



Investing with Impact in Sustainable Food/Agriculture & Healthcare

iSelect invests at the nexus of food/ag and healthcare, and supports emerging companies focused on solving critical global needs. While our companies are addressing issues that include many UN SDGs, the primary focus areas fall under SDGs two (zero hunger) and three (good health and well-being).

Below are a few examples of our 50+ portfolio companies and the impact they are seeking to make.



BENSON HILL™ Benson Hill *Impact: Sustainably developed and nutrient-dense crops*



Benson Hill (BH) empowers innovators with a crop design platform to tap the natural genetic diversity of plants and develop healthier, more sustainable, and higher-yielding food choices. With its novel computational platform, BH applies massive computer power to evaluate millions of genetic options, identifying those that optimize traits such as crop yield, nutritional value, and resource efficiency. BH then uses plant breeding, transgenics, and/or genome editing to develop seeds for planting — in half the time and cost of conventional methods per BH’s analysis.

Co-investors:



Geltor *Impact: Animal-free alternative proteins*



Geltor designs animal-free proteins that are produced by its proprietary fermentation factories at low cost for consumer and technical products. Collagen proteins are the main structural proteins found in skin and connective tissues. Most collagen currently comes from animal sources. Using its platform technology, Geltor can quickly and inexpensively manufacture collagen and other animal-free proteins for a range of end products.

Co-investors:



Bonumose *Impact: Low-cost, healthy, natural sugar*



Bonumose is commercializing low-glycemic index, low-calorie, healthy natural sugars through a proprietary, cost-effective enzymatic process. Traditional sugar consumption has been linked to diseases as diverse as obesity, diabetes, cancer, and Alzheimer’s. Alternatives, both artificial and natural, exist, but are too expensive, may not mirror the sweetness profile of sucrose, or have poor food functionality. Bonumose converts commodity, agricultural waste feedstocks into beneficial, natural sugars with taste and food functionality profiles like those of sucrose.

Co-investors:



Vestaron *Impact: Replace chemical pesticides with biological inputs*



Vestaron is developing biological peptides for insecticidal crop protection. In contrast to many synthetic chemicals used in crop protection, Vestaron’s peptides are safe for humans and mammals, birds, fish, pollinators, and the environment. In addition to their favorable safety profile, Vestaron’s biologics are as effective against crop-specific pests as traditional synthetic chemicals.

Co-investors:

HEALTHCARE

Driving Innovation in HEALTHCARE TECHNOLOGY



Cofactor Genomics *Impact: Personalized, precision medicine; acceleration of drug discovery and clinical treatment*



[Cofactor Genomics](#) is a precision medicine company that focuses on RNA for its understanding of disease (initially cancer). Using high throughput RNA sequencing, Cofactor's patented technology profiles tumors to identify which immune cells are present and how they are interacting with the tumor and the microenvironment. This multidimensional approach is in contrast to the industry single biomarker standard. The company works with pharmaceutical companies, as well as clinicians.

Co-investors: **MENLO VENTURES** **DC Data Collective** **Ascension** **Combinator**



SciBac *Impact: Platform technology to treat and prevent antibiotic resistance*



[SciBac](#) is developing technology that enables the efficient combination of desired traits from two microbes into one stable hybrid organism through lab-induced directed evolution. SciBac uses this platform to develop live biotherapeutics that treat and prevent antibiotic-resistant disease while fortifying the human microbiome. Target markets include healthcare, food, agriculture and industrial sectors.

Co-investors: **Breakout Labs** **CARB-X** Dr. Annalisa Jenkins, Michael Hintze



Molecular Assemblies *Impact: Development of a new DNA synthesis (writing DNA) method with wide-ranging benefits*



[Molecular Assemblies](#) has developed an enzymatic DNA synthesis platform technology, enabling new products in industrial synthetic biology, personalized therapeutics, precision diagnostics, data storage, nanotechnology, and more. The go-to-market strategy for the company is two-pronged: the enormous market for DNA in life sciences, and the emerging and potentially massive market of data storage.

Co-investors: **Agilent Technologies** **DC Data Collective** **IQT IN-Q-TEL** **ALEXANDRIA VENTURE INVESTMENTS** **1142 CAPITAL**



Holobiome *Impact: Platform approach for the development of gut-brain axis bacterial consortia*



[Holobiome](#) Holobiome is developing a platform for microbiome-based therapeutics to treat diseases of the central and enteric nervous systems. Holobiome has identified several bacterial consortia that may be capable of modulating host neurotransmitters and intends to leverage these properties to initially target insomnia, treatment resistant depression (TRD), and intestinal motility disorders (IMD). This strategy is based on emerging research that identifies bidirectional communication between the gut and the central nervous system known as the gut-brain axis.

Co-investors: **ALEXANDRIA VENTURE INVESTMENTS** **Johnson & Johnson** INNOVATION

The iSelect Funds are offered through North Capital Private Securities Corporation, member FINRA/SIPC. Private investments are illiquid, speculative and carry the risk of complete loss. In addition to the foregoing risks, the adverse economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic are unknown and could materially impact investments. Companies seeking startup investments, like those in iSelect Fund, tend to be in earlier stages of development and their business model, products and services may not yet be fully developed, operational or tested in the public marketplace.