Hi friend,

Last month, Forbes published a list of questions about cell-based meat. Hard hitting but in good faith, the thoughtful questions created quite a buzz—especially among skeptics of cell ag.

NH research fellow Andrew Stout took a stab at answering the questions from his perspective as a cultured meat researcher.

[Read his response here.]

LAB DISPATCH

NH research fellow John Yuen’s most recent batch of in vitro adipose — fatty tissue that can improve the taste and texture of cultured meat.

Fat affects juiciness by enhancing the water-holding capacity of meat and lubricating the muscle fibers during cooking.

NEW PAPERS

NH research fellows Andrew Stout and John Yuen published a preprint about serum-free media for cultured meat. Their media—which they've named “Beefy-9”—uses albumin made in rice to feed bovine satellite cells.

NH research fellow Scott Allan published a paper about using decellularized grass as a scaffold for cultured meat.

NH grantee Jernej Vajda published a review paper* surveying microvascular tissue engineering techniques.

*Fun fact: “Meat” actually appears zero times in the text of the paper. That’s because advances in cultured meat technology often have therapeutic applications in regenerative medicine, and vice versa.

🌟 ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT 🌟

Future Fields, co-founded by former seed grantee Matt Anderson-Baron, just released their EntoEngine Platform—a patent pending process for using fruit flies to produce growth factors at mass-market cost and scale for the cellular agriculture industry.

Why fruit flies? Matt explains here!

WHAT WE’RE READING (& LISTENING TO)

Robert Downey Jr.’s FootPrint Coalition has a new YouTube show and episode two is all about MEAT. In it, RDJ interviews Isha about overcoming the “ick” factor of lab-grown meat and what could go wrong if we don’t prioritize safety from the outset.

This Gastropod episode about the legions of foods humans have driven to extinction (like passenger pigeon pie) has been guiding our thinking about the role cultured meat can play in preserving culinary traditions.

If you care about the nuts and bolts of cell ag, you must read this WIRED article about how a lack of access to cell lines is holding back the entire cultured meat industry.

OPPORTUNITIES IN CELL AG

UC Davis is offering a one-week virtual course September 13-17 about cultivated meat featuring faculty researchers from the UC Davis Cultivated Meat Consortium.

The European Space Agency is seeking proposals about the feasibility of growing meat in space. Submit by July 13.

XPRIZE is awarding $15M for chicken and fish alternatives as part of their Feed the next Billion challenge. Register by June 7.

Merck is seeking proposals about media recycling for cultured meat as part of their 2021 grant cycle. Apply by August 31.

SIMULATE—a plant-based meat company incorporating developments from cell ag and synthetic biology—is hiring a protein structure scientist.

Balletic Foods is hiring a strain developer and business development manager.

Paul Bevan is seeking a technical co-founder to join Australian cellular agriculture startup Magic Valley. He is looking for someone with a PhD in cell biology (or a similar field). For more information, please contact Paul directly at paul@magicvalley.com.au.

For a comprehensive list of job opportunities, check out Cell Agri.

Talk soon,

A gift to New Harvest is the most effective way to advance cell ag. To date, NH alumni have founded over eight + companies and NH-supported researchers have advanced the science behind cultured meat at 15 + universities. Our staff of ten is building an ecosystem of cell ag pioneers. We are powered by people like you—donate today.

Support open research

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