

DHWANI PATEL

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Scientist-turned-operator with 10+ years across genomics research, life sciences field implementation, and startup ecosystem programs, including a PhD in Microbial Genomics. 4 years at Creative Destruction Lab (CDL), a global deeptech accelerator; building venture capital mentor networks, evaluating 500+ startups across AI, life sciences, and advanced manufacturing, and working directly with 40+ founding teams contributing to \$32M+ raised. Experienced translating complex strategy into execution -- building operating models, leading cross-functional programs, and connecting high-potential startups to the right partners, investors, and resources. Strong communicator with a track record of preparing leadership for high-stakes decisions and building systems that scale.

CORE COMPETENCIES

Strategy-to-execution translation · Cross-functional program leadership · Startup ecosystem engagement · Founder & investor relationship management · Executive communications & preparation · Operating model design · Stakeholder management · Zero-to-one program builds

WORK EXPERIENCE

2021 - 2025 **CREATIVE DESTRUCTION LAB (CDL)** Seattle, WA & Vancouver, BC

Associate Director, Ventures · Strategy, Operations & Ecosystem Programs

Global seed-stage non-profit accelerator for massively scalable, science- and technology-based startups. Promoted through 4 roles over 4 years: Venture Analyst → Venture Manager → Senior Venture Manager → Associate Director, Ventures. Also held Recruitment Lead and Stream Lead titles concurrently.

- Owned CDL-Seattle's venture operating model end-to-end, designing the cross-functional workflows, decision rights, and coordination cadences that aligned founding teams, VC mentors, university partners, and internal teams toward cohort outcomes.
- Worked directly with 40+ founding teams co-developing bimonthly business development goals across product, GTM strategy, and fundraising milestones; assessed 500+ startups across AI, life sciences, and advanced manufacturing -- contributing to \$32M+ in capital raised (from the 2023--24 cohort as an example).
- Grew CDL Vancouver's venture capital mentor network 28% by identifying domain coverage gaps, executing a targeted outreach campaign, and onboarding 11 technical and industry leaders -- managed ongoing relationships and facilitated active matching between investors and relevant founders.
- Led annual planning cycles across CDL Vancouver and CDL-Seattle (2022--2025), developing sourcing and evaluation frameworks that drove 30% YoY pipeline growth and reached record applications in the 2025 cohort year.
- Proposed a new innovation vertical (Aging & Longevity) -- conducted market analysis across 11+ ventures, synthesized findings from 10+ key opinion leaders, and delivered the operational plan adopted at the CDL-Seattle site level.
- Led an 83-person industry convening during Seattle Tech Week -- secured 10+ partner organizations, managed execution end-to-end, and produced post-event reporting for senior leadership.
- Built evaluation and due diligence workflows for CDL Vancouver's Biomedical Engineering stream and both CDL-Seattle streams (Manufacturing and Computational Health), using Salesforce, Airtable, and AI-assisted systems for KPI tracking, performance metrics, and executive reporting.
- Communicated partner benefits to founding teams at key milestones; participated in prospective partner calls with Google Cloud, Stripe, and Mercury, and escalated opportunities through CDL's partner process.

2020 - 2021 **COMPLETE GENOMICS** Vancouver, BC

Field Application Scientist

Life science company developing proprietary whole-genome sequencing platforms and robotics instruments (DNBSEQ technology).

- Partnered with academic and industry research labs to implement liquid-handling robotics and genomics sequencing platforms; translated complex technical requirements across scientific and non-technical stakeholders and gathered user feedback to inform product development priorities.
- Supported integration of sequencing workflows across multiple research institutions, enabling the national scale-up of COVID-19 testing infrastructure across Canada.

2016 - 2017 **UNIVERSITY OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA** Perth, Australia

Research Associate

- Managed \$100K AUD in microbiology and plant biotechnology research projects from experiment design through data delivery.
- Supported \$1M+ AUD in grant-funded research initiatives, translating research goals into actionable project plans and managing experiments from inception to completion.

EDUCATION

PH.D., MICROBIAL GENOMICS

University of Queensland

Brisbane, Australia

ENTREPRENEURSHIP FINANCE (ENTRE 557) & HIGH VELOCITY DEAL-MAKING (MGMT 548)

Foster School of Business, University of Washington

Seattle, WA

BACHELOR OF BIOTECHNOLOGY, FIRST CLASS HONOURS

University of Queensland

Brisbane, Australia

SKILLS & TOOLS

- **Strategy & Operations:** Operating model design, cross-functional program delivery, market landscape analysis, startup due diligence, stakeholder communications, executive reporting
- **Scientific:** Microbial genomics, sequencing platforms, biomedical research, data analysis
- **Tools:** Salesforce, Airtable, Microsoft Suite, G Suite, Slack, Canva, AI tools
- **Work Authorization:** TN (Canadian) and E-3 (Australian) visa eligible -- no sponsorship required