

## Optional Information

My professional career has focused on biotechnology. I believe that 3 major milestones in my life set me onto this career path and have shaped me into the individual I am today.

Firstly, studying *Natural Sciences* at Cambridge sparked my interest in Biology as my future career. Coming from a rural community in the UK, I had limited exposure to careers with a biology focus. My time at Cambridge introduced me to all the potential opportunities, a process which led to my becoming interested in the interface between science and business. Cambridge also introduced me to new activities, of which two would become a major interest in my life from then until now: scuba diving and rowing.



**Photo: Fairbairn's IVs competition 2007**

*During my time at Downing I competed with Downing College Men's squad, typically training 6-10 times a week. After university I rowed with Auriol and Kensington Boat Club, London*

Secondly, in 2008 I was selected for a social entrepreneurship internship with Tata & Sons Ltd in



**Photo: Focus group in Babrala, UP, India 2008**

*My research often involved working with rural women. Women in the region were heavily involved in formal money borrowing through micro financing schemes. We wished to use the lessons learnt by these women to when looking at financing options for milk infrastructure*

Northern India. The project focused on how to increase the income of the rural poor in one of the poorest regions in the world through alternative methods of milk sales. My time in India was life-changing. Professionally, the experience gave me the chance to solve a complex problem whilst working through language barriers and learning the necessary cultural etiquette of the Indian corporate and village environment. Personally, confronting poverty directly made me question my own life style and choices. Overall, the experience refocused my mind as I entered another academic year with the drive to succeed and make a difference in the world through the for-profit environment.

Thirdly, my master's degree in Bioscience Enterprise confirmed beyond a doubt my chosen career field. The degree program itself covered many elements: from basic science, to law, to agricultural biotech, to medical biotech. This breadth of topics in a concentrated timeframe exposed me to many elements of the biotechnology and bioengineering world. In particular, I was drawn to how to bring biotech products to market, specifically products that improve the health of people. With a handful of classes in entrepreneurship, a classmate and I began to talk with scientists at Cambridge. This eventually led to the establishment of a start-up company *Foresight Pharmaceuticals*, a company based on the development of novel treatments to decrease the spread of viral sexually transmitted diseases. The idea had success at many business plan competitions: we won £2000 for 2nd place in Oxford's Idea Idol Competition, £1000 in Cambridge University Entrepreneurs' 1K Challenge, and £500 in Cambridge's Downing Enterprise. Although the company never progressed beyond the business plan stage (as more scientific research proved the idea to be less effective than hoped), it cemented my career interest in the commercialization of biotech to solve global health issues.

As I move to the next milestone in my life, I am excited about the opportunities that face me. My past has taught me that although I can plan my post-MBA career to some extent, the new opportunities and experiences at business school that I will be exposed to will be just as valuable in shaping my post-MBA path.

## News

### Continued success for Cambridge Entrepreneurs

6 April 2009

A biotech start-up formed by students from the University of Cambridge's Master's in Bioscience Enterprise postgraduate business course has come second in Oxford University's "Idea Idol" competition. The Cambridge-based start-up Foresight Pharmaceuticals is commercialising a hormone-containing gel that will prevent the carriers of sexually-transmitted diseases from passing them on to their partners. The team is made up of Arjun Goyal and Amal Ismail of Clare Hall and Grant Jackson of Downing College, University of Cambridge and Phoebe Williams of Oxford University.



MBE class

The team initially entered the Cambridge University Entrepreneurs £1k Challenge and of the numerous teams that entered seven were chosen, including Foresight Pharmaceuticals, with each winning a prize of £1,000. After their initial success in the team entered the Idea Idol Competition run by Oxford University's student society for entrepreneurs. The society has over 3,000 student members and this year's competition received hundred of entries. The entrants were whittled down to 25 who then had

#### **Article: Cambridge University Website, 2009**

An article outlining the success of *Foresight Pharmaceuticals* at various UK university business plan competitions