Startup302 2024 Winner, BioLattice Ophthalmics, says that Resilience is What a Successful Innovator Needs to be Successful

Founder's Brief Bio: Amelia Zellander, PhD, CEO of BioLattice Ophthalmics, Inc., is a bioengineer with extensive industry experience in medical device and pharmaceutical R&D. During her PhD studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago, she created cornea replacement technologies and developed multiple biomaterials to further tissue engineering research. After completing her PhD, Dr. Zellander developed cell therapies and medical devices in R&D roles at Janssen R&D (a Johnson & Johnson company) and Imvax. Currently, Dr. Zellander is the co-founder and CEO of BioLattice Ophthalmics, Inc. BioLattice is creating alternatives to donor tissues, beginning with cornea. Over $1 million in funding has been raised to support the development of engineered cornea for use in the full thickness replacement of damaged cornea. Fundraising and R&D efforts continue to support the company's next pivotal milestones: demonstration of engineered cornea function in an animal model and US FDA filings for a clinical trial.

Why is Delaware a great state to be an innovator?

Stakeholders have confidence in DE business law, so DE incorporation is beneficial.

In your view, what qualities should a successful innovator have?

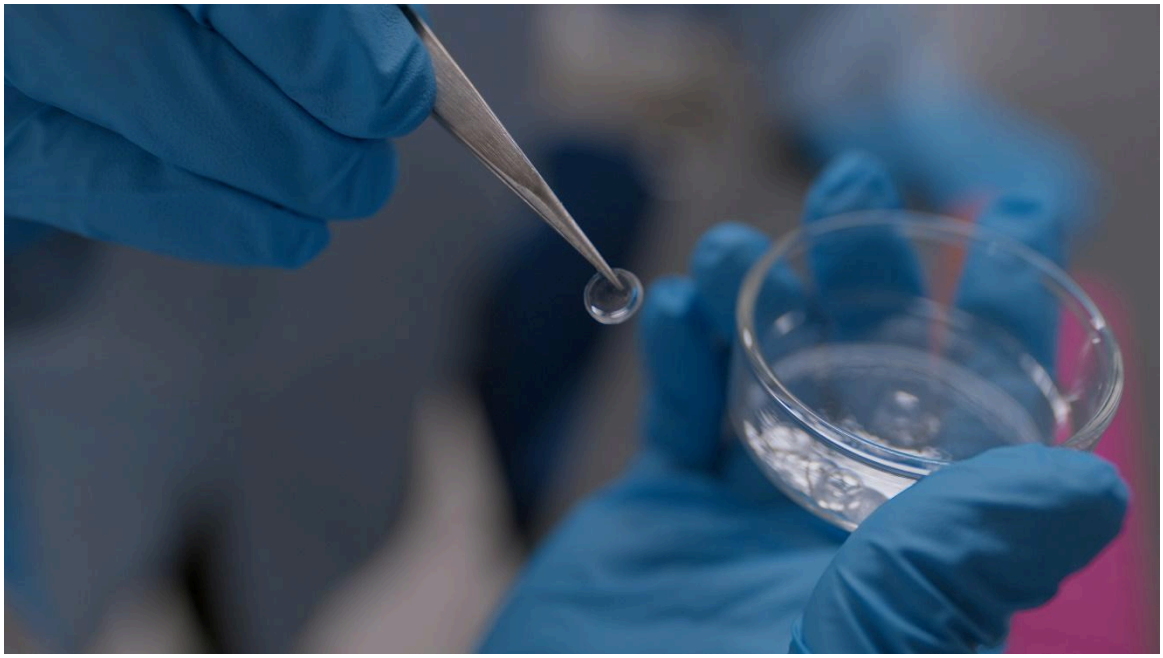
Resilience, persistence, and compassion.

What advice would you give innovators just starting?

Find ways to remember your "why" (why do you do what you do?) and find way to maintain a high level of hope.

Other awards that BioLattice Ophthalmics has won:

- 2025 RAD Awards, Scientist of the Year
- 2025 Biolabs Investor Day – Philadelphia, Startup of the Year



About BioLattice Ophthalmics, Inc.:
BioLattice Ophthalmics, Inc. is developing a solution for patients who suffer from corneal blindness by creating a room temperature stable off-the-shelf material to replace cloudy or mis-shaped cornea tissue. Globally, for every 70 patients in need of cornea only one receives it due to the perishability of donor cornea tissue. Sadly, those who are able to use donor cornea experience increased rejection rates over time, up to ~%50 by year 15. BioLattice's engineered cornea would be customized to provide proper visual acuity, yield a natural postoperative aesthetic, be installed using standard surgical procedures, and be stored at room temperature long term. Join BioLattice in curing corneal blindness. Cornea is only the beginning for BioLattice.

About Delaware Prosperity Partnership:
Delaware Prosperity Partnership is the nonprofit public/private organization that leads Delaware's statewide economic development efforts to attract, grow and retain businesses; build a stronger entrepreneurial and innovation ecosystem; and support private employers in identifying, recruiting and developing talent. Collaborating with partners throughout the state since its creation in 2017, DPP has supported 76 location and expansion projects that account for more than $2.55 billion in projected capital investment and more than 10,000 new and retained jobs.