

# Filippo Menolascina

ACADEMIC | ENTREPRENEUR | VC INVESTOR

Edinburgh, UK

## Summary

I am a MIT-trained Professor of data-driven Engineering Biology with MBA-level education, executive and VC investment experience. Translating pioneering research into innovative businesses is my passion. Over the past 5 years I raised £10M+ in funding. I leverage 10+ years of Board-level experience in early stage ventures to advise investors and startups on science, strategy and finance. I have a goal-oriented mindset leveraging a hybrid background in Engineering and Biology. I am naturally inclined to strategic thinking and data-driven business decisions.

## Business

### Old College Capital GP, Venture Capital firm of the University of Edinburgh

Edinburgh, UK

INVESTMENT EXECUTIVE

January 2022 - December 2022

- Served as Venture Partner to identify and screen co-investment opportunities.
- Performed **due diligence** on deep tech startups and spinouts connected to the University of Edinburgh.
- Served as **Board Member/Observer** of portfolio companies (e.g. MiAlgae Ltd).

### Noumena Capital, Startup providing data-intelligence services to Private Equity investors

Edinburgh, UK

MANAGING DIRECTOR

September 2020 - Present

- Conceived the business model and customer value proposition.
- Translated a concept into operations and computational infrastructure.
- Engaged with customers and turned leads into contracts.

### GenCirq, Inc., Startup using Synthetic Biology to engineer tumour-targeting bacteria

San Diego, US

CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

September 2019 - Present

- Developed the company's financial model.
- Refined value proposition and business strategy.
- Developed the company valuation and financing strategy approaching its Series A.

### Equity Gap, Angel group

Edinburgh, UK

SCIENTIST IN RESIDENCE

April 2019 - October 2020

- Screened **equity deals** in the biotechnology, med/health tech and data science/ML verticals.
- Developed a **data-driven valuation** model for investments.
- Developed key **strategic insights** for portfolio companies planning exits and/or seeking strategic investors/fair value.

### Dupla Helica, Startup offering containerized solutions for biological laboratories

Edinburgh, UK

STRATEGY AND FINANCE ADVISOR

June 2020 - Present

- Contributed to developing business model and financial forecasts.
- Advised the Managing Director on fund raising strategy.
- Helped shaping business development activities and establishing key relationships.

### OGI Bio, Startup manufacturing high-throughput microbioreactors

Edinburgh, UK

FOUNDER

March 2020 - Present

- Developed the financial model.
- Co-developed the company's scientific proposition.

### Delfin Health, Startup developing biometric signals-based health scores

London, UK

SCIENTIFIC ADVISOR

June 2019 - Present

- Advised the CSO on R&D execution strategy: data, algorithms and cloud solution.

### Edinburgh Genome Foundry, Leader in DNA engineering and laboratory automation

Edinburgh, UK

DIRECTOR

Jan 2018 - April 2020

- Led the redevelopment of the business strategy and oversaw its execution.
- Led the efforts to redesign business operations to ensure full exploitation of laboratory automation.
- Coordinated efforts to redefine KPIs and develop a new management dashboard.

### Oliba S.r.L., Startup specialising in Data Science innovation services for Pharma

Rome, IT

CHIEF SCIENTIFIC OFFICER

Feb 2012 - Dec 2017

- Established a new business area focused on developing novel Data Science methods to reduce late-stage attrition in *drug development*.
- Coordinated research activities, assessing core competencies, skill gaps, recruiting qualified researchers and assessed their performance.
- Liaised with management teams and relevant stakeholders to create successful business plans.

# Academia

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## University of Edinburgh

PROFESSOR OF ENGINEERING BIOLOGY

Edinburgh, UK

Nov 2022 - Present

- I am the Director of Research of the Bayes Centre, the Innovatio Hub for Artificial Intelligence and Data Science of the University of Edinburgh.
- I served as Director of Industry Engagement of the School of Engineering between June 2022 and August 2023: in this capacity, in coordination with the Technology Transfer Office of the University, I oversaw the research commercialisation activities (e.g. startup/spinout creation, IP licensing and consultancy contracts) for one of the larger Schools in the University
- I lead a research group of ~ 10 members that researches and develops laboratory automation techniques for industrial biotechnology.
- I teach "Technology Entrepreneurship 5/MSc" to engineering students -a course that shows them how to become deep tech entrepreneurs
- I teach "Venture Capital and Private Equity" to Finance students in the Business School.

## University of Edinburgh

READER (ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR) OF ENGINEERING BIOLOGY

Edinburgh, UK

Aug 2020 - Nov 2022

## University of Edinburgh

CHANCELLOR'S FELLOW (ASSISTANT PROFESSOR) IN ENGINEERING BIOLOGY

Edinburgh, UK

May 2015 - Jul 2020

## Massachusetts Institute of Technology

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

Cambridge, USA

Feb 2012 - Aug 2015

- Used a combination of *in silico* modelling and *in vivo* experiments in microfluidics to study and synthesise gene networks in prokaryotes.

## The BROAD Institute of Harvard and MIT

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATE - VISITING

Cambridge, USA

Jun 2013 - May 2015

- Exploited *single-cell* manipulation/*genomics* techniques to study how fluctuating environments affect gene networks dynamics in bacteria.

# Volunteering

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## StartupsHelp.co.uk

VOLUNTEER

Edinburgh, UK

March 2020 - July 2020

- Led a network of finance professionals helping startups responding to COVID-19.
- Developed an online community to match demand and supply for help on entrepreneurial finance matters.
- Advised early stage ventures in the UK on financial support schemes.
- Helped startup founders plan cash flows to avoid insolvency in the wake of the pandemic.

# Education

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## University of Edinburgh

EXECUTIVE MBA - DISTINCTION

Edinburgh, UK

Sept 2018 - Nov 2020

- Topics: Corporate Finance, New Venture Creation, Operations Management, Organisation Theory, Marketing.
- **Dissertation:** "Optimal portfolio design for risk and venture capital investments".

## University of Naples

PHD IN BIOLOGICAL ENGINEERING - FIRST CLASS HONOURS

Naples, IT

Nov 2008 - Jan 2012

- Topics: Synthetic Biology, Bioprocess Engineering, Control Engineering.
- **Dissertation:** "Identification and control of synthetic gene regulatory networks".

## Politecnico di Bari

M.SC IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING - FIRST CLASS HONOURS

Bari, IT

Sep 2006 - Jul 2008

- Topics: Machine Learning, Data Science, Bioinspired computation.
- **Dissertation:** "Optimal system identification of gene regulatory networks".

## Politecnico di Bari

B.SC IN COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ELECTRICAL ENGINEERING - FIRST CLASS HONOURS

Bari, IT

Sep 2003 - Jul 2006

- Topics: Electronics, Control Engineering, Data Science, Machine Learning.
- **Dissertation:** "A Machine Learning approach to breast cancer relapse prediction".