



MOLLY HAUGEN

Industry: Hardtech

CURRENT ROLE

- **CEO** – Aetosense (1 year, Cambridge-based)

EDUCATION & CAREER PATH

- **Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry** – University of Minnesota (4 years)
- **PhD in Chemistry** – University of Denver, Colorado (4 years)
- **Postdoctoral Researcher (Engineering Department)** – University of Cambridge (5 years)
- **Transition to Industry** – CEO of Aetosense

HOW HER PATH DIFFERED FROM EXPECTATIONS

- I never imagined I would enter the startup world or be leading a company.
- Living in the UK and working in this field has been an unexpected but rewarding experience.
- COVID-19 was a major challenge, particularly in staying motivated and adjusting my career path to fit personal life needs.

CAREER INSIGHTS AND REFLECTIONS

- I enjoy my work because every day is different, and I thrive in a dynamic, ever-changing environment.
- My role allows me to apply not just my academic background, but also a variety of life experiences.
- Running a company was never part of my original plan, but it has been an exciting and meaningful journey.
- The opportunity to contribute to air quality improvements through technology is incredibly fulfilling.

FUTURE PLANS

- I plan to stay in my current role as long as it continues to make sense for everyone.
- I believe in the importance of the work we're doing, and I feel I am the right person for the job at this time.

ADVICE FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS (ECRS)

- ✓ Say yes to opportunities that challenge you, even if they make you nervous.
- ✓ Say no to things that don't fulfil you—though some tasks will always be less exciting.
- ✓ Never be the smartest person in the room – surround yourself with people you can learn from.
- ✓ Expand your skill set – developing new abilities can help you grow and open doors to unexpected opportunities.