



Do I have to quit my job?

The different roles scientists can take in tech start-ups

Maria Nikolou, PhD, MBA

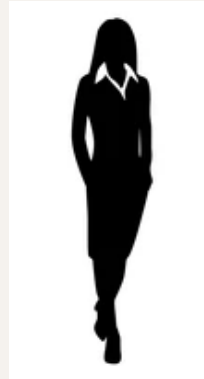
November 12th, 2024



Me, Myself & I



BS, PhD, Post Doctoral
Cornell University
Published research in **Science**
USA, The Netherlands, Greece



Industry – Senior Scientist
MBA, Start-ups, Investments
USA, Spain, UK



Start-up Mentor,
Leadership Coach
Oxford University, LBS
Part of 3 start-ups
USA, UK, Germany, Switzerland

* Pictures by CanStockPhoto.com, FlyClipart, shutterstock.com (227817262) and NicePNG respectively

Simple Ground Rules



- Interactive session
- Ask questions
- No such thing as a silly question



Today...

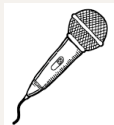
01

Entrepreneurial mindset



03

Guest speaker



02

Academia,
start-up, or both?



04

Q&A





01

Entrepreneurial mindset





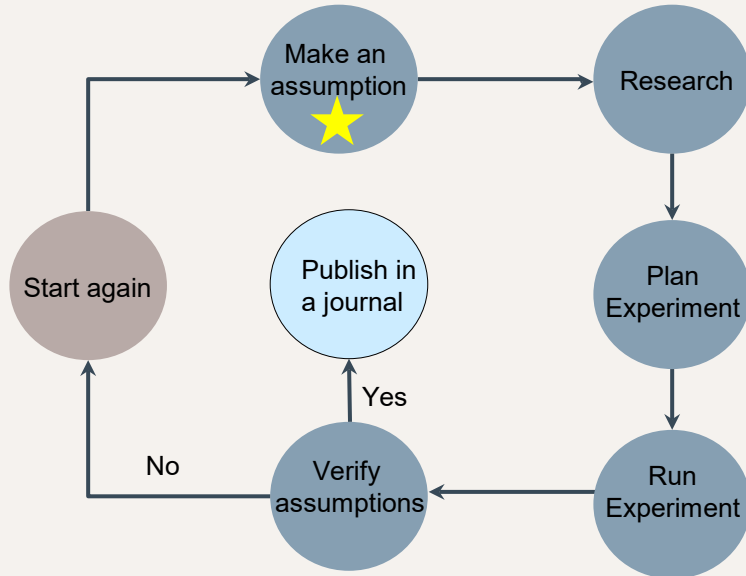
There is a perpetual debate ...

- are entrepreneurs born or made?
- can you be entrepreneurial and not be an entrepreneur?
- can you be a scientist and an entrepreneur at the same time?

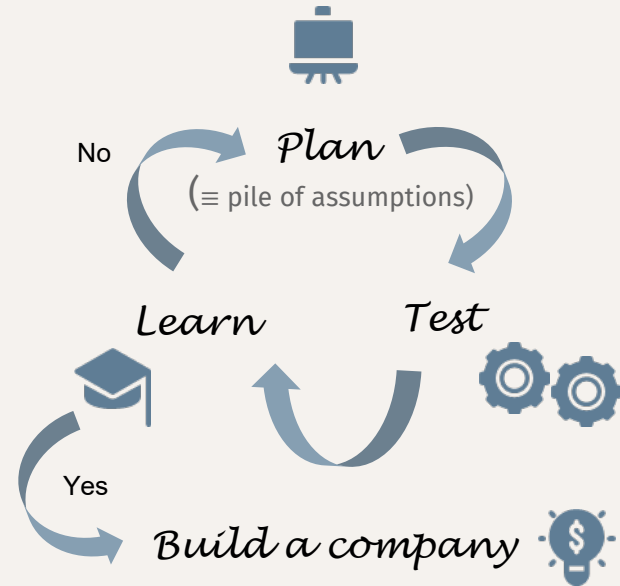
Hypothesis driven processes



Scientific



Start-up





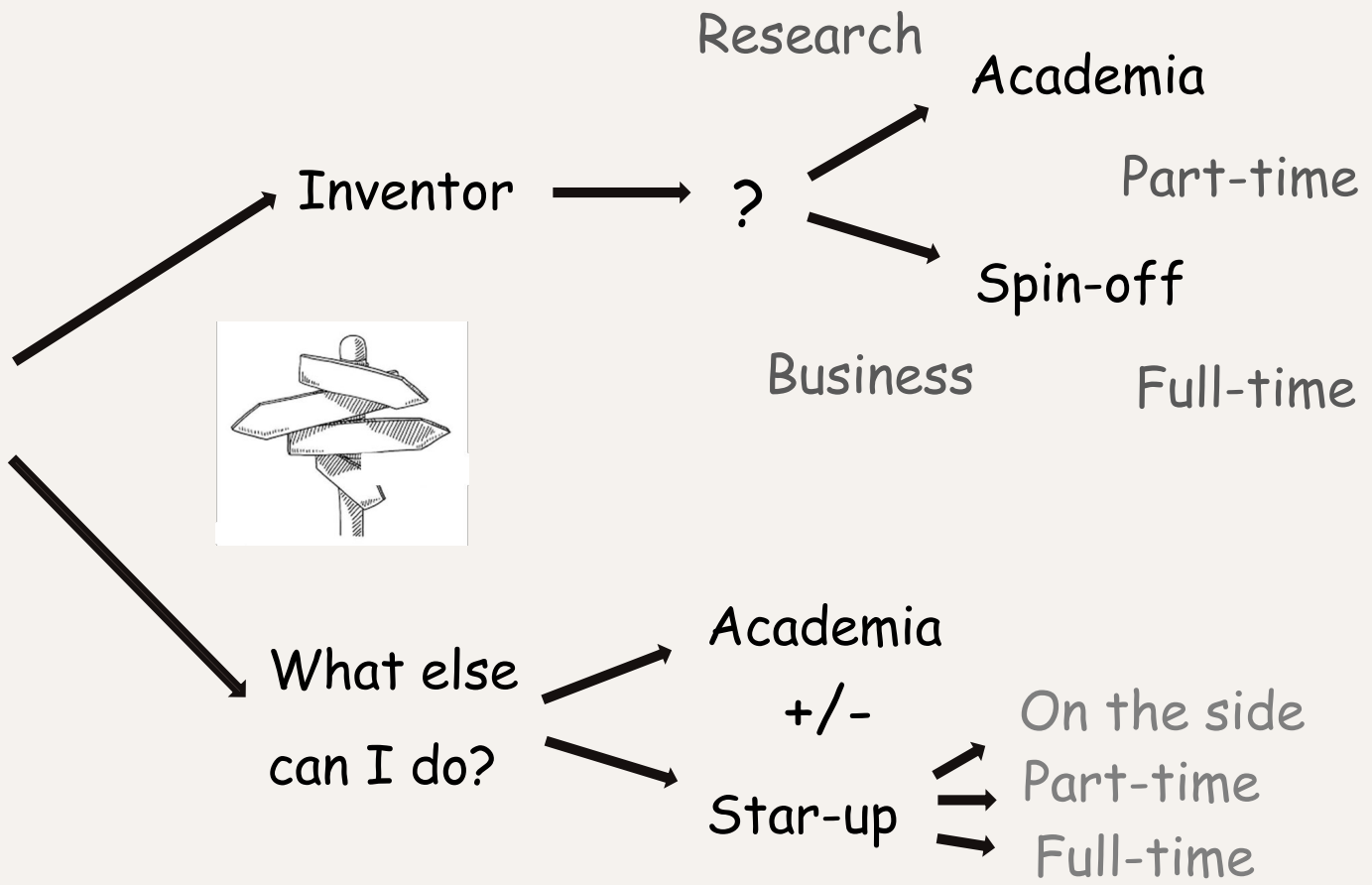
02

Academia, start-up, or both?



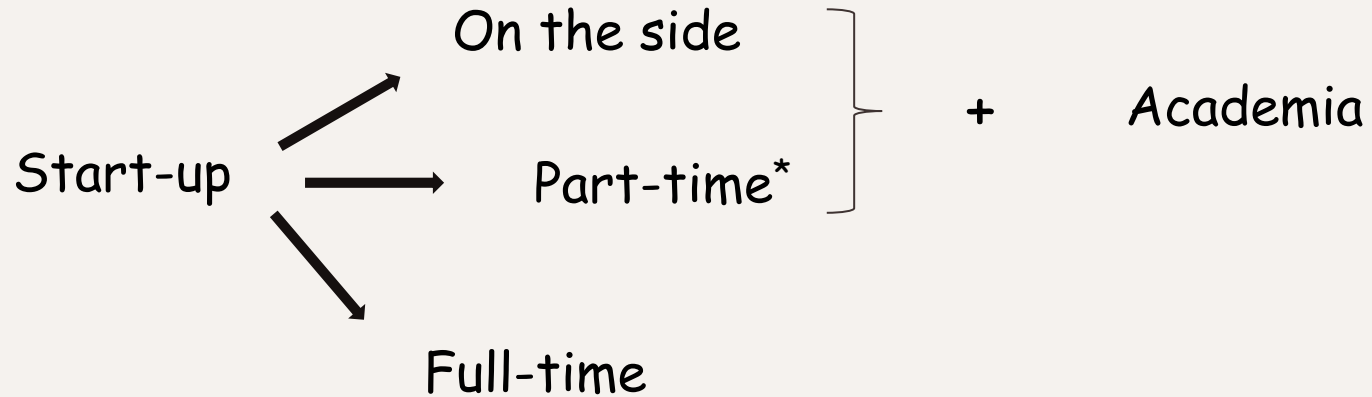


Scientist





No invention but what else?



* Subject to your contract agreement





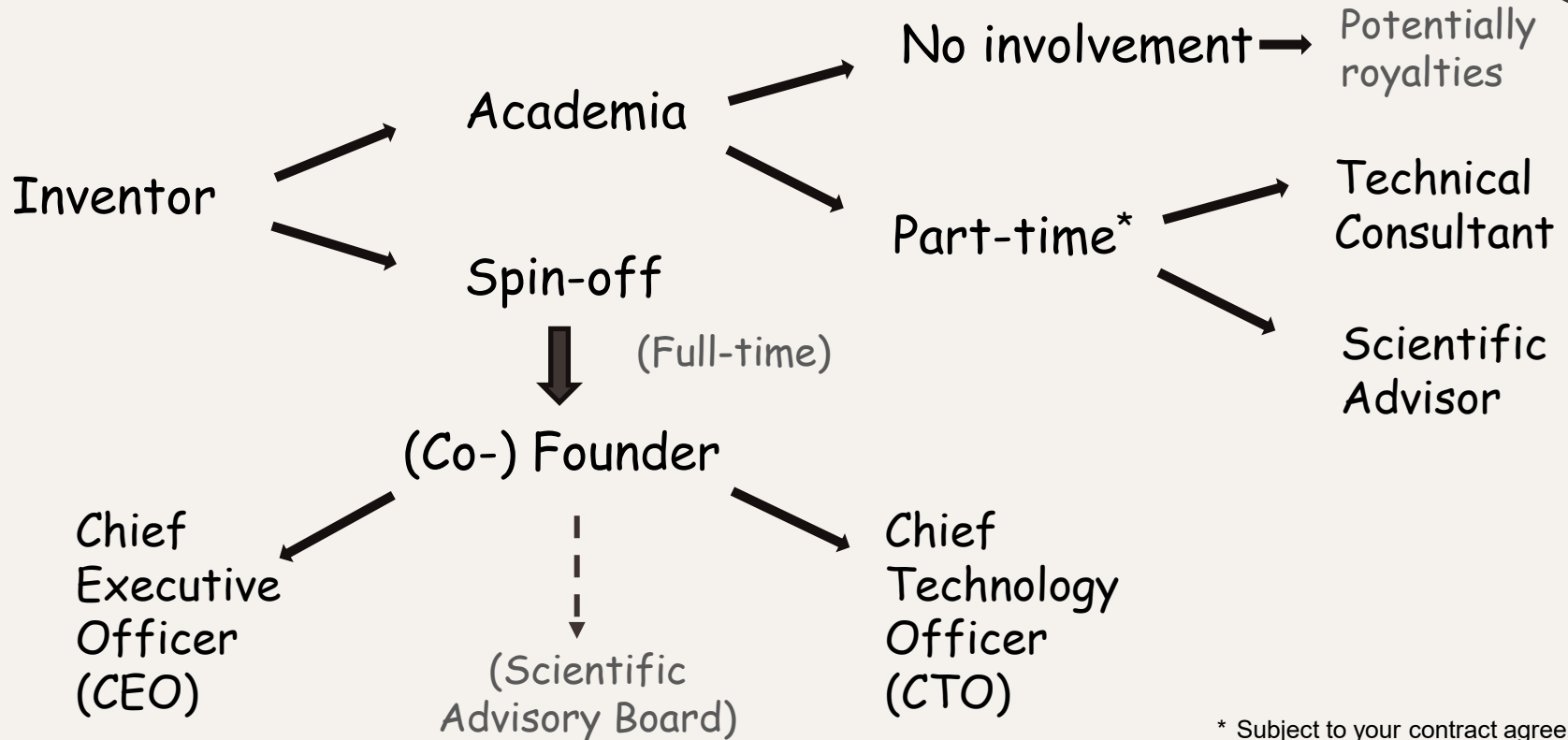
What can I do in a start-up?

- Research scientist
- Data scientist
- Product development scientist
- R&D project lead
- Technical consultant (or Subject matter expert)*

* Only part-time option



I have an idea, now what?



* Subject to your contract agreement



CEO & CTO roles:

- Setting vision & strategy
- Building & leading the team
- Product & market development
- Risk management & compliance
- Operational efficiency
- Resource management
- Culture

CEO

- Fundraising & stakeholder management
- Financial oversight
- Driving business development & partnerships

CTO

- Quality assurance & testing
- Scaling infrastructure
- Technical training



Academia or Start-up or both?

Academia

- Focus on advancing knowledge & publications
- Long-term projects, longer deadlines
- Stability, flexible hours
- Tenure track is a long process
- Easy access to resources & expertise
- Structured environment
- Predictable

Start-up

- Prioritize on product development & scaling
- Fast pace, focused approach
- Uncertainty
- Opportunities for growth
- Exposure to different disciplines
- Limited resources & expertise
- Emerging structure
- Requires more initiative



03

Guest speaker





Dr Nikolaos Chalkias



- B.Sc. & M.Sc. Chemical Engineering, AUTH
- Ph.D. Chemical & Biomolecular Engineering, Cornell University
- Research/Technology Associate, Reckitt Benckiser
- Senior Technology Transfer Manager, Oxford University
- Commercial Director, OxSonics Therapeutics (Oxford University Spin-off)
- Director of Business Development & Partnerships, MMV



Q & A



*“It is not the strongest of the species that survives
nor the most intelligent but the one most
responsive to change”.*

Charles Darwin

Thank you!

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