

# Barak Dror, PhD, MBA

Israel



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## Experience



### Head of Product Discovery

The Mediterranean Food Lab (MFL)

Nov 2022 - Present (5 months)

Leading the discovery efforts of new taste and aroma products, from initial ideation and product-customer fit to prototyping and customer approval. In this role I manage a team of microbiologists and data scientists with a wide variety of tasks and aims, including strain development and fermentation experiments, biochemical and enzymatic assays and ML-powered data analyses.



### Senior Scientist

The Mediterranean Food Lab (MFL)

Jan 2022 - Nov 2022 (11 months)

Leading the lab-scale research efforts of the MFL fermentation process, aligned with culinary applications and business considerations. This includes experiment design and execution, data analysis and ML models generation, along with other insights related to fermentation conditions, microorganisms involved, desired biological activities and end-product characteristics.



### Teaching Assistant

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Nov 2020 - Oct 2021 (1 year)

Teaching assistant at the MBA BioMed track course "Drug and Medical Devices Development" (1st year course).



### Technology Evaluation Consultant

Technology Incubator

Aug 2018 - Oct 2021 (3 years 3 months)

Independent Tech Evaluation consultant for venture capitals and tech Incubators, working in the agriculture and food domains. I evaluated prospect technologies and early-stage startups in terms of technology maturity and relevance, PoC stage, scalability, market fit and potential competitors.



### Co-Founder and Director

FacuTech- Students' Entrepreneurship Club

Nov 2017 - Sep 2019 (1 year 11 months)

Co-founded and managed the first Israeli entrepreneurship center in academia that focuses on Agriculture, food and environment-related technologies. In the hub, I organized dozens of meetups, workshops, and events, as well as raising funds, managing social media, and creating strong

relationships with the surrounding ecosystem. In 2019, we opened our acceleration and mentorship program, with top figures from the Israeli AgFoodtec ecosystem.

## Education



### **The Hebrew University of Jerusalem**

Master of Business Administration - MBA, Biomed

2018 - 2021



### **The Hebrew University of Jerusalem**

Doctor of Philosophy - PhD, Biotechnology

2017 - 2021

My Ph.D. focused on finding novel bacterial genes that synthesize antifungal metabolites. As part of my research, I applied cutting-edge bioinformatics tools and pipelines, as well as various molecular and microbiological techniques, in order to identify new biocontrol agents for agricultural uses.



### **The Hebrew University of Jerusalem**

Master's Degree, Plant Pathology/Phytopathology

2015 - Jun 2017

Studying the molecular pathogenicity mechanism of a commensal post-harvest bacterial pathogen in vegetables



### **Tel Aviv University**

Bachelor of Science (BSc), Ecology and Evolutionary Biology

2012 - 2015

## Licenses & Certifications



**Python For Data Science: Intermediate** - Dataquest.io

## Skills

Research • Project Management • Molecular Biology • Entrepreneurship • Data Science • Product Development • Management • Academic Writing • Technology Evaluation • Start-ups