

Mbatang Acha- Managing Director
Bamenda, Cameroon



“I want to help teams building next-generation technology to power the future.”
Mbatang leverages his experiences as a startup founder, FTSE100 consultant, investor, and operator across 3 continents to help implement innovative ideas. He is passionate about Sustainable Investing with a focus on advanced mobility, clean energy, and infrastructure.

He joins the Oxford Seed Fund from Wuri Ventures, an early-stage venture fund in Dakar, Senegal. As a Senior Associate on the investment team, he conducted investments in 6 Sub-Saharan African countries and was a co-founder of “e-motion,” the first electric 3-wheeler fleet provider in the Sahel Region. He also led fundraising, managed LP relationships, and incubated 7 startups.

Prior to Wuri, he led global strategy for Supernal, Hyundai Motor Group’s urban electric aircraft (EVTOL) manufacturer. He devised the company’s global go-to-market strategy, led the alternative energy R&D team which pitched and secured \$70million for Hydrogen Fuel Cell development, and coordinated Supernal’s work on Airspace Design and EVTOL integration with NASA. He also advised ArFinance Ventures, the leading aerospace venture capital fund on the creation of its ~\$200m SPAC- sourced and conducted in-depth diligence of 150+ startups, recommended targets for acquisition.

He began his career as Quantum Spectroscopic researcher studying chiral molecules, before transitioning to consulting in Mckinsey’s New York office. There he focused on strategy and transformation projects in the “Advanced Industries” and “Private Equity and Principal Investors” practices.

Mbatang grew up in Cameroon and graduated magna cum laude from Amherst College with a BA in Chemistry and minor in Economics. In his leisure time, he plays football and basketball. He also enjoys drawing and painting.

Jessica Barford- Deputy Director Portfolio Management
Toronto, Canada



Jessica is currently an MBA student at the Saïd Business School in Oxford. After working in corporate finance for three years, she made a career switch into the startup world and worked for a Canadian edtech company. Quickly realizing she thrived in the financial space, she decided to combine her previous experience in finance and startups to make her jump into Venture Capital where she worked for two years before beginning the MBA.

Jessica was a board member at Sunnybrook Hospital in Toronto, helping to raise funds for the mental health unit. She is an engaged volunteer at Covenant House, acting as a mentor and leading personal finance workshops for youth.

Jessica has a bachelor of commerce from Queen’s University in Canada and her CSC license. In her spare time she can be found on the tennis courts, golfing, skiing, or creating abstract art pieces.

Tochi Ginigeme- Deputy Director Venture Sourcing
Lagos, Nigeria



Tochi is an economist with eight years of operational work experience across multiple industries. She graduated from the University of Ibadan in 2013, and launched her career at a Pension Fund. She has since then worked across leading investment banking, energy infrastructure and FMCG firms in Africa - most recently at global brewing company Anheuser-Busch InBev (ABInBev) where she spent the last four years executing marketing campaigns for the company's premium brand portfolio and leading sales teams. A certified scrum master and product owner, Tochi is skilled at agile project management and implementation. She is passionate about entrepreneurship and commerce, having spent time working closely with founders at Mesh Network - an online platform she established in 2016 for self-starters and business-minded individuals looking to launch and ultimately scale their ideas. She is currently one of two Eni-Oxford Africa scholars in the 2022/2023 MBA cohort at Saïd Business School, University of Oxford and has previously received business education in Data Analytics (2020), Financial Accounting (2020) and Corporate Finance (2022) from Harvard and Wharton Schools respectively. A seasoned member and one-time vice-president of Toast Master's International Club, Tochi enjoys hosting speaker-led events and panel sessions/debates. She has been recognised and awarded as a paragon for diversity and inclusion and her commitment to empowering women is unwavering. After her academic program, she plans to focus more specifically on bridging the gender-investment gap by working closely with female founders - especially in emerging markets - looking to raise private capital.

Harsh Kapadia- Deputy Director Due Diligence
Mumbai, India



Harsh has been a consultant and an investment professional for over 7 years.

His primary areas of expertise are pre-acquisition due diligence and identifying potential opportunities in growing markets. He also has a wealth of experience restructuring businesses and was a key member in the restructuring of Essar Steel India, at the time India's largest successful turnaround.

He started his career at PwC as a Chartered Accountant apprentice in the audit team, during which his major client was Barclays Bank. Post qualifying as a CA, he led several financial due diligence and restructuring projects with Alvarez and Marsal including serving major clients such as Blackstone, Brookfield, and Paragon Partners. Most recently he has been a crucial member in the build-up of the consumer-tech portfolio at Multiples Alternate Asset Management, an Indian Private Equity with an AUM of GBP 3 Bn. He also maintains his own portfolio of investments and has been a seed investor in Indian hydroponics companies and cloud-tech enabled start-ups in Singapore and India.

Harsh is currently pursuing his MBA from Oxford Saïd Business School and has a Chartered Accountant license from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and a bachelor's degree in Commerce from the University of Mumbai.

In his spare time, he likes to play sports and travel the world with family and friends. Harsh is a frequent member and contributor to Oxfam, Give India, and the Freedom Employability Academy. He regularly drives fundraising events with independent charitable organizations.

Sarin Boivin-Picard- General Director
Montreal, Canada



Sarin is currently a Venture Partner at NextGen Venture Partners, a VC fund headquartered in the USA. After completing a software development bootcamp, he pivoted from finance to tech and worked as a Product Manager in the engineering team at Altitude-Sports.com, an e-commerce company in Montreal. Before working in product, he was part of the investment team at the Chagnon Foundation, overseeing a private equity portfolio.

Sarin currently serves on the board of directors of Hydro Quebec, a state-owned enterprise based in Montreal, and the Devkey Foundation. Previously, he has served on the board of directors of the University Club of Montreal, the LOJIQ Foundation and the Georges Vanier Cultural Center. For his community work, he was named a WEF Global Shaper and a fellow of the Royal Society for the Arts.

Sarin Boivin-Picard holds a Bachelor's degree from HEC Montreal, a Master's in Finance degree from IE Business School and is currently an Oxford Saïd-HEC Montreal scholar at the University of Oxford.

In his spare time, he enjoys discovering new cuisines, traveling and playing sports.

Simon Kotlerman- General Director
Tel Aviv, Israel



Simon is an Israeli-born strategist, innovator, and social entrepreneur who brings vast experience in business strategy, market research, due diligence, and transforming ideas into reality. He is passionate about supporting entrepreneurs in the mission to create technology that promotes the UN SDGs.

Simon started his career as a project manager in the Israeli Air Force, where he founded a unique counterterrorism project that extended throughout the Air Force and for which he was granted the Colonel's Achievement Award. He then practiced law at The Israel Securities Authority, specialising in forensic accounting and deep investigations of complex international financial cases. Later, he joined an international business intelligence firm, where he led a team of analysts, evaluating potential risks for high-stake international investments, market-entry, and business initiatives, providing in-depth market research, due diligence, and strategic advisory

to leading companies from a diverse range of industries.

Simon holds a bachelor's degree in Law and Economics from Tel Aviv University, with international studies at The University of Hong Kong, and is currently pursuing his MBA at University of Oxford Saïd Business School as an SBSF Scholar. Parallely, he consults ventures on business strategy and partnerships development, and serves as a Board Member at Secure Future, an Israel-based NGO that trains young entrepreneurs to carry-out initiatives for the prevention of violence - where during the Covid-19 pandemic he founded a national cyberbullying prevention programme. He is a former competitive boxer who now enjoys rowing, attending Oxford formals, and cultivating meaningful relationships.

Preeti Mohan- General Director
New Delhi, India



Preeti has previously worked at International Finance Corporation (The World Bank Group) in the infrastructure division, where she was part of the South Asia team. She has worked on debt and equity deals in Renewables, Roads and Logistics sectors. Prior to IFC, Preeti worked at KPMG where she was part of the Deal Advisory team and focused on mergers, acquisitions and restructuring deals. As an investor and a consultant, she has experienced the entire deal cycle and developed a deep understanding of the investment landscape.

Preeti grew up in India and holds a bachelor's degree in commerce from Shri Ram College of Commerce, Delhi University. She is a Chartered Accountant and did her articleship with Deloitte.

When not working, you will find her enjoying the nature outdoors, spending time with family and trying her hand at cooking.

Wezam Obanor- General Director
Lagos, Nigeria



Wezam founded PrepClass, one of the earliest education technology companies in Africa. During his time as CEO of Prepclass, the startup reached over 200,000 people with its free educational content and created over 5,000 jobs for teachers across the country. His experience as an entrepreneur encompasses fundraising, hiring, discovering product-market fit, growth and strategy, and marketing.

He has also worked on the Venture capital side of the start-up ecosystem as an associate with VU venture partners where he worked closely with General Partners who invested in unicorns such as Beyond Meat, Uber, Facebook, Twitter, Wish and Fiverr.

He was featured on Forbes as one of the 30 most enterprising Africans under 30, highlighted on CNN edition as a winner of the Anzisha award – Africa's premier prize award given to the youngest and brightest entrepreneurs in Africa and named as one of the 50 Global makers and shakers of Education Technology by Qatar Foundation, WISE and EdTechx. Alongside a number of local and international recognitions.

He is currently completing his MBA at the University of Oxford as a Saïd Foundation Scholar and volunteers some of his time working with GetFundedAfrica, a venture as a service accelerator that supports African startups. Outside of his professional life, he enjoys playing chess, table tennis, lawn tennis and travelling

Erin O'Brien- General Director
New York, USA



Erin O'Brien is an MBA candidate at the Said Business School in Oxford. She joins the Oxford Seed Fund as a General Director where she contributes to sourcing, due diligence, and portfolio management. Erin currently consults part-time for a Ugandan startup promoting energy access, e-mobility, and data infrastructure in East Africa. Before coming to Said, Erin was a Principal of Investments at ImpactAssets, a \$2.5B impact investing firm where she managed investment due diligence and portfolio management. She also worked as a Summer Portfolio Associate at Acumen West Africa, where she focused on research, sourcing, due diligence, impact management, and portfolio services. Erin's passions include climate, energy access, e-mobility, and gender equity. Erin holds a BA in Economics with a minor in Business Fundamentals and English Literature from the University of Connecticut.

In her spare time, Erin enjoys sampling vegan cheeses, cycling, and hanging out with her Parson Russell Terrier, Millie.

Robert Rogers- General Director
New York, USA



Rob joins the Seed Fund from a 7-year career working with impact-first ventures, most recently with a social enterprise incubator in Washington, DC. His experience includes work on EdTech, health, and labor markets. He holds a Master of Public Policy from Sciences Po Aix and a B.A from the University of Michigan.

Rob believes that innovation at scale is necessary to solve the greatest challenges of our time, from climate change to political polarization. He thinks this is achieved when great founders and researchers interact with a robust enabling environment of funders and mentors, and he sees a critical role to play for university-based investment vehicles like the Oxford Seed Fund.

Rob is fluent in French and English and has lived and worked in Senegal, Côte d'Ivoire, Vietnam, France, and the US. Outside of work, he enjoys cooking, craft cocktails, and all kinds of adventure sports.

Juliet Zhu- General Director
Vancouver, Canada



Juliet is a finance professional with over 6 years of experience in the banking industry with an expertise in debt structuring, credit risk, and relationship management.

Previously, Juliet worked at a global financial institution and managed a US\$4 Billion portfolio of 15+ public and private companies covering industries including: aerospace, healthcare, food & beverage, logistics, real estate, sustainable fashion, and technology. In this capacity, she witnessed how management teams have successfully utilized leverage to drive sustainable growth and increase shareholder value. She is excited about working with entrepreneurs and has experienced first-hand how ideas can commercialize and scale to impact the lives of people globally and drive positive change.

Juliet is a strong supporter of developing women in the business community and most recently served on the Board for the Association of Women in Finance. As a classically trained ballet dancer and pianist, she is passionate about the Fine Arts community and served as the Co-Chair of the Young Professional Board for Ballet British Columbia (BC) to further fostering the arts scene in Canada through the society's outreach and membership.

Juliet is a current MBA candidate at the University of Oxford's Saïd Business School and graduated with a BCom from University of British Columbia's Sauder School of Business. In her spare time, Juliet enjoys playing piano, taking dance classes, baking, and playing tennis.