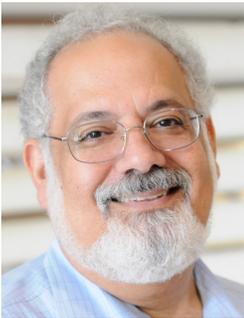




# MENTORS



**Steven Ackerman | EnteroTrack, LLC/UIC** | Steven is a successful translational research scientist with over 40 years of experience in academic, medical research, biotechnology start-up environments, and patenting intellectual property. Steven has a strong background in research and development skills and is a founding member of the startup, EnteroTrack, LLC.

**Preferred Office Hours:** Monday - Friday between 12pm and 5pm | [Email](#) directly to set up meetings



**Anwar Adam | Vitalize VC** | Passionate about Innovation, Management, and Building Companies from the ground up. I specialize in Business Development and growth, Organizational leadership, Due Diligence, Negotiating, and Marketing Strategy. Columbia University Alum and pursuing Masters at Harvard. I love advising and supporting student led projects and startups.

**Preferred Office Hours:** [calendly.com/anwaradam](https://calendly.com/anwaradam) | Students should use their UIC email address when scheduling with Anwar



**Jason Alexander | Rightpoint Consulting** | Technology and business transformation leader in digital consultancy. Project and delivery expertise with 20+ years leading delivery teams in development of business solutions through the deployment and use of technology. MBA degree with Operations Management and Finance focus. Certified Project Manager (PMP) with formal service delivery expertise.

**Preferred Office Hours:** Thursdays between 2pm and 4pm and Fridays between 1pm and 3pm | [Email](#) directly to set up meetings



**Heather Aranyil | Northwestern University** | Heather is an internationally acclaimed thought leader and award-winning educator who has designed and implemented a broad range of courses, workshops, and incubator programs. A globally recognized leader and trusted advisor in entrepreneurship and innovation, she was selected by the Department of State to represent the United States at the World Expo in Dubai in February 2021, and served as the Ambassador and Advisor for the Buffett Institute for Global Affairs.

**Preferred Office Hours:** Tuesdays between 2pm and 2:30pm | [Email](#) directly to set up meetings



# MENTORS



**Steven Bob | UIC** | Steve directs the UIC Business Entrepreneurial Support Program which provides training and advising services to start-up and existing business owners who desire to grow their businesses. He has worked with hundreds of different businesses over the years helping them address everything from financial projections to process improvement, marketing to funding.

**Preferred Office Hours:** Hours are noted in scheduling app:  
[go.uic.edu/UICESP-MeetWithSteve](https://go.uic.edu/UICESP-MeetWithSteve)



**Randal Dawson | CBRE** | I specialize in the valuation of commercial and special-use properties, focusing on industrial, retail, and multifamily properties, as well as hospitals, healthcare facilities, and readapted real estate uses. I conduct highest and best-use studies, feasibility studies, and real estate valuations.

**Preferred Office Hours:** Mondays 12 to 12:30pm | [Email](#) directly to set up meetings



**Joan Farre-Mensa | UIC Business** | Farre-Mensa has teaching and research interests in corporate and entrepreneurial finance. Prior to joining the UIC he was a Visiting Assistant Professor at Northeastern University and was as an Assistant Professor of Business Administration at the Entrepreneurial Management Unit at Harvard Business School for six years.

**Preferred Office Hours:** Tuesdays 12 - 12:30pm | [Email](#) directly to set up meetings



**Laurence Hayward | ATOMS** | I'm a UIUC alumnus and on the UIC College of Engineering advisory board. My areas of expertise are venture capital, angel investing and entrepreneurship. I've founded two VC firms, an angel investing group and an investment banking firm. I started my career at Arthur Andersen following graduation from UIUC with a BS/MBA combined degree.

**Preferred Office Hours:** [Email](#) directly to set up meetings

# MENTORS



**Yash Jain | Hero Trainer** | Specialties: raising angel investments - working with Web3 & AI - recruiting a team with no funding Game development - raising money from VCs vs building a forever company business development; pitch development; early-stage startup; health equity; market research; market research; social innovation; strategic planning

**Preferred Office Hours:** Tuesdays Mondays between 2 PM and 4 PM | [Email](#) directly to set up meetings



**Abe Janis | Hollister** | Abe has over 25 years of industry R&D and clinical trial experience in regenerative medicine, medical devices, and advanced wound care. He is currently a Principal Scientist in Technology Development at Hollister Incorporated, where he studies peristomal skin biology, and leads a team of futurists in strategic foresight.

**Preferred Office Hours:** Flexible | [Email](#) directly to set up meetings



**Kristy Kuzmuk | UIC** | As Associate Vice Chancellor for Innovation, Dr. Kristy Kuzmuk serves as the strategic advisor and chief of staff to the Vice Chancellor for Innovation. She provides operational support and drive strategic planning initiatives across the UIC Innovation portfolio. She is excited to support UIC students as they grow their ideas into potential business ventures.

**Preferred Office Hours:** Mornings between 9am and 9:30am | [Email](#) directly to set up meetings



**Brian Letzter | Indiegogo** | Senior Account Executive Highlighted Achievements: Owned & Operated an EdTech SaaS startup that utilized a crowdfunding model. Empowered entrepreneurs in raising scores of millions of dollars PS - I've made a career in consulting startups & Fortune 500 companies.

**Preferred Office Hours:** Mon & Tue - 10:30 - 11am / 12:30 - 1pm | [Use scheduling app](#).

# MENTORS



**Carissa Lintao | Apptuitive** | Hailed "a trailblazer" by Forbes Media, Carissa Lintao is a dynamic entrepreneur and visionary leader known for bootstrapping Apptuitive, into a high-performing, industry-leading firm. Carissa's commitment to fostering a culture of excellence led to the acquisition of key clients, inclusive of Fortune companies and cutting-edge startups. In addition to her role at Apptuitive, Carissa is an influential figure in the tech ecosystem.

**Preferred Office Hours:** [Use scheduling](#) app.



**Carson Menke | Rocrich AGV Solutions** | Carson is skilled in sales, marketing, material handling, automation, robotics, outdoor extreme sports, photography, and videography. Specialty areas include: business development; pitch development; finances/budgeting; marketing

**Preferred Office Hours:** Monday - Friday between 2pm and 3pm CT | [Use scheduling](#) app.



**Carlos Romero | Global Program Manager** | Successful global/international corporate program management experience with consumer, health care and food products companies. Programs encompass global program management, consumer research, product & process development, and application of emerging technologies and fast adapt business techniques, to gain rapid global market entry.

**Preferred Office Hours:** Wed, 11-11:30am | [Email](#) directly to set up meetings



**Amelia Salter | UChicago Polsky Center** | Amelia Salter is the Director, Corporate Advisory & Sponsorships for Polsky Deep Tech Ventures. She is responsible for engaging with corporate and philanthropic partners in support of DTV's portfolio of accelerators and other programs. Amelia brings extensive experience building strategic partnerships and programs across both the public and private sectors.

**Preferred Office Hours:** [Email](#) directly to set up meetings

# MENTORS



**Michael Williams | SMART2mrw** | An experienced international executive, business leader and entrepreneur with 30+ years experience in healthcare and technology who has held leadership positions in Fortune 5 biopharma organizations around the world, including BMS, Pfizer and Takeda, as well as C-Suite roles with biotech and digital health startups.

**Preferred Office Hours:** Monday 4pm to 5pm | [Email](#) directly to set up meetings



**Tohru Yamada | UIC** | Dr. Tohru Yamada is an Associate Professor in the Department of Surgery, and also Adjunct faculty, Department of Biomedical Engineering, UIC. Dr. Yamada was a Post-Doctoral Fellow in the school's Department of Microbiology & Immunology. He received his B.S., M.S. and Ph.D. in Biotechnology from Tokyo Institute of Technology in 2003. His research interests and expertise are the discovery and development of new class of anticancer agents and carriers for imaging agents targeting cancers on the basis of molecular biology, protein/peptide chemistry, cell biology, and cancer biology.

**Preferred Office Hours:** Friday 12 to 12:30pm | [Email](#) directly to set up meetings