### Sana Alajmovic, BSc 32 years old Co-founder and CEO Sigrid Therapeutics



Alajmovic heads a Swedish clinical-stage biotechnology company founded in 2014 with the goal of pioneering a new class of therapies aimed at preventing and treating lifestyle diseases. The

company's lead product candidate, SiPore15™, is being developed as the first therapy acting in the gut to improve blood sugar levels in people at risk of developing diabetes.

#### Amber Alhadeff, PhD 30 years old Postdoctoral researcher, Department





Alhadeff's postdoctoral research in the lab of J. Nicholas Betley, PhD, focuses on how different neural populations drive behavior, how hunger neurons influence the perception of external

stimuli, and how the gut communicates with the brain to control food intake. She is one of five recipients of the 2018 L'Oréal USA For Women in Science Fellowship.

#### Le Cong, PhD, 31 years old Assistant Professor, Stanford Univ. School of Medicine; Member, Wu Tsai Neurosciences Institute & Bio-X Institute, Stanford Univ.



Cong leads a group pursuing novel technology for scalable genome editing and cell engineering, and accompanying computational approaches for single-cell analysis. Recognized

by Forbes and MIT Technology Review, Cong studied under George Church, PhD, and Feng Zhang, PhD, in whose lab he published seminal studies on CRISPR-Cas9 gene editing.

## César de la Fuente, PhD 33 years old **Assistant Professor** University of Pennsylvania



de la Fuente has pioneered the computerization of biological systems to solve grand challenges such as antibiotic resistance. de la Fuente's lab is working to build artificial antibiotics, discover new

antibiotic properties in biological information, generate technologies for microbiome engineering, develop tools for synthetic neuromicrobioloav, and engineer living medicines.

#### Francesco Gatto, PhD 31 years old Co-founder and CSO Elypta



Gatto's research led to the founding of Elypta, a Swedish molecular diagnostics company seeking to develop the first liquid biopsy platform based on metabolic biomarkers. In February, Elypta won

a €2.35M (\$2.6M) EU grant toward validating the platform for early detection of recurrent renal cell carcinoma. He has been recognized by Labiotech. eu and MIT Technology Review.

#### Nicole Gaudelli, PhD 34 years old, Senior Scientist II Head of DNA Editing Platform

**Beam Therapeutics** 



Gaudelli's research opened a new gene-editing frontier: A highly efficient base editor that converts A•T base pairs to G•C base pairs, significantly expanding the proportion of potentially addressable

diseases. That work helped establish Beam Therapeutics, which launched last year and has raised \$222M. Gaudelli completed postdoctoral research for David R. Liu, PhD, a Beam co-founder.

## Latrice Landry, PhD 38 years old, Clinical Molecular Genetics

Fellow, Partners' Personalized Medicine and the Center for Advanced Molecular Diagnostics at Brigham and Women's Hospital

Landry has focused on studying the nature-nurture relationship in health disparities. Her doctoral research explored interactions between diet and



genetics as a determinant for dyslipidemia in African-Americans. She was selected as the inaugural Genomic Medicine and Health Disparities fellow at the FDA in collaboration with NHGRI.

#### Ankit Mahadevia, MD 38 years old Co-founder, President, and CEO Spero Therapeutics



Spero Therapeutics is a biopharma focused on Gram-negative antibiotics, and its Phase III-bound lead candidate SPR994 aims to be the first oral carbapenem antibiotic for adults with multidrug resis-

tant Gram-negative infections. Earlier, Mahadevia was a venture partner at Atlas Venture, supporting the formation of eight developers of novel drug discovery platforms and therapeutic products.

# **Emmanuel J. Simons, PhD** 36 years old

Co-founder, President, and CEO **Akouos** 

After completing a Blavatnik fellowship at Harvard, Simons and six partners co-founded Akouos in 2017. Akouos develops targeted AAV-based gene therapies for sensorineural hearing loss. Earlier,



Simons held leadership roles in business and corporate development at Voyager Therapeutics and WarpDriveBio, and he was an Entrepreneurial Fellow at Flagship Ventures.

## Humsa Venkatesh, PhD

32 years old Postdoctoral Research Fellow Neurology and Neurological Sciences Stanford University

Venkatesh works in the lab of Michelle Monje, MD, PhD, where she uses in vitro glioma model systems to study various cellular interactions within the tumor



microenvironment. Honored by MIT Technology Review, Venkatesh was a lead author in a Monje-led 2015 and 2017 studies that first demonstrated stimulation of tumor growth by nerve activity in the cerebral cortex.

See more lists online **GENengnews.com/lists**