotta Strelow, Christoffer Merrild, Justus Florian Gräf, and Venla Väänänen, Nucleate Denmark emerged from a unique coalition of local ecosystem leaders. The chapter was born from the collaboration between Synapse—a student-led organization connecting life science students with career opportunities — and REBBLs, a PhD-founded network focused on entrepreneurial development. This partnership provided a strong foundation of community, experience, and institutional knowledge, enabling Nucleate Denmark to immediately launch its first Activator season. Now in its second year, the Activator program has expanded to support six teams in 2024 and seven in 2025. A new feature this year was the introduction of a two-day overnight bootcamp to kick off the season—an immersive experience that helped build early collaboration, deep team bonds, and a dynamic community spirit.

Nucleate Denmark has already catalyzed several early-stage biotech success stories. One standout is KPL, whose mentor, matched through the program, became both a key advisor and their first customer — helping the team pursue organic growth over VC funding. As one founder noted, “Joining Nucleate Denmark was invaluable — it connected us to industry leaders and transformed our trajectory.”

Another success, BioHalo, gained critical insights and talent from within the Nucleate network. A member of the leadership team joined the company as business development lead, and their assigned mentor became an advisor. Since then, BioHalo has raised over \$2 million in pre-seed funding and won the 2024 BlueYard x Nucleate Venture Prize. These stories exemplify the transformative value of Nucleate Denmark’s community-driven approach and tailored mentorship, underscoring its growing role as a launchpad for biotech innovation in the Nordic region.

ACTIVATOR STATS

CUMULATIVE FUNDING RAISED BY ACTIVATOR TEAMS

\$ 5.00 m

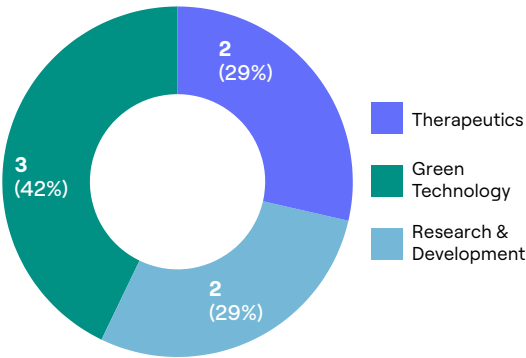
DILUTIVE FUNDING

35%

NONDILUTIVE FUNDING

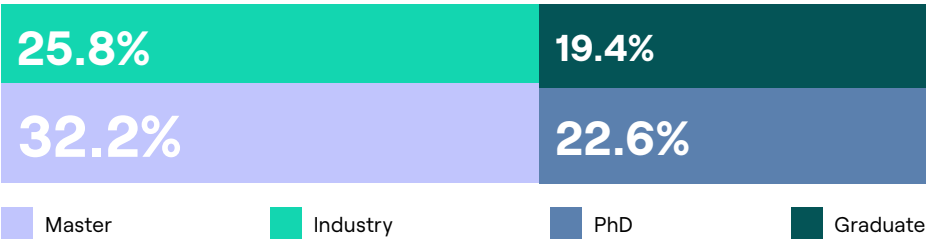
65%

TECHNOLOGY TYPE (2025)



Our leadership team highlights the international and collaborative nature of the Danish life science scene. From the 31 alumni, we represent 12 different nationalities with 15 different educational backgrounds emphasizing the importance of the a diversified team to go above and beyond the lab benches.

LEADERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS



ACTIVATOR TEAMS

13

INVENTORS

19

CONTRIBUTORS

30

JOBS CREATED:

13

Since 2024, Nucleate Denmark has supported 13 Activator teams comprising 19 inventors and 30 contributors. Collectively, these teams have raised over \$2 million in soft funding and \$3 million in equity-based investment. Committed to fostering diverse growth paths, the chapter is proud that several founders have pursued organic growth — launching two innovative products that advance research and diagnostics. These milestones reflect Nucleate Denmark’s mission to empower early-stage biotech ventures through tailored support, entrepreneurial guidance, and community-driven collaboration in the Nordic life sciences ecosystem.

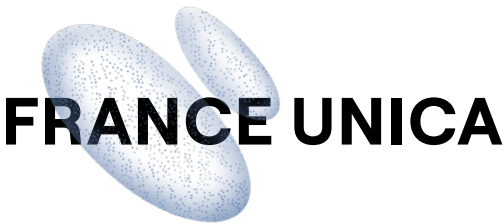
“The Novo Nordisk Foundation fully supports Nucleate Denmark. We are particularly inspired by Nucleate’s trainee-led approach and global reach, which plays a crucial role in connecting young innovators with industry to drive the translation of scientific discoveries into impactful solutions. This mission aligns well with the Novo Nordisk Foundation's strategy, and we look forward to following their continued success in fostering entrepreneurship within Denmark's innovation ecosystem.”

➤ KARIN HULTMAN, Senior Scientific Lead, Novo Nordisk Foundation



Institutes collaborated with:

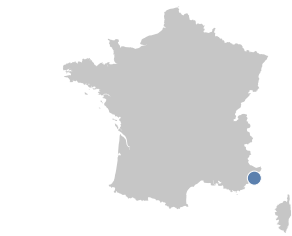




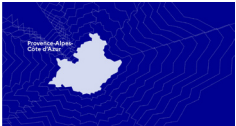
Nucleate France UniCA was launched following a pivotal visit by the French Minister of Education and Université Côte d’Azur (UniCA) representatives to Nucleate Boston. Inspired by Nucleate’s impact and funded by the Initiative d’Excellence (IDEX), UniCA became the first university-led chapter, reflecting the Côte d’Azur region’s strong scientific and innovation ecosystem. Nice is a growing hub for life sciences, home to UniCA, CNRS, INSERM, and CHU Nice, with strengths in oncology, gene therapy, and metabolic, aging, and rare diseases. Nearby, the Sophia Antipolis tech park hosts over 2,500 companies, while Eurobiomed connects more than 400 stakeholders. Notable spin-offs like Mycophyto, Therachon, DiogenX, and ExAdEx-Innov highlight the region’s translational momentum. This innovation is supported by the PACA-Est Incubator, UniCA’s Startup Academy, SATT Sud-Est, and CEEI Nice. Nucleate France UniCA fills a critical gap in biotech translation, offering early-stage scientist-founders the mentorship, structure, and venture-building support needed to launch impactful companies. With strong academic-clinical ties and robust public-private partnerships, the chapter is helping shape the future of biotech entrepreneurship in France.

In its first year, France UniCA empowered two inventors and two contributors through the Global Virtual Activator (GVA), with contributors Nicolas Roby and Niels Fjordingstad joining winning teams in the Bio and Eco Tracks. Alumna Marielle Péré advanced the CellEmax project on pancreatic cancer therapies with Zurich collaborator Alessia Cambria and now continues her work through the prestigious Jeune Docteur Innovant postdoc program. France UniCA’s first local cohort was uniquely all-women-led, featuring four women-led projects and a fully women contributor team. A new partnership with Bio’M / Forum BiotechnoSUD in Marseille expands access to students across Southern France. With over 20 events hosted to date, the chapter is actively shaping the future of biotech innovation and entrepreneurship in the region.

Institutes collaborated with:



SPONSORS



ACTIVATOR STATS

CUMULATIVE FUNDING RAISED BY ACTIVATOR TEAMS



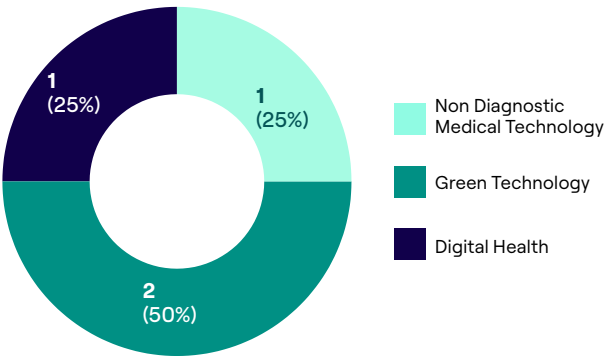
DILUTIVE FUNDING

0%

NONDILUTIVE FUNDING

100%

TECHNOLOGY TYPE (2025)



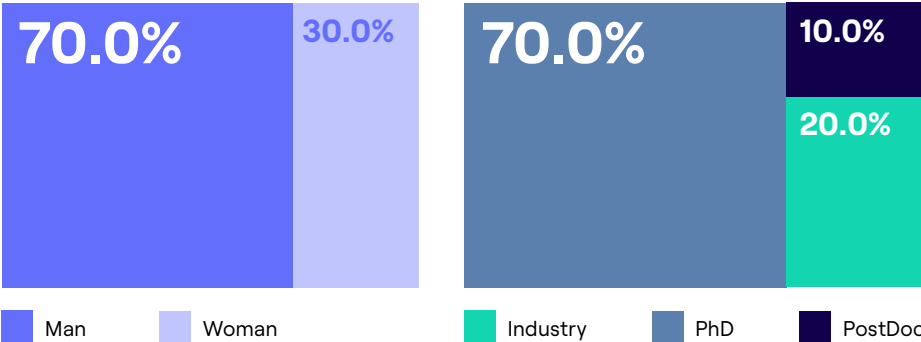
CUMULATIVE INCORPORATED COMPANIES:

2

JOBS CREATED:

2

LEADERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS



EVENTS HOSTED 21

TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTENDEES 400+



Nucleate France UniCA has made a strong regional impact, hosting 20+ events and six Activator workshops, reaching over 400 students across disciplines. Though university-led and based at Université Côte d’Azur, the program now spans seven leading regional research institutes. We’ve welcomed 30+ speakers from local, national, and international organizations. Notably, alumni have launched seven active startups, demonstrating the program’s effectiveness in translating research into real-world ventures and its growing role in driving biotech innovation and entrepreneurship across Southern France.

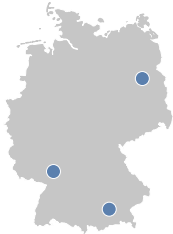
“I’m proud to have joined the Nucleate France program. As a scientist, it gave me guidance, tools, and encouragement like nothing before. Pitching with an all-woman team was empowering, a moment I’ll always value. Thank you to the France UniCA team for shaping my journey as an entrepreneur.”

> MAYA BAUER, Activator 25’





GERMANY



SPONSORS



Nucleate Germany was founded in 2022 through the unification of independent teams from Heidelberg and Munich, led by Mona Wang, Gauhar Sagindykova, Felix Güttersberger, Donnacha Fitzgerald, Mislav Basic, and Gizem Altun. As momentum grew, a Berlin team led by Inés Simó and Aarón Xerach Herrera Martín joined, establishing Nucleate Germany as a national chapter with three hubs: Heidelberg, Munich, and Berlin. Now in its second year of running the Activator program, Nucleate Germany has expanded to over 30 active leaders in 2025. The chapter serves as a national connector for emerging biotech founders, investors, and industry experts, facilitating collaboration across academic and regional therapeutics boundaries.

Germany’s biotech ecosystem is supported by academic excellence and robust public funding through initiatives like GO-Bio, EXIST, and SPRIND. Its decentralized structure enables innovation to flourish in diverse regions including Rhine-Neckar, Bavaria, Rhine-Main, and Berlin-Brandenburg. A standout success story is Invitris, a Munich-based startup that grew out of an iGEM project and participated in Nucleate’s Global Activator Cohort. Co-founded by Kilian Vogele and Patrick Grossmann, Invitris develops phage-based therapies targeting antimicrobial resistance in healthcare, agriculture, and food. The team joined Y Combinator and secured multi-million-euro funding from the EIC Accelerator — demonstrating the transformative power of early support.

Nucleate Germany’s public programming has seen strong traction. Both the 2024 and 2025 Demo Days drew over 250 signups and more than 150 in-person attendees. The national chapter launch welcomed 100+ guests, while a Fireside Chat with Fabian Theis on AI in biotech reached capacity at 80 attendees. High-profile speakers including Sierk Poetting (BioNTech), Regina Hodits (Angelini Ventures), and leading academics such as Andreas Ladurner and Georg Duda continue to elevate the chapter’s reach, visibility, and national impact.

ACTIVATOR STATS

CUMULATIVE FUNDING RAISED BY ACTIVATOR TEAMS

\$ 1.28 m

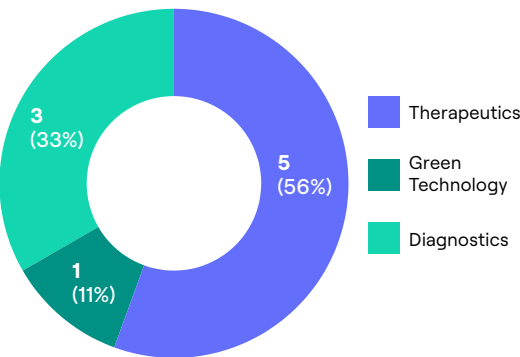
DILUTIVE FUNDING

0%

NONDILUTIVE FUNDING

100%

TECHNOLOGY TYPE (2025)



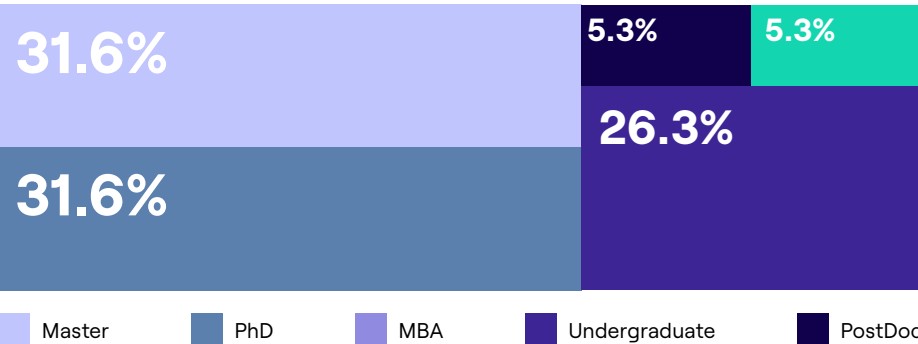
CUMULATIVE INCORPORATED COMPANIES:

3

JOBS CREATED:

10

LEADERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS



EVENTS HOSTED

10

TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTENDEES

224



Nucleate Germany leadership team during the Demo Day 2024 in Berlin. The event finalised the first Activator Program in Germany.

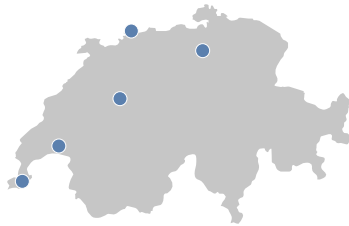
Nucleate Germany fosters community through an open WhatsApp group with 540+ members and a LinkedIn page with over 4,000 followers, sharing startup spotlights, program updates, and biotech opportunities. In 2025, the chapter hosted its first team retreat at Akademiezentrum Raitenhaslach, sponsored by the Technical University of Munich. Over two days, leaders aligned on vision, refined the Activator program, and planned future initiatives. The retreat strengthened team unity and reaffirmed Nucleate’s mission to break down barriers and empower researchers to build impactful biotech ventures.

“Being part of Nucleate was a life-changing journey. It really showed me how powerful a strong, supportive community can be, one where people are genuinely excited to build and learn together. And I feel like this is just the beginning.”

> GAUCHAR SAGINDYKOVA, Co-Founder of Nucleate Germany

Institutes collaborated with:





SPONSORS

Nikon BioImaging Lab
– Europe –



VOSSIUS
Patentanwälte Rechtsanwälte

Nucleate Switzerland was founded by Florian Bieberich, who brought on Dimitri Coukos to help bridge the gap between academia and industry by supporting scientist-founders at the earliest stages of translational research. While Switzerland is home to strong innovation infrastructure — such as Venturelab, EPFL Innovation Park, ETH Zurich’s Student Project House, the BioEntrepreneurship & Innovation Program, and Bioincubate — most initiatives focus on later-stage ventures. Nucleate fills a critical gap by equipping academic innovators with mentorship, community, and tools to transform research into high-impact biotech startups, fostering an entrepreneurial mindset across the country.

Switzerland is globally recognized for excellence in life sciences, biopharma, and medtech. Anchored by top universities like ETH Zurich and EPFL, and home to global industry leaders such as Roche, Novartis, and Lonza, the region offers a rich environment for innovation. Supportive public policy, strong IP protections, and a highly skilled, international workforce make Switzerland an ideal hub for venture creation. Its unique positioning also enables the translation of scientific breakthroughs beyond national borders, amplifying global impact.

A major highlight of the past year was the 100-person Women Leading Biotech event at Superlab Suisse. Featuring panelists Muriel Fisser, Michal Shoshan, Sarah Holland, and Zhang Xi, the evening centered on diversity and career journeys across biotech and pharma, sparking meaningful connections among attendees and inspiring the next generation of leaders. In parallel, Nucleate Switzerland co-hosted a seminar series with EWOR, a venture capital group behind €12B+ in company valuation. A standout session featured EWOR’s co-founder and CEO, Daniel Dippold, on The Mathematics of Building a Start-Up, attracting a global audience through Nucleate’s network. These events reflect the chapter’s mission to empower aspiring biotech leaders through knowledge-sharing, inclusion, and community, driving forward Switzerland’s position as a central force in European life science innovation.

ACTIVATOR STATS

CUMULATIVE FUNDING RAISED
BY ACTIVATOR TEAMS

\$ 610 K

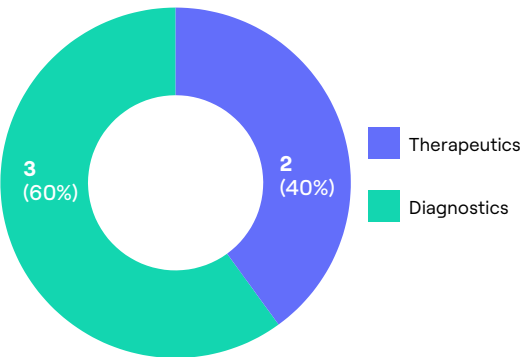
DILUTIVE
FUNDING

61%

NONDILUTIVE
FUNDING

39%

TECHNOLOGY TYPE (2025)



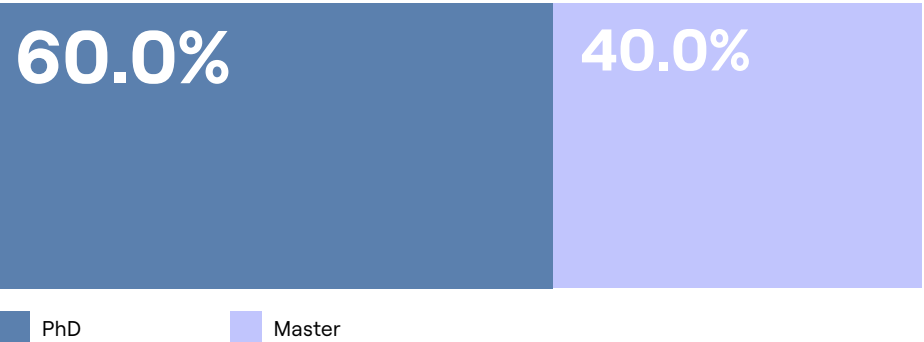
CUMULATIVE
INCORPORATED
COMPANIES:



JOBS CREATED:



LEADERSHIP DEMOGRAPHICS



EVENTS HOSTED 13

TOTAL NUMBER OF ATTENDEES 300+

Nucleate Switzerland experienced transformative growth this year, doubling its leadership team with talent from Novartis, Roche, EPFL, ETH Zurich, and more, bridging academia and industry. Our LinkedIn following grew 1.8x to nearly 2,000, reflecting rising visibility. We proudly represented Nucleate at Swiss Biotech Day, Europe’s top biotech summit, and secured over 35,000 CHF in financial and in-kind support. Our 2025 Activator Demo Day was featured on Luma’s Zurich Explore page, spotlighting us among one of the 50 featured cities on this list.

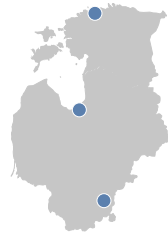
“Moving to Switzerland was a daunting transition, but finding a community of like-minded biotech enthusiasts through Nucleate Switzerland made all the difference. In just one year, I encountered some of the most driven and inspiring minds in the country, connections made possible through this incredible network. I am especially proud of our five Activator teams, whose global mindset and dedication reflect the heart of what we strive to foster. To my fellow regional leadership team: your passion and support have been the foundation of everything we’ve achieved. It’s been a privilege to grow alongside you.”

JAKE PRINGLE, Co-Managing Director



Institutes collaborated with:





SPONSORS



Taavet Sten



Nucleate Baltics, an associate chapter of Nucleate, was officially established in October 2023. The Baltic region, home to Wise, Skype, and Bolt, already has existing startup infrastructure, strong academic research in life sciences, and an eagerness from investors to see innovative deep tech ventures on the landscape. The Nucleate chapter in the Baltics aims to equip the local generation of early-career researchers with skills in biotech-focused entrepreneurship—as the startup ecosystem is already there, it just lacks some biotech!

Over the past year, Nucleate Baltics has been behind seven self-organized and two collaborative events, attracting around 500 biotech enthusiasts. The leadership team has worked incredibly hard to not only bring students into the audience but also include investors, academics, and leading entrepreneurs in discussions and post-event networking sessions. The chapter’s highlight event happened in May 2025 at Latitude59, where Baltics’ Genesis participants competed for the main prize of going to the Nucleate Alumni Summit by pitching their ideas in front of an international crowd of investors, entrepreneurs, and fellow peers. Overall, the message and initiatives of Nucleate Baltics have reached more than 1,500 people over the past year—not only through our own events but also through invitations to large international startup festivals.

The Baltic region has immense experience in establishing startup culture and infrastructure with previous giants like Wise, Skype, Bolt, Veriff, and Pipedrive. It offers Nucleate a comfortable position in the Baltics to start discussions about biotech-focused entrepreneurship, as the startup support system is already in place. The region also unites three countries with different areas of expertise (Estonia – entrepreneurship, Latvia – academic biomedical research, and Lithuania – industrial biotech) that, when brought together, offer a perfect environment for a future biotech ecosystem to flourish.

GOALS FOR 2025-2026

Goal 1: Organise monthly community gatherings culminating in a flagship event at LIFT99

Goal 2: Expand Genesis 2026, making it an official selective course at the University of Tartu

“Studying abroad doesn’t give you much chance to meaningfully contribute to your home region’s scientific advancement. However, leading the Nucleate Baltics’ team has made my dream come true – I can organise events, connect with the local experts and bring together like-minded people and all this to boost my home region’s science, education and entrepreneurship! Being part of Nucleate has allowed me to connect with leading experts and real visionaries, who have included our leadership team in VIP events and other international gatherings as well as included us in high-level discussions on educational strategies at universities.”

LAIMA ŠUSTA – Co-MD 2025, Nucleate Baltics



Nucleate Baltics at Genesis Demo Day 2025 (at Latitude59)



SPONSORS



Nucleate Italy was founded in 2022 by Alessandro Pezzola, Giuliana Calabrese, and Lara Camerini in Milan. In a fragmented biotech landscape dominated by for-profit accelerators like Explora Biotech, GenomeUp, and Bioindustry Park, Nucleate Italy offers a vital alternative: open-access, university-driven programming focused on mentorship and global exposure. Its nonprofit model emphasizes grassroots innovation, inclusivity, and accessibility. Italy’s translational potential is rising, with success stories like Genenta Science and Medical Microinstruments, both spun out of academic research.

With anchors like the University of Milan and Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna, the ecosystem is increasingly bridging deep science with commercial outcomes. In 2024, the chapter expanded its reach to Southern Italy, hosting panels and a startup pitch session for over 1,200 high school students. The initiative sparked regional dialogue on biotech infrastructure and led to early proposals for an advanced therapies research lab – strengthening Nucleate Italy’s mission to democratize innovation.

In 2025, the team relaunched and scaled the Genesis programme, originally piloted in 2023. Now a national program, it engaged participants from 17 institutions – primarily in biotech, medicine, and engineering – and offered training in venture creation and tech transfer.

The program concluded with a national pitch competition, where the winning team is now developing a university-backed biotech spinoff with academic and clinical partners. Over the past year, Nucleate Italy also strengthened its leadership structure to support long-term strategy, growth, and sustainability.

GOALS FOR 2025-2026

Goal 1: Expand Nucleate Italy’s presence beyond Milan, by establishing recurring programming in other Italian regions.

Goal 2: Grow the Genesis Activator program, increasing its cohort size, visibility, and national partnerships.



“Collaborating with Nucleate Italy is a breath of fresh air. At G-Gravity, we’ve seen how this young team brings new energy, fresh ideas, and a different mindset into biotech. As seasoned professionals, we deeply value this exchange—it’s exactly what innovation needs: intergenerational synergy.”

ROBERTA GILARDI – CEO, G-Gravity (Sponsor)

“Genesis gave me the tools and the confidence to think like a biotech founder. It wasn’t just about building a project—it was about building a mindset. I connected with inspiring people and discovered that I could really shape the future of innovation.”

FILIPPO CENSI – Genesis Alumnus





NETHERLANDS



Nucleate Netherlands began with efforts by Elena Del Pup, who leveraged connections with Nucleate Italy and a research stay at Stanford. Momentum accelerated when Martin Holub joined in fall 2023 after meeting Nucleate UK leadership. With growing volunteer support, the chapter held its launch event in June 2024 and became an Associate Chapter in January 2025. While the Netherlands hosts entrepreneurship and biotech clubs, most are region-specific, with limited focus on life science entrepreneurship. National programs like Venture Challenge, Academic Startup Competition, and Biotech Booster support academic founders, but Nucleate fills a unique gap by engaging life science PhDs and postdocs early on, fostering a national-level bioentrepreneurial community of current and aspiring founders.

The Netherlands is a leading hub for biotech R&D, with clusters like Leiden BioScience Park, Utrecht Science Park, and Pivot Park. It has a legacy of biotech excellence, with figures pivotal to the biotech industry as a whole, such as Henri Termeer, the legendary CEO of Genzyme, and Herbert Heyneker, the first employee of Genentech. The highest-grossing medicine to date, Keytruda, was also invented on Dutch soil. Companies such as Genmab, MSD, and J&J further anchor its strength.

Nucleate Netherlands hosts an annual event gathering 100+ attendees—half trainees, half professionals—for panels, startup pitches, and networking in key hubs like Utrecht (2024) and Leiden (2025). The chapter has participated in the Global Virtual Activator for two years. In 2024, BrewRight won the Best Eco Pitch Award. In 2025, GWEN AI won Best Overall Pitch, and BugSee earned the MilliporeSigma High Impact Award. These wins highlight the Netherlands’ strong potential in biotech innovation.



Nucleate Netherlands Launch Event, June 2024.

“Nucleate offers a unique platform for entrepreneurial students, PhDs and postdocs with ambition to become part of the next generation of biotech entrepreneurs making a crucial contribution to solutions in the areas of health, nutrition and climate. I am convinced that Nucleate Netherlands will have a positive impact on creating a vibrant and diverse biotech ecosystem in the Netherlands where talent can flourish.”

➤ **ANNEMIEK VERKAMMAN** – Managing Director of HollandBIO & Nucleate Netherlands Chapter Mentor

GOALS FOR 2025-2026

- Goal 1:** Expand the Activator program to 5 finalists and take the first steps toward a hybrid model with in-person activities alongside the GVA.
- Goal 2:** Grow the leadership team to 15 members and establish at least one volunteer at each major Dutch university.

SPAIN



Nucleate Spain is led by a team of 16 leadership members spread across the Autonomous University of Madrid, EADA Business School, University of Barcelona, University of La Rioja, University of Navarra, University of Oviedo, and University of Zaragoza. The chapter has experienced rapid growth and strong interest from the ecosystem. In line with Nucleate HQ’s mission, Nucleate Spain has acted as a central gathering point to bring the biotech community closer together.

Two major events have stood out as success stories: “Bioinformatics in Industry and Entrepreneurship” and “Insight into Clinical Trials.” The first featured speakers including Djordje Djordjevic (Puriofy CEO & Founder), Mariana Quiroga Londoño (Biotech Marketing Expert), Andrej Ondračka (CSO, Deep Blue Biotech & Former Founder), and Laura G. Macías (Saphetor). Together, they shared real-world case studies demonstrating how bioinformatics integrates with business and entrepreneurship. The second event, “Insight into Clinical Trials,” was designed to give attendees a well-rounded understanding of how various stakeholders navigate the complex process of developing new treatments, and it concluded with a lively Q&A panel that received enthusiastic feedback.

Two exciting initiatives launched by Nucleate Spain have been the four-day immersive entrepreneurship event, "From Lab to Market", and the Nucleate Spain Newsletter. The intensive four-day experience focused on building the toolset to accelerate science, promoting the translation of research into real-world ventures, and fostering discussions on the challenges of launching research-based companies. Likewise, the Nucleate Spain Newsletter spotlights cutting-edge research, biotech innovations, and ecosystem updates to further seed an entrepreneurial biotech community. It also curates opportunities including jobs, internships, and funding. You can check out the latest edition from May here: Monday Monthly Newsletter – May Edition.

GOALS FOR 2025-2026

- Goal 1:** Double leadership team
- Goal 2:** Increase sponsorships and partnerships

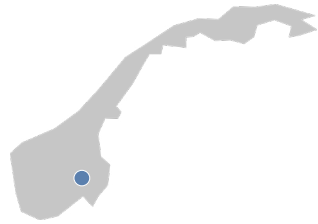
“Nucleate has had an impact in my professional career. It is not only about making events and recruiting people, it is about creating a community from scratch and working alongside with them to expand Nucleate and create visibility so we can grow in a new country. It is a lot about trial and error because some thing may work and others won’t. It is about patience and effort. So besides the networking and the huge opportunities you can encounter yourself at Nucleate, I’ve learned how to create a community.”

➤ **CARLOS NAVARRETE** – Co-MD



Nucleate Spain Pitch Day of the second edition of their flagship programme "From Lab to Market".





SPONSORS



Launched in 2024 by Eva Smorodina and Alexander Anisimov, Nucleate Norway aims to make the country a visible force in international bio- and eco-tech innovation. While Norway benefits from strong academic research and state-backed programs, early-career scientists often lack entrepreneurial training and community support. Nucleate Norway fills this gap by building a national network of emerging innovators and uniting regional efforts across Oslo, Ås, Tromsø, and Trondheim.

In its first year, the chapter hosted more than 15 events and info sessions, including the Blender Workshop (1,900+ global registrants), the “Who Owns the Idea?” seminar on commercialization, and innovation-focused programs at Science Impact, DLN, and BioCat conferences. The Inside series — featuring Inside Business Development and Inside Policy — offered early-career researchers a deeper understanding of Norway’s life science innovation landscape.

The flagship Inside VC event in June 2025 brought together students, investors, and founders for a high-impact day of biotech discussion, collaboration, and networking.

Led by a core team of six students from four major universities, Nucleate Norway has built a network of more than 300 individuals and over 100 organizations. With this foundation, the chapter is well positioned to drive a new wave of biotech and eco-tech innovation across the Nordics.

“This was a fascinating and well-organised event. Thank you to the organisers and all the speakers for such an informative day! I was glad to hear many people mention how important a strong IP strategy is for biotech entrepreneurs – particularly for obtaining investment. I look forward to future Nucleate events!”

➤ CHARLOTTE RUSH, UK and European patent attorney

Nucleate Norway leadership team

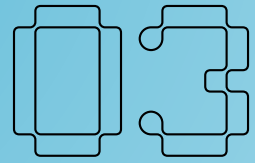


GOALS FOR 2025-2026

Goal 1: Organize several events to boost local ecosystem such as Immunohackathon, Inside series etc

Goal 2: To host some workshops together with Nucleate Denmark within their activator program





GLOBAL CHAPTERS



NORTH & SOUTH AMERICA

Boston
Bay Area
New York
Los Angeles
Seattle
Chicago + Michigan
Texas Hub
New Haven
Pennsylvania
San Diego
Baltimore | DC
Research Triangle Park
Atlanta
New Orleans
Arizona
Rhode Island
Florida
Canada
Argentina



EUROPE

United Kingdom
Denmark
France
Germany
Switzerland
Baltics
Italy
Netherlands
Spain
Norway



MIDDLE EAST & ASIA

Israel
Singapore
Taiwan
South Korea
Australia
India
Japan





SPONSORS



Nucleate Israel was founded by Liyam Chitayat, with past leadership from Ron Nagar, Sarit Feldman, and Romi Goldner Kabeli. The chapter was built on the belief that Israel, as the Startup Nation, should lead in inclusive bio-innovation — providing equal opportunities in biotech entrepreneurship across gender, race, and socioeconomic lines. Now led by Daniel Somekh and Yael Tahan, Nucleate Israel is preparing to launch its first Activator cohort in 2026, integrating national talent into the global Nucleate network.

While Israel’s biotech ecosystem includes accelerators like FutuRx and AION Labs, as well as innovation hubs such as BioHouse, few initiatives focus on early-stage academic founders or foster convergence across biology, engineering, and computation. Nucleate Israel fills this gap by catalyzing translational research and nurturing deep-tech ventures with the help of our leadership spread across 5 universities (Tel Aviv University, Ben Gurion University, Technion Institute of Technology, Bar Ilan University, The Hebrew University). Strategic partnerships with Centarix, HyLabs, AION Labs, and institutions including HUJI, BGU, BIU, and the Weizmann Institute provide mentorship, access, and structure to emerging academic innovators. Events like our flagship panel “Empowering Tomorrow’s Leaders in Life Sciences” attracted over 100 attendees and continues to grow the ecosystem.

Amid national conflict, Nucleate Israel launched BioFense, a bio-convergence hackathon aimed at revitalizing the ecosystem through innovation. Built by a diverse team of Jewish, Arab, religious, and secular students, BioFense united 100+ participants and 30 mentors to tackle challenges in resilience, eco-tech, mental health, and medtech. It resulted in one pre-seed startup and collaborative projects with MAFAT, demonstrating the chapter’s commitment to resilience and impact.

Israel’s ecosystem thrives at the intersection of biotech, engineering, and AI, with world-class institutions, elite technical talent, and a legacy of innovation. Nucleate Israel is uniquely positioned to drive the next generation of life science ventures.

GOALS FOR 2025-2026

Goal 1: Run an on-site Activator program

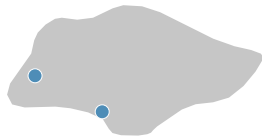
Goal 2: Expand Nucleate presence to two more universities in Israel



“Being part of Nucleate Israel has been transformative. It’s more than a student initiative—it’s a launchpad for future biotech leaders. I’ve gained hands-on experience, built a powerful network, and helped shape a national movement.”

ELISHEVA GUR, Community Manager, HUJI Team

SINGAPORE



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Founded in 2023 by Samantha Wong and Liang Jiaqi, Nucleate Singapore is led by Yeo Ying Tong and Jessie Wong (2024–2025) with a 19-member team. The chapter strengthens Singapore’s life sciences ecosystem through three pillars: empowering academic trainees, bridging the academia-industry gap, and engaging with Nucleate’s global network. Since its founding, it has sent a team to the Global Virtual Activator each year and continues to serve as a vital connector in the ecosystem.

Singapore is a global biotech hub anchored by institutions like A*STAR, NUS, and Duke-NUS, backed by strong government R&D investment and initiatives such as SGInnovate, Startup SG, and GRIP. Yet early-career trainees often have limited exposure to diverse biotech career paths. Nucleate Singapore addresses this through educational workshops, curated news, and startup spotlights—connecting local innovators to a dynamic environment that attracts multinational firms like Pfizer, Amgen, and GSK.

The chapter also fosters community through team dinners, game nights, and cross-chapter meetups with Nucleate teams from the Netherlands, Korea, and Chicago. To broaden outreach, it launched the Pulse Podcast (2,000+ listens) and The Nucleate Artery newsletter (1,100+ subscribers).

A highlight this year was the Anniversary BioMixer, hosted with support from NUS Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine. Drawing 180+ sign-ups, the event featured a panel with leaders such as Dean Ho, showcasing the chapter’s growing role in shaping Singapore’s life sciences ecosystem.

GOALS FOR 2025-2026

Goal 1: Expand strategic sponsorships to fuel scalable growth

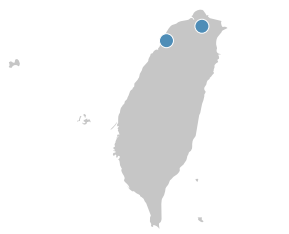
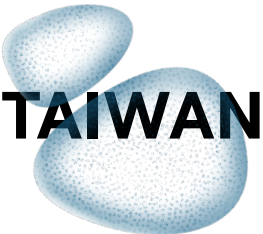
Goal 2: Establish impactful cross-border partnerships to strengthen Singapore’s global and regional connectivity

“Being part of Nucleate has been one of the most rewarding experiences of my PhD. From collaborating with passionate peers within Singapore and across chapters to connecting with founders, mentors, and innovators, Nucleate has been a space where ideas and ambition come alive. Even more exciting has been watching it grow into a thriving, tight-knit community. I’m grateful to be part of a movement that’s shaping the future of biotech!”

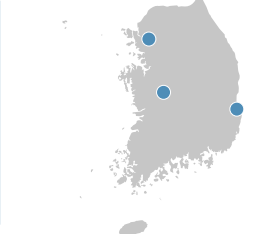
ISHA KARNIK – Director of Strategy and Communications



Part of the team pictured at Sartorius Singapore during the 2025 Nucleate Ignite Biotherapeutic Development Workshop.



SPONSORS



SPONSORS



Nucleate Taiwan was founded in 2023 by a core team of six and has since grown into a dynamic, student-led chapter with 40 active leaders. In a culture where academic excellence heavily outweighs entrepreneurship — and where biotech startups are usually only launched by seasoned professionals — Nucleate Taiwan stands out by empowering students to lead innovation. Under the stewardship of co-founders Daniel Lin and Willie Xiang (2023–2024), Co-MDs Samael Morillo and Li-Fang Weng (2024–2025), and incoming Co-MDs Vincent Lim and Celine Suryaratri Wahyudi (2025–2026), the chapter has fostered a vibrant, growing biotech community empowering students in the life sciences.

Taiwan’s biotech ecosystem is growing but lacks strong academia–industry connectivity, especially for students pursuing graduate training with limited exposure to industry internships. Nucleate Taiwan bridges this gap by providing mentorship, professional development, and a platform for students to apply their deep technical prowess to real-world contexts. The chapter has hosted over ten events, each drawing over 100 participants and featuring speakers from leading companies including Acer Medical, NVIDIA, and SynBioBeta, among others. These high-impact events have gained support from the Taiwanese government via its Life Sciences Research Promotion Center.

The chapter engages students from five universities across Taiwan at all levels — undergraduates, Master’s, and PhDs — half of whom are international students. Initially launched in Taipei, the team is now expanding its reach to universities beyond the capital. Starting in 2024, Taiwanese students have participated in the Global Virtual Activator, strengthening the chapter’s global ties. In March 2025, a landmark collaboration with the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC), the country’s executive science funding agency, demonstrated growing institutional support and marked a turning point for the chapter, enhancing both visibility and trust in student-led biotech entrepreneurship across Taiwan.



“Nucleate Taiwan empowers biotech students by providing educational resources and building a bridge between academia and industry.”

YVONNE LI-FANG WENG, Co-Managing Director

Nucleate South Korea was founded to promote student-led biotech entrepreneurship—a rare model in Korea, where startups are typically launched by professors or industry veterans. Its cross-border origin makes it unique: established in Fall 2023 by Yelim Woo, inspired by Nucleate Boston during her MBA at Boston University, and Joshua Pak, the founding team included students from top institutions across Korea, the U.S., and Canada. In Fall 2024, leadership transitioned to a 14-member team of students and early-career researchers from Seoul, Daejeon, and Pohang.

The chapter’s mission is to create commercialization pathways for young scientists in Korea’s \$10B+ biotech market through a globally connected, student-driven model. Since launch, Nucleate Korea has hosted five virtual and one in-person info session and built relationships with 18 VC firms, 32 bio/pharma companies, 34 universities, and 5 government organizations — securing three signed MOUs for 2024–2025. One Korea-based team was selected as a finalist for the 2024–25 Global Virtual Activator.

A highlight was partnering with Roche to translate its Pharma Partnering Handbook into Korean, improving access to global commercialization strategies, and signing an MOU with Roche Korea—an event attended by executives from Roche and Nucleate and covered by over 40 Korean media outlets.

The chapter’s cross-border team meets weekly online and gathers in person every two months, balancing local insight with global reach to build an international student biotech community.

“While leading Nucleate Boston over the past two years, I saw students turn their research into real ventures. That experience, combined with global collaboration, shaped my growth—and made me realize how limited such opportunities are in Korea. I hope the Korea chapter helps bridge that gap for future entrepreneurs.”

YEILM WOO, Founder, Nucleate Korea



GOALS FOR 2025–2026

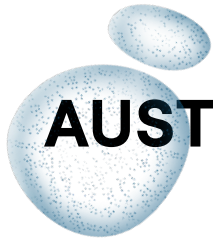
Goal 1: Strategic internal expansion to other regions of Taiwan

Goal 2: Set-up of a long-term education program and local Activator, using resources from Genesis

GOALS FOR 2025–2026

Goal 1: Secure Sustainable and Strategic Partnerships
Engage more universities, institutions, VCs, biopharma companies to connect and build resources for future entrepreneurs

Goal 2: Localize and Introduce Nucleate Signature Programs
Localize and host Inside series and BD101 program in collaboration with industry partners



AUSTRALIA



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Nucleate Australia began in March 2024 when Andreas Dumortier caught the same surf wave as Nicolai Jung, who had ties to Nucleate in Switzerland and Boston, and they connected over their passion for translating academic science into real-world impact. Within just eight months, the two co-founded the chapter and built a founding team spanning four universities across the country: Matt Wierzbowski, Catherine Chen, Connor Daymond, Avani Bhojwani, Yash Dave, and Jack Dalton.

Australia consistently punches above its weight in academic output but faces challenges in translating research into commercial success. We identified a critical need for a bottom-up, student-led movement to drive innovation from within despite top-down efforts from institutions like the University of Melbourne, Monash, and CSL. Since launching in March 2024, Nucleate Australia has secured four major sponsorships from academic, industry, and venture capital partners — signaling strong confidence in our mission. We’ve established collaborations with key startup organizations including Colabs, ASBC, Cicada Innovations, and the Sydney Knowledge Hub. Our eight major events have attracted over 500 attendees across four states, and our leadership team includes 36 students from diverse universities and disciplines, driving Nucleate’s growth across the country. To overcome Australia’s geographic isolation and fragmented state regulations, we are building a national database of mentors, experts, and student talent.

Our most memorable Nucleate Australia event was the launch event at CSL HQ with medtech rockstar Nicholas Opie. His story of Synchron (a brain-computer interface startup competing with Neuralink) inspired many by showing billion-dollar deeptech startups can begin in Australia. Yet, Synchron ultimately had to move to the U.S. due to regulatory challenges with the TGA and a lack of local private capital willing to take risks, revealing gaps in Australia’s ecosystem. Still, Synchron’s success story changed mindsets at the University of Melbourne and sparked major improvements in the biotech landscape.



Nucleate Australia team.

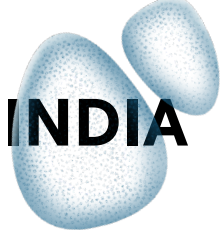
“Australia is the largest biotech hub in the Southern Hemisphere, renowned for world-class research but notoriously bad at commercialising it. Australians tend to shy away from standing out, yet major success stories continue to emerge and strengthen our ecosystem. Nucleate is perfectly positioned to unlock this untapped opportunity and help Australia’s brightest innovators turn bold ideas into global impact.”

➤ **ANDREAS DUMORTIER**, Co-Founder and Co-Managing Director, Nucleate Australia

GOALS FOR 2025-2026

Goal 1: Expand to Western Australia and Queensland to establish local chapters there

Goal 2: Transition to Core Chapter and launch a local activator.



INDIA



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Nucleate India's biotech startup ecosystem has grown rapidly over the past decade, fueled by government support, research institutions, and private incubators. Bengaluru has emerged as a key hub, home to IISc, NCBS, and incubators like C-CAMP, alongside a growing community of startups. Nucleate India will bring the translational mindset of Nucleate HQ into the country through a hub-and-spoke model—anchoring operations in Bengaluru with seed hubs in Mumbai, Delhi, and Hyderabad. Given India’s size, virtual programming will bridge distances and enable nationwide participation, ensuring inclusivity while maintaining a cohesive national program.

India’s strengths include a robust biopharma sector — globally leading in vaccines and generics — a large R&D talent pool, world-class academic institutions (IISc, IITs), major industry partners (Serum Institute, Dr. Reddy’s), and a thriving startup culture led by founders such as Biocon’s Kiran Mazumdar-Shaw. This combination of industry expertise, academic excellence, and entrepreneurial energy positions India as a powerhouse for biotech innovation.

A recent highlight was the launch of BioWave, a new platform showcasing India’s biotechnology potential and attracting venture capital. The event convened stakeholders including BIRAC (Biotechnology Industry Research Assistance Council), top-tier VCs such as Omnivore, Sequoia Capital, and Eight Roads VC, and leading institutional incubators including C-CAMP, Venture Center, IKP Knowledge Park, and Bangalore Bioinnovation Center. BioWave is now a vital forum for bridging the gap between academic research and translational innovation.



Leadership and attendees at the Nucleate India launch event.

GOALS FOR 2025-2026

Goal 1: Foster a vibrant community of life science researchers, entrepreneurs, investors, and mentors to accelerate biotech innovation across India.

Goal 2: Train the next generation of leaders with a venture capital mindset and skills to effectively evaluate and enable life sciences investments.





JAPAN



Nucleate Japan was established in May of 2022, further expanding Nucleate's expansion into Asia and solidifying our global reach. While Japan produces cutting-edge research, there is still a significant gap between academic discoveries and their commercialization. Nucleate Japan's mission is to bridge this gap by fostering collaboration between academia and industry.

The chapter is run by a core team of just over 10 students and early-career researchers from diverse universities, research institutions, and companies in Japan and abroad, supported by additional members who help manage events and communications. An active community for undergraduate students is also in development, reflecting the chapter's flexible, inclusive operating style.

Key initiatives include career development seminars for doctoral students and postdocs, startup education events with venture capital firms, introductory biotech courses for undergraduates, and international collaborations with other Nucleate chapters.

Nucleate Japan also serves as a supporter organization for the Healthcare Innovation Hub (InnoHub), operated by Japan's Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry, and has partnered with the Japan Healthcare Innovation Hub (JHIH), a national community of over 1,000 participants.

Combining global perspectives with local expertise, Nucleate Japan is cultivating a new generation of biotech entrepreneurs equipped to turn scientific advances into societal value.

GOALS FOR 2025-2026

Goal 1: Expand leadership team and outreach to more institutions

Goal 2: Host more in person events cultivating biotech in younger students as well as strengthening talent pipeline





Global Virtual Activator

The Global Virtual Activator (GVA) launched in 2022 as a pilot by Nucleate HQ to expand Activator access beyond established biotech hubs, where local chapters previously led programs. Its mission was ambitious: to reach across global borders and support founders in regions with limited life sciences entrepreneurship resources. That year, six GVA finalist teams built lasting partnerships that led to successful fundraising, proving the potential of a truly global, virtual accelerator.

Building on this momentum, GVA relaunched in 2023 with Co-Managing Directors Shaye Carver and Will Barr. Fourteen finalist teams participated, supported by 20+ trainee volunteers, and gained access to top-tier mentorship, expert-led workshops, and a vibrant global community.

The 2024–25 program, led by Co-Managing Directors Daniel Lin and Regan Ellis, marked GVA’s most ambitious year yet. Over 50 volunteers supported 17 startups across 25 countries and 41 cities—the second-largest Activator cohort of the season. These ventures tackled major challenges in therapeutics, diagnostics, techbio, deep tech, and climate health. Demo Day 2025 showcased these 55 entrepreneurs' innovations on a virtual global stage.

A highlight of the season was a conversation with Smita Pillai, SVP of Culture & Development at Regeneron, on building intentional team culture and leading by example. It underscored the universal nature of startup challenges and affirmed GVA’s mission: connecting founders navigating parallel journeys across the globe.

The Global Virtual Activator is unique because we meet founders where they are—especially those in regions lacking strong life science support ecosystems. Many have already maximized local resources; GVA helps them level up through a global network of mentors committed to nurturing the next generation of biotech leaders. By joining the GVA program, they also join a vibrant community of founders, operators, and investors.

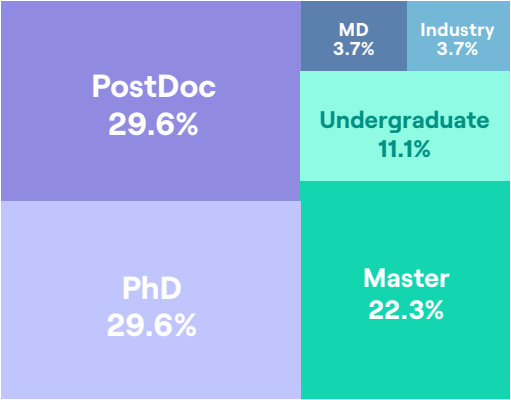
“The Global Virtual Activator collapses borders: a founder in Norway can workshop a pitch with a VC in Boston, or a grad student in Germany can partner with a bio-engineer in Taiwan. This global network accelerates ideas faster than any single ecosystem could alone.”

➤ EVA SMORODINA, Co-Managing Director/Co-MD, Nucleate Norway

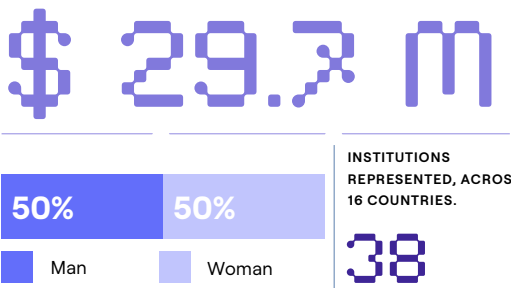
“The virtual format of the Global Activator proved to be a game-changer for me. Being geographically distant from biotech hubs and nucleate cities, the program provided a unique opportunity to connect with top advisors and gain exposure to the US market. This exposure ultimately paved the way for my participation in the IndieBio program and securing funding from SOSV.”

➤ JP ROBLES, Founder & CEO, VIAN Therapeutics

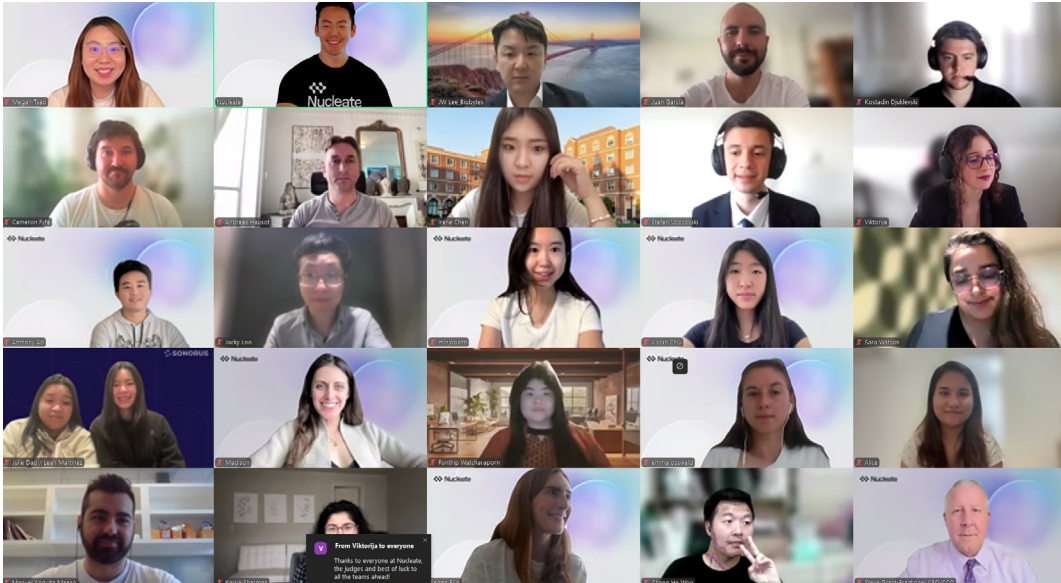
GVA FOUNDERS DEMOGRAPHICS



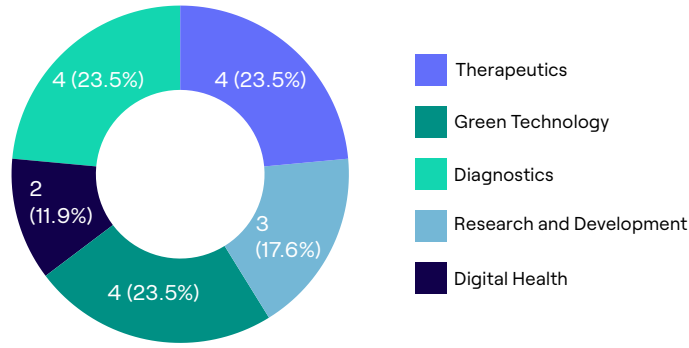
AMOUNT RAISED BY TEAMS IN HISTORY OF CHAPTER



DEMO DAY



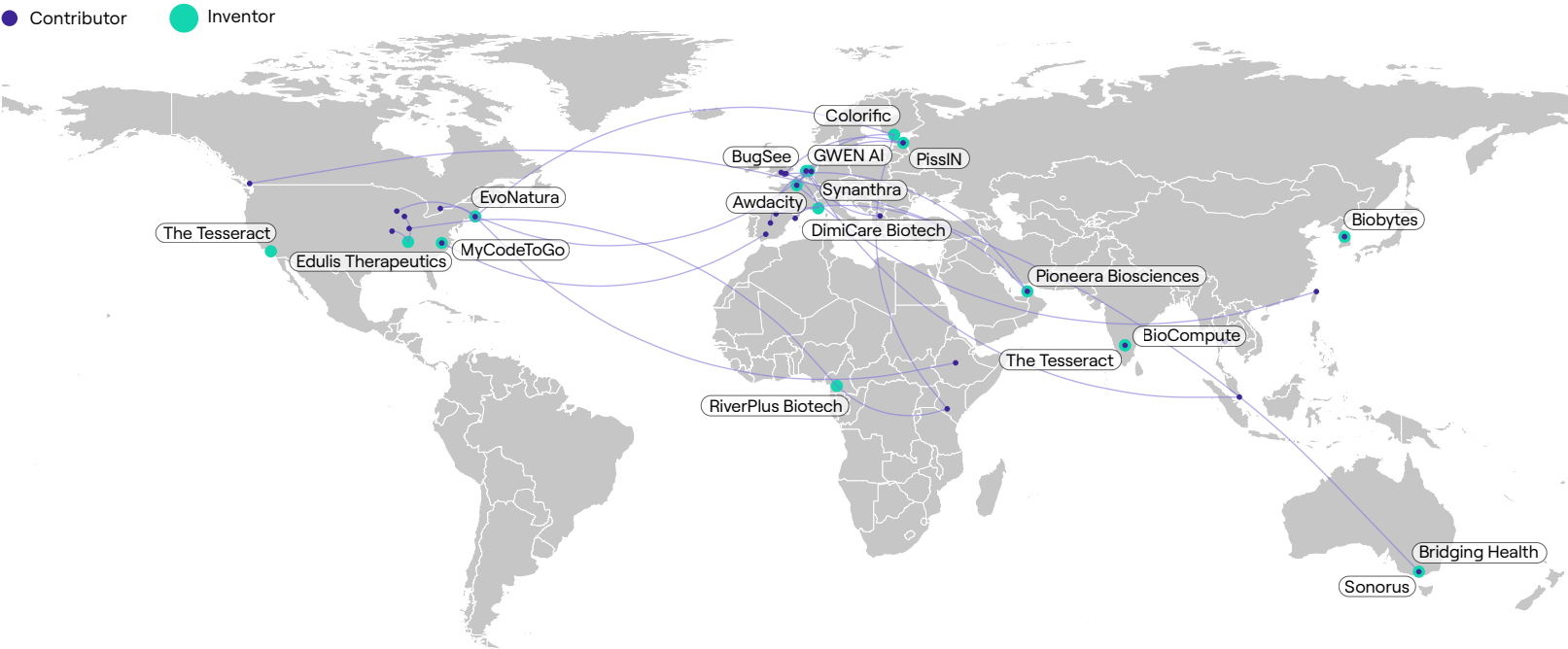
TECHNOLOGY TYPE



300+
APPLICANTS

40
GVA TEAMS TO DATE

INVENTOR-CONTRIBUTOR TEAM LINKS BY CITY





Mentors

Mentors are the backbone of the Nucleate Activator, offering their time, insight, and unwavering support to empower our teams across the globe. Over the last five cohorts, over **1,500** mentors have generously dedicated their expertise to guide emerging eco- and biotech leaders through the challenges of innovation and entrepreneurship. Their willingness to share not only technical knowledge but also personal experience has been instrumental to the success of the program and the growth of our teams. Nucleate's global impact is built on the foundation of this mentorship, transforming bold ideas into real-world solutions. We extend our deepest gratitude to every mentor who has believed in our mission and contributed to building a stronger, more connected life science ecosystem.



“The Nucleate mentor program has been a wonderful experience for me. I always tell the teams I work with that I will learn as much from them as they will from me. I believe it to be equally rewarding for both parties a learning experience for both.

I got involved with Nucleate four years ago and have been mentoring as many as 11 different teams both internationally and domestically at a time. The distances may separate the chapters, but the motivation and hopeful outcomes always remain the same... to present a great business case for the technology to move forward in the case of each team. There is such a huge value-add for the biotech industry because of the Nucleate programs. It really opens up endless possibilities for the next great technology/technologies for our industry. Whether it's a new oncology therapy or an industrial bio sustainability technology, the teams from Nucleate are undoubtedly the next wave of people to make a difference in this industry and it has been an honor and pleasure working with the Nucleate program these past four years. I look forward to many more!”

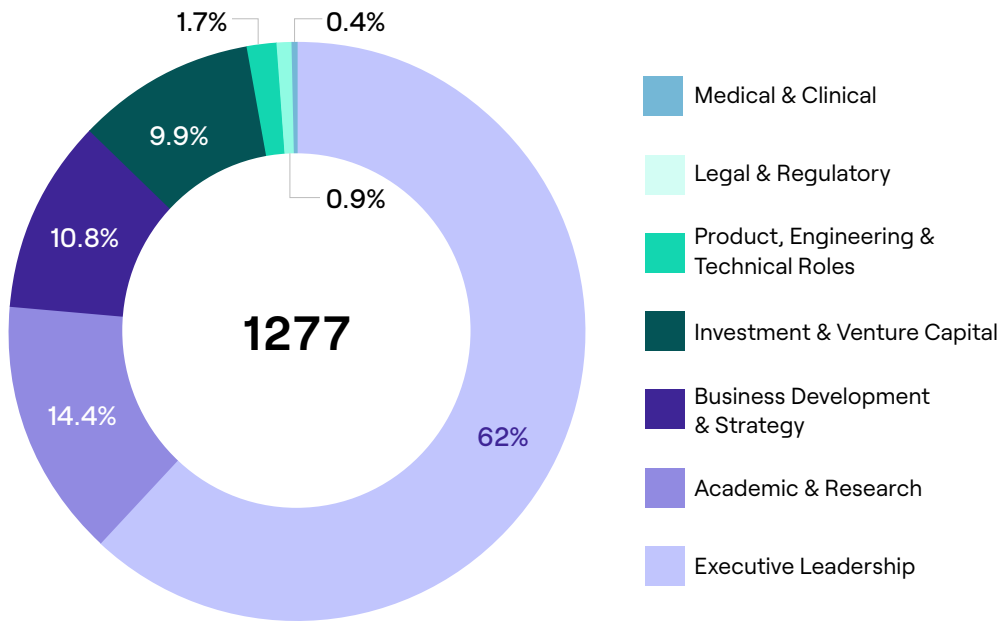
➤ **STEVE GRANT, Head Of Global Sales, AMRI**



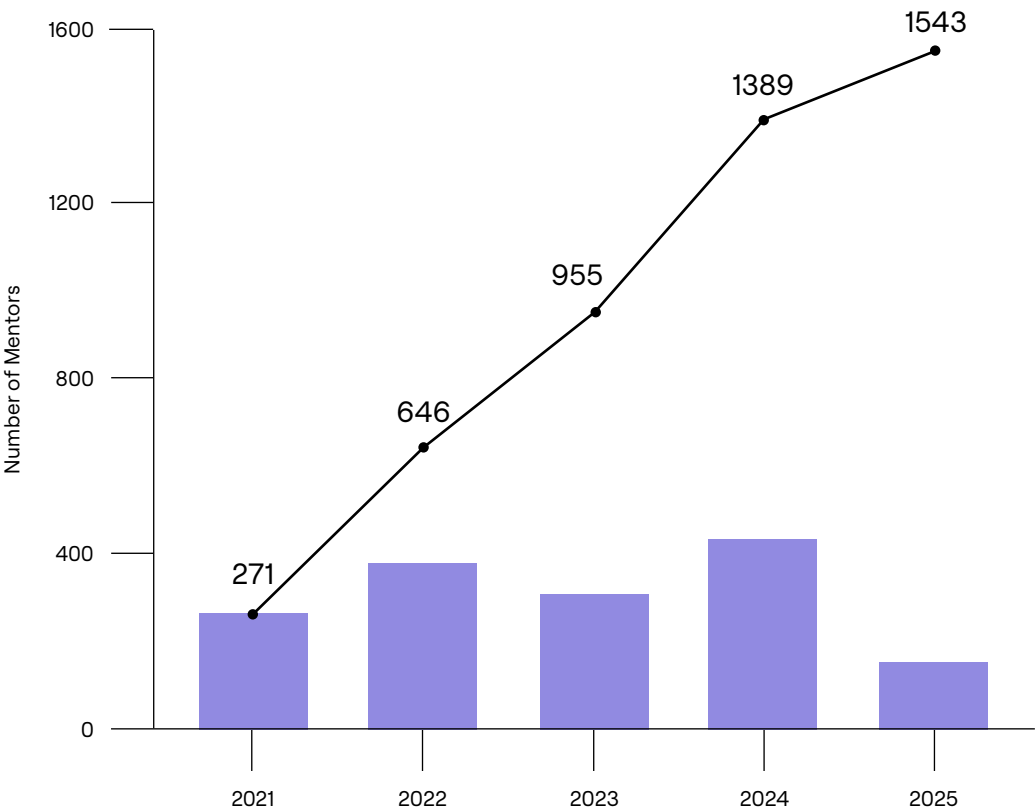
“I participated in Nucleate's Activator program as a lecturer and mentor, following an invitation to support the local startup ecosystem and explore potential investment opportunities. My role involved sharing insights and engaging with early-stage biotech teams, many of whom had already made notable progress. The format allowed for open discussions, and I appreciated the thoughtful questions raised during the session. One conversation that stood out was with a PhD student from the medical faculty. The combination of a relevant research topic and clear motivation suggested that academic environments continue to be a strong source of entrepreneurial potential. Programs like the Activator are valuable in Denmark, where informal networking between founders and investors can be limited. I would highly recommend the program to colleagues interested in mentoring or gaining a better understanding of the early-stage biotech landscape. It offers a practical way to connect with emerging talent and ideas.”

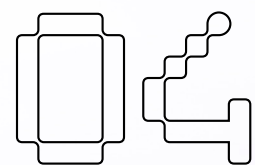
➤ **PETTERI HELJO, Novo Nordisk, Denmark**

MENTOR DEMOGRAPHICS



NUMBER OF MENTORS PART OF THE NUCLEATE NETWORK





SUPPORT





Board of Nucleate



Soufiane Aboulhouda
Director, Co-Founder

PhD Candidate,
Harvard GSAS



Oliver Dodd
Executive Director,
Treasurer, Co-Founder

PhD Candidate,
Harvard GSAS



Sofia Guerra
Director, Co-Founder

Vice President,
Bessemer Venture Partners



Matt Lanchantin
Secretary, Co-Founder

Head of Corporate
Development, Syntis Bio



Marissa Pettit Jones
Chair, Co-Founder

Director, Genentech and Roche
Corporate Business Development



Peter Barrett
Director

Partner,
Atlas Venture



Mira Chaurushiya
Director

Managing Director,
Westlake BioPartners



Ann Dewitt
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General Partner,
The Engine



Tony Kulesa
Director

Partner,
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John Maraganore
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Former Founding CEO,
Alnylam Pharma



Travis McCready
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Head of Life Sciences,
Industries Americas, JLL



Chandra Ramanathan
Director

External R&D and Global
Head Open Innovation,
Danaher Corporation



Mandi Williams
Director

Contract Specialist, Joint
Research Office of Contracts
Washington University in St. Louis



Michael Retchin
Co-President, 2023-2024

Founder, Scale Medicine



Samantha Sison
Co-President, 2023-2024

Manager - Rotational
Development Program,
Eli Lilly and Company



Zach Cogan
Co-President, 2024-2025

PhD Candidate, UCSF



Heer Joisher
Co-President, 2024-2025

PhD Candidate,
Harvard GSAS





Sponsors

To our valued sponsors,

At Nucleate, everything we offer is free to our community — but nothing we do is free to create. Every workshop, every mentorship pairing, every program that helps an idea become a company exists because of you. It is only through your partnership and commitment that we are able to achieve our mission of empowering the next generation of biotech leaders.

I have had the privilege of witnessing the impact of Nucleate firsthand — both here at home and across our global network. I’ve seen students find the confidence to pitch their first venture, researchers take the leap from the lab bench to the boardroom, and teams come together around a shared vision of using biology to make the world a better place. These are life-changing outcomes — new companies launched, careers accelerated, and communities strengthened — and they happen because of your support.

Our partners are more than funders; you are strategic allies in every sense of the word. You not only invest in our mission, but you also stand alongside our teams and our community — helping us deliver programs like the Activator, The Eli Lilly Grand Challenge, BD101, The Alnylam BioVenture Challenge, the Women in Life Sciences Dinner Series, our Playbooks initiative, and countless other programs and initiatives that have become hallmarks of our impact. Together, we’ve created an environment where collaboration thrives, ideas grow, and thousands of talented leaders have the tools and opportunities they need to succeed.

On behalf of the entire Nucleate team, thank you for believing in what we do, and in the people behind it. Your support has helped shape an organization that is redefining how biotech talent is nurtured and empowered. We look forward to continuing this important work with you — building on our momentum, expanding our reach, and driving meaningful change in the years to come.

With deep gratitude,

Oliver Dodd
Executive Director
Nucleate

PLATINUM



GOLD



SILVER



BANKING



SPEND



VENTURE



GRANT WRITING

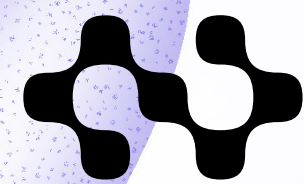


PHILANTROPIC



IN KIND





Nucleate.