Hi friends,

Let’s talk safety.

As we all know, the regulatory pathway for cultured meat is a top concern for everyone involved—the regulator, country-specific, and often rooted in unique political circumstances (broad in the U.S., the lag-of-war between the USDA and FDA has been an area of concern for consumers and activists).

What’s universal, however, is safety.

For the last year, we’ve been working on an initiative to unite the field around a shared understanding of the safety needs for cultured meat. Originally conceived as a workshop at our 2020 conference (NH), we took the project remote and it ballooned into something bigger than we could have ever imagined.

Knowing the promise of cultured meat will never be realized if the products are not safe, we set out to do what we could to push the bar for the safety of cultured meat in our community.

We were blown away by the generosity, openness, and participation of over 87 individuals from 60 companies (representing over 95 percent of the global industry).

The initiative, revealed this month as a pre-print, is the culmination of these conversations and is the result of meaningful collaboration with research leaders—veteran experts in evaluating the safety of new and emerging technologies. You can read the original project charter here.

Read our safety manuscript

As an independent entity, it’s not our job to act as the purveyor of safety, but the creation of a method to unite the field and learn from one another is something that we felt was really important.

So that’s what we did. As a field, we collectively identified what data is required to demonstrate the safety of cultured meat.

In the heart of the manuscript is a modular process diagram, accompanied by specific details about industry leaders’ manufacturing processes that have never been publicly available before.

For the diagram to be meaningful to companies, regulators, investors, and consumers, we needed to get a sense of what the safety needs for the manufacturing process are that is accurate and reflects reality—but that isn’t overly academic.

We know academia alone could not generate an appropriate understanding of the manufacturing process, so we have really the 87 companies coming together which made this so novel.

“Co-opetition” at its finest!

Next week, we’ll be asking for your help to maximize the impact of this initiative. Because it’s not too late yet! The manuscript is still a pre-print, and we’re here to make sure that the data is as meaningful as possible.

Thank you for driving cell ag forward with us, committed to keeping it open access when we publish.

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