

Asian Tech Pioneers lauded by equality charity Diversity UK



Caption: Asian Tech Pioneers 2024. Back Row: Amit Rai, Sherif Elsayed-Ali, Pei-Ho (Eddy) Su, Farid Khan. Front Row: Roy Hotrabhanon, Harvinder Athwal, Dama Sathianathan, Bea Bakshi, Bobby Thandi.

[London, 10 July 2024]: Twenty-seven Asian Tech Pioneers were lauded by equality charity, Diversity UK, at a celebration on Wednesday 3 July 2024 marking a decade of championing entrepreneurs in the sector. The Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list and Asian Tech Pioneers Awards celebrate the contribution made by British Asians to this country's tech sector and marked its impact by publishing the Asians in Tech Impact Report earlier this year.

This year's Asian Tech Pioneer Award winners include biotech entrepreneur **Dr Farid Khan** who has created 4 ventures in the sector, including Protein Technologies Ltd, a multi-million state of the art contract research organisation working in industrial biotechnology and genetic engineering; **Dr. Bea Bakshi**, a General Practitioner, Co-Founder, and CEO of C the Signs, an award-winning platform that uses artificial intelligence to identify patients at risk of cancer at the earliest and most survivable stage of the disease; **Julia Fan Li** who is the Co-Founder & CEO of Micrographia Bio, a deeptech bio company focused on applying machine learning to bioimaging to accelerate drug discovery; **Priya Oberoi-Cattai** who founded Goddess Gaia Ventures (GGV), Europe's first women's centric healthcare fund and **Dr Jing Ouyang** who is the Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer of Patchwork Health, a pioneer in workforce management solutions in healthcare.

"We are pleased to be recognising twenty-seven of the most inspirational Asian stars with the Asian Tech Pioneers Awards", said **Lopa Patel MBE, Chair of Diversity UK**, who has helmed the initiative since its inception, "these are individuals at the peak of their tech journey; from being serial venture builders or deep-tech investors to pioneering social entrepreneurs and innovators. The list's focus this year has been in HealthTech and ImpactTech, so it is not surprising to see this reflected with Healthtech pioneers being honoured."

"It was double pleasing to see that 44% of the Asian Tech Pioneer Award winners were women and that women are also well represented in the entrepreneurial support network with investors like **Dama Sathianathan**, a Senior Partner at Bethnal Green Ventures, Europe's leading early stage VC in tech for good which has 4 funds and has made 141 investments to date; **Rupa Ganatra Popat**, Founder & Managing Partner of Arāya Ventures, a venture capital firm investing in exceptional entrepreneurs who are transforming the way we live and work and ecosystem builders like **Shruti Ajitsaria** who is the Head of Fuse, Allen & Overy's tech innovation space."

Successes of Asians in Tech & Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list

- ★ The sector has not only grown, making the **UK the third largest tech ecosystem in the world and first in Europe**, but innovators have focused on the most pressing global challenges; from climate change and health tech to harnessing the power of Generative AI. The theme this year was innovation, particularly 'scaling for impact' (financial, environmental, human & social capital).
- ★ The findings of the research commissioned from an independent Cambridge Venture Project (CVP) team showed the Asians in Tech initiative **inspires, empowers, connects** founders; helping them get **funding** and **support**.
- ★ The CVP team also focussed their research on the **healthtech** and **life sciences** sector, finding that nominees in the sector demonstrated two important positive economic indicators. Firstly, the number of years before a healthtech start-up receives their first funding has been reducing, and secondly, healthtech start-ups have been hiring employees in addition to the original founders.
- ★ Women have also held their own in the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list, accounting for 48% of shortlisted nominees in 2024. The representation of women has risen from 21% in 2015 up to a peak of 52% in 2021 and is at 48% in 2024, despite the fact that nearly 23% were new nominees in 2024.

About the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech List

The aim of the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list is to showcase the wealth of talent on the British digital scene; from startup founders, creatives, social entrepreneurs, technologists, venture capital and angel investors to the policy makers and game changers. The key objective is to address the perceived lack of diversity in the tech sector by highlighting the business models, innovation, funding and support networks being created by these Asian digital entrepreneurs. Shortlisted nominees not only gain considerable media attention, they also make valuable connections to help fund or scale their business; are part of a network of innovators; can pitch their ventures at Tech Showcases; are recognised in industry publications and go on to win other competitions and awards.

Sponsors on the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech 2024 list include business support network Barclays Eagle Labs; one of the UK's leading independent suppliers of steel storage containers, Bell Container Ltd, global law firm Eversheds Sutherland and financial planning advisory, Futurum Financial Advice.

IMAGES:

Asian Tech Pioneers 2024: <https://bit.ly/3Xzrukn>

Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech 2024 - Chair's Award: <https://bit.ly/3Xwtpq2>

Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech 2024 - Launch: <https://bit.ly/4eU6ETd>

Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech 2024 - Top 5s: <https://bit.ly/45CJ7lo>

Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech 2024 - Nominees: <https://bit.ly/3xmNswz>

Notes for Editors:

Asian Tech Pioneer Award Winners 2024

The full list of Asian Tech Pioneers 2024, *those highlighted in yellow attended the event:*

1. **Shruti Ajitsaria**, Partner and Head of Fuse - Allen & Overy
2. **Fouad Al-Noor**, Co-Founder & CEO - ThinkSono
3. **Sheena Amin**, Director of ITV AdVentures - ITV Plc
4. **Harvinder Atwal**, Chief Data Officer - Evri
5. **Bea Bakshi**, Co-Founder & CEO - C the Signs
6. **Rajarshi Banerjee**, Co-Founder & CEO - Perspectum
7. **Vishal Chatrath**, Co-Founder & CEO - QuantrolOx
8. **Sherif Elsayed-Ali**, Co-Founder - Nexus Climate
9. **Julia Fan Li**, Co-Founder & CEO - Micrographia Bio
10. **Rupa Ganatra Popat**, Founder & Managing Partner - Araya Ventures
11. **Bakul Gupta**, CEO & Co-Founder - Deliver Biosciences
12. **Roy Hotrabhvanon**, CEO - Player Data
13. **Asher Ismail**, CEO & Founder Coach - Asher Coach
14. **Shakiba Kaveh**, CEO - Mitra Bio
15. **Farid Khan**, BioTech Entrepreneur - Protein Technologies Ltd
16. **Seema Khinda Johnson**, Co-Founder & COO - Nuggets
17. **Poonam Malik**, Chair and Co-Founder, Board Director - Microplate Dx Ltd
18. **Sherin Mathew**, Founder & CEO - AI Tech UK
19. **Priya Oberoi-Cattai**, Founding General Partner - Goddess Gaia Ventures
20. **Jing Ouyang**, Co-Founder & COO - Patchwork Health
21. **Amit Rai**, Managing Director & Partner- BCG X Ventures
22. **Dama Sathianathan**, Senior Partner - Bethnal Green Ventures
23. **Pei-Hao (Eddy) Su**, Co-Founder - PolyAI
24. **Bobby Thandi**, Founder & CEO - XR Games
25. **Anand Verma**, Founder & CEO - Expect
26. **Alex Yeung**, Co-Founder & Deputy CEO - Connexin
27. **Lucy Yu**, CEO - Centre for Net Zero

Brief biographies of the Asian Tech Pioneers 2024

Shruti Ajitsaria, Partner & Head of Fuse - Allen & Overy

Shruti is the Head of Fuse, Allen & Overy's tech innovation space. Fuse's philosophy is to identify legaltech, regtech and dealtech companies relevant to A&O and their clients and to find ways to work together.

Sheena Amin, Director of ITV AdVentures - ITV

Sheena Amin currently runs ITV's media for equity investment fund which includes the geolocation app What3Words, premium menswear brand Spoke and architectural tech platform Resi within its investment portfolio.

Harvinder Atwal, Chief Data Officer - Evri

Harvinder Atwal is the Chief Data Officer at Evri, helping transform the UK's largest dedicated parcel delivery company by delivering an exciting new data strategy.

Bea Bakshi, Co-Founder & CEO - C the Signs

Dr. Bea Bakshi MBBS BSc (Hons) MRCGP is a General Practitioner, Co-Founder, and CEO of C the Signs, an award-winning platform that uses artificial intelligence to identify patients at risk of cancer at the earliest and most survivable stage of the disease.

Julia Fan Li, Co-Founder & CEO - Micrographia Bio

Julia Fan Li is the Co-Founder & CEO of Micrographia Bio, a deeptech bio company focused on applying machine learning to bioimaging to accelerate drug discovery, currently based in London's White City.

Rupa Ganatra-Poppat, Founding & Managing Partner - Araya Ventures

Rupa Ganatra is an exited entrepreneur and the Founder & Managing Partner of Arāya Ventures, a venture capital firm investing in exceptional entrepreneurs who are transforming the way we live and work.

Asher Ismail, CEO & Founder Coach - Asher Coach

Asher Ismail is a seasoned CEO turned coach who has mentored over 100 venture-backed founders on strategy, leadership, and mindset to accelerate their growth. Previously, Asher founded and scaled three startups: Uncapped (recognized as the UK's fastest growing fintech in 2021), Midrive (acquired), and Make it Matter (acquired).

Farid Khan, Biotech Entrepreneur

Dr. Farid Khan is a remarkable biotech serial entrepreneur and innovator, who obtained a PhD in protein folding from the University of Cambridge and previously worked for GlaxoSmithKline in drug discovery.

Poonam Malik, FRSE, FRSB, Chair and Co-Founder, Board Director - Microplate Dx Ltd

Dr Poonam Malik is Chairperson, Co-Founder and Board Director of Microplate Dx Ltd, a multi-award winning MedTech Company, aiming to help tackle the global challenge of Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) with their platform technology.

Sherin Mathew, Founder & CEO - AI Tech UK

Sherin Mathew is a recognised AI Leader and leading AI Ethicist in the UK. A Founder, CEO, and Serial Entrepreneur, with a deep-rooted passion for wider AI awareness, impact, ethics, and intellectual privacy.

Priya Oberoi-Cattai, Founding General Partner - Goddess Gaia Ventures

Priya Oberoi is the Founding General Partner of Goddess Gaia Ventures (GGV), Europe's first women's centric healthcare fund.

Dr Jing Ouyang, Co-Founder & COO - Patchwork

Dr Jing Ouyang is a doctor, the Co-Founder and Chief Operating Officer of Patchwork Health, a pioneer in workforce management solutions in healthcare.

Amit Rai, Managing Director & Partner - BCG X Ventures

Amit Rai is a Managing Director & Partner at BCG X Ventures (XV) in the UK, leading the Industrial Goods practice in Western Europe.

Dama Sathianathan, Senior Partner - Bethnal Green Ventures

Dama Sathianathan is a Senior Partner at Bethnal Green Ventures, Europe's leading early stage VC in tech for good which has 4 funds and has made 141 investments to date.

Pei-Hao (Eddy) Su, Co-Founder - PolyAI

Dr. Pei-Hao (Eddy) Su is a co-founder of PolyAI, a London-based conversational AI startup aiming to build superhuman enterprise-ready voice assistants for contact centres.

Bobby Thandi, Founder and CEO - XR Games

Bobby Thandi is the Founder and CEO at XR Games, is an award-winning games development studio specialising in immersive AR and VR games.

Alex Yeung, Co-Founder & Deputy CEO – Connexin

Alex Yeung is the Co-Founder & Deputy CEO of Connexin, based in Hull, which specialises in smart technologies and the Internet of Things (IoT).

About Asians in Tech

The Asians in Tech initiative was established in 2015 with the launch of the first Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list. Successes of the Asians in Tech initiative over the past decade include ★ 9 AT100 lists published; ★ 6 Tech Showcases hosted (Cambridge, London, Manchester); ★ 5 Chairman's Awards presented; ★ 121 Asian Tech Pioneers recognised; ★ 3 Investing in Women Founders panel debates held, ★ Queen's Award for Enterprise Masterclass delivered, ★ Asian Tech Pioneers video + ★ AI Inclusion Podcast.

Diversity UK is proud that the aim of showcasing Asian talent in the tech sector has been realised with founders achieving their investment targets, receiving grant funding, forming new partnerships and recognition in scaling their ventures.

Social Media:

LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/asiansintech/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/asiansintech/>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/asiansintech/> @asiansintech

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/asiansintech/> @asiansintech

Website: <https://asiansintech.com/>

The Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech list and Diversity UK are the brainchild of the digital media entrepreneur Lopa Patel MBE, who has long been recognised as an evangelist for STEM and the tech industries in the UK.

For further details contact: Lopa Patel, T: 0203 865 4037, info [at] asiansintech.com

About Diversity UK

Diversity UK is an equality and inclusion charity that researches, advocates and promotes ideas for improving diversity in Britain. Diversity UK delivers its charitable objectives by undertaking research, facilitating debates, hosting roundtable meetings, producing white papers and publishing a monthly newsletter focusing on contemporary equality issues. Diversity UK is a registered charity (No: 1155189) in England & Wales. For further information, visit <https://diversityuk.org/>

Diversity UK successes include:

- ❖ 1 Flagship 'Beyond the Glass Ceiling' Research Report published in 2013.
- ❖ 4 Reviews participated in, including the McGregor-Smith 'Race in the Workplace' Review
- ❖ 4 Consultations including on Gender Pay Gap Reporting, Diversity Action Plan & DEI initiatives
- ❖ 1 Women in Science Conference sponsored in 2016.
- ❖ 2 Collaborations with The Work Foundation and Fawcett Society on gender related research

ABOUT THE SPONSORS

About Barclays Eagle Labs

Barclays Eagle Labs is a network made up of member businesses, partners, investors, corporates, mentors, banking expertise and so much more. Eagle Labs provide a wealth of support to startup businesses, particularly those who are focused on technology and innovation. For those needing physical space we provide coworking and offices throughout the UK. Businesses can be connected to our mentors, specialists and deals that are all designed to help them grow. We also provide access to a collaborative community where businesses can be put in touch with and learn from their peers.

Scaling businesses can benefit from some of the more bespoke and tailored approaches that are available through Labs. We offer specialists in growth through our mentoring partners. Businesses looking to raise further capital can be connected to investors through our Demo Directory. If a business is looking to grow and raise overseas – particularly in the United States – the Eagle Lab Global Connect programme, run by Silicon Valley veterans, will be of interest.

Eagle Labs provides access to a community of high potential and growing businesses, many who will be looking for investment. Our Demo Directory allows potential investors to subscribe to a regular update showcasing top Eagle Lab businesses who are fundraising.

The Eagle Labs community offers a mechanism that helps corporates better understand innovation and new and emerging technologies. Opportunities exist where corporates can collaborate with innovators. Our industry programmes in Law, Agrifood Healthcare, Energy and Digital Security provide facilitated connections and help bridge the gap between startups and corporates. More generally Eagle Labs can connect larger businesses with innovators.

For further information visit <https://labs.uk.barclays/>

About Bell Container

Founded in 1983 by Nilesh Majeethia, Bell Container is one of the UK's leading independent suppliers of steel storage containers, site accommodation units and bespoke container conversions.

Bell Container has been serving the storage container and site accommodation industry for over 40 years, specialising in the hire and sale of new and used secure storage containers, containerised offices and welfare units, changing rooms and toilet blocks together with offering an expansive range of flat-pack steel units.

With its own team of in-house fabricators, Bell Container is also able to modify shipping containers into any required specification for a varied range of purposes - converting units to serve a wider customer base, from the retail, leisure and hospitality sectors and continually looking for new ways to innovate, upcycle and utilise the humble steel container into these respective markets.

A trusted partner to all its clients, from SMEs to large corporates and local authorities, Bell Container's extensive knowledge of the market in conjunction with access to a network of depots and agents, allows it to provide a bespoke, resourceful and cost efficient service.

For further information, visit bellcontainer.co.uk

Bell Container congratulates Diversity UK on all its charitable endeavours and is proud to support the Asians in Tech 2024 launch event.

About Eversheds Sutherland

As a global top 10 law firm, Eversheds Sutherland provides legal services to a global client base. With more than 3,000 lawyers, Eversheds Sutherland operates in over 70 offices in more than 30 countries across Africa, Asia, Europe, the Middle East and the United States. In addition, a network of more than 200 related law firms, including formalised alliances in Latin America, Asia Pacific and Africa, provide support around the globe.

We recognise that having diverse talent across our business brings many benefits. We are committed to accessing a wide range of views, perspectives and thinking in all our teams and in this way, we are building a culture of inclusion, where each person feels able to be their true self at work and reach their full potential. We know that diverse and inclusive organisations are more productive, more innovative, perform better and have stronger levels of engagement from their people.

Diversity and Inclusion is fundamental to the firm's purpose of "helping our clients, our people and our communities to thrive", and 'Inclusive' is one of our five values. Our strategy encompasses a number of diversity dimensions including ethnicity; gender; disability; sexual orientation, gender identity and expression; parenting and caring; faith and social mobility.

By embracing diversity, we can better partner with our global and diverse client base, and be open and welcoming to all, across the communities we live and work in.

Jon Gill, Partner, Eversheds Sutherland said *"We are delighted to be partnering again with Diversity UK on what will be the tenth anniversary of the fantastic Asians in Tech initiative. To mark the launch of the Top 100 Asian Stars in UK Tech 2024 Awards, the event has the theme of innovation at its heart and will prove to be an exciting opportunity to hear from some of the UK's most exciting growth companies and tech experts. We look forward to recognizing and celebrating the diverse talent within the UK's technology sector."*

For further information, visit www.eversheds-sutherland.com

About Futurum Financial Advice

Whether you are looking to invest for income or growth, the right investment strategy is critical in helping secure your future financial well-being.

We can advise on creating your unique investment strategy. The St. James's Place range of investment solutions and ongoing services have been carefully curated to help you reach your financial goals.

The St. James's Place risk-rated Portfolio solutions mean you can spread your investments across a wide range of asset types and choose fund managers with different investment styles to create a balanced and diversified investment solution.

The value of investments with St. James's Place will be directly linked to the performance of selected funds and these can fall as well as rise. You may get back less than the amount initially invested. Our investment planning advice services are designed to help grow wealth and protect against inflation.

Website: www.futurumfa.co.uk

For further details contact: Lopa Patel, T: 0203 865 4037, info [at] asiansintech.com