

MIT Course X  
Undergraduate Seminar Series  
Spring 2018

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# Engineering Life Science Innovations for Human Health & Sustainability

**Noubar Afeyan PhD '87**  
**Senior Managing Partner & CEO**  
**Flagship Pioneering**

Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2018  
4pm in 66-360  
Reception at 3:45pm



Entrepreneurial innovations that combine biology, chemistry and engineering are leading to unprecedented solutions in medicine, agriculture, energy and beyond. This presentation will describe a 30-year professional journey from MIT to Flagship Pioneering, a unique organization that systematically creates and develops first-in-category life science startups.

The MIT ChemE Undergraduate Seminar Series presents distinguished speakers from academia and industry to share their experiences and to illustrate the breadth and diversity of opportunities in the chemical engineering field. For more information, go to the MIT ChemE website (*cheme.mit.edu*) or contact Barry Johnston, MIT ChemE Undergraduate Officer.

# Noubar Afeyan

Founder and Chief Executive Officer



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Noubar Afeyan is founder and CEO of Flagship Pioneering, a unique enterprise that systematically makes breakthrough, life-science innovations which improve human health and sustainability. He is currently a Lecturer at Harvard Business School and from 2000 – 2016 was a Senior Lecturer at MIT where he taught courses on technology-entrepreneurship and innovation. During his 30-year career as inventor, entrepreneur and CEO, Dr. Afeyan co-founded and helped build over 40 successful startups. He was founder and CEO of PerSeptive Biosystems, a leader in the bio-instrumentation field that grew to over \$100M in annual sales within six years from its first sales. After PerSeptive's acquisition by Perkin Elmer/Aplera Corporation in 1998, he was senior vice president and chief business officer of Aplera, where he initiated and oversaw the creation of Celera Genomics.

Currently, Noubar serves on a number of public and private company boards including, Evelo BioSciences, Kaleido BioSciences, Moderna Therapeutics, Rubius Therapeutics, and Seres Therapeutics. Previously, he was a member of the founding team, director and investor in several highly successful ventures including Chemgenics Pharmaceuticals (acquired by Millennium Pharmaceuticals), Color Kinetics (acquired by Philips), Adnexus Therapeutics (acquired by Bristol-Myers Squibb) and Affinova (acquired by AC Nielsen).

Noubar is a member of the corporation (board of trustees) of MIT and a member of the board of overseers of the Boston Symphony Orchestra. He also serves on the boards of the Armenian General Benevolent Union, the IDeA Foundation and the UWC Dilijan International School. Previously, he was a co-founder and board member of the National Competitiveness Foundation of Armenia, a private-public partnership dedicated to promoting economic development in the former Soviet Republic of Armenia. In 2008, he received the Ellis Island Medal of Honor, an award granted to outstanding Americans who have distinguished themselves as United States citizens and who have enabled their ancestry groups to maintain their identities while becoming integral parts of American life. He was a Great Immigrant honoree of the Carnegie Corporation in 2016. In 2017, he received the Golden Door Award, an honor granted by the International Institute of New England that recognizes a U.S. citizen of foreign birth who has made outstanding contributions to America society.

Noubar is engaged in several philanthropic initiatives. In 2015, he co-founded the 100 LIVES Initiative, which commemorated the 100th anniversary of the start of the Armenian genocide and created a remembrance project to locate and preserve stories of both survivors and rescuers from the genocide. In 2016, 100 LIVES inaugurated the Aurora Prize for Awakening Humanity, an annual award given to an individual who has faced personal risk to enable others to survive.