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Curious About BioVentureHub *Community Members*



Florian Schmitz , PhD
Product Developer & Innovation
Coordinator at Retein

Curious About BioVentureHub Community Members: Meet Florian Schmitz from Retein! ✨

We recently had an inspiring conversation with Florian, Product Developer & Innovation Coordinator at Retein.

Retein focuses on developing patented filters for molecular precision recovery of aqueous resources. Their innovative technology aims to create sustainable solutions for resource recovery and environmental protection.

Florian, What inspired you to take the plunge into entrepreneurship?

When Simon invited me to join the Retein adventure, it was built on a solid foundation stemming from our successful scientific collaboration during my PhD. This partnership ignited my passion for innovation and led to the development of our Retein technology. Supported by Sweden's collaborative culture and fantastic colleagues, we were fueled by a shared determination to create impactful change and make a difference in the industry.

What's been your biggest challenge, and what did it teach you?

As the first in my family to pursue higher education, I've always dreamed big. One standout moment was seizing the opportunity for a research internship at the MRC LMB in Cambridge. That experience taught me to embrace opportunities as they arise—there are limited times in life when a chance can alter your career trajectory, so take them when they come!

What misconception do people have about your field?

One common misunderstanding is how time-consuming both discovery and commercialization are. While funding can ease the journey, it's ultimately the skilled individuals and an inspiring environment that fuel true innovation—something we strive for at BioVentureHub.

What excites you most about your current work?

After years of foundational research, everything is coming together at Retein! We're scaling production and creating real value for our customers, with exciting projects integrating computational protein design already underway!

How has the BioVentureHub community influenced your path?

Gothenburg's research community feels like a tight-knit village. Having connections from my time at Chalmers and Gothenburg University has been invaluable. It's an incredible place for science, and I see immense potential for collaboration and growth here.

What personal mantra keeps you motivated?

In martial arts, the first lesson is: *Never. Give. Up.* We all fall, but it's crucial to get up one more time than we fall. Also, remember to seek help—our community thrives on supporting each other!

Thank you, Florian, for sharing your journey and insights!

Having Retein as a part of BioVentureHub aligns with AstraZeneca's ambitions in sustainability. Their technology holds great potential in water stewardship and efficient utilization of aqueous waste streams.