



DR. ALI TEHRANI JOINS AMPLITUDE VENTURES AS VENTURE PARTNER

Co-founder and former CEO of Zymeworks excited to continue life-mission to grow the Canadian biotech sector at home and internationally with Amplitude

(EMBARGOED UNTIL WEDNESDAY, MARCH 2, 2022 05:00 ET): VANCOUVER / MONTREAL)
Amplitude Venture Capital, a full-stack life sciences venture capital firm focused on creating, building, and growing world-class Canadian precision medicine companies is proud to announce that **Dr. Ali Tehrani**, co-founder and former CEO of Zymeworks, has joined the firm as Venture Partner.

“Jean-Francois and I invested in Zymeworks years ago based on Ali’s entrepreneurial drive, his vision to build a great company, and the strength of the science,” said Dion Madsen, Amplitude co-founder and partner. “We know him well. He took this company from a startup to the cusp of its first approved product. He’s a brilliant scientist and business builder and we’re excited to welcome him to the team.”

Dr. Tehrani co-founded Zymeworks in 2003 with a focus on computational protein modelling and engineering. He led the company through numerous value creation stages, including signing nine licensing and collaboration deals with the likes of Merck, J&J, GSK, BMS/Celgene and Eli Lilly. He directly participated in the recruitment of research and clinical executives and other key business and operational talent. He set the vision and strategy for the growth of the company from platform development through pre-clinical, clinical, and now pre-commercial stages. He stepped down as President & CEO earlier this year after 18+ years at the helm, but still serves as an advisor.

“Amplitude has always impressed me, I like that they are a Canadian VC with big ambitions and big goals” said Dr. Tehrani. “The Amplitude team shares my vision that Canada’s biotech ecosystem can compete globally. They’ve demonstrated that vision is becoming a reality by closing their first fund and investing in creating, building, and growing a dozen amazing Canadian companies to date. I am thrilled to join the Amplitude team, especially to provide the knowledge and experience I’ve gained over the years to founders and entrepreneurs we will be supporting.”

Over the past three years, Amplitude has established itself as the preeminent life sciences investor in Canada, creating and financing several leading precision medicine companies. The Amplitude team boasts a wealth of experience as successful investors and company builders and is supported by a world-class advisory board. The Amplitude team and advisory board have built a high performing, high potential portfolio of companies around the clustered theme of targeted and cellular therapy and applied AI and machine learning. Amplitude employs a unique model to accelerate growth of early-stage and emerging Canadian companies like [Gandeeva](#) and [Congruence Therapeutics](#) and to create new companies like [Radiant Biotherapeutics](#) in collaboration with leading academic institutions.

“Ali always starts with a patient focus, which is a perfect fit with Amplitude’s ethos,” said Jean-Francois Pariseau, Amplitude co-founder and partner. “He boldly built a new kind of biotech leader in Canada from the ground up, one that is recognized globally for its innovation. In doing so, he paved a path for other aspiring Canadian entrepreneurs.”

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ABOUT AMPLITUDE:

Amplitude is a full-stack venture capital firm using a unique growth model to build Canadian companies with world-class management teams and scale companies to breakout potential. With over \$300M under management and offices in Montreal, Toronto and Vancouver, Amplitude applies a proven, evidence-based approach to investing in leading precision medicine companies. Visit amplitudevc.com.

ABOUT Dr. Ali Tehrani

Dr. Tehrani ([LinkedIn](#)) has a Ph.D in Microbiology from UBC (2003) and a Masters in Biochemistry from UMass Amherst (1996). He has served as a member of Amplitude's Board of Advisors since 2020 and is also on the Boards of Nanology Labs and Creatus Biosciences. As a staunch advocate for the development of Canada's biotech sector he volunteers on the Boards of BIOTECanada and CQDM and mentors at Toronto's Creative Destruction Lab. He co-founded Zymeworks in 2003 and led the company as President and CEO from inception to clinical validation, through an IPO, and to a peak \$1.9B valuation. He stepped down as President and CEO at Zymeworks in January 2022 and joined Amplitude Ventures as Partner in February 2022.

ADD PHOTO OF DR. TEHRANI