

Emilia Diaz

Entrepreneur, Writer and Speaker

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Best described as an **entrepreneur, writer and speaker**, Emilia is a young Chilean innovator working in the intersection of science and social impact, hoping to **make the world a better place through biotechnology**.

Her academic formation encompasses **biotechnology, engineering, computer science and exponential technologies**. As a global businesswoman, Emilia has work and life experience in four continents. She seeks to grow the local ecosystem through scicomm and innovation.



Academics

Bachelor in Civil Engineering in Biotechnology, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (2009 – 2012, incomplete)
Bachelor in Chemical Engineering, Pontificia Universidad Católica de Chile (2018 - ongoing)

International formation

2015: Graduate Studies Program, Singularity University. 10 weeks. Mountain View, USA.
2017: Rebel bio Biotechnology Acceleration Program. 4 months. Cork, Ireland
2017: K-Startup Grand Challenge Asia Acceleration Program. 4 months. Seoul, Korea.

Present roles

Kaitek Labs – Founder and CEO
Allbiotech – Founder and Director
Nature Biotechnology – Blogger
Synbiobeta – Columnist

Icare – Member of the Innovation Circle
Girls in tech Chile – Mentor
InspiraTEC – Advisor
Startup Pitch Coach

Consultancy

Genesis Partners – Tech Transfer Consultant & Biotech Advisor. IP and Market Assessments for High Tech. (2018)
Andesat/IDI – High Tech in Aquaculture Consultant. Exponential tech and innovation Evangelist & Advisor. (2018)

Skillset

Highly competent

Innovation management
Scientific and market research
Business development
Writing, technical and non-technical
Pitching and public speaking

Competent

Project management
Design thinking
Team management
Networking
Grant proposal writing

Intermediate

Web programming
Graphic design
Operations expertise
Experimental design
Laboratory expertise

Languages

English – Native
Spanish – Native
French – Proficient

Korean – Basic
Japanese – Basic
Indonesian – Basic

Entrepreneur

2012 – 2018: [Kaitek Labs](#), Founder and CEO

Kaitek is a synthetic biology company created to develop rapid testing kits for red tide toxicity in shellfish. The company patented the use of modified organisms as sensors for natural contaminants in food.

Kaitek executed a \$350,000 government grant, raised \$120,000 in private funding as well as \$50,000 in international prize money, and partnered with over 40 institutions in 4 continents plus a global mentor network. The company achieved first sales of the initial kit in mid-2017 but closed on January 2018 due to scalability issues.

2016 – Present: [Allbiotech](#), Founder and Director

Allbiotech is the first Latin American Biotech Network dedicated to connecting and enabling young biotech leaders in the continent to better build the bioeconomic future of the region.

The network's first event, the 2017 young leader summit, brought together 100 leaders and 35 speakers for a 2-day high-impact event. It was supported by the Chilean government as well as 10 other region-wide sponsors.

2014 – Present: Serial entrepreneur

Emilia has also taken part in numerous innovation and startup projects that have been discontinued, such as Laboratorio Móvil, an initiative to develop low-cost mobile labs, which was supported by a government grant like both Allbiotech and Kaitek. She has executed 3 so far. Her other projects spanned social network tools, innovation platforms and high tech solutions for extraction industries.

Awards and recognitions highlight:

- 100 female leaders in Chile. El Mercurio, Chile
- First place, International Business Model Competition. BYU, United States
- Winner K-Startup Grand Challenge. NIPA, Korea
- Part of Rebel Bio's 4th cohort. SOSV, Ireland
- Entrepreneur of the year. USACH, Chile
- Young Influencer of the year. DF, Chile
- 100 young leaders in Chile. Revista el Sabado, Chile
- First Place, Her Global Impact. Singularity U, Chile.
- 100 biotech leaders of tomorrow. GBR, UK
- 2nd place Bounce Busan. Bounce, Korea
- "Energía de Mujer" Innovation and Entrepreneurship. Enel, Chile
- Rolemodel for campaign "Las niñas pueden" Chile.

Writer

2014 – Present: [Nature Biotechnology](#)

Emilia contributes as a local blogger for Nature Biotechnology's Trade Secrets blog on Bioentrepreneur. She has published 9 articles exploring the Chilean biotech ecosystem, its success stories and its current issues.

2016 – Present: [Synbiobeta](#)

With over 40 published pieces, Emilia is one of the most active freelance contributors for Synbiobeta, the world's biggest synthetic biology news site. She is also an official Creative Content Advisor for Synbiobeta 2018.

2017 – Present: [emiliadiaz.cl](#)

Emilia began her personal blog to write about her entrepreneurial journey with Kaitek and as a scicomm tool.

2006 – Present: Fiction work

Initially a fiction writer, Emilia has authored over 80 short fiction stories, as well as a full novel: Ojos de Plata.

Highlights as a writer:

- Nothing to hide. Interview with Hadyn Parry ([emiliadiaz.cl](#))
- White Coat Rising ([Nature Biotech](#))
- The Talk Of Shame ([emiliadiaz.cl](#), [SOSV](#))
- Selling Half Baked Cakes ([emiliadiaz.cl](#), [Synbiobeta](#))
- Life as a Rebel ([emiliadiaz.cl](#))
- Biotech Investment Panorama in Chile ([Nature Biotech](#))
- Changing the landscape of what's possible: An interview with SOSV's founder, Sean O'Sullivan ([Synbiobeta](#))
- The future trades in genes ([Synbiobeta](#))
- An autopsy for my first startup ([emiliadiaz.cl](#))

Speaker

Emilia has been featured as a speaker in over 30 events in five countries. Her topics include social impact through science and technology, her journey as an entrepreneur, gender equality in STEM, and exponential technologies. She has also taught innovation workshops, served as a judge for startup competitions and ambassador for STEM and Startup initiatives, and has even worked as an MC for award ceremonies with the presence of Chile's President. She is also part of Charlas Motivacionales Latinoamérica.

Highlights as a speaker:

- Feeding the Right Wolf. Tedx, Chile.
- Startup IP in Latin America. KIWIE, Korea.
- Pitcher in the US, Hong Kong, UK, Korea, Argentina, Chile.
- Welcome speech for new (female) engineers. PUC, Chile.
- Ambassador, Una Idea Para Cambiar la Historia. History Channel, Mexico.