
Prof. Yaakov Nahmias

Founder & CSO, Tissue Dynamics

Founder & CSO, Believer Meats (formerly Future Meat Technologies)

Director, Grass Center for Bioengineering

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Prof. Yaakov “Koby” Nahmias is an Israeli bioengineer and innovator, whose technological breakthroughs ranged from the first 3D printing of human cells to the first commercialization of human-on-chip technologies and the cost-effective manufacturing of cultured meat. Nahmias is the *Magna Cum Laude* graduate of the Technion, Israel Institute of Technology. He did his PhD at the University of Minnesota and his postdoctoral training at Massachusetts General Hospital. Nahmias served as faculty member at Harvard Medical School, receiving a National Institute of Health (NIH) Career Award in 2006. He was recruited by the Hebrew University in 2010 to found and direct the Center for Bioengineering. His leadership was instrumental in raising the center’s \$5M endowment and recruiting several core faculty that raised over



\$20M of competitive funding over the past five years. Nahmias was one of the first Israelis to win two prestigious European Research Council (ERC) grants raising over \$10M in competitive research funding. In recognition of his achievements, Nahmias won the Golda Meir Lectureship Award in 2011, the prestigious Rappaport Prize in Biomedical Research in 2014 and the Kaye Innovation Award in 2018. In 2017 he became the first scientist outside Britain to win the Rosetrees Trust Interdisciplinary Prize for his pioneering work on liver-on-chip. Nahmias became one of the first Israelis to be inducted to the prestigious American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) which represents the top 2% of biomedical engineers worldwide. He was similarly invited to be one of the few oversea fellows of the British Royal Society of Medicine (RSM). Nahmias is an editorial board member of the Annual Reviews for Biomedical Engineering, and a long-standing member of the European Research Council, biotechnology and applied biology committee.

Nahmias is the co-founding director of BioDesign-Israel. An entrepreneurship program that educated over 250 fellows since 2013, launching 10 startup companies including [Guide In Medical](#), that received FDA approval in 2018, [CardioVia](#) and [Swiftduct](#).

BioDesign graduates strengthened the entire Israeli ecosystem, forming secondary startup companies and raising over \$60M in the last few years.

Nahmias is the founder of two biotechnology startups:

[Tissue Dynamics](#) that is advancing the world’s first animal-free autonomous drug development platform. Tissue Dynamics developed one of the first COVID-19 shown to be effective in Phase 3 clinical trials, as well as therapies for cancer, cardiac arrhythmia and several rare diseases in children. The company was recently selected as one of the top 5 organ on chip companies in the world and received the European Seal of Excellence.

Tissue Dynamics can potentially drop the cost of drug development by 75% allowing hundreds of startup companies across the Israeli ecosystem to reach the market without multinational acquisition. It also makes drug development for rare diseases economically feasible.

Tissue Dynamics was featured in [recent publication](#) tagged by the World Economic Forum, and received central stage in Viva Technology 2022 in a [recent joint interview](#) with Albert Bourla the CEO of Pfizer, and in [Wired Magazine](#).

[Believer Meats](#) (formerly [Future Meat Technologies](#)) is the fastest growing company in the cultured meat sector. Believer was the first company to break the [\\$5 cost barrier](#) for cultured meat, signing a joint development with Nestle and massive support for industry including Fortune 500 companies like [Tyson Foods](#) and Archers Daniel Midland (ADM). Believer raised a [record breaking \\$347M Series B](#) investment in 2021 becoming the first company in the sector to cross the billion-dollar valuation (i.e. unicorn status). This represents over 57% of the total funding raised by Israeli companies in Food Tech over the same time period. Believer built [the world's first production line](#) for cultured meat and recently announced the first [large scale facility in the United States](#). The company has over 100 employees in its Israeli facility in Rehovot and received numerous awards for its groundbreaking technology.

Future Meat production can reduce 90% of carbon emissions, use 98% less land, and 83% less water than traditional agriculture. The company's technology can release over 20% of the land for new forests making the world carbon neutral for an entire decade.

Feature in [Israeli Cultured Meat](#) by the ministry of foreign affairs. The future of food [promotion video](#) and announcing the [world's first production line](#).