

# GENERAL CATALYST

Tuesday August 2, 2022

U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services

Re : O-1 Visa Petition

Dear Immigration Examiner:

At General Catalyst I am an early investor in market-leading companies like Stripe, Livongo (acquired by Teladoc in an \$18.5B merger, the largest in digital health history to-date), Samsara (NYSE: IOT), Snap (NYSE: SNAP), Fundbox, Grammarly, Gusto, Applied Intuition, and Anduril. I am an advocate for Responsible Innovation, aligning innovation with the long-term interests of society by engineering for growth *and* good with greater intention, fewer unintended consequences, and increased inclusivity. In my 2022 book *Intended Consequences: How to Build Market-Leading Companies with Responsible Innovation*, I lay out an actionable framework for founders and executives on how to create innovative companies built for growth and for societal good that withstand the test of time. As part of this, I am also co-founder and chairman of *Responsible Innovation Labs*, a non-profit consortium of leaders aiming to create standards of innovation to serve the needs of a global society, and to help build enduring companies that re-center technology as a force for good. My 2020 book, *UnHealthcare: A Manifesto for Health Assurance*, co-authored with Dr. Stephen Klasko, CEO of Jefferson Health, details our thesis for how the healthcare system needs to transform a “sick care” system into a Health Assurance system designed to help people stay well, bend the cost curve, and make quality care more affordable and more accessible to all. In *Unscaled*, released in 2018, I articulate the need for accountability, transparency and explainability as AI permeates every aspect of our daily lives.

I wound up with five degrees from MIT because I was hoping to pursue an academic career: M.Eng. EECS, S.M. Operations Research, S.B. Biology, S.B. Mathematics, and S.B. EECS. In hindsight, that was excellent training for being a venture capitalist because I am always curious about new areas of innovation.

Alongside my work at General Catalyst, I serve on the Stanford School of Medicine Board of Fellows, have worked on climate and energy issues as the co-founder and Chairman of Advanced Energy Economy, and I am a founding board member of Khan Lab School, an innovative K-12 school.

I came to know Raez Lorgat while he was still a student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology—at the time I was teaching a course on entrepreneurship. After he dropped out to cofound Stripe with Patrick and John Collison, he reached out to me for investment in their new company. It is no exaggeration that without Raez Lorgat, General Catalyst would not have its position in Stripe today.



As is typical of a founder of any technology company, Rameez Lorgat's responsibilities at Stripe included every responsibility imaginable: from raising funds, to writing up documentation and communicating to customers and investors, to building software. His role in founding Stripe, especially at the young age of 19 years old after having dropped out of a leading institution such as MIT, exhibits Rameez Lorgat as having risen to the very top of his field of entrepreneurship. He is unquestionably of extraordinary ability.

After Stripe, Rameez Lorgat has gone on to lead a very successful career in academia, securing rare research fellowships at the Perimeter Institute for Theoretical Physics, as well as Foresight Institute. This has further led him to secure an international reputation for his extraordinary achievements. This rare combination exhibits Rameez Lorgat not only as one of the top business minds working today, and one of the finest the country has produced in decades, but also as a leading researcher. It is my understanding that both of these extraordinary traits are now proving fruitful in the founding of his latest company, Persona.

Rameez Lorgat's petition therefore has my unreserved support. I urge you to approve it right away

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hemant Taneja".

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Hemant Taneja  
General Catalyst