

# What Can You Hack with Biology?

## Description

We keep hearing about how the future lies in the intersection of tech and biology, but between these two fields, where do the similarities end and the differences begin? How does biotech actually work and what makes it different from tech?

Join Michael as he breaks down how the biotech sector really works and how you, as a hacker, can help build the future of biology.

## Learning Outcomes

After this workshop, you should be able to understand:

- How biotech companies are similar, yet also different, to tech startups.
- The differences and similarities of companies like Moderna versus 23AndMe.
- Why biotech platform technologies are eating the world.
- How scientists become founders.
- **What you, as an engineer/designer/hacker, can build in the biotech field.**

## Prerequisite Knowledge

Beginner-focused, just bring your curiosity!

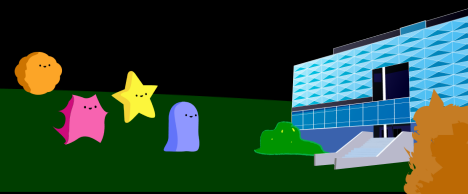
## Pre-Workshop Checklist

Before the workshop, feel free to skim through these videos:

- [YC Startup School video on MVPs](#)
- [YC Startup school video on biotech / hard-tech founders](#)

## Technical Jargon and Definitions

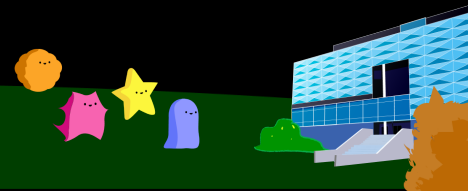
- **Bioeconomy:** The amalgamation of all companies working in the life sciences space or working with biology.
- **Biopharma:** The subset of the bioeconomy that is dedicated to building new medicines and diagnostics.
- **Biotechnology:** The subset of the bioeconomy that is applying biology for non-biomedical applications or are building new ways to empower biology research.



- **MVP: Minimally-viable product**, an early version of your product that you can initially deploy to your target audience.
- **TTO:** Tech Transfer Office, university administrations that are responsible for commercializing intellectual property generated using the university's resources (ie. University labs)
- **VC:** Venture Capital, a subset of the investment industry that is geared towards raising capital (money) for companies to start or scale.

### Timeline (45 minutes)

Time	Module	Description
5 min	Workshop Introduction	Personal Introduction & Gauge the audience for a big question
5 min	Why we need you building in biology.	
10 min	Biotech vs Biopharma	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 5 min lecture portion explaining the differences between the two</li><li>• 5 min game where the audience classifies companies as biopharma vs bioeconomy</li></ul>
15 min	The academia-biotech pipeline	How do scientists in academia become founders?
5 min	Biotech: from idea to product	Explaining the role of VC in biotech, what are examples of biotech corporate milestones
5 min	What you can build with biology	The story of Latch.Bio and its founders.
5 min	Wrap up, Q&A	



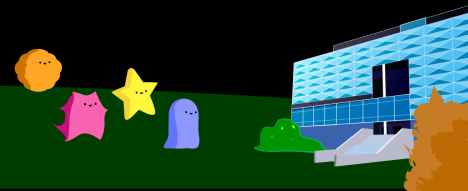
## Workshop Lead Contact

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## **Additional Resources**

### **Hack the North Resources**

#### [Hack the North 2022 Event Schedule](#)

Check this out to stay up-to-date on activities, workshops, and other key happenings this weekend.

