

# GERMIN8

## EXECUTIVE BIOS

*Prepared by Clarity PR*

### **Michael Lavin, Founder & Managing Partner, Germin8 Ventures**

Michael Lavin is the founder and managing partner of Germin8 Ventures, a purpose-driven venture capital firm that believes in the power of technology to fix the global food system. Founded in 2018 and backed by C-level executives, entrepreneurs and technologists across the food and agriculture industries, Germin8 is building a portfolio of entrepreneurs and businesses with the potential to profoundly change the future of FoodTech and AgTech.

Michael oversees all aspects of Germin8's investing, operations and strategy in addition to actively participating on the boards of its portfolio companies. Prior to Germin8, Michael served as an investment banker and financial consultant at Mesirow Financial, a global financial services firm managing more than \$100 billion of assets, where he executed numerous M&A, capital raising and restructuring transactions for early stage startups, middle market and Fortune 500 companies with a particular focus on food and agriculture, industrial technology and aerospace.

Michael is an advisor, mentor and member at several accelerators and incubators including Rabobank's TERRA Accelerator, Alchemist Accelerator, Techstars Farm to Fork Accelerator, 1871, The Good Food Accelerator, Family Farmed and The Hatchery. He received a bachelor's degree in finance and a master's degree in finance from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Michael is based in Chicago but splits his time between the San Francisco Bay Area, Europe, Tel Aviv and other hubs where food meets tech.

### **Milena Bogdanova Bursztyn, Venture Investor, Germin8 Ventures**

Milena is a venture investor at Germin8 Ventures, a purpose-driven venture capital firm that believes in the power of technology to fix the global food system. In her role, Milena participates in sourcing, research, evaluation and execution of potential investments in addition to actively supporting portfolio companies with strategic advice.

Milena has extensive experience driving growth for digital platforms across food and non-food technology verticals. Prior to Germin8, she held executive roles at a variety of technology companies including Spotify, where she led product experimentation and platform optimization. Milena also led growth operations for ScoreBeyond (acquired by LinkedIn), an ed tech platform democratizing test prep access, and oversaw business development and strategy for SideChef, a smart kitchen mobile app.

Milena began her career as an entrepreneur, having successfully launching a gourmet food retail concept. She is an active advisor to startups in several accelerators including LaunchX, The University of Chicago Booth School of Business NVC Accelerator, Harvard i-Lab, and the Investor Committee Chair of Harvard Alumni Entrepreneurs. Milena holds a master's degree from Harvard University and an MBA from The University of Chicago Booth School of Business. She is based in Los Angeles.