

Lavonda Li (She/Her)

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Impact-driven program manager in tech (3+ yrs), driving projects from concept to delivery, with full ownership and international market growth; proven success across industry leaders and startups.

EDUCATION (FULLY FUNDED BY SCHOLARSHIPS)

Stanford University	CA, USA
<i>Materials Engineering, MS</i>	Sep 2024 – Mar 2026
<i>Stanford Ignite (mini-MBA)</i>	GPA: 4.0/4.0
University of Cambridge	England, UK
<i>Chemical Engineering and Biotechnology, BA & MEng</i>	First Class Honours (full GPA)

WORK EXPERIENCE

Intuitive Surgical	Jun 2025 – Present
<i>Product Manager Da Vinci Robotic Surgical Systems</i>	Sunnyvale, CA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Drove a 0→1 ML haptics innovation on <i>da Vinci 5</i>, from concept to prototype to formal resourcing, cutting out-of-range forces by 30% and uniting 40+ senior stakeholders toward next-gen haptics adoption.Shaped product and clinical strategy through 50 surgeon interviews; authored Phase-0 deck securing cross-functional leadership alignment for clinical trials and contributed to GTM across Japan and Korea.	
FANUC	Feb 2025 – Jun 2025
<i>Product Manager Cohort Market Expansion</i>	Stanford, CA
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Owned the full product lifecycle of a collaborative-robot program, from defining the POA and market research to MVP launch and growth, leveraging a tiered-leasing model that drove profitable entry.Interviewed 100+ R&D stakeholders to validate product fit, refine features, and GTM strategy.	
Sanofi	Oct 2023 – Sep 2024
<i>Program Manager Lifecycle Management</i>	Cambridge, UK
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Drove 10% month-over-month revenue growth by building strong, trust-based relationships with 50 physicians.Launched targeted educational initiatives and professional events that positioned our biologic as the preferred choice in a crowded market, surpassing competitors and securing key hospital procurement wins.	
Novartis	Jun 2022 – Sep 2023
<i>Program Manager Outreach & Partnerships</i>	London, UK
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Led launch marketing for a new biologic, organizing global medical conferences (1,000+ HCPs) and delivering competitor analyses that shaped product positioning and HCP outreach strategy.Formed strategic partnerships with key hospitals and KOLs to drive adoption and support regional initiatives.	
Neuromuse (Startup) Board Advisor (Former COO)	May 2023 – Present
<i>AI-powered music creation for everyone. Check out here.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Developed tailored MVP for market validation and iterated the model with tech team to improve product-market fit; established collaborations with renowned singers, producers, and musicians.	
MeetCam (Startup) Board Advisor (Former CEO)	Oct 2019 – Present
<i>Edtech specializing in UK & US curriculum and admissions success.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Led an 8-member executive team, recruiting and training 200+ Oxbridge/Ivy tutors to support 500+ students; achieved 100% positive feedback and improved grades for 80% of students, driving sustained profitability.	

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE (Selected)

Stanford Translational AI Lab	Sep 2024 – Present
<i>Graduate AI Researcher Advisor: Prof Feifei Li, Prof Ehsan Adeli</i>	Stanford University, Mayo Clinic
<i>Vision-Language and LLM framework for conversational echocardiography diagnosis.</i>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Pre-trained a DINOv2-based vision-language model on 160K ultrasound video-text pairs from PubMed-OA, achieving a 20% diagnostic improvement toward a conversational QA AI tool for cardiologists.Built a LLM-derived knowledge graph, integrated with the Python OpenAI API, to enhance contextual information retrieval from private datasets and reduce hallucinations within the framework.	

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE (Continued)

Cambridge DNA Nanotechnology Lab
Master's Thesis | Advisor: *Prof Lorenzo Di Michele*

Oct 2022 – Jun 2024
University of Cambridge

Programmable membrane engineering with DNA origami for synthetic biology.

- Engineered curved DNA origami “line-actant” nanostructures and integrated them into phase-separated lipid vesicles to create programmable, biomimetic membrane systems, validated by AFM and fluorescence imaging.
- Quantified curvature-dependent changes in lipid domain size via image segmentation, demonstrating stable, tunable raft-like domains and proposing mechanisms for domain coarsening and molecular transport.

Cambridge Nanoengineering Lab
Researcher | Advisor: *Prof Ljiljana Fruk*

Jun 2019 – Jun 2022
University of Cambridge

Enzyme-sensitive protein drug nanocarriers for reprogramming pancreatic tumors.

- Synthesized nanocarriers from myoglobin with MMP-2/-9 cleavable peptide crosslinking, characterized disassembly, and validated in vitro 2D stability, cytotoxicity, and cell uptake in intact/disassembled proteins.
- Developed 3D co-culture spheroids to model hypoxic tumor microenvironments and validated nanocarrier effects on alleviating hypoxia. Presented work at conferences and contributed to published papers.

LEADERSHIP (Selected)

Association for Women in Science (AWIS) – Palo Alto | Executive Chair

Jan 2025 – Present

- Directed Stanford-sponsored mentoring: matched 200+ grad pairs; hosted monthly Women Executives Series; launched awards and scholarships, enhancing visibility and recognition for women in science.

Stanford University Theater & Opera | Musical Producer

Sep 2024 – Jun 2025

- Managed team (cast, designers, technical staff), organize rehearsal schedules, venues, and timelines, and oversee budgeting to ensure smooth production of a Broadway-style original musical *here*.
- Led marketing and promotions via social media, press releases, and ticket sales, driving audience engagement.

Oxbridge Alumni Association | Executive Chair of Events

Jun 2019 – Present

- Organized flagship events (Christmas Dinner, Industrial Conference) as part of a 9-member executive committee, with active members from 1,000 Oxbridge alumni. Chaired annual Freshers’ Fair.
- Managed public communication channels and established collaborations with esteemed groups.

TEACHING AT STANFORD

- **CS 337 AI-Assisted Care:** use AI and machine learning to make a real-world impact on human health.
- **MATSCI 170 Nanomaterials Design:** explore the cutting edge of nanoscience and nanotechnology.
- **ME 249 Designing Biomaterials:** translate a medical need into material design requirements.
- **ENGR 307 Engineering for Women’s Health:** addressing challenges across women’s every life stage.

PUBLICATION (Selected)

- **Li, L.**, et al. “Bioorthogonal Optimized Virus Immuno-Nanomedicine (BOVIN).” *Nature Communications*, 2025.
- **Li, L.**, et al. “Parabiosis, Assembloids, Organoids (PAO).” *Advanced Science*, 2025.
- **Li, L.**, et al. “Cell Viability, Drug Screening, and Mechanism Study Under Mild Phototherapy Integrated Chemotherapy (PIC).” *Advanced Science*, 2025.

PROJECTS

- Built a **machine learning pipeline** for antimicrobial polymer discovery (collaboration with *Prof Eric Appel*).
- **Machine learning analysis** of ADC linker parameter to predict efficacy in cancer immunotherapy at *Genentech*.
- Applied AlphaFold for protein structure prediction and molecular docking for structure-based drug discovery.
- Built a **Siri-style on-device voice assistant** for clinical notes and task management, deployed at provider sites.

SKILLS

Coding: Python, C++, MATLAB, PyTorch, Pandas, AWS, GCP, Git, GitHub, Jira, SQL, Matplotlib, SFDC.

Languages: Bilingual in English & Mandarin, conversational in Cantonese, Japanese & French.

Away from keyboard: Broadway & West End Musicals, Professional Makeup Artist and Photographer.