



Mechanical Engineering  
Academy of Distinguished Alumni

## **Azita Sharif**

*Distinguished Mechanical Engineer, 2019*

MSME, BSME, The University of Texas at Austin

MBA, Harvard Business School

JD, Law and Diplomacy, Fletcher School of Diplomacy

MD, Exec., Harvard Medical School

*Founder & Chief Executive Officer*

DSI- Precision Medicine Biobanking &

BINDS- Bio-Informatics Network for Discovery Science

Azita Sharif is a Biotechnology entrepreneur with strong cross-functional expertise: engineering and medicine, for profit and non-profit, start up and public company experience. She summarizes her goal as: To positively impact human and public health using engineering with focus on analytical preventive medicine. Her specialties are Biobanking; Clinical Data Capture Software Platform (BTM); Entrepreneurship; Systems Biology; Product Development, Medicine/ Engineering/ Business interface; and Development of inter-institutional and inter-regional collaborations.

She is the Founder and CEO of DSI, the Precision Medicine technology firm, and BINDS, a technology platform for discovery science, both headquartered in Cambridge, MA. She is also the Founder of Count Me In!, a non-profit organization which democratizes clinical trials access.

Azita started her career as a Research & Development Engineer, and later as a Product Manager within Fortune 100. From Engineering, she made the transition to high technology and life science investment and was selected as a Kauffman Fellow, the flagship fellowship of venture capital and private equity industry. She served her fellowship at Advent International Global Private Equity in Boston. Since then, she has been involved with many startups and investment management programs in both the U.S. and Argentina. She has advised several seed-stage start-ups on writing business plans and seeking venture funds. As a result of her efforts, a number of these companies were able to close funding and grew to a successful exit. Azita also supported a start-up of a new venture fund, Triton Venture Management, in Austin, TX.

For ten annual rounds, she served as a judge in the Annual International Moot Corp Business Plan competition held at The University of Texas at Austin, MIT and Harvard Business School Business Plan Competitions. She has also served as a Director of the Executive Board of the Women's Leadership Initiative at the JFK School of Government at Harvard, and as a Director of External Advisory Board of the Biotechnology Department at The University of Texas. She is an elected member of Springboard Enterprises, an organization dedicated to building high-growth technology-oriented companies led by women. She served on the PMD (People Make a Difference) non-profit board, and has been a panelist and contributor in conferences often; some examples are: CanceRX (an MIT-led cancer cure focused consortium and conference), the entrepreneurial panel in Morocco (on behalf of the U.S. State Department), Boston University entrepreneurial panel, Harvard Business School speed-mentoring program, Science and Bio- Tech Innovation at Harvard iLab. She is currently a mentor for the German Accelerator Life Sciences and a board member of DeltaQuest, a Healthcare Foundation. Azita has published many papers and abstracts, won international and national rankings for poster and speaking presentations, and been a guest speaker and presenter at industry conferences. Azita is a graduate of The University of Texas at Austin Graduate School of Engineering, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, and Harvard Business School. She recently completed the clinical immersion and healthcare ecosystem program at Harvard Medical School. Azita Sharif is also a Congressional European Parliamentary Initiative Fellow with the Bertelsmann Foundation and a life-time Venture Capital Kauffman Fellow.