



Session	Start-ups/SMEs looking for Finance: Series A, Series B/C
Title	Developing a more sustainable, ethical, animal-free heparin
Company	ExCulture BV
Speaker	Ilaria Poledri
TRL	TRL 4 - 7
Keywords feedstock (max 2)	Secondary (wastewater)
Keywords technology (max 2)	Microbial extraction
Keywords End-Product (max 2)	Heparin
Abstract:	
Heparin, the world's most-used anticoagulant and a WHO Essential Medicine needed by 1 in 3 hospitalised patients, is made almost entirely from pig intestines, with ~80% of supply from China. This concentrates a life-saving medicine into one fragile agricultural chain: the FDA has listed heparin as short since 2017, disease outbreaks have repeatedly cut pig-derived supply, and the 2007-08 adulteration crisis was linked to 80+ deaths. Related ingredients (chondroitin/dermatan sulfate) used in cosmetics and devices share this same animal-dependent sourcing, and exclude vegan/religious consumers. ExCulture removes this dependency entirely: our patented process extracts and purifies heparin and other related ingredients directly from secondary feedstock already produced by wastewater treatment plants based on aereobic granular sludge technology.	