



**Max Farina, M.D**



**Bio:** Max Farina, M.D. joined 5AM Ventures in 2021 as an Associate. Max earned his M.D. from the Yale School of Medicine, where he graduated cum laude and was awarded the Ferris Thesis Prize for his research establishing a novel mouse model of temporal lobe epilepsy. He earned his M.B.A from the Yale School of Management and earned his B.S. in Neuroscience and Music Performance from Emory University. Prior to 5AM, Max was an Associate in the Investment Banking Division of Goldman Sachs where he worked as part of the New York-based healthcare group on over \$20 billion of announced transactions in biotechnology and biopharma. He currently serves as an Observer on the Boards of Kinaset Therapeutics, Scientist.com, TMRW, and other 5AM portfolio companies and was previously a Board Observer at Entrada Therapeutics (NASDAQ: TRDA)

**Special Skill:** I majored in music in undergrad, and play piano, saxophone, and sang in an a *cappella* group. But my partner would tell you that my greatest skill is cooking Italian food from scratch (pizza, marinara, meatballs...sometimes combined).

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**Ben Portney, PhD**

**al6z**

**Bio:** Ben Portney is an Investment Partner on the Bio + Health team. He is a scientist and entrepreneur with a focus on investing in early-stage companies building platforms for novel therapeutic discovery and development. Before joining Andreessen Horowitz, Ben was a Senior Associate at Flagship Pioneering, where he worked as part of a venture-creation team to found and grow several biotechnology companies. Prior to Flagship, Ben received his Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of Maryland, Baltimore, studying the role of epigenetics in cancer plasticity. His graduate work resulted in publication in multiple peer-reviewed journals and several pending patents. Ben also holds a B.S. in Biology from the University of Maryland, College Park. He is a proud native of Baltimore and passionately believes that the Wire is the best TV Series of all time.

**Special Skills:** I've got a pretty decent jump shot!

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**Becky Pferdehirt, PhD**



**Bio:** Becky Pferdehirt is a partner on the bio investing team. She focuses on early-stage companies building technology platforms for therapeutic discovery and development. Prior to joining Andreessen Horowitz, Becky worked at Amgen where she most recently led business development efforts for therapeutic platform partnerships. Before moving to BD Becky was a research scientist in Amgen R&D, focused on cell and gene therapy technology innovation. Becky completed her postdoctoral education at Genentech studying cancer cell biology and proteomics. She holds a PhD in Molecular and Cellular Biology from UC Berkeley and a BS in Biology from MIT.

**Special Skills:** I'm a pretty decent kiteboarder

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**Morgan Cheatham**



**Bio:** Morgan Cheatham is a vice president in the New York City office where he focuses on investments in healthcare and life sciences from early to growth stages. He has a particular interest in companies leveraging unique datasets and computational methods to improve patient care from bench to bedside. Morgan works closely with a number of portfolio companies including serving on the board of FOLX Health. Before joining Bessemer, Morgan worked at Goldman Sachs in the Consumer Retail and Healthcare Group in the Investment Banking Division. Morgan is pursuing his medical degree at The Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and graduated magna cum laude from Brown University with a B.S. in neuroeconomics. He recently published work studying the performance of ChatGPT on USMLE licensing exams (*Kung et al., PloS Digital Health 2023*)

**Special Skills:** blackbelt in Tae Kwon Do, amateur horticulturist

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**Sofia Guerra**



**Bio:** Sofia is an investor in the Cambridge office, where she focuses on healthcare and biotech. Sofia began her career as a consultant at Bain and Company, where she worked on strategy, operations, and due diligence projects across healthcare and technology. Prior to joining Bessemer, she was an investor at BoxGroup Ventures. Sofia earned her MBA from Harvard Business School and her BA with high honors in Chemistry from Harvard University. While in school, she conducted research alongside MIT Professor Bob Langer. She was born and raised in Guatemala, went to boarding school in Singapore for the last few years of high school, and has traveled to over 35 countries.

**Special Skills:** What I enjoy most... Dancing! You'll find me dancing to any music. I also did flamenco dancing for 14 years growing up

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**Anastasiya Sybirna, PhD**

**F-PRIME**

**Bio:** Anastasiya is an Associate with F-Prime Capital's London team, focusing on healthcare investments. Prior to joining F-Prime in 2022, Ana was an Engagement Manager at McKinsey & Company's London office specializing in Pharmaceuticals & Medical Products. She had also worked as a Strategy Consultant at Advancy in London, contributing to vendor and buy-side due diligence projects across a range of industries. Ana holds a Ph.D. in Stem Cell Biology and Medicine from the University of Cambridge (UK), a MSc in Molecular and Cell Biology from École normale supérieure (Paris, France) and a BSc in Biology from Ivan Franko National University of Lviv (Ukraine). Ana's Ph.D. research focused on studying transcriptional and signaling regulation of early human development using stem cell models.

**Special Skills:** Probably speaking several foreign languages. I grew up in Ukraine and my native language is Ukrainian. I studied English at school, picked up Russian and a bit of Polish through literature and movies, and then took French lessons as a hobby.

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**Siyu Shi, MD**

**F-PRIME**

**Bio:** Siyu Shi is an Associate at F-Prime Capital and works across the healthcare sub-sectors including Therapeutics, MedTech, and Healthcare IT and Services. She works with the Eight Roads Ventures China team to manage F-Prime's investment efforts in China. Prior to joining F-Prime Capital, Siyu consulted for biotech start-ups and investment funds. Siyu's research focused on artificial intelligence and data science in healthcare at the Stanford Machine Learning Group. Previously, she also worked on biomaterials and peptide chemistry at Rice University and MIT. Siyu holds an MD and a MS in Epidemiology from Stanford School of Medicine, as well as an MBA from Stanford Graduate School of Business.

**Special Skills:** Falling asleep on a moving vehicle. Let it be a 30-minute car ride or 8-hour flight!

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**Joe Cabral**



**Bio:** Joe joined Frazier Healthcare Partners in 2021, where he focuses on identifying and evaluating investment opportunities and creating new ventures in the life sciences. He has contributed to multiple investments since joining the firm, including NewAmsterdam Pharma (NASDAQ: NAMS) and Alpha-9 Theranostics. Prior to Frazier, Joe was in venture creation at Flagship Pioneering. In that context, Joe played a pivotal role in the inception and development of Generate Biomedicines. Prior to Flagship, Joe was an early employee at Moderna, where he aided the buildout of the computational biology function, led several research activities to better understand the biophysics of modified mRNA, and helped launch a therapeutic program in personalized cancer vaccines. Joe received his M.B.A. from the Ross School of Business at the University of Michigan and holds a M.S. in Genomics and B.S. in Biology from UConn.

**Special Skills:** Exceptionally mediocre golfer, despite all my efforts to be better!

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**Aiden Aceves, PhD**

**INSIGHT**  
PARTNERS

**Bio:** Aiden Aceves is a Vice President on the investments team at Insight. He joined the firm in 2021 to focus on investments in therapeutics and enabling technologies. Aiden was previously an associate at Vida Ventures, where he worked in the firm's LA office making investments in innovative cell and gene therapy companies. Prior to becoming an investor, Aiden worked on founding and operating biotechnology companies in San Diego California, where he is based. Aiden traces his academic lineage to Caltech, where he earned his doctorate in the lab of Dr. Steven Mayo, a leader in the space of computational protein engineering. Aiden received his B.S. in synthetic chemistry from the University of California, Riverside.

**Special Skills:** I can make fire with a large variety of obscure and found materials. In grad school I learned to repair/flip cell phones and PCs, but I have also done major repairs on vacuums, washing machines, ovens and many cars. Love the challenge of figuring out circuit boards!

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**Ketan Yerneni**



**KdT Ventures**

**Bio:** A physician by training with a background in molecular imaging, clinical neuroscience, and medical technology commercialization, Ketan is passionate about supporting bold founders who are developing technologies and medicines to improve people's lives. He is currently a principal at KdT where invests in companies sitting at the intersection of compute, biology, and chemistry. Prior to KdT, he worked in Business Development at Surgical Innovation Associates and Rhaeos, and was a co-founder of VesuvIAS Surgical. He received his undergraduate degree in molecular biology from Skidmore College and MD from Northwestern.

**Special Skills:** I love playing guitar. Any genre is game – metal, rock, jazz, new age acoustic, you name it. A quick shout-out to my favorite guitarist, Erik Mongrain, who continues to serve as a major inspiration. His approach to playing is the most unique and complex I've heard.

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**Patrick Malone, MD PhD**



**KdT Ventures**

**Bio:** Patrick is a physician-scientist, techie, writer, skier, music junkie and concert-goer. Trained as a physician-scientist with a research background in machine learning and neuroscience, Patrick loves working with technical founders building audacious companies that will positively impact the world. Patrick received his MD and PhD from Georgetown, where he used machine learning methods and fMRI data to study semantic representations in the brain. He also applied AI/ML approaches to study neuropsychological conditions such as Tourette syndrome. Patrick received a B.S. in Neuroscience from Emory University, where he was also a member of the varsity Swim Team.

**Special Skills:** I like to ski fast down steep mountains.

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<https://scalefree.substack.com>





**Shaquille Vayda**



**Bio:** Shaq joins the Lux team with a passion for technology and a desire to invest in people. Specifically, he is excited by “building block” ideas where the value and markets unlocked downstream are greater than that of a single product. Some examples of these building blocks include: biotech, drug discovery platforms, molecular & computational tools, synbio, data infrastructure, and developer tools. Shaq started his career in the aerospace and defense sector spending time at NASA and Northrop Grumman. Shaq then got exposure to the emerging life sciences sector at Illumina. Most recently, Shaq worked at Parthenon (SSG) in San Francisco. He is a board director at Enveda, Anagenex, Lab Genius, and Nomic Bio

**Special Skills:** Can make a mean grilled cheese sandwich

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**Devin Quinlan, PhD**



**Bio:** Devin Quinlan is a Principal on the investment team at MPM and BioImpact Capital, where he is focused primarily on early-stage investment and company creation. Since joining the firm full-time in 2018, Devin has been involved in multiple investments, including Orna Therapeutics as well as stealth companies in gene editing, platform chemistry, and precision oncology. Additionally, Devin serves on the Board of Directors of Nextpoint Therapeutics and as a Board Observer at Crossbow Therapeutics. Prior to joining MPM and BioImpact Capital, Devin completed his Ph.D. in Biological Engineering at MIT. His thesis was focused on uncovering structure-function relationships of antibodies which target viral antigens. Devin is originally from Fresno, CA, and received his undergraduate degree in Bioengineering from the University of California, Los Angeles.

**Special Skills:** I've been performing improv comedy for over 10 years! It's a great counterbalance to the seriousness/rigor of science and gets me out of the house on weekends.

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**Jamie Kasuboski, PhD**



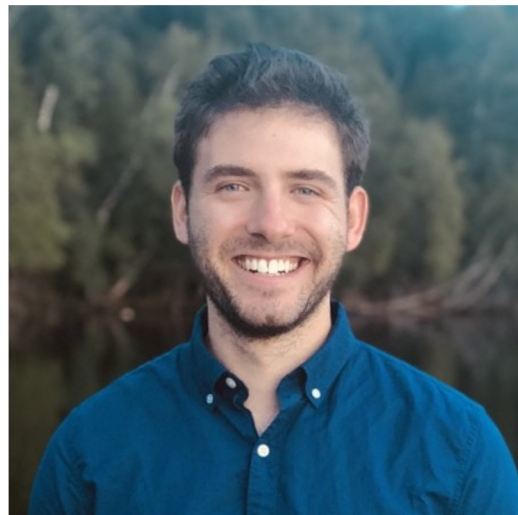
**Bio:** Jamie is a Vice President with OMX Ventures, focusing on early-stage biotech investing and company creation. Prior to OMX, Jamie developed deep experience in early-stage Biotech investing and company creation while working on the investment team at RA Capital. In that role, he served on the board of EnaraBio and was a co-founder of Avilar Therapeutics and Umbra Therapeutics. Before joining RA, he was a Director at Boehringer Ingelheim Venture Fund and Board Director of Tilos Therapeutics (acquired by Merck & Co.) and Rewind Therapeutics. Education: Ph.D. in Molecular and Cellular Biology from the University of Notre Dame and a BS in Biology with a minor in Chemistry from Hillsdale College.

**Special Skills:** Every two years I pick up a new skill. I have learned to fly a plane, build microscopes, design and made my own appeal line (started a now defuncted clothing company with my best friend) ride a motorcycle, make hardwood furniture, videography and editing.

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**Seth Cassel, MD PhD**



**Bio:** Seth H. Cassel, M.D., Ph.D., is an Analyst at OrbiMed Advisors. Prior to joining OrbiMed, Seth served as a healthcare policy fellow in the United States Senate, focusing on legislation governing the FDA and the reimbursement of new drugs and diagnostics. Seth earned his M.D. from Harvard Medical School and his Ph.D. from Harvard University where he studied cancer biology, biochemistry, and genomics at the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and the Broad Institute. He completed his graduate studies as part of the NIH-sponsored Medical Scientist Training Program. Seth received his A.B. degree summa cum laude from Harvard University in Human Developmental and Regenerative Biology.

**Special Skill:** I am so enamored of baseball that I listen to the majority of Yankees games on the radio each season.

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**Tony Kulesa, PhD**



**Bio:** Tony Kulesa is a Principal at Pillar VC. He previously co-founded the incubator Petri, which later merged with Pillar to become the basis of the biotech practice. Previously, he was the founding Director of the MIT BioMakerspace, a community biology laboratory and incubator space, and an Instructor at the MIT Department of Biological Engineering. He holds a PhD from MIT, where his inventions of new platforms for drug discovery and microbial therapeutics were highlighted in Science Editor's Choice and Nature Reviews Drug Discovery. While at MIT, he was a founding officer of MIT Biotech Group and co-founded and directed 3 courses on biotech and entrepreneurship, including BiomedStartup, a course that coaches 10+ teams per year on research commercialization projects

**Special Skills:** In a previous life, I learned Chinese, and my wife speaks it at home. But my ability to read/write/speak is embarrassingly terrible now. Nowadays, most of the new things that I am learning are in service of trying to be a good dad!

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**Thomas de Vlaam, MD**



**Bio:** Thomas is a principal at Pillar VC. Prior to Pillar he was at Flagship Pioneering, where he was responsible for helping develop new platform companies. Before joining Flagship, Thomas was founder and CEO of Amylon Therapeutics, a biotechnology startup that focused on using RNA therapeutics to treat rare neurodegenerative disease. Thomas holds a B.Sc. degree in International Medicine and Global Health. His work has resulted in multiple patents and publications. Thomas was elected one of the top 10 young European biotech entrepreneurs by Labiotech, as well as one of the 30 rising leaders in life sciences by Invivo.

**Special Skills:** Jack of all traits, master of none. I've been a "professional" (as in got paid for it) chef, dog trainer, snowboarding instructor, bartender/waiter, lab scientist, and CEO all in the span of 10 years.

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**Pascal Krotee, PhD**



**Bio:** Pascal joined the RiverVest team as a Senior Associate in 2021. She serves as an observer at Bluejay Therapeutics, Avalyn Pharmaceuticals, and Biolinq. She also supports the operational activities of RiverVest’s portfolio companies. Prior to joining the team, Pascal spent several years at Kairos Ventures, where she focused on investments in the life sciences and served on the Board of Directors of several portfolio companies. She earned a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology at UCLA, where she studied the atomic structures of proteins associated with Alzheimer’s disease and type-II diabetes and worked to create compounds that inhibited these structures. She earned a B.S. in Developmental and Cell Biology with a Minor in Business Management from UC Irvine.

**Special Skills:** I’m a pretty solid cook, baker, and plant parent. I miss the lab bench—this has caused me to get into the kitchen to get that same feeling of an “experiment” done successfully.

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**Regina Salvat, PhD**



**Bio:** Regina focuses on therapeutics investments at Sofinnova. She is currently a member of the board of directors for Pionyr and a board observer for Atsena. Prior to joining Sofinnova in 2020, Regina was an Associate Director of Strategy and Corporate Development at Rubius Therapeutics. Before joining Rubius, Regina supported a range of biopharmaceutical companies as a Strategy Consultant at Huron Consulting Group. While in graduate school at Dartmouth, Regina studied Protein Engineering. Her work as a graduate student was later commercialized in a company, Stealth Biologics. Prior to graduate school, Regina worked as a Senior Associate Scientist of Cell Line Development within Bioprocess R&D at Pfizer. Regina received her PhD from the Thayer School of Engineering at Dartmouth College, where she was a Clare Boothe Luce Fellow and Innovation Fellow.

**Special Skills:** Last year, I climbed to base camp Everest as a part of the Timmerman Climb To Fight Cancer

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**Vyas Ramanan, PhD**



**Bio:** As a principal at TRV, Vyas helps to build new companies where new biological insights and technological capabilities intersect to create important new medicines for patients. He is passionate about advancing exciting new ideas for these companies across the portfolio. When Vyas first joined Third Rock, he was involved in the launch of Maze Therapeutics, and spent the subsequent years on the R&D leadership team at Maze, & helping create and empower a growing team to advance multiple meaningful, first-in-class medicines. Vyas enjoys comedy, caffeinating, and giving dogs more attention than they want. He received undergraduate degrees in Bioengineering and Economics and an MS in Bioengineering from Penn as part of the Jerome Fisher Management & Technology program, and a PhD from the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology (HST) program.

**Special Skills:** I make very bad puns, and am great at coming up with fun names for dogs







**Eliot Coffey, PhD**

**Bio:** Eliot Coffey focuses on biotech and pharmaceutical investments, as well as company creation at Venrock. Before joining Venrock, Eliot earned a PhD in Biology from Richard Young's lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. While at MIT, Eliot contributed to the founding of Dewpoint Therapeutics and worked with both 5AM Ventures and Flagship Pioneering. He received his B.A. from Wesleyan University. Outside the office find Eliot in the climbing gym or taking the path of most resistance up a nearby cliff.

**Special Skills:** I'm totally obsessed with rock climbing both in the gym and outside on rock. I love all of it, but my favorite way to climb is to push my limits on sport routes. If you're in biotech and you'd like to climb together please reach out.





**Jill Goldstein, PhD**



**Bio:** Jill is an Associate at Vida Ventures. She has over 10 years of experience in life sciences research. She received her B.S. in Biochemistry and German Studies with high distinction at Worcester Polytechnic Institute. Jill completed her Ph.D. at Yale University in Molecular, Cellular, and Developmental Biology where she studied skin stem cell biology in the context of tissue maintenance and cancer. She was awarded an NIH F32 Fellowship to pursue postdoctoral training at Harvard University in Stem Cell and Regenerative Biology where she studied blood and muscle stem cell function. Her research has resulted in over 10 scientific publications and she is a co-inventor on three patents.

**Special Skills:** I am super competitive at Settlers of Catan!

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**Mark Springel, PhD**



**Bio:** Mark is an Associate at Vida Ventures. Since joining full-time in 2021, Mark has been involved in Vida investments including Vigil Neuro and Alterome Therapeutics, as well as portfolio support in precision oncology, genetic medicines, and neuroscience. Prior to Vida, Mark completed his Ph.D. at Harvard Medical School where he studied neural circuits underlying tactile perception. While at Harvard, Mark also co-founded Activate Bio (now Nucleate), a trainee-run venture program for Harvard life science entrepreneurs. Before graduate school, Mark studied neural stem cell biology for two years at Boston Children’s Hospital, and received his B.A. in Biology and Neuroscience with highest honors from Williams College.

**Special Skills:** I love working with my hands and make homemade furniture (tables, lamps, shelving, etc) in my free time.

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