

**Elliot Roth**  
**CEO and Founder, Spira Inc.**



Elliot Roth is the founder of Spira, Inc. a company that creates better-tasting spirulina as an ingredient for food companies. Spira has received awards from RebelBio, Lighthouse Labs, the World Food Programme, Halcyon Incubator, BeGreen, CommBeBiz, and National Science Foundation, and has presented at SXSW, Synbiobeta and Thought for Food. Elliot is a Kairos Fellow, a Seasteading Ambassador, and sits on the Virginia Governor's Council for Youth Entrepreneurship. Before Spira, Elliot graduated with a degree in biomedical engineering; he trained at the Stanford d.School as a University Innovation Fellow and has 10 years of synthetic biology experience and worked for 5 years as a product consultant. He previously founded 6 failed startups and 2 successful nonprofits including an open community science lab. He is incredibly motivated to solve physiological needs using simple biological design.

Spira uses CRISPR to make better-tasting food ingredients using microalgae. They license these custom strains to producers in the developing world who are able to grow a high-protein food source locally, then collect the finished ingredients to sell to large food companies. Spira's mission is to tackle the problems associated with malnutrition by enabling companies to use ingredients that are cost-effective, good for personal health, and great for the planet.