



**2022 MIT Startup Ecosystem Conference**

**May 4, 2022 9:00 am - 5:00 pm**

**Startup Lightning Talks, Part 1: Life Sciences, Energy, and Sustainability**

Catarina Madeira

Director, MIT Startup Exchange, [MIT Startup Exchange](#)

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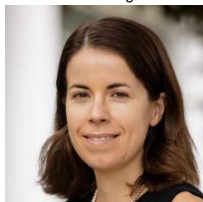
Catarina Madeira joined Corporate Relations in May 2021 as Program Director, Startup Exchange.

Madeira has been working with the Cambridge/Boston startup ecosystem for the past 10 years and joins Corporate Relations with a solid network in the innovation and entrepreneurial community. In 2010, she joined the startup accelerator IUL MIT Portugal working in Lisbon and working with the Cambridge team on all aspects related to the accelerator's launch. She held positions including Operations Coordinator, Program Manager, and Business Developer. The accelerator soon achieved steady growth in large part due to the partnerships that Catarina led with regional and global startup ecosystems. Most recently she worked at NECEC, leading a program that connects cleantech startups and industry. In this role, she developed and built a pipeline of startups and forged strong relationships with both domestic and European companies. She has also held positions in Portugal and France including at L'Oréal and Saboaria e Perfumaria Confiança as Pharmacist and Technical Director.

Madeira earned her Bachelor in Chemistry at the University of Porto and her Bachelor in Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Coimbra in Portugal. She went on to earn her Master of Engineering for Health and Medicines at University Lyon 1 and EM Lyon in France.



Reprogram Immunity

[Elizaveta \(Lisa\) Freinkman](#)Director of Strategic Research, [Immunai](#)

Elizaveta (Lisa) Freinkman

Director of Strategic Research

[Immunai](#)

Elizaveta (Lisa) Freinkman joined Immunai as Director of Strategic Research in January 2022. Her effort focuses on ensuring that Immunai's single-cell multi-omics and AI platforms are strategically and programmatically positioned to deliver value for both the internal therapeutic discovery pipeline and external partnerships.

Lisa's technical background is in protein and lipid biochemistry and metabolomics. After earning a Ph.D. in Chemical Biology at Harvard, Lisa co-founded and then directed the Metabolite Profiling Core Facility at the Whitehead Institute of MIT, where her work contributed to over 25 high-profile peer-reviewed journal articles. Lisa subsequently joined the R&D group at Metabolon in Durham, NC, focusing on lipidomic platform development, novel metabolite identification, and generation of molecular-level insights from large-scale datasets. A growing interest in translational research and program management took Lisa to Locus Biosciences, where she rose to the rank of Director of Translational Medicine. In this capacity, she led a team of six scientists in the design and execution of rodent models of infectious disease and IBD, including IND-enabling studies of the company's lead therapeutic asset. In parallel, Lisa also served as the program/alliance lead for a large pharma-partnered research collaboration.



Livio Valenti

Co-founder, Senior VP of Strategy, Operations and Business Development

[Vaxess Technologies](#)

Kfir Schreiber

Co-Founder &amp; CEO

[DeepCure](#)

Megan O'Connor

Co-founder and CEO

[Nth Cycle](#)

Abigail Jablansky

Senior Business Development Lead

[Amogy](#)

Adam Wallen

CEO

[VEIR](#)

2:20 PM

**Startup Lightning Talks, Part 2: Robotics, Supply Chain, and AI**

Ariadna Rodenstein  
Events Leader  
[MIT Startup Exchange](#)

Zoë Cayetano  
Head of Product and Chief of Staff  
[Pathr](#)

Rachelle Villalon  
Co-Founder and CEO  
[Hosta A.I.](#)

Kota Weaver  
Co-founder and CTO  
[Skylia Technologies](#)

Debbie Yu  
[ISEE](#)

Emanuel Zraggen  
Co-founder & CEO  
[Einblick](#)

Elaheh Ahmadi  
Co-founder & CEO  
[Themis AI](#)

Leonardo Bonanni  
[Sourcemap](#)