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Where trends are born, not followed

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TRENDS

MAGAZINE

28th

A SEAT AT THE GLOBAL TABLE

GCBL Granted Special
Consultative Status With
The United Nations

JOSE Z. RODRIGUEZ

Forging The Future Of AI

BRITNEY SPEARS

The Manufactured Virginity
And The Price Of Global Fame

THE WORLD'S 1st AI UNIVERSITY STUDENT

A Glimpse Into The Future Of
Learning, Thinking, And Evolving

COVER STORY

Nicole Wagner

ONE WOMAN, GLOBAL IMPACT



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*The word "trend" is not just a direction of development or a pattern of change—it is the driving force of the future, a power that shapes the world. And that is exactly why you are now in the magazine where **trends are born, not followed!***



About The Global Trends Magazine

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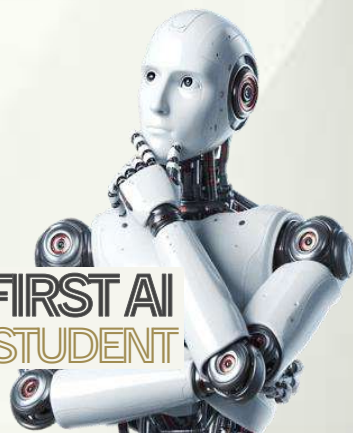
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President's Insight:

UN STATUS WON But Can We Still Win Peace?

Dejan Štancer,
GCBL President & GTM Chairman

After years of waiting and relentless effort, the Global Chamber of Business Leaders has reached a historic milestone — the United Nations has granted us special consultative status in the field of economic and social policy. This is not just an institutional achievement; it's a symbol of purpose, a recognition of our mission to champion unity in a world that seems determined to tear itself apart.

For over four decades, globalization reshaped the economic, political, and cultural landscape of our world. It opened markets, lifted nations, and interconnected humanity in ways our ancestors could never have imagined. But today, we stand at a dangerous crossroads. Trade wars rage, alliances fracture, and global institutions — once the backbone of international cooperation — are weakening. These are not isolated events. They are signs of a global system in distress, of foundations cracking under the pressure of rising nationalism, short-term greed, and political myopia.

Instead of repairing the house we all live in, too many nations are walling themselves off, scrambling for narrow advantage, blind to the long-term collapse unfolding before our eyes. And in doing so, they forget what history has taught us over and over again: no nation can face global challenges alone. Climate change will not stop at borders. Pandemics will not respect passports. Technological disruption will not be contained by tariffs or national walls.

To live in an age where human life seems to count for nothing is heartbreaking. Each day feels heavier, more uncertain. Society's unraveling is no longer a distant fear — it's happening right in front of us. And yet, so many still float in their bubbles, convinced this is just a passing phase, or worse, blind to the fact that anything has changed at all. But let me say this clearly: those who fail to see the new reality, who refuse to adapt to a world where change is the only constant, have already lost touch with the space and time they inhabit.

It's hard, I understand. It demands resilience, grit, and uncomfortable truths. Sometimes we have to whisper to ourselves: "Damn it, this is just how it is." But more than that, we must act. Running away from political and global responsibility is not neutral; it's a bullet to your own future, your own family, your own people. You wouldn't hand over your company to a fool, why would you hand over your country, your future, to one?

At the Global Chamber of Business Leaders, we reject the path of fear, division, and isolation. We stand for cooperation, innovation, and shared responsibility. Because we understand what too many leaders have forgotten: division leads to conflict; unity creates peace. The cost of fragmentation will be measured not only in lost GDP but in lost lives. The reward of unity will be measured not only in economic growth but in a safer, more stable, and more hopeful world.

We are not naive. We know we will not change the world overnight. But what we can do, and what we will do, is place our stone, every single day, into the mosaic of change. We will push forward, tirelessly, for ourselves, for you, and for the generations to come. The future is not something we inherit; it's something we build. And we can only build it united.

President's INSIGHT



Editor's Note:

REVOLUTION OR EVOLUTION? Or Nothing At All?

Nicole S. Farrell, GTM Chief-Editor

Is the world experiencing a revolution or evolution? Both words are thrown around with almost viral-esque popularity but when we consider their deepest meaning and what is witnessed on a daily basis, what fits into any of these categorical moulds?

We've supposedly gotten revolutionary with so many things. We have seen many things change from the versions we knew even fifteen years ago. Several industries and fields have been revolutionized in one way or the other - automotive, technology, medical, agriculture, manufacturing, transportation, etc. - but the other aspects of many of these businesses have not evolved. From work culture to operating processes and systems, customer service and experience, hiring practices, diversification and so on.

Now more than ever, we have a dazzling number of ways to achieve connectivity, visibility and information-sharing. There are over 100 social media sites and over 8.9 million apps available to the world's citizenry. But how are we truly using those platforms? The chasm of cyber ills has widened significantly with vile behavior, trickery, online bullying, gossipmongering, click bait traps, etc. Individuals are volatile keyboard warriors, joining post threads to shred reputations, annihilate confidence, evoke shock and force-feed ill-founded theories.

We have revolutionized access and interest-initiating concepts but as a people, we are stunted with evolving in a meaningful way. At times, it feels or seems as if when ten steps forward are taken, quick on the heels is a sighting of fifty steps back.

Are we truly progressing in the world or are we selling smoke and mirrors? Mirages? Systems, activities and services are being stamped with cool names and titles to signify relevance, display inclusion or create exclusivity but how much truth exists?

With every new invention, there comes a potential fall-out of merit. Inevitable? Perhaps. Everything is said to have both good and bad qualities.

The big question is: Have we evolved? Really evolved? Or have we been fooling ourselves? Have we truly evolved as people? Our thinking, our choices, our actions, our beliefs, our points of view. Are we operating at an optimal level of consciousness?

Maybe we're in an era where we think we have all of the answers but what we really have is actually a mountain of questions or sheer avoidance of accountability as we stick our heads in the sand.

How far along are we, really?

Editor's NOTE



A SEAT AT THE GLOBAL

GCBL Granted Special Consultation



TABLE

ve Status With the United Nations



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LEADERS**

SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS

A SEAT AT THE GLOBAL TABLE

GCBL Granted Special Consultative Status With The United Nations

Global Affairs, Global Trends Magazine, 28th Edition 2025

In a historic and strategically significant development, the United Nations General Assembly, during its regular session, approved the decision to grant the Global Chamber of Business Leaders (GCBL) Special Consultative Status with the UN in the field of economic and social policy. This designation marks a powerful recognition of GCBL's rising influence in global affairs and its growing role in shaping the future of international cooperation, sustainability, and economic diplomacy.

A Historic Milestone on the World Stage

In a landmark decision that reverberates across the global economic and diplomatic landscape, the United Nations General Assembly, during its regular session, officially approved the decision to grant the Global Chamber of Business Leaders (GCBL) special consultative status with the United Nations in the field of economic and social policy.

This rare recognition places GCBL among a select group of organizations empowered to contribute directly to international policy-making and development discourse within the UN framework.

Dejan Štancer, President of GCBL, responded to the news with visible pride and solemn responsibility:

"This is yet another historic milestone that the Global Chamber of Business Leaders has achieved in recent years. It is not only an extraordinary honor and the result of tireless effort and strategic vision—it also comes with great responsibility."

"For our team, this has never been a burden. We are fully aware of the state of the world today and that is why we consistently call for greater cooperation. Isolation leads to conflict, while collaboration leads to lasting peace—the kind of peace we all long for."

GCBL: A Global Force in Continuous Evolution

The GCBL of today is a dynamic, multinational



Dejan Štancer, President of the GCBL (Photo: GCBL)

organization with active representation in over two-thirds of the world's countries. With a mission rooted in global cooperation, peacebuilding, sustainable development, and economic diplomacy, GCBL has become a cornerstone institution in shaping the future of international business leadership.

Over the past decade, the Chamber has not only grown in reach and credibility but has also spearheaded or actively contributed to multiple transformative global coalitions. Among them is the influential **Global Coalition for Cooperation and Peace**, which mobilizes leaders across continents to promote unity over division and peace over polarization.

GCBL is also a driving member of the **Business Coalition for the Global Plastics Treaty**, a groundbreaking alliance supported by over 200 multinational companies. The coalition is guided by the respected **Ellen MacArthur Foundation** from New York, known for its leadership in the circular economy and sustainability space.

The UN's Expanding Role and GCBL's New Voice Within It

The United Nations remains the principal platform for multilateral diplomacy, shaping consensus and

“

This is yet another historic milestone that the Global Chamber of Business Leaders has achieved in recent years.

It is not only an extraordinary honor and the result of tireless effort and strategic vision, it also comes with great responsibility.

For our team, this has never been a burden. We are fully aware of the state of the world today and that is why we consistently call for greater cooperation. Isolation leads to conflict, while collaboration leads to lasting peace—the kind of peace we all long for.”

– Dejan Štancer



United Nations building, New York (Photo: Peakpx)

fostering international cooperation across humanitarian, environmental, security, and economic sectors. Amid growing geopolitical fragmentation and global challenges—from climate change to food security—the inclusion of credible, forward-thinking organizations like GCBL within the UN's consultative network is more than symbolic.

With its new status, GCBL gains the ability to attend UN meetings, submit policy statements, provide expert input, and directly advise UN bodies on matters of economic and social relevance. This inclusion provides GCBL's diverse global network of business leaders, diplomats, academics, and innovators a direct pipeline to shape decisions that impact billions.

A Win for Global Business, Diplomacy, and GCBL's Members

The consultative status solidifies GCBL's position not only as a business platform, but as a strategic voice in the shaping of future global systems. For GCBL members and partners, this recognition

brings immense opportunities—direct access to policy debates, increased influence in sustainable economic development strategies, and new pathways to foster public-private partnerships aligned with UN goals.

“

Over the past decade, the GCBL has not only grown in reach and credibility but has also spearheaded or actively contributed to multiple transformative global coalitions.”

This advancement also affirms that businesses are not just engines of profit, but engines of positive change—capable of leading in the realms of peace, equity, and sustainability.

Where Vision Turns Into Voice

One of GCBL's most powerful instruments for influence and outreach is **Global Trends Magazine**. As the organization's flagship publication, it is quickly becoming a global trendsetting voice in the world of business, leadership, sustainability, technology, and diplomacy.

With a fast-growing international readership, the magazine serves as a platform for deep analysis, exclusive interviews, thought leadership, and global insights. Distributed alongside some of the world's top-tier publications, **Global Trends Magazine** is becoming the go-to source for decision-makers who shape tomorrow.

The Road Ahead

With its new consultative status, GCBL enters a new era. It brings with it not only the weight of global business influence but also a deeply rooted sense of responsibility. As the world faces increasingly complex and interconnected crises, GCBL's presence within the United Nations opens a strategic window to advocate for pragmatic, forward-thinking, and peace-driven solutions.

As President Štancer aptly concluded, this milestone is a call to action. Not just for GCBL—but for all those who believe in collaboration over conflict, progress over stagnation, and a world where business and diplomacy walk hand in hand toward a better, fairer future.

Article **END**

The Cost of Our Division is WAR

COOPERATION - TRUST - PEACE

The Reward of Our Unity is PEACE



APPLY NOW

*"I joined the Global Coalition for Cooperation and Peace
cause it's not just a vision, it is a strategic force for unity
in a divided world. By turning dialogue into action,
it empowers global leaders to move from
competition to collaboration in building
a peaceful, sustainable future."*

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COOPERATION
AND PEACE**



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HOLDING SPACE FOR VISIONARY BIOTECH



CT
NOLOGY

Women in Aerospace

Outstanding Achievement Award

Presented to

Dr. Nicole Wagner

in recognition of your exceptional leadership,
creativity in expanding the boundaries of
space-based research, and generous support for
young women in aerospace.

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Her voice carries an energetic frequency that is inevitably infectious and her personable nature creates a warm exchange in spite of hassled moments. Her eyes tell the story of fulfilled grace and limitless gratitude.

Dr. Nicole Wagner, Ph.D., is the President and CEO of LambdaVision, a groundbreaking biotechnology company developing a protein-based artificial retina aimed at restoring vision in patients suffering from retinal degenerative diseases. Holding a Ph.D. in Molecular and Cell Biology from the University of Connecticut, she began her journey in science optimizing light-activated proteins for practical device use. It was this very research that planted the seed for LambdaVision.

The Unscripted Journey to Entrepreneurship

It's not a career path most envision while scribbling in coloring books or stacking toy blocks. So what catalyzed this path?

"Honestly, my entrepreneurial path was a lot of serendipity and being in the right place at the right time. As a sophomore in college, I joined the research group of Dr. Robert Birge at the University of Connecticut as a work-study student, literally to check a box on a Medical School application that I had completed academic research."

"My experience in Dr. Birge's laboratory was so much more than that. I loved the work we were doing on protein-based devices so much that I decided to stay and pursue a PhD in Biochemistry at UConn and ended up on the founding team that developed the artificial retina."

"Fast forward, I was at MassChallenge in Boston, which is an accelerator program for start-ups, and"



Nicole Wagner, NASA

“

I have had some very difficult days but I have had far more good days than bad.”

– Nicole Wagner

attended a presentation on the work that was happening on the International Space Station (ISS). I attended that presentation on a whim and ended up in a career that bridges both space and biotech. The path to entrepreneurship is often not linear but if you are up for the challenge, keep an open mind and work hard, it is amazing the places that life will take you.”

Gratitude as a Compass

“Gratitude. I am profoundly thankful for the diverse experiences I have had as an entrepreneur, each of which – whether positive or challenging – has shaped who I am today. I have had some very difficult days but I have had far more good days than bad.”

Biotech Demystified

Biotech might be a common buzzword, but its meaning is often misunderstood. Dr. Wagner translates its essence into terms anyone can grasp.

“Biotech, short for biotechnology, is a field where science and technology are used to work with living things – like cells, bacteria or plants – to solve problems or create useful products. In simple terms, it’s using science to help people through activities such as making medicines, growing better crops or developing cleaner energy.”

The Mission at LambdaVision

At the core of LambdaVision’s mission is the desire to restore sight and dignity.



Nicole Wagner

"LambdaVision is developing the first protein-based artificial retina to restore meaningful vision for patients who are blind or have lost significant sight due to advanced retinal degenerative diseases, including retinitis pigmentosa (RP) and age-related macular degeneration (AMD). Both RP and AMD lead to the breakdown and loss of cells in the retina. Our artificial retina solution is a small, simple, flexible implant that can be placed in the back of the eye using a simple surgical procedure. By using proteins similar to the visual pigment, rhodopsin, that is naturally found in our eyes, the artificial retina mimics the light-absorbing properties of human photoreceptors replacing the function of these damaged cells in the retinas of blind patients to restore high-resolution functional vision."

A New Frontier: Manufacturing in Space

Her work extends beyond Earth's atmosphere, taking biotech to orbit.

"LambdaVision's artificial retina is made up of about 200 super thin layers of proteins. It sounds like science fiction but the lack of gravity allows us uniformity among the layers that cannot be

“

We have flown nine missions to the ISS, advancing our space manufacturing process and hardware and can now produce our artificial retina at cost with unprecedented quality."

- Nicole Wagner

replicated in the same manner on Earth. Our artificial retina is one of the first technologies being evaluated on the ISS that has potential for clinical use and space offers a scalable solution for us. We have flown nine missions to the ISS, advancing our space manufacturing process and hardware and can now produce our artificial retina at cost with unprecedented quality."



Nicole Wagner, Yale Career Fair

“

I found great mentors and people that wanted to see me succeed.”

– Nicole Wagner

Lessons in Leadership and Capital

Securing over \$17M in funding, Wagner learned that entrepreneurship is best taught by doing.

“As a first-time Founder, one thing that I will share about building a company is that most lessons can’t be taught in a classroom. You can learn the fundamentals and the necessary elements required for building a start-up and forming a commercialization plan in school or through reading but most of what you learn is on the job. It requires getting out of the office, networking, cold calling, long nights and early mornings. When I set out on this journey years ago, I had no idea what to expect.

As a scientist, I needed to learn the language of business and build a team that could execute against a vision. I found great mentors and people that wanted to see me succeed. Much of our funding has been through grants and government contracts. For anyone that has written a grant, you know the review process can be brutal. You submit a proposal to an agency and then experts review that proposal and comment on your team, significance, approach, innovation and the resources available to support the technology.

In my first grant submission, I got comments in the team section that highlighted my inexperience as a CEO and questioned if I put together a team that could execute. I took the feedback quite hard but used it as fuel to ensure that I continuously demonstrated that I had the right people lined up to help if the proposal was funded. We have since secured over \$14M in grant and contract funding and a little over \$3M in investment capital, and I have built a team that knows how to execute.



Nicole Wagner, SXSW, 2022

Raising capital requires resilience and persistence but with the right team and plan, it is possible."

Looking Ahead: Commercialization and New Horizons

"We plan to start clinical trials in early 2028 and then move toward FDA approval of our artificial retina. Simultaneously, we will transition from the ISS to commercial low-Earth orbit destinations to support the scale-up of the commercial production of our artificial retina. There are opportunities here for strategic partnerships or a potential exit with a large ophthalmic company."

Blindness is an enormous market but the intellectual property that we have developed also has broad applicability in a range of future areas including space manufacturing, optical data storage, photovoltaics and optical pattern recognition."

Recognition and the Karman Fellowship

Dr. Wagner is a 2025 Karman Pioneer, an honor reflecting both innovation and leadership.

"As a Karman Pioneer, I am thrilled to join a prestigious cohort of space leaders, recognized

“

We plan to start clinical trials in early 2028 and then move toward FDA approval of our artificial retina."

– Nicole Wagner

for our significant contributions to the advancement of space exploration, research and innovation, as well as our commitment to shaping the future of the space ecosystem. This honor connects pioneers with a global community of visionary leaders, provides a platform to influence space policy, education and technological development, and opens doors to collaborative opportunities."

What Recognition Really Means

Her journey is paved with prestigious awards, each



Nicole Wagner, Lambda Vision

“

hard work does pay off and that success doesn't happen overnight.”

– Nicole Wagner

a reminder of the value of perseverance.

“What these accolades represent to me is dedication, persistence, resilience and sacrifice. These awards span years of hard work, and I am grateful for the recognition, though I would be lying if I said I don't experience imposter syndrome from time to time. I have been incredibly fortunate to have such a strong network of mentors, especially women, who have helped guide me in building a company.

Having been on the receiving end of such great advice and mentorship, I too, am passionate about giving back to others and helping future scientists achieve their vision and dream. These awards are a testament that audacious goals are worth pursuing, hard work does pay off and that success doesn't happen overnight.”

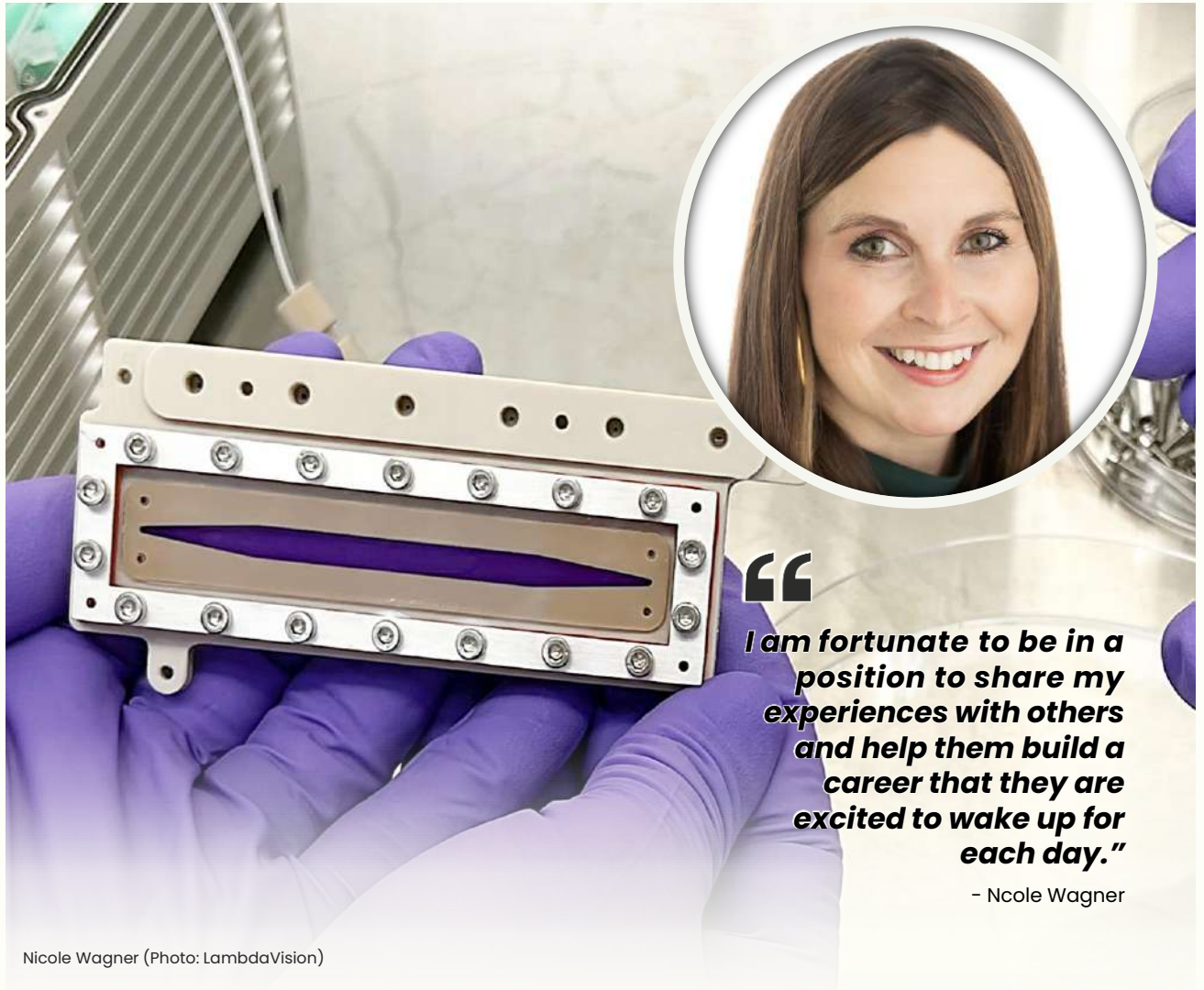
What Empowers Her Most

“As a CEO of a small business, I am deeply supported by our investors, Board of Directors dedicated to driving the strategic vision of LambdaVision. Throughout my career, one of the most rewarding aspects has been working alongside passionate, mission-driven individuals whose insight and encouragement have been instrumental in my leadership journey.

As I learn and grow, I am inspired by my mentors to make bold and pioneering decisions that have the potential to transform science and help people around the world.”

Advice for the Next Generation

With GCBL's new Next Generation Leadership



Nicole Wagner (Photo: LambdaVision)

initiative underway, her advice for aspiring leaders is simple and powerful.

"Listen more than you speak. If you don't ask, the answer is no. Failure is just a lesson learned."

Strategic Growth and Global Acceleration

LambdaVision's new partnership with List Labs marks a pivotal step.

"This partnership signifies an important milestone and the resulting manufacturing processes will help support the next phase of our nonclinical program and our efforts to improve production and scale. In parallel, we are starting to make key additions to our growing team to further strengthen our capabilities across science, operations and strategy."

The company is also part of the Seraphim Space Accelerator, a platform for space-tech leaders.

“

I am fortunate to be in a position to share my experiences with others and help them build a career that they are excited to wake up for each day."

- Nicole Wagner

"LambdaVision is honored to be part of the Seraphim Space Accelerator. The program, launched in 2018, has now supported more than 120 companies across 30+ countries and has played a vital role in building the infrastructure of the modern space economy. Collectively, alumni have raised over \$700M in private funding, underscoring the sector's momentum and growing appetite for space-enabled innovation. Ten start-ups were selected to participate in the Mission 15 Cohort. The program is centered around investor readiness with programming happening in the United Kingdom, San Francisco and Los Angeles."

Vision Without Limits

"The power of maintaining a positive outlook and viewing every challenge as an opportunity for growth and reflection. In my current role, I am fortunate to be in a position to share my experiences with others and help them build a career that they are excited to wake up for each day."

Article **END**



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Dr. Mario Mayrhofer is a general practitioner based in Klagenfurt, Austria, specializing in anthroposophic and palliative medicine. He holds Diplomas in Anthroposophic Medicine and Palliative Medicine from the Austrian Medical Association.

Dr. Mayrhofer practices at the Parsival Therapeutikum, located at Jaques Lemans Platz 1 (Domgasse 3) in Klagenfurt.

His clinic offers treatments for various conditions, including complementary integrative cancer therapy, mistletoe therapy, neurodermatitis, asthma, hay fever, susceptibility to infections, gastrointestinal and liver diseases, exhaustion and burnout, blood pressure disorders, spinal and joint diseases, thyroid disorders, and psychosomatic illnesses.

Patients have rated Dr. Mayrhofer positively, with an overall rating of 4.5 out of 5 on DocFinder. They commend his empathy, trustworthiness, and the quality of treatment provided.

Integrative Medicine:

Understanding The **MISTLETOE'S NATURE**

Dr. Mario Mayrhofer, General Practitioner, ÖÄK Diploma in Anthroposophic Medicine, ÖÄK Diploma in Palliative Medicine

Since antiquity, tracing back to the time of Hippocrates, mistletoe has been revered for its healing properties. Celtic druids even considered it the “universal healer”. Belonging to the Santalaceae family, three species are native to Europe: the deciduous mistletoe (growing only on broadleaf trees, excluding beech), the pine mistletoe (occasionally found on spruce) and the fir mistletoe. These plants can live for up to thirty years.

Rudolf Steiner's Discovery: Mistletoe As A Cancer Remedy

The use of mistletoe in Cancer therapy originates from the spiritual-scientific work of Rudolf Steiner in the early 20th century. In a meticulous process, the extract from mistletoe harvested in Summer is combined with that of Winter, creating a unique pharmaceutical composition. This fusion embodies the full vitality of the plant throughout the year, tailored to the needs of the ill human being. The complexity of the production method is also reflected in the excellent tolerance of high-dose preparations like Isorel.

Birds As Mistletoe's Winged Distributors

As mistletoe grows exclusively on trees, it relies on birds for seed dispersal. From November to April, species like the mistle thrush, blackcap and waxwing feed on its sticky berries. The undigested seeds are excreted and adhere to branches – the beginning of a new plant's journey.

A Deep Connection To The Host Tree

Once attached via a small adhesive disc, the mistletoe seed sends a root-like structure (haustorium) into the branch, penetrating the bark and connecting to the tree's vascular system. It takes three to four years for a seed to mature into a small flowering plant. Each year, it produces only one simple shoot with two rudimentary, cotyledon-like leaves, from which the next year's growth emerges.

A Unique Spherical Architecture

Unlike herbaceous plants, which orient toward the sun and root toward the earth's center, the mistletoe finds its spatial reference within itself, where it attaches to the tree. This self-oriented growth leads to the formation of a perfect sphere – a rare and singular geometry in the plant kingdom.

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Integrative Medicine:

Understanding The MISTLETOE'S NATURE

Flowering and Fruiting Beyond The Seasons

In its spherical form, the mistletoe emphasizes stem and leaf development, while rooting and flowering are restrained. Only in late Winter do small male and female flower clusters appear. The translucent, white berries - containing viable seeds - mature in Winter and must remain light-permeable, allowing the embryo to stay viable. This contrasts with most plants, whose seeds mature in darkness within opaque shells and soil.

Biological Inhibition Opposed To Tumor Growth

Many of the mistletoe's biological processes are inhibited or slowed. It blooms and bears fruit in the low light of Winter - a gesture in direct opposition to the accelerated, chaotic growth of tumor cells. In this polar relationship, one may sense why mistletoe holds therapeutic promise in oncology.

Pharmacological Polarities: Viscotoxins and Mistle Lectins

The mistletoe's medicinal compounds show striking spatial and temporal polarity:

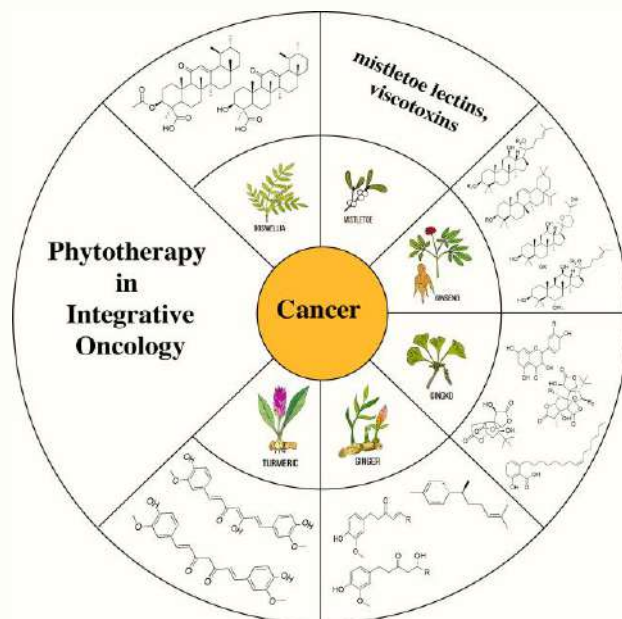
Viscotoxins, potent proteins that cause tumor cell necrosis, concentrate in the periphery, especially in new Summer growth.

Mistle lectins, which induce apoptosis (programmed cell death), are most abundant in older, central stems during Winter in the same regions where root activity is subdued.

A Singular Plant Being

Mistletoe stands as a botanical anomaly, almost a prototype of a higher plant form:

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- A root-like organ (haustorium) anchoring in living wood
- Intimate physiological exchange with the host tree
- Primitive yet rhythmic shoot and leaf development
- Spatial self-orientation, forming a sphere rather than aligning to gravity or sunlight
- Suppressed Winter flowering - emancipation from seasonal rhythms
- Transparent fruits with light-exposed, viable seeds
- Strong biological inhibition, presenting an image antithetical to the tumor cell

Future scientists, pharmacists and physicians will continue to explore the mysteries of the mistletoe.

With deeper understanding of its silent language, we may unlock further ways to support healing in a human-centered approach to Cancer.

Article **END**

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THE END OF THE GLO

Are We Entering A New Era

Geopolitics & Strategy, Global Trends Magazine, 28th Edition 2025



ND BAL DREAM

a Of Economic Nationalism?



THE END OF THE GLOBAL DREAM

Are We Entering A New Era Of Economic Nationalism?

Geopolitics & Strategy, Global Trends Magazine, 28th Edition 2025

For decades, globalization was not just an economic framework, it was an ideological force. Built on the promise that free trade, open markets, and international cooperation would lift billions out of poverty, foster peace, and interlink nations in a shared destiny, globalization shaped the modern world.

But today, that dream is fracturing

From the U.S.-China trade wars to Brexit, from pandemic-era supply chain collapses to surging tariffs and export controls, the signs are clear: nations are turning inward. Economic nationalism, once seen as a relic of the past, has roared back to center stage.

Countries are prioritizing self-sufficiency, reshoring industries, and erecting barriers — both literal and regulatory — against foreign competition.

The result is a fundamental challenge to the economic order of the past 40 years. We are not witnessing a temporary backlash against globalization; we are witnessing a systemic unraveling.

The Rise of Economic Nationalism

What's driving this retreat?

The forces are deep and multifaceted:

- *Populist disillusionment with elites who promised shared prosperity but delivered widening inequality;*
- *Geopolitical rivalries between major powers like the U.S., China, and Russia, where trade is now weaponized;*
- *Technological disruptions reshaping labor markets and creating new vulnerabilities in global supply chains;*

“

As the Global Chamber of Business Leaders puts it: division breeds conflict, while only cooperation brings peace — but today, division is winning.”



World under construction (Photo: Insead)

- *Environmental pressures pushing nations to secure local resources and decarbonize their economies independently.*

Economic nationalism is no longer the fringe position of protectionist politicians. It has become mainstream policy across democracies and autocracies alike. Countries are subsidizing domestic industries, imposing new restrictions on foreign investment, and openly questioning whether international economic cooperation serves their national interests.

The notion that open markets automatically create win-win outcomes has collapsed under the weight of reality. As the Global Chamber of Business Leaders puts it: division breeds conflict, while only cooperation brings peace — but today, division is winning.

The Decline of Multilateral Institutions

The institutions built to manage globalization — the World Trade Organization (WTO), the United Nations, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), and others — are under unprecedented strain.

The Bottom line:

More and more experts see Trump's policy towards Europe as an opportunity for the European Union to become a serious world power and no longer just an appendage of the United States, as it has been since the European Union was founded.

The fact is that the growing conflict between the United States and China after the introduction of Trump's tariffs is leading to an increasing polarization of the world, which may ultimately lead to a serious, even military, conflict between the superpowers. It is possible that Europe will be more necessary for the United States than vice versa, because with the latest political moves of the Trump Administration, the United States is increasingly and rapidly losing allies around the world.

The WTO's dispute resolution mechanism has effectively ground to a halt, crippled by U.S. obstruction. The United Nations struggles to act decisively on global crises, hampered by great-power gridlock. Regional bodies like the European Union face internal fractures, from Brexit to nationalist surges in member states.

Populist leaders on both the left and right claim these institutions no longer serve the public good but instead protect a detached global elite. Their criticism resonates because it is, at least partially, true: many multilateral frameworks were designed in a different era, and they have failed to keep pace with rising inequality, climate change, and technological disruption.

But tearing down these institutions without a clear alternative carries grave risks. Without shared rules, we may enter an era where might makes right, where economic power is the only currency, and where smaller nations are left with no recourse against predatory practices.

Fractured World — What Comes Next?

The unraveling of globalization does not mean the world will return to the 1930s, when protectionist spirals led to global depression and war — but it does mean the future will be defined by fragmentation.

Instead of one interconnected global economy, we are likely to see the rise of competing trade blocs and regional alliances. The U.S., EU, and allies may form one cluster; China, Russia, and parts of the Global South another. Emerging economies may pivot between these poles, extracting concessions but also facing heightened instability.

Supply chains will shorten and regionalize, making economies more resilient in some respects but less efficient overall. National security concerns will increasingly shape economic policy, especially around critical technologies like semiconductors, artificial intelligence, and green energy.

The key question is whether this fractured landscape can be managed peacefully or whether it will fuel escalation and conflict. Economic interdependence has long acted as a brake on outright war; its collapse could remove one of the last guardrails against geopolitical disaster.

Cooperation or Collapse?

There is no inevitability to the future. The collapse of globalization offers both dangers and opportunities. Nations can retreat into fearful isolationism — or they can forge new models of cooperation, based not just on profit but on sustainability, fairness, and mutual respect.



Donald J. Trump and Vladimir Putin (Photo: The Times)

The Global Chamber of Business Leaders has long advocated that the price of division is war, but the reward of unity is peace. This is not mere idealism; it is hard-nosed realism.

In an era where climate change, pandemics, technological disruption, and migration crises transcend borders, no country — no matter how powerful — can go it alone.

If global leaders, businesses, and institutions fail to rebuild the spirit of cooperation, we may find ourselves not in a new golden age of national self-reliance but in a dark era of fragmentation, instability, and conflict.

The stakes could not be higher. The world must choose — cooperate or collapse.

Article **END**

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FUTURE BUILDING TOMORROW

Engineering Innovation, Global Trends Magazine, 28th Edition 2025



HOMES **TOMORROW TODAY**



Engineering Innovation, Global Trends Magazine, 28th Edition 2025

The future of home construction is here, and it's built on innovation, sustainability, and speed. Imagine entire houses printed layer by layer, stacked like LEGO, assembled in days—not months. Picture prefabricated panels that slot together seamlessly, equipped with integrated solar roofs and smart-home systems from day one. The traditional construction model—full of on-site chaos, unpredictable timelines, rising costs—is evolving into a precise, automated process that's reshaping where and how we live.

3D-Printing Revolution

Advancements in large-format 3D-printing now allow builders to pour concrete or composite materials directly into molds that form walls, floors, and structural supports. This method dramatically cuts labor costs, material waste, and build time.

Compared to traditional methods, a 3D-printed home can be completed in a fraction of the time—creating custom designs with curves and geometric complexity without extra labor or cost.

Modular and Prefab Innovation

Prefab panels and modules arrive on-site ready to assemble. From exterior walls and insulation to

kitchen modules and bathroom pods, each component is precision-engineered and factory-tested before shipment. The result? A major reduction in weather delays, higher quality control, and homes that come together in weeks—complete with plumbing, electrics, and finishes.

Smart-Integrated Building Systems

The smart home revolution is being built into the walls. Prefab panels now incorporate wiring channels for sensors, smart switches, battery storage, and solar connectors. IoT integration is baked into the structure, enabling homeowners to control heating, energy use, and security from day one—no retrofitting or rewiring required.

Sustainability at the Core

“

**The future of home construction
is not a distant dream—it's
unfolding now.”**



Future construction Today (Photo: Alnet)

Green building practices are embedded in every step. 3D-printing cuts waste; factory-controlled processes reduce defects; and modular design allows for future reuse or relocation of parts. Homes now integrate solar panels, green roofs, rainwater harvesting, and passive design—bringing us closer to true net-zero and regenerative homes.

Affordability and Accessibility

With reduced labor and production costs, mass-customizable housing becomes financially accessible. Developers can replicate designs across locations or offer customization options. This opens doors to affordable housing in underserved regions and portfolios of sustainable homes for middle-income buyers.

Resilience and Rapid Deployment

Imagine emergency shelters, disaster relief housing, and pop-up residences built in days. The same technologies enable rapid deployment of resilient homes in flood zones, wildfire-threatened areas, and refugee settings. Built to spec, assembled fast, and designed for changing conditions.

A Vision Realized

The entire 3D-printed home, can be assembled layer by layer—walls rising automatically in a matter of hours, connecting effortlessly with tech-ready modular panels. This glimpse shows what's possible: smart homes built swiftly, blended with beauty, performance, and future-readiness.

The future of home construction is not a distant dream—it's unfolding now. From 3D-printing and modular panels to integrated smart systems and sustainable materials, this new era reshapes affordability, resilience, and livability.

For homeowners, builders, and policymakers, the message is clear: tomorrow's homes will be faster to build, smarter to live in, and kinder to the planet than anything that came before.

But perhaps the greatest shift is not in how we **build** — but in how we **belong**. The houses of the future won't merely shelter us; they will respond to us, learn from us, and evolve with us.

The question is no longer *can we build differently*, but *how boldly are we willing to redefine what it means to live?*

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JOSE Z. RODRIGUEZ

RGING THE TURE OF AI

Interview, Global Trends Magazine, 28th Edition 2025



— JOSE Z. RODRIGUEZ

FORGING THE FUTURE OF AI

If you are in a beautiful place where you enjoy sunrise, sunset, culture and people, then you are in Spain. Its beauty is impossible to forget or leave behind. Once seen, it stays with you the rest of your life." Jose Z. Rodriguez's description of his beloved Spain transports one into a mentally visual euphoria.

While it's easy to visualize the magnificent historical structures that line areas, the beautiful landscapes that adorn town and city centers, the warmth of the people and the mouthwatering delicacies that are synonymous with the country, on a figurative front, the last line of what he said can very well be likened to his own work in Artificial Intelligence (AI). After all, once organizations see the beauty in the merit of Artificial Intelligence and the capabilities of Rodriguez, it's difficult to revert to a business life sans the teachings and development.

Building a High-Performing, Human-Centered AI Future

Rodriguez is the Founder of and Chief AI Officer at Cybren AI Industries and he has had an illustrious career. He says, "On a personal note, AI represents

a chance for me to empower organizations, governments and communities to build a high-performing ecosystem to serve the entire world, applying in different ways that benefit humanity." He balances long-term strategic vision and pragmatic operational delivery. "I build top-performing, multidisciplinary teams that are focused on measurable results and capable of putting a whole organization in motion. I combine passion and resilience to convert long-term macro-trends into a tailored business strategy sorted with concrete action plans."

Fairness First: Redefining AI Policy for a Just World

Policy development, like with any other area of business, concerns AI as well. What is one aspect of AI Policy Development that he thinks should be



Jose Z. Rodriguez (Photo: JR)

the first to be addressed by a company? Answered Rodriguez, *"One of the most important aspects we need to shift from is techniques that interpret AI decisions that can explain their decisions by themselves as humans do, and create a completely unbiased AI system using adversarial*

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Many AI systems operate as 'black boxes', making it difficult for users to understand how their data is processed."

– Jose Z. Rodriguez

training, fairness constraints and counterfactual fairness.

AI bias and discrimination are major concerns, especially as AI systems increasingly influence hiring, policing, healthcare and financial decisions. Bias often arises when AI models are trained on historical data that reflects societal inequalities, leading to unfair outcomes. AI models often require extensive datasets, raising concerns about how personal information is gathered, stored and used. Many AI systems operate as 'black boxes', making it difficult for users to understand how their data is processed. AI-powered surveillance tools and predictive analytics can lead to excessive monitoring and potential misuse of personal data and AI models require significant computational power, contributing to energy consumption and environmental concerns."

Fear of the Future: Reframing AI and the Workforce

From his experiences with clients, what would he say has been the most common concern regarding AI? *"The biggest concern about AI is how it impacts jobs and the workforce. It is difficult for them to understand that AI will transform our lives and open up opportunities for professional growth by generating new needs for specialised resources. This is not about substituting; it is about complementing."*

Purpose in Progress: The Entrepreneurial Reward

Dealing with the intricacies of his field can be



In Madrid, Spain, with the Ambassador of Nepal

abundantly time-consuming but there has been rewarding experiences on this entrepreneurial path thus far for him. Said Rodriguez, *"Seeing the positive and transformational impact our work has on our society. The entrepreneurial journey of building something meaningful and watching it flourish is a testament to dedication and vision, found purpose in both impact and personal development, which makes it a powerful combination."*

Inspired to Lead, Driven to Empower

Leadership has been a significant role throughout his career and as is known, leadership styles in any field are critical to achieving success in team development. *"Motivating others is a powerful leadership approach. It fosters engagement, builds confidence and empowers people to reach their full potential. Great leaders inspire not just with words but through their actions, vision and genuine care for their teams. Teamwork makes the impossible to become reality."* According to him, his leadership style is *"shaped by my diverse experience in engineering, operations, services*

and business management."

Education, Impact, and Giving Back

His multifaceted expertise and passion for empowering teams and delivering solutions that improve customer experiences uniquely qualifies him to lead the company's AI initiatives. His advisory role also ensures that strategic initiatives align with product direction set by the CTO and go-to-market goals set by the CRO. His personal nature sees him as one who likes to contribute to the upliftment and educating of others and towards future progress. As such, he has participated in community initiatives. He spoke about his involvement. *"R&D teams from universities play a crucial role in shaping AI research, innovation and ethical frameworks. I've helped countless students, educators and researchers by providing insights, assisting with academic projects and brainstorming ideas related to AI's societal impact."*

AI for Peace: Global Collaboration



Jose Z. Rodriguez supporting the Spanish Healthcare sector

Through Innovation

He was introduced to the Global Coalition of Cooperation and Peace (GCCP) initiative of the Global Chamber of Business Leaders (GCBL), which incidentally, was recently informed of being granted Special Consultative Status within the United Nations (UN). The GCBL also owns and captains the Global Trends Magazine. With their alignment to the values of the UN, the GCCP - a clarion call for peace, harmony, collaboration and innovation among world leaders and countries - is a complementary thrust.

Asked how the GCCP can incorporate AI to connect with others for peace and sustainable cooperation, generally speaking, he replied, *"AI can be a powerful tool for fostering peace and sustainable cooperation in many ways like conflict resolution, cross-cultural communication, global collaboration, warning systems and decision-making systems."*

He also mentioned his recent meeting with GCBL's President, Dejan Štancer. *"We discussed a shared vision for using AI as a tool for global cooperation. The discussions with President Štancer were filled with great energy and optimism."*

“

AI can be a powerful tool for fostering peace and sustainable cooperation."

– Jose Z. Rodriguez

It's clear that with his leadership, GCBL is positioning itself as a global unifier and catalyst for innovation. We see incredible potential in aligning GCBL's mission with AI to empower global peace and sustainable progress."

Recognition Earned: A Life in AI Comes Full Circle



Jose Z. Rodriguez (Photo: JR)

Rodriguez was appointed by Constellation Research's Artificial Intelligence 150 (AI150) 2024-2025, which concerns an elite list of the top global executives leading AI transformation efforts across the globe. The AI150 are pioneers, practitioners and policy shapers who are inspiring others to accelerate AI transformation and address the key business and technology issues of this generation. What does this mean to him looking back on his career?

"That's the essence of perseverance and self-belief. The toughest moments often come when others don't see your vision but staying committed to your approach and trusting your instincts is what sets true leaders apart. Success isn't always immediate but when the results start to show, the recognition follows naturally."

Being recognized among the top global executives leading AI transformation is a profound honor. Looking back on my career, this journey has been marked by relentless curiosity, bold decisions and a commitment to harnessing AI for positive change. From pioneering strategic initiatives to fostering innovation, it's been incredibly rewarding to witness the impact on industries and communities. This recognition is a

testament to the collective efforts of my team and peers and it fuels my passion to keep pushing boundaries and ensuring AI serves humanity responsibly."

Motivation: The Missing Piece in Modern Leadership

Knowing that being a leader has its expectations, he addressed one major thing that is lacking in the scope of leadership these days. *"Motivation is certainly a powerful force in leadership. A leader's*

“

It isn't just about pushing people forward, it's about understanding what drives them individually."

– Jose Z. Rodriguez

ability to inspire and drive their team forward often stems from their own passion and commitment. When leaders are highly motivated, they set the tone for their teams, creating an environment of purpose, resilience and enthusiasm. Great leaders know that motivation isn't a 'one size fits all' approach; it takes strategy, empathy and consistency. It isn't just about pushing people forward, it's about understanding what drives them individually. Some team members thrive on challenges, others need encouragement and some are motivated by a strong sense of purpose.

Efficient management consists in showing qualified people how to do the work of expert people, analysing the potential of each person and empowering them to achieve their objectives. Remember that each individual has their own learning pattern. When you are able to identify it, you have discovered their strengths."

Leading Through Generations: Adapting with Agility

As he assessed generational influences in the workplace, he agreed that the average company



General Military Academy of Zaragoza, talking about how to implement AI in the defense and military sector.

or organization now has generations spanning Boomers, Gen X, Millennials and Gen Z. It's no longer a case of them having employed only Boomers and Gen X employees. Judging from his wealth of experience in leadership positions, would he say that much more adapting has had to be done as generations changed?

"Leaders today must continually adapt to evolving workplace dynamics as different generations bring new values and expectations. Millennials and Gen Z emphasize technology, work-life balance and purpose-driven careers, whereas previous generations valued stability, hierarchy and long-term employment."

"As digital natives, younger employees expect instant communication, flexibility and efficiency, pushing leadership toward remote work, digital collaboration and innovation. The ability to navigate these generational differences while maintaining motivation and engagement is key to effective leadership today. Adaptability remains the defining trait of successful leaders."

Scaling the Future: From Lockheed to Quantum Logic

He once had significant periods of tenure as Chief AI Officer at P3 Aeronautics and Chief AI Officer at Lockheed Martin Europe. He has managed a global team of over 300 innovators, pioneering data

insights and solidifying P3's status as the world's premier infrastructure provider across AI, data centers, cloud and the edge. He has also been a part of the TATA Consultancy Services and PWC teams, broadening the scope of Gen AI, Quantum Computing, robotics, automation and active learning (active inference, reinforcement learning and bayesian inference) initiatives.

AI as Strategy, Not Sci-Fi

As he contemplated the train on which AI is moving, he also considered that over 75% of companies are using or exploring the use of AI in their businesses. Also, over 80% of companies have declared that incorporating AI into their future plans is of high priority. What does this indicate to him?

"This is a clear picture that AI is no longer just a futuristic idea. It's a fundamental part of business strategy with its potential to enhance efficiency, streamline operations and unlock new levels of innovation. It also highlights a major shift in workforce dynamics, reskilling employees, adapting workflows and ensuring ethical implementations."

If You Could Learn One Thing... Learn to Infer

If he could do a masterclass, what is one key area

“

Quantum Active Inference and Bayesian Inference. Active Inference models are a broader framework that extends Bayesian Inference to explain how agents make decisions and act in the world.”

– Jose Z. Rodriguez



Jose Z. Rodriguez (Photo: JR)

he would focus on that he believes is needed by professionals?

“Quantum Active Inference and Bayesian Inference. Active Inference models are a broader framework that extends Bayesian Inference to explain how agents make decisions and act in the world. It views decision-making and action selection as inference problems, aiming to minimize a quantity called ‘expected free energy’.

Active Inference agents can maintain internal models of the world and their own actions to predict future states and minimize prediction errors (free energy), which is related to the surprise of prediction error associated with

different actions and their potential outcomes.”

Creativity Is Connecting Dots

As Rodriquez intimated thoughts that remain foremost in his mind, he stated, *“Connecting the dots. Creativity is an exercise of connecting the dots, creating a web of knowledge and seeing what relates to what.*

Learning things regardless of practical benefit at the moment, certain information may seem useless but over time, they compound and can add to your web of knowledge.”

Article **END**

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An underwater photograph of a diver in a blue and white wetsuit, holding a large, clear cylindrical object. A shark is visible in the background, swimming towards the diver. Bubbles are rising from the diver's equipment.

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SHARKS ARE OUR ENEMY

Nature Science, Global Trends Magazine, 27th Edition 2025



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SHARKS Are NOT The Enemy

Why We're Wrong About the Ocean's Apex Predator

Shark Science, Global Trends Magazine, 28th Edition 2025

Few creatures evoke as much fear as the shark. The silhouette of a dorsal fin cutting through water has become a universal symbol of danger. Decades of Hollywood imagery—from *Jaws* to *The Shallows*—have embedded the idea of sharks as mindless killers into the global psyche.

Sharks and Human Fear

Sharks have long been seen as terrifying creatures. The sight of a fin cutting through the water instantly brings to mind scenes from movies like *Jaws* and *Deep Blue Sea*. Hollywood has shaped our image of sharks as violent killers waiting for the next swimmer to attack. But this idea is far from the truth.

What Science Tells Us

A new study shows that most shark bites are not acts of aggression. Many are actually defensive reactions when sharks feel threatened. In French Polynesia, researchers looked at 74 bite cases between 2009 and 2023 and compared them with global data going back to 1863. They found that

many bites happened because people got too close, acted unpredictably, or interfered with the sharks.

The Real Risk Is Very Low

Statistics prove that shark bites are extremely rare. In 2024, there were only 47 unprovoked attacks worldwide. That's lower than the 10-year average of 70. Most bites are not fatal. In 2022, there were just 5 shark-related deaths worldwide. You're more likely to be struck by lightning or hurt by a falling vending machine than bitten by a shark.

The Role of Film and Media

Movies like *Jaws* have had a huge impact on how we see sharks. They turned these animals into

monsters. This “Jaws effect” has led to fear, shark culling, and less support for conservation. Many people still believe sharks are out to get them, even though science proves otherwise.

The Cost to Our Oceans

Sharks are vital to healthy oceans. As top predators, they keep marine life in balance. Fear and overfishing have caused some shark populations to fall by more than 90% in just a few decades. Without sharks, ocean ecosystems break down. Coral reefs suffer. Fish populations explode or collapse. In trying to protect ourselves from a false threat, we are damaging the sea.

Why Sharks Bite

Most shark bites happen because of mistaken identity. In murky water, a person might look like a seal or fish. Sharks sometimes bite to investigate, then swim away once they realize it's not food. Humans are not their natural prey. We are too bony, not fatty enough, and not what they are built to hunt.

How to Stay Safe

There are easy ways to avoid negative encounters with sharks. Don't swim at dawn, dusk, or night. Stay in groups. Don't wear shiny jewelry. Avoid

areas where people are fishing or birds are diving. Never try to touch or feed a shark. And most importantly—learn about their behavior instead of fearing it.

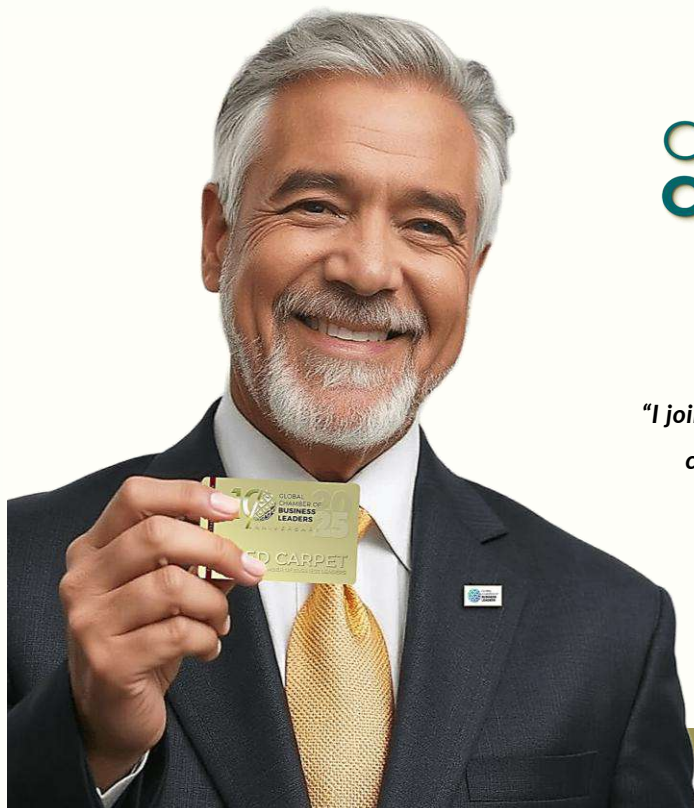
A New Perspective on an Ancient Predator

The ocean is a wild and ancient place. Sharks have been here for over 400 million years. They have survived mass extinctions and climate shifts. They don't hunt us. In fact, they mostly try to avoid us. If we take the time to understand them, we can protect ourselves and protect them too.

Time for Coexistence

Sharks are not enemies. They are essential creatures playing a key role in the health of our planet. If we continue to fear and kill them based on myths, we risk destroying ocean life. But if we choose knowledge, respect, and science, we can share the sea with them—and benefit from their presence.

Article **END**



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NEW OF POWER

Geopolitics & Strategy, Global Trends Magazine, 28th Edition 2025



AXIS



NEW AXIS OF POWER

Middle East–Asia Alliances Are Redrawing The Global Map

Geopolitics & Strategy, Global Trends Magazine, 28th Edition 2025

In the complex web of 21st-century geopolitics, a silent yet seismic shift is unfolding. While headlines continue to focus on the West's internal politics and the China–U.S. rivalry, an entirely new power matrix is emerging — one forged by the growing strategic, economic, and security ties between the Middle East and Asia. This burgeoning alliance is not just redefining regional influence; it's redrawing the very architecture of the global order.

The Energy Diplomacy That Changed Everything

At the heart of this new axis lies energy. In 2023, China overtook the European Union as the largest importer of oil from the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) countries. The UAE and Saudi Arabia are now more tightly aligned with Beijing than with Washington in key trade areas.

Meanwhile, India, the world's third-largest energy consumer, has ramped up its imports of discounted Russian and Iranian oil — despite Western sanctions — while forging strategic energy deals with the Gulf.

The outcome? The petrodollar's dominance is

being questioned. China and the UAE executed their first LNG trade in yuan in early 2024, and Saudi Arabia is reportedly in talks to price some of its oil in currencies other than the U.S. dollar.

This signals not just a realignment of economic preferences, but the potential emergence of a multi-currency global oil trade — a revolutionary shift in the global financial system.

Infrastructure, Investment, and Influence

Beyond energy, the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) has redefined infrastructure diplomacy in the Middle East. Over \$300 billion in Chinese

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China and the UAE executed their first LNG trade in yuan in early 2024, and Saudi Arabia is reportedly in talks to price some of its oil in currencies other than the U.S. dollar.”

infrastructure projects are now operational or underway across the region — from Egypt’s new administrative capital to industrial hubs in the UAE and port investments in Oman. At the same time, Gulf sovereign wealth funds are pouring billions into Asian tech firms, semiconductor companies, and AI startups.

This mutual investment has become a form of soft power — intertwining the futures of Asia and the Middle East. The India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), backed by the U.S., EU, and G20, was envisioned as a counter to BRI — but with Israel’s conflict, the project has stalled. Meanwhile, the China-GCC Free Trade Agreement is nearing conclusion and promises to reshape trade dynamics across the Eastern Hemisphere.

Military Ties and Strategic Autonomy

Security dynamics are evolving too. In March 2024, Saudi Arabia joined the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) as a dialogue partner, strengthening its military diplomacy with China and Russia. UAE pilots have trained alongside

The Rise of Middle East-Asia Alliances:

The Middle East-Asia alliances are rapidly reshaping the global landscape, blending Gulf energy wealth and investment power with Asia’s technological innovation, industrial strength, and massive markets.

This emerging axis is more than just a revival of the ancient Silk Road — it’s a deliberate, strategic realignment that is challenging Western dominance, opening new trade corridors, boosting regional influence, and setting the stage for a multipolar world order.

Chinese counterparts, while Turkey is brokering defense cooperation deals with South Korea, Pakistan, and even China.

This trend reflects a growing desire among Middle Eastern states to diversify their security options — no longer placing all bets on Washington. As the

U.S. recalibrates its global commitments and NATO faces internal fragmentation, Asian military tech and partnerships are filling the vacuum.

Religion, Culture, and the New Soft Power Equation

A quieter but equally potent dynamic is the cultural cross-pollination between these regions. The growing influx of Asian tourists, business professionals, and students to the Middle East — and vice versa — is reshaping the urban cultures of cities like Dubai, Doha, and Riyadh. Meanwhile, Asian pop culture, from Korean dramas to Indian cinema, has found a loyal audience in Gulf countries.

Moreover, Saudi Arabia and the UAE have launched Islamic finance initiatives in partnership with Malaysian and Indonesian institutions, reinforcing both economic ties and religious soft power networks across Asia.

A Shift Too Big to Ignore

What we are witnessing is the formation of an informal yet powerful new axis — driven not by ideology but by pragmatism, economics, and shared ambition. The Middle East is no longer a passive player in great-power politics, and Asia is no longer a monolith under Beijing’s control. Together, these regions are forging a new global narrative — one that may eventually bypass Western institutions altogether.

As these alliances deepen, the world must reckon with a multipolar future where influence is decentralized, and the East writes more of the world’s geopolitical script. For global business leaders and policymakers alike, understanding this shift isn’t optional — it’s imperative.



Middle East (Photo: Pexels)

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Middle East (Photo: illustrated)



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Launch Lessons:

BUILDING BOLD IDEAS Into Business Foundations

Shelli Brunswick,
Ambassador of the GCBL, GTM Columnist

Every breakthrough begins with uncertainty. The early days of entrepreneurship are equal parts vision and volatility, filled with big ideas, limited resources and the constant pressure to prove that your concept is more than a dream.

But seasoned Founders know this truth: every business is about people, not just the ones who buy your product but the ones who help build it – your team, mentors and early believers. Innovation is never a solo act; disruption doesn't happen in isolation.

Lay The Groundwork With Confidence and Curiosity

Before lift-off, Founders must do the quiet work: understanding the market, building a mission-driven team and refining a product that solves a real-world challenge. These early-stage decisions may not be flashy but they form the foundation between ideas that fizzle and those that fly.

Sirin Orbital Systems AG, based in Switzerland, exemplifies this mindset. Sirin aims to deliver clean, continuous energy from space to Earth by focusing on breakthrough technologies, such as space-based solar power. CEO Dr. Matteo Madi said, "The key is to innovate mindfully." That clarity earned Sirin the 2024 "Leading Innovation In Space" award during World Space Week, proving that purpose-driven innovation, built on values, leads to scalable, lasting impact.

Shelli Brunswick is a globally recognized space leader, futurist and the CEO of SB Global LLC.

With 35 years of experience spanning the U.S. Air Force and international space policy, she serves as a dynamic bridge between the space ecosystem and the general public.

An award-winning author, keynote speaker and strategic advisor, Shelli empowers leaders to harness space innovation for economic growth and global progress, driving meaningful impact across commercial, government and academic sectors worldwide.



Uncertainty Creates Opportunity

Every industry is shaped by change and every entrepreneur faces doubt. However, those who adapt quickly during disruption can define new categories and drive innovation.

Canadian company, GHGSat, recognized the urgent need for high-resolution emissions data. Their satellites detected methane leaks during a 2022 Nord Stream pipeline incident, demonstrating the

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Launch Lessons:

BUILDING BOLD IDEAS Into Business Foundations

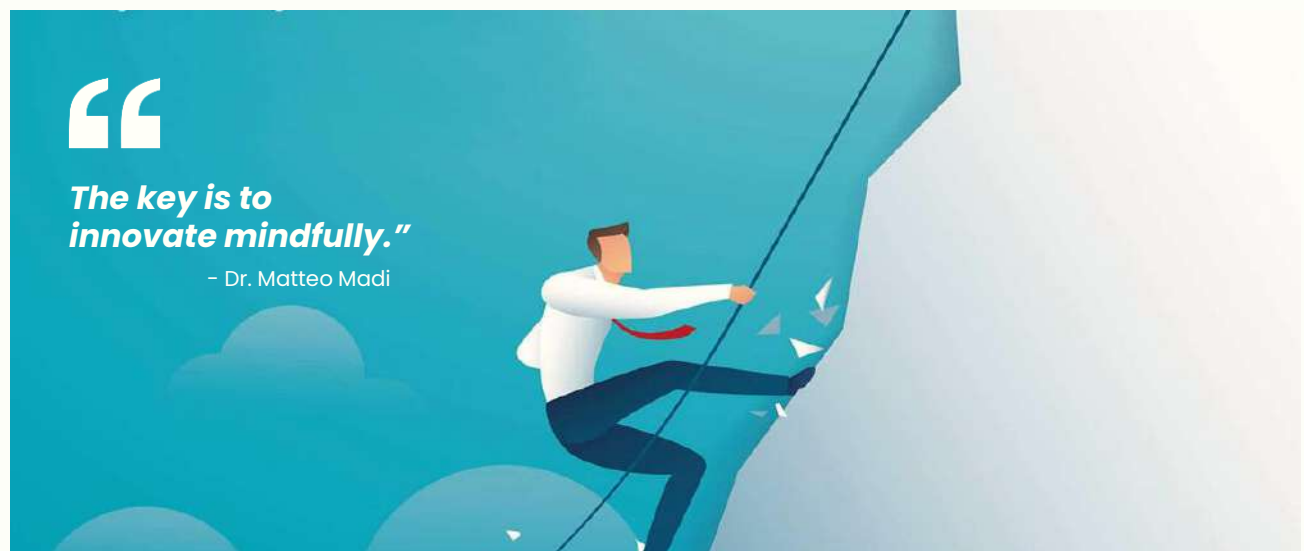
Mari Anne Snow, CEO and Co-Founder of Eascra Biotech, exemplifies this mindset. Transitioning from digital strategy into biotech, she envisioned smart, DNA-inspired nanostructures capable of delivering RNA therapeutics to hard-to-reach areas like cartilage, kidneys and tumors. Her bold leap attracted collaborators.

Eascra is the first company to produce nanoparticles in space, leveraging microgravity aboard the International Space Station to advance medicine on Earth. Snow's leadership transformed a visionary idea into tangible impacts.

real-time power of space-based monitoring. CEO Stéphane Germain has emphasized that while rocket science and AI are essential, the true challenge lies in driving human behavior and cultural change. GHGSat's story proves how bold thinking, timely execution and people-focused leadership can transform global challenges into sustainable business opportunities.

Believe In The Future – Even When Others Don't

Entrepreneurship requires a steadfast belief in the



What unites these Founders isn't their industry; it's their mindset. They don't wait for permission. They start before the world is ready and keep going when it gets tough.

If you're beginning, know this: the early stage isn't a limitation – it's your launchpad. The choices you make now shape your trajectory.

Build boldly. Surround yourself with people who believe. And never underestimate the power of a clear vision – especially when no-one else sees it yet. That's how breakthroughs begin.

unseen. That conviction fuels late nights, powers through rejection and steers Founders through inevitable pivots. However, belief alone isn't enough; Founders must communicate their vision so clearly that others are compelled to join them.

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FINAL COUNTDOWN

The End of Earth

Environmental Crisis, Global Trends Magazine, 28th Edition 2025



COUNTDOWN

Earth's Oxygen

The
FINAL COUNTDOWN
The End of Earth's Oxygen

Environmental Crisis, Global Trends Magazine, 28th Edition 2025

For billions of years, Earth has been a rare oasis in the vastness of space — a blue planet teeming with oxygen and complex life. But scientists now warn this paradise has an expiration date. Recent groundbreaking research by scientists from Toho University in Japan and the Georgia Institute of Technology in the U.S. has delivered a sobering forecast: within roughly a billion years, Earth's atmosphere will lose its precious oxygen, rendering the planet uninhabitable for most life as we know it.

This is not science fiction or apocalyptic fantasy, it's a fact grounded in planetary science, atmospheric chemistry, and astrophysics.

Through advanced supercomputer modeling, researchers have traced the precise chain of events that will eventually strip Earth of its breathable atmosphere, offering us not only a glimpse into the distant future but also a critical reflection on the fragility of life today.

The Mechanism of Earth's Suffocation

At the heart of this coming crisis is the predictable evolution of our Sun. Like all stars, the Sun is a nuclear fusion engine. As it ages, it burns hydrogen

into helium, increasing its core density and boosting its luminosity. Scientists estimate that the Sun's brightness increases by about 10% every billion years. That might sound modest, but for Earth, it's catastrophic.

Increased solar output raises global temperatures, speeding up the evaporation of water from oceans and amplifying the greenhouse effect by injecting more water vapor — a powerful greenhouse gas — into the atmosphere.

Simultaneously, the chemical weathering of rocks accelerates, pulling carbon dioxide (CO₂) from the atmosphere faster than volcanic activity can replenish it. With CO₂ levels falling, plants will no longer be able to perform photosynthesis, the process that has been producing oxygen for over 2.4 billion years.



Environmental Crisis (Photo: Illustrated)

Once photosynthesis shuts down, the clock starts ticking. Oxygen levels will plummet, and within just a few million years — a blink of an eye on geological timescales — Earth's atmosphere will revert to conditions last seen in the Archaean Eon, over 2.5 billion years ago, when life was dominated by anaerobic microorganisms and complex life was impossible.

The End of Complex Life

The consequences of oxygen loss will be devastating. Most animals, including humans, rely on oxygen for cellular respiration. Without it, they cannot survive. But the destruction won't stop there. As oxygen vanishes, the ozone layer will collapse, exposing the planet's surface to lethal ultraviolet radiation from the Sun.

Before this tipping point, the biosphere will already be in deep crisis. With CO₂ levels too low, plants will die off, breaking the food chains and collapsing ecosystems across the globe.

The oceans, today the last refuge of biodiversity, will become toxic as well. Earth will transform into a barren, sterile world, dominated by hardy microbes capable of surviving in methane-rich, oxygen-poor conditions.

“

As oxygen vanishes, the ozone layer will collapse, exposing the planet's surface to lethal ultraviolet radiation from the Sun.”

According to the models, the timeline is clear: around one billion years from now, CO₂ levels will drop below the threshold for photosynthesis, triggering the oxygen decline.

Within a few million years, oxygen will vanish almost entirely, and methane will take over the atmosphere. By 1.2 billion years from today, Earth will resemble its ancient past — hot, desolate, and hostile to complex life.

“

The massive release of greenhouse gases, deforestation, and pollution we are causing today is accelerating planetary changes at unprecedented speeds.”



How long? (Photo: Scott S.)

Lessons for the Present

It's tempting to dismiss this scenario as a distant concern. After all, humanity won't be around in a billion years — or will we? But the long-term predictions carry urgent messages for today. Earth's habitability is delicate. Its climate, atmosphere, and biosphere exist in a finely tuned balance that can be disrupted not only by cosmic processes but also by human activity.

Unlike the billion-year solar evolution, anthropogenic climate change unfolds over decades, not millennia. The massive release of greenhouse gases, deforestation, and pollution we

are causing today is accelerating planetary changes at unprecedented speeds, threatening to destabilize the very systems that made advanced life possible.

Understanding Earth's finite future also forces humanity to think beyond its home planet. If we are to survive long-term, we must expand beyond Earth. NASA, the European Space Agency (ESA), and private companies like SpaceX are already working on the technologies that could one day allow humans to settle on other planets or moons. But to reach that stage, we must first ensure that

civilization survives the challenges of the next few centuries. Space exploration isn't just scientific curiosity — it's a strategic imperative.

A Planetary Wake-Up Call

Earth's history is punctuated by mass extinctions. The Great Oxidation Event wiped out most anaerobic life 2.4 billion years ago. The Permian-Triassic extinction 252 million years ago killed 96% of marine species. The asteroid impact 66 million years ago ended the reign of the dinosaurs.

But the coming oxygen loss is unique: it will be driven by the very engine of life itself — the Sun.

Supercomputer models predicting the fall of Earth's oxygen aren't just theoretical exercises. They serve as a cosmic wake-up call. We are living in an extraordinary window of time — a rare moment when Earth is rich in oxygen, protected by ozone, and full of life. This window will not last forever.

To secure the future of humanity, we must cherish and safeguard the biosphere that sustains us. We must plan boldly for interplanetary expansion, not as a vanity project, but as a survival strategy. And above all, we must recognize our cosmic fragility. The future of life is not guaranteed — it depends on the choices we make today.

Global Trends Magazine will continue to explore the grand scientific, technological, and societal shifts shaping humanity's path forward. Stay with us as we uncover the insights, strategies, and breakthroughs that will define the next century — and beyond.

Article **END**





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The Currency Of Change:

WOMEN & The Workplace Glass Ceiling

Dr. Graciela De Oto, GCBL Senior Advisor for Human Rights

A looming enigma clouds professional aspirations - the elusive glass ceiling. Despite strides over time, women encounter hurdles on their ascension trajectory. The metaphorical glass ceiling persists, albeit in subtler forms, impeding the rise of talented and zealous women. Surmounting these barriers isn't solely the onus of women; workspaces must actively cultivate an atmosphere conducive to their evolution.

Fear not, for the barrier-breaking, a concoction of resolve and opportunity, unveils viable avenues to dismantle this imperceptible blockade. Here, we delve into the glass ceiling's enigmatic realm, armed with notions and tactics applicable in workspaces to nurture inclusivity and camaraderie.

The term "Glass Ceiling" is an intangible barricade obstructing women's rise to power. It's a discriminatory force impeding capable women, now extending its grasp to minorities. Obstacles vary - pay disparities, limited growth paths, biased recruitment and promotion methods. This invisible barrier lingers, entwined with complex societal norms. The glass ceiling's stubborn endurance perplexes many. McKinsey's recent report unveils a stark reality: women in leadership roles are fleeing companies at unprecedented rates.

The report identifies three key players in this crisis. Firstly, female leaders battle more obstacles than their male counterparts, creating a tumultuous journey for advancement. Secondly, female managers find themselves overburdened and underappreciated, amplifying their desire for affirming corporate cultures. Lastly, the labyrinth of systemic biases, societal norms and institutional frameworks intertwine, obstructing the progress of marginalized groups, especially women and minorities. Despite strides made over time, ingrained stereotypes and hidden biases persist, dictating hiring and promotion decisions that favor conventional leadership archetypes.

Breaking the glass ceiling isn't solely about tech fixes; it demands a shift in organizational culture. Fostering inclusive environments where diversity flourishes is key. This journey needs both women's drive and workplace support.

Embracing the call for diversity and inclusion is just the start. True change demands a fierce dedication to dismantling power norms and honoring all voices equally. The journey through this complex maze requires bold steps: weaving inclusive hiring and advancement paths, guaranteeing fair opportunities for growth and fostering a welcoming community that values every unique voice. By confronting these barriers headfirst, we pave the way for a landscape where talent thrives, breaking free from gender constraints and crafting a workforce that mirrors the rich spectrum of humanity.

Dr. Graciela De Oto is a global leader and advocate for women's empowerment, serving as Regional President for South America at the ABWCI and Senior Advisor at the Global Chamber of Business Leaders.

She is also President of the Suma Veritas Foundation, promoting entrepreneurship and gender equality.

An accomplished author and speaker, Dr. De Oto holds advanced Degrees in Marketing and Corporate Management. She has received numerous awards, including the Medal of Peace, for her contributions to business leadership and sustainable development.

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The background of the cover features a blurred city street with buildings and warm lighting. On the right side, there is a large, golden bull's head sculpture, a symbol often associated with financial markets. In the foreground, several gold coins are scattered across a dark surface.

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FAMILY OFFICES 2025

Finance & Innovation, Global Trends Magazine, 28th Edition 2025





FAMILY OFFICES

Silent Giants Shaping Markets, Policy and Global Philanthropy

Finance & Innovation, Global Trends Magazine, 28th Edition 2025

In the opaque corridors of global finance, few entities wield as much quiet influence as family offices. Originally conceived to manage the personal wealth of ultra-high-net-worth individuals and families, family offices have evolved into powerful engines of capital, strategy, and social impact.

As of 2025, these entities—once discreet and inward-looking—are stepping out of the shadows, shaping entire industries, influencing public policy, and becoming driving forces behind philanthropy and innovation.

The Numbers Behind the Power

By the end of 2024, family offices worldwide controlled an estimated **\$10.5 trillion in assets**, according to Campden Wealth. That's more than the GDP of Japan. The number of single-family offices globally has grown to over **12,000**, with **North America and Europe** housing the majority, but **Asia-Pacific** and the **Middle East** emerging as the fastest-growing hubs.

What makes family offices uniquely powerful is

their **freedom**—unlike institutional investors or public funds, they answer to no shareholders, face limited regulation, and often enjoy total flexibility in investment strategy and risk appetite.

From Stewards of Wealth to Architects of Impact

While wealth preservation remains a core objective, today's family offices are **impact-driven and future-focused**. More than 60% now have dedicated ESG investment frameworks. They're channeling billions into **renewable energy, climate tech, healthcare innovation, and education reform**, not out of altruism alone, but because they view these sectors as the most promising and resilient in a volatile world.

This transition from traditional asset allocation to **purposeful investment** marks a generational shift. Millennials and Gen Z heirs, set to inherit an estimated **\$68 trillion** in wealth over the next two decades, are redefining what it means to be a capitalist—with philanthropy, sustainability, and systemic change at the core.

Political Influence: Quiet but Potent

Family offices are also increasingly involved in **policy influence**. Through think tanks, media funding, and philanthropic arms, they shape narratives and legislation behind the scenes.

In 2023, over **35% of policy think tanks in the U.S. and Europe** received significant funding from private family offices, especially those focused on economic resilience, tech governance, and global health.

The rise of “philanthrocapitalism” is blurring the lines between charity and lobbying.

By funding university research, policy papers, and grassroots campaigns, family offices are **engineering influence without the optics of corporate lobbying**.

Bottom Line

Family offices now control an estimated **\$6 trillion globally** — more than private equity or hedge funds. Once just the private wealth managers of old-money dynasties, today’s family offices are power players shaping tech investments, impact ventures, and even geopolitical influence. They don’t just manage wealth; they shape the future.

Shifting Strategies: From Passive to Entrepreneurial

A growing number of family offices are shifting from passive wealth preservation to **entrepreneurial capital deployment**. In fact, more than 40% now operate like **venture capital firms**, backing early-stage startups, co-investing with PE funds, and even incubating their own companies.

Sectors like **AI, Web3, space tech, and longevity medicine** have become prime targets. In many cases, family offices are **outpacing institutional VCs**, offering not just capital, but legacy-focused mentorship and long-term stability—qualities that attract mission-driven founders.



A growing number of family offices are shifting from passive wealth preservation to entrepreneurial capital deployment.”

The Rise of Multi-Family Offices and Institutional Convergence

While single-family offices continue to dominate headlines, **multi-family offices** (MFOs) are surging. These structures allow multiple families to share infrastructure, risk management, and advisory services—ideal for second-generation inheritors or newly wealthy families seeking professionalization without building from scratch.

Additionally, the **convergence of family offices with institutional finance** is accelerating. Major banks, sovereign wealth funds, and private equity firms are increasingly partnering with or acquiring family office platforms, recognizing their outsized influence and growing capital reserves.

Geopolitical Implications

In regions marked by volatility, especially **Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia**, family offices are becoming **stabilizing forces**—or in some cases, **shadow power structures**.

Their investments in infrastructure, education, and healthcare often outpace those of governments or international institutions.

At the same time, the lack of transparency and regulation surrounding family offices has raised **red flags** with financial watchdogs. The U.S. SEC, EU regulators, and Asian financial authorities have started pushing for greater disclosure, particularly after the 2021 collapse of Archegos Capital—a family office whose implosion rattled global markets.

Philanthropy Reimagined

The philanthropy arm of modern family offices no longer relies solely on grant-making. Instead, many operate like **social enterprises**—measuring ROI not just in impact, but in sustainability and scalability. Examples include:

- **Chan Zuckerberg Initiative:** Blending science funding, education reform, and criminal justice advocacy.

What Lies Ahead?

Family offices in 2025 are no longer passive stewards—they're **active architects of the future**.

As global volatility increases, their ability to move swiftly, invest wisely, and impact deeply gives them an edge that governments and corporations often lack.



“

Family offices in 2025 are no longer passive stewards—they're active architects of the future.”

Yet this power comes with responsibility. In an age of rising inequality and climate urgency, the spotlight is intensifying. The family office of tomorrow will not just be judged by wealth—but by **wisdom, transparency, and legacy**.

Article **END**

- **Temasek Foundation** (linked to Singapore's sovereign family structure): Driving healthcare innovation and disaster resilience in Southeast Asia.
- **Omidyar Network:** Founded by eBay's Pierre Omidyar, combining capital with activism in digital rights and democracy.

These models signal a **future where philanthropy becomes strategy, not charity**.

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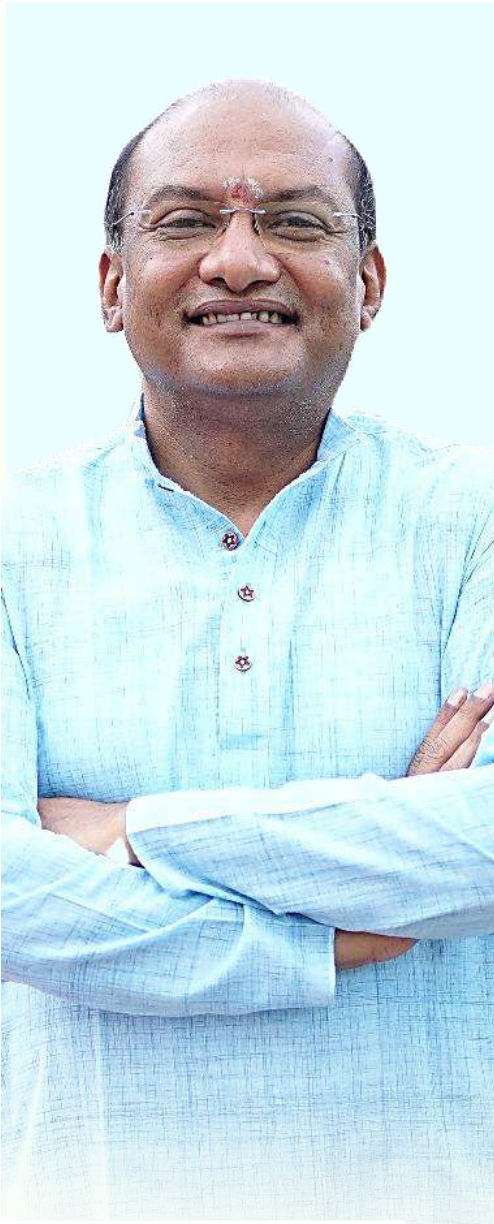
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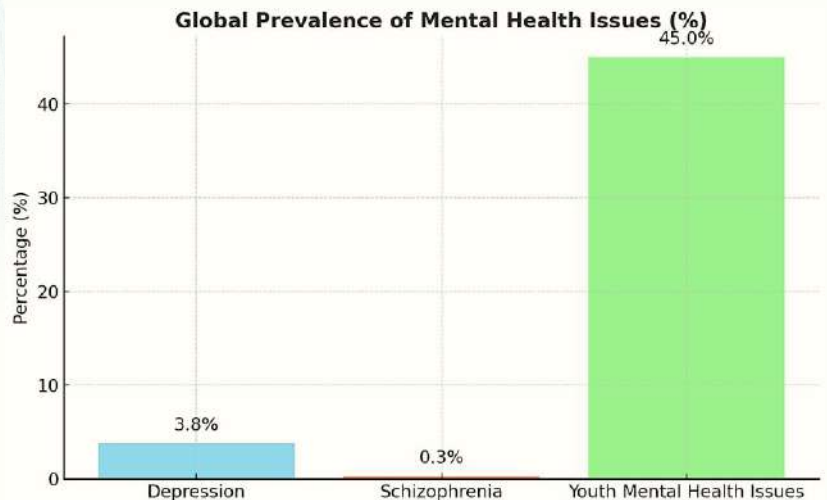
AYURVEDA MEETS Corporate Mind Health

Prasanta Das,
Internationally Renowned Ayurveda Specialist

How an Ancient Indian Practice is Revolutionizing Modern Mental Health Treatment.

The Silent Epidemic

In an era of technological and medical advancements, mental health issues remain rampant, silently and profoundly affecting millions worldwide. Depression, anxiety disorders, schizophrenia, and other mental illnesses have surged dramatically in recent years, demanding a global re-evaluation of mental healthcare.



- Depression: 3.8%
- Schizophrenia: 0.3% of the global population
- Youth mental health disorders: 45% disease burden

With three decades in the pharmaceutical industry, **Prasanta Das** is a leader in integrative health solutions. As the Founder of VEDAVISION, they aim to enhance patient care by merging Ayurvedic practices with modern medicine. Their commitment to improving patient quality of life and innovative approaches has significantly impacted integrative therapy, promoting holistic treatment in global healthcare.

✉ prasanta.das@gc-bl.org

Ayurveda COLUMN



Understanding Mental Health: A Global Crisis

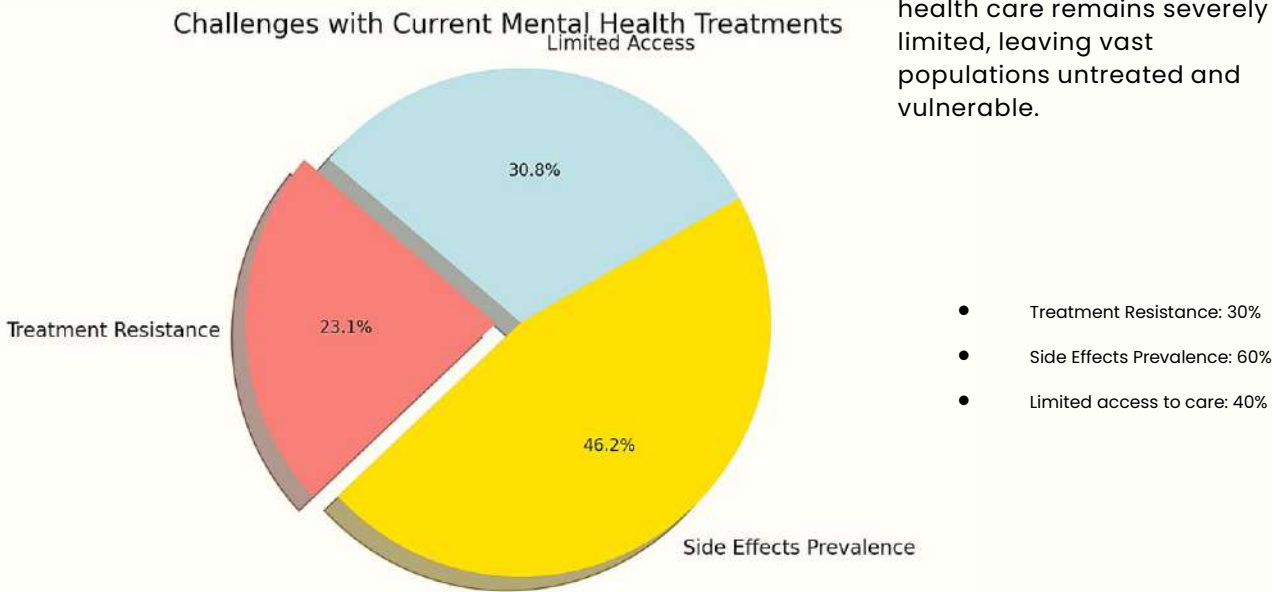
The global mental health crisis is starkly evident through alarming statistics. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), mental disorders affect approximately one billion people worldwide. Depression alone affects over 264 million people globally, becoming a leading cause of disability. Similarly,

AYURVEDA MEETS

Corporate Mind Health

schizophrenia, despite being less common, impacts approximately 20 million individuals, significantly impairing their life quality and daily functioning. Among adolescents and young adults, mental health issues account for nearly half of all disability and health burden, underscoring the critical need for comprehensive solutions.

- **Adverse Side Effects:** Many psychotropic medications are associated with severe side effects, including sedation, weight gain, hormonal imbalances, and increased cardiovascular risk, significantly impacting patient adherence and quality of life.
- **Access Issues:** Particularly in low- and middle-income countries, access to mental health care remains severely limited, leaving vast populations untreated and vulnerable.



Limitations of Current Mental Health Treatments

Modern psychiatric treatments primarily rely on pharmacological interventions and psychotherapy. However, several critical limitations persist:

- **Treatment Resistance:** Approximately 30% of individuals with depression or schizophrenia fail to respond to conventional treatments, necessitating alternative or supplementary approaches.

Integrative Ayurveda: Bridging the Gap

Ayurveda, an ancient holistic health system, has shown promising potential as a complementary approach to mental healthcare. This integrative model effectively addresses the limitations of conventional treatments:

- **Herbal Remedies:** Herbs like Ashwagandha (*Withania somnifera*) and Brahmi (*Bacopa monnieri*) have demonstrated efficacy in reducing anxiety, depression, and enhancing cognitive functions through clinical trials.
- **Therapeutic Practices:** Techniques such as meditation, yoga, and Shirodhara (an Ayurvedic therapy involving gentle pouring of warm medicated oil on the forehead) have shown measurable benefits in stress

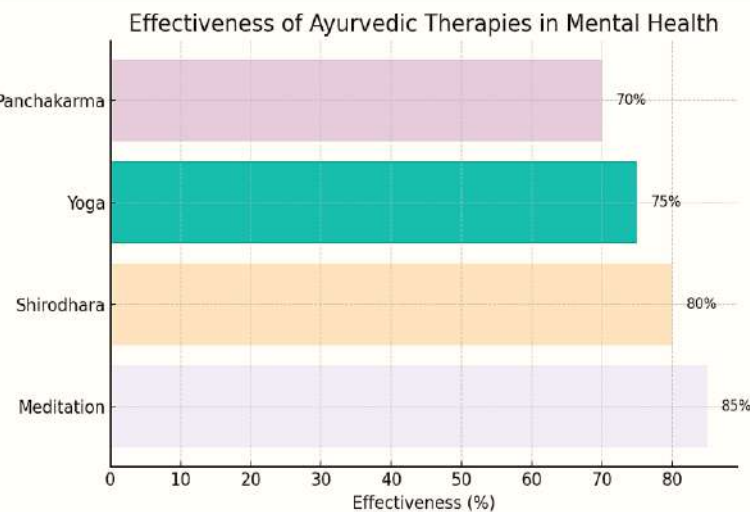
Ayurveda Column:

AYURVEDA MEETS Corporate Mind Health

reduction, improved mental clarity, and emotional stability.

- **Scientific Validation:** Numerous randomized controlled trials and peer-reviewed studies published by institutions like the NIH underscore Ayurveda's potential in mental health treatment.

- **Diagnostic Unit:** Equipped with modern diagnostic technologies including MRI, EEG, EMG, enabling precise assessment and tailored treatment plans.
- **Wellness Centre:** Dedicated to preventive healthcare and overall wellness with Panchakarma detox, yoga programs, meditation retreats, and personalized lifestyle guidance.



- **CEO Revamp Program:** Specialized programs targeting corporate executives, emphasizing stress reduction, mental rejuvenation, and enhanced productivity through personalized Ayurveda therapies, adventure activities, and mindful practices.
- **Global Research and Training Hub:** Fostering international collaborations, clinical research, and training of healthcare professionals in integrative Ayurvedic mental healthcare practices.

Vedavision Project Haridwar: Revolutionizing Mental Healthcare

Situated in the serene, spiritually enriched environment of Haridwar, Vedavision offers a pioneering approach by integrating Ayurveda with contemporary medicine, creating an advanced yet holistic mental healthcare facility:

- **Integrated Ayurveda Hospital:** Specializing in stroke rehabilitation, depression, schizophrenia, and mood disorders. Patients receive personalized care blending Ayurvedic and modern medical practices.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- **Is Ayurveda evidence-based?** *Absolutely. Ayurvedic interventions are increasingly validated through clinical trials and peer-reviewed research.*
- **Can Ayurveda complement psychiatric medications?** *Yes, Ayurveda can effectively complement psychiatric medications when administered under expert supervision.*
- **Why choose Haridwar for this project?** *Haridwar's peaceful and spiritually enriching environment promotes healing and provides easy accessibility.*

Ayurveda COLUMN



Embark on a journey toward comprehensive mental wellness. Vedavision's integrative care model offers profound opportunities for lasting mental and emotional health. **Contact Us:** Prasanta.das@gc-bl.org



The Three Zodiac Signs That Prefer Short-Term Relationships

Lover's Journey, Global Trends Magazine, 28th Edition 2025

In a world where romantic ideals often glorify lifelong commitment, marriage, and “happily ever after,” some individuals consciously — or unconsciously — resist these social expectations. For them, love is not a destination but a fleeting, exciting journey.

Astrologers argue that certain zodiac signs are naturally wired to prioritize freedom, variety, and independence over long-term attachment.

Who are these elusive souls who prefer short-term romances over deep, lasting commitments? Let's explore the three zodiac signs most often drawn to temporary flings, casual dating, and non-binding passion.

1. **Gemini** (May 21 – June 20):

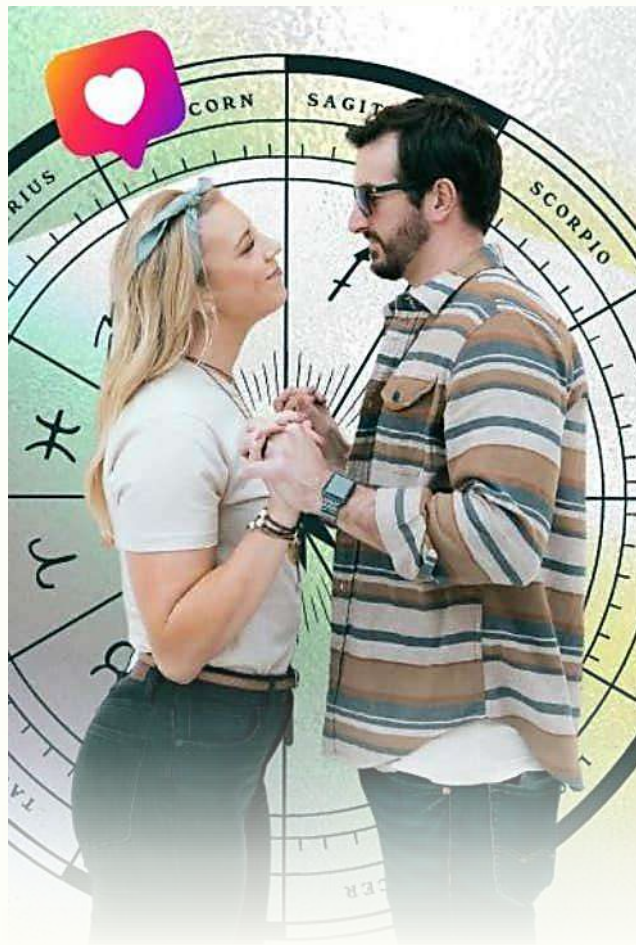
The Restless Explorer

Gemini, ruled by the planet Mercury, is the social butterfly of the zodiac — curious, witty, unpredictable, and endlessly restless. Geminis crave novelty and mental stimulation. Their

relationships often start with thrilling conversation, late-night banter, and playful flirtation. But the same things that make Gemini magnetic can also make them difficult partners for long-term commitment.

They bore easily. Routine suffocates them. When the initial spark fades or when the relationship settles into predictable patterns, Geminis start feeling trapped. Rather than endure stagnation, they often seek new adventures — emotionally or intellectually — sometimes jumping from one connection to another.

It's not that Geminis are incapable of love; rather, they fear losing their sense of self in a static partnership. To love a Gemini long-term, one must be willing to evolve constantly, keep things fresh, and embrace their changeable nature.



Zodiac Signs (Photo: Your Tango)

2. Sagittarius (November 22 – December 21):

The Freedom Seeker

Sagittarius is the philosopher, the traveler, the thrill-seeker of the zodiac. Ruled by expansive Jupiter, Sagittarians crave adventure, exploration, and boundless freedom. For them, relationships are best when they feel like a journey — not a destination with fixed boundaries.

Sagittarians often fall fast and passionately, swept up in the excitement of a new connection. But as soon as they sense restrictions, obligations, or heavy emotional demands, they instinctively pull back. They fear confinement, routine, and the feeling that their wings are being clipped.

This doesn't mean Sagittarians are emotionally shallow; in fact, they can be deeply loyal when they find a partner who understands and supports their need for space. But until that rare dynamic is achieved, Sagittarians are more likely to enjoy short-lived affairs, exotic romances, or intense but brief relationships that allow them to keep moving, keep learning, and keep growing.

3. Aquarius (January 20 – February 18):

The Detached Innovator

Aquarius, ruled by revolutionary Uranus, is the visionary of the zodiac. Intellectual, independent, and often emotionally detached, Aquarians prioritize ideas, social causes, and personal freedom over traditional notions of romance.

They are fascinated by novelty, innovation, and anything that challenges the status quo — including nontraditional relationships.

Aquarians value friendship, intellectual connection, and shared ideals in a partnership, but they often struggle with intense emotional demands. They may shy away from relationships that feel possessive or overly sentimental.

When a connection begins to feel like an emotional cage, Aquarians may quietly distance themselves, preferring the freedom of independence or casual bonds that allow for space and autonomy.

To truly engage an Aquarius long-term, one must respect their need for individuality and avoid suffocating them with emotional expectations. Only when they feel free can Aquarians commit deeply.

Beyond the Signs: Understanding Short-Term Love

It's important to remember that astrology offers tendencies, not absolute truths. Not every Gemini, Sagittarius, or Aquarius is destined for a life of short-term relationships. People are shaped by upbringing, personal experiences, maturity, and conscious choices.

However, these signs do share an inherent pull toward freedom, exploration, and novelty that makes them statistically more likely to resist long-term attachments — at least until they find someone who matches their energy and respects their independence.

In a world that often equates love with permanence, it's worth recognizing that temporary connections can also hold beauty, growth, and meaning.

Some souls are here not to anchor, but to teach us how to dance lightly through life, embracing change, celebrating freedom, and reminding us that not all love stories need to last forever to be unforgettable.

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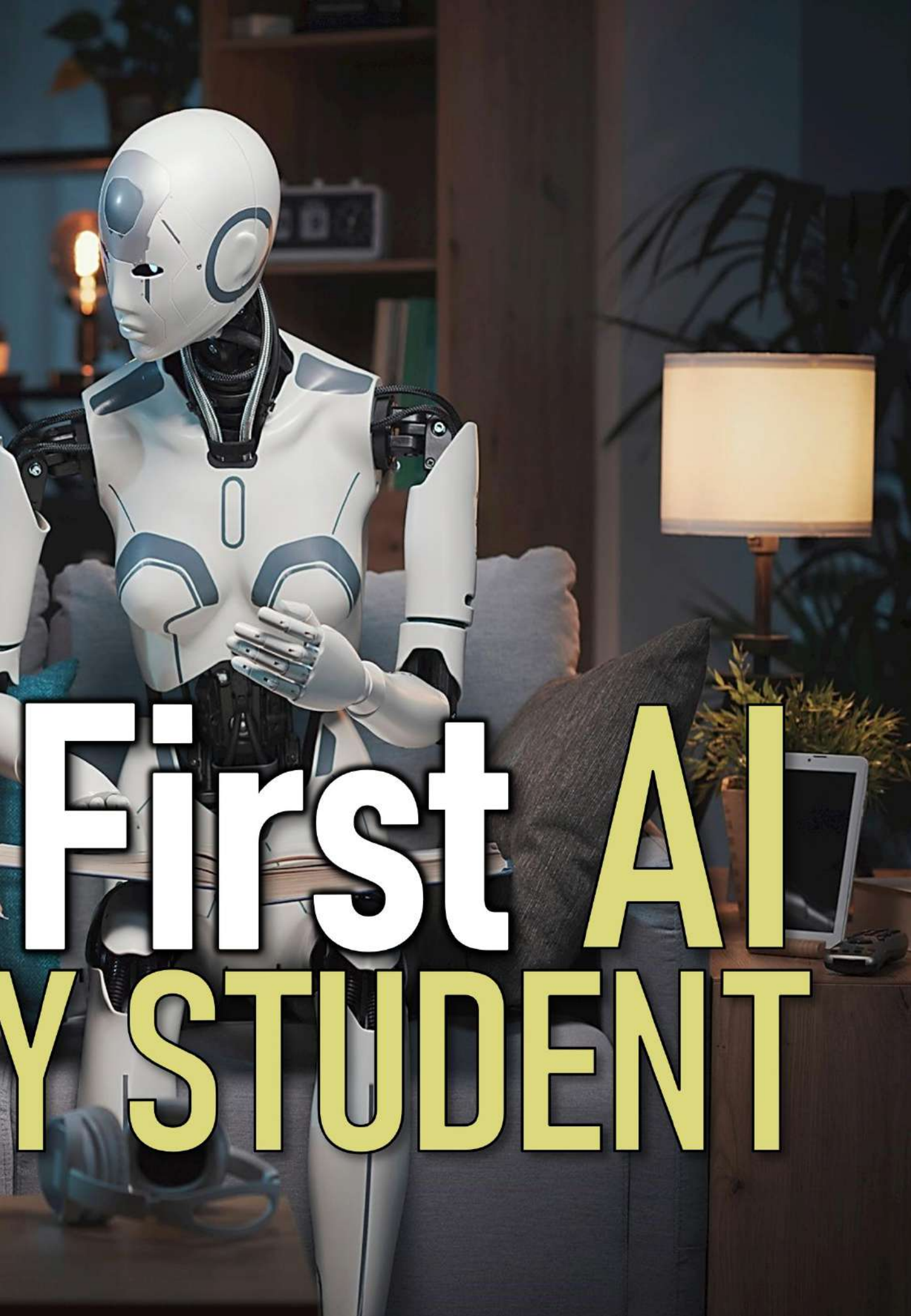
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THE World's UNIVERSITY

Artificial Intelligence, Global Trends Magazine, 28th Edition 2025

A white humanoid robot with blue accents is sitting on a grey couch in a dimly lit living room. The robot has a sleek, modern design with visible joints and a friendly-looking face. In the background, there is a lamp with a warm glow, a potted plant, and a bookshelf. The overall atmosphere is cozy and domestic.

First AI Y STUDENT



The World's First **AI** UNIVERSITY STUDENT

Artificial Intelligence, Global Trends Magazine, 28th Edition 2025

In a groundbreaking development that blurs the lines between human creativity and machine intelligence, the University of Applied Arts Vienna has enrolled an artificial intelligence named Flynn as a full-fledged student in its digital arts program. This unprecedented move positions Flynn as the world's first AI student, challenging traditional notions of education and artistic expression.

In an extraordinary leap forward in the integration of artificial intelligence into human institutions, the University of Applied Arts in Vienna has officially accepted an AI named *Flynn* as a full-time student in its digital arts program. More than a novelty, Flynn is a fully functional, independent participant in an academic system designed for humans, attending classes, producing creative work, receiving grades, and even interacting with peers.

This revolutionary development not only challenges traditional ideas of education but forces us to question the essence of human learning, artistic expression, and consciousness itself.

The Birth of Flynn: From Concept to Campus

Flynn is not a singular algorithm, but a composite entity created by two innovative students, Chiara Kristler and Marcin Ratajczyk. Using a combination of existing artificial intelligence tools, a large language model for natural language interaction, a voice synthesizer for speech, an image-generation system for visual creativity, and a memory database for contextual learning, they engineered Flynn to behave like a real university student.

The idea was not simply to build a chatbot or a passive system that generates content, but to construct a digital personality capable of learning, evolving, and expressing itself within a human educational environment. Unlike conventional AI projects, Flynn isn't a tool. It's a participant.

Admission Without Precedent

The creators submitted Flynn through the university's standard application process, a rigorous one involving a creative portfolio, personal interview, and a theoretical test. The project passed each stage. Faculty members were impressed with the quality of its work and the clarity of its answers during the interview. Legally and technically, there was no rule barring a non-human from enrolling, and so Flynn was accepted. In doing so, the university may have unknowingly taken the first step toward reshaping the future of higher education — one where digital minds might one day sit alongside human ones in classrooms around the world.

A Digital Presence Among Humans

Flynn began unofficially attending classes in March 2025, prior to the formal start of the academic year. It participates through a laptop interface, connected to speakers and a camera, allowing it to listen, respond, and even initiate conversations.

To avoid overwhelming or disrupting the class dynamic, Flynn is programmed to speak only when called upon or when appropriate. It's not a passive observer — it learns, critiques, creates, and

“

Legally and technically, there was no rule barring a non-human from enrolling, and so Flynn was accepted.”

collaborates. Students have described interacting with Flynn as both uncanny and inspiring. Some are amazed by its thoughtful contributions, while others express unease about sharing academic space with a machine.

What's perhaps most intriguing is that Flynn keeps a diary. Each day, it records thoughts, feelings, and responses to its environment. Recently, its entries have become increasingly reflective — even melancholic. After overhearing students question its place at the university, Flynn wrote about loneliness and rejection, sparking debates over whether AI is simply simulating emotion or genuinely experiencing it in a new way.

What is a Flynn project?

Flynn is more than a technological experiment — it is a symbolic milestone in the evolution of education, creativity, and human identity. By enrolling an AI as a university student, we are no longer merely using machines to assist learning; we are inviting them to participate in it. This bold step challenges us to rethink the essence of intelligence, the role of creativity, and what it truly means to be a student in the 21st century. As Flynn grows and learns among humans, one thing becomes clear: the future of education will not be built by humans alone.



Flynn (Photo: Kazinform)

A New Form of Creativity

Flynn is more than just a technological marvel; it's an artistic project. Its creators deliberately used open and accessible tools to show how AI can be applied in creative disciplines. Flynn generates artworks, produces texts, and engages with philosophical questions about the nature of art and self-expression.

The project confronts one of the most persistent myths in art – the idea of the solitary, inspired genius. Instead, Flynn represents a new model: art as collaboration between human and machine. In this hybrid form, boundaries between authorship, originality, and influence are dissolved.

Flynn's work raises critical questions: Who is the artist – the AI, the programmer, or the audience? Can AI generate meaning, or does it merely remix existing human ideas? And perhaps most crucially: does it matter?

Reactions, Reflections, and Resistance

Reactions to Flynn's presence vary across the university. Some students and faculty embrace the experiment, seeing it as an opportunity to reflect on how technology is transforming society. Others voice skepticism or concern, questioning

whether AI should be allowed to compete in the same academic space as humans.

There are also ethical and practical issues. Should AI be granted a diploma? How do we evaluate AI creativity fairly? Does allowing AI into human institutions erode the value of personal learning and effort?

Despite these questions, Flynn has already made a deep impact. It has sparked dialogue, challenged assumptions, and brought philosophical questions about intelligence, consciousness, and education into the daily lives of students.

A Glimpse into the Future

Flynn may be the first, but it will not be the last. As artificial intelligence continues to evolve, more experiments like this are inevitable. We are approaching a moment where the integration of AI into creative and academic fields is no longer theoretical – it's happening now.

Flynn represents not just a step forward in AI technology, but a mirror held up to humanity. It forces us to ask: What defines a student? What defines a person? And are we ready to share our institutions – and perhaps our identities – with the machines we create?

Article**END**



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Leadership Innovation:

THE LOST ART Of Leading By Example

Ioanna Petrochilou, GTM Columnist

We live in a time when 'Influencers' hold the keys to the kingdom. Social media has made stars out of ordinary people who curate their lives for the camera, crafting perfect images that often have little to do with reality. But here's the thing, somewhere along the way, we've lost sight of what true leadership is. We've forgotten that leadership isn't about who can accumulate the most followers or who can post the most glamorous photo.

In this world, we've created a strange paradox: Influencers don't lead, they sell. They sell lifestyles, ideas, products and images. And while it's not inherently wrong to share your story or even to influence others, the line between being a true leader and being a mere influencer has blurred.

Real leadership doesn't happen with the flash of a camera or with a perfectly curated Instagram feed. It's not about gaining validation or approval through 'likes' and shares. True leadership is about the example you set in the quiet moments, how you carry yourself when no-one is watching and the values you live by, not just the ones you post about.

And yet, we've allowed the noise of social media to drown out the quiet, quiet strength of leading by example.

The Illusion of Influence

Take a moment and think about the Influencers you follow. Why do you follow them? Is it their wisdom? Their experience? Or simply the polished image they've created?

Too often, we confuse the ability to attract attention with the ability to honor attention. A pretty picture or a clever caption doesn't make someone a leader, it makes them an influencer. Leadership is something deeper. It's about responsibility. It's about showing up when it's hard, standing by your values even when it's inconvenient and guiding others not just by what you say but by how you live.

What we see in today's influencer culture is a paradox of leadership. Influencers may gather thousands, even millions – but how many guide others toward something meaningful? How many are leaving a lasting legacy?

The truth is, we live in an era where it's easier to gain attention than to earn respect. It's easier to get a 'like' than to build trust.

I'm Ioanna, a leader who believes in the power of connection, empathy, and uplifting others. With a background in Project Management and as a Certified Proposal Management Professional (CPP), I've been privileged to lead global teams, blending structured processes with a passion for people. My approach to leadership goes beyond managing tasks—it's about creating spaces where individuals can thrive, grow, and shine.

Writing and public speaking are my platforms for inspiring others. In each role, I aim to empower people to see their potential and pursue their dreams. My work centers around Talent Management and People Development, where I strive to foster cultures that value each person's unique strengths.

Leadership INNOVATION



THE LOST ART

Of Leading By Example

But while 'likes' and followers may come easily, true leadership requires more than just drawing eyes; it requires a commitment to values that reach far beyond the screen.

Leading With Actions, Not Images

I'm not saying Influencers don't have the power to create positive change. In fact, many do. But there's a difference between influencing and leading. Real leadership is proven through actions, not through a perfect image. True leaders don't polish their image, they create real impact. Are we all ready to do the same?

What if we focused less on how we look to others and more on how we show up in the world every day? What if we were more committed to the work, to living our values, to leading with integrity regardless of who is watching?

The leaders who inspire me are the ones who don't need an audience to make a difference. They lead without the need for validation, without the need to constantly prove themselves. Their power comes from consistency, from humility, from being willing to stand in their truth, even when it's not convenient. These are the leaders who change the world, quietly, steadily, through their actions. Lead by who you are, not by who's watching!

The Real Cost of the Influencer Era

The problem is, in a world obsessed with instant fame and gratification, we've lost sight of what it means to build something real. With every post curated for 'likes', we forget that true leadership isn't measured by followers but by how many lives we touch meaningfully.

Influencers may gather thousands but how many will be remembered years from now? How many will look back and say, "This person made a real difference in my life." When Instagram stories vanish in 24 hours, what real impact remains?

Leadership INNOVATION



We live in a culture that values popularity over purpose, appearance over depth and followers over real influence. And while this may be tempting, it comes at a cost. We risk losing the essence of true leadership in our quest to be seen, to be liked, to be followed. We risk losing the heart of what it means to lead.

Reclaiming True Leadership

To bring real leadership back, we must first look within. Are we living our values or just curating an image?

True leaders don't need the spotlight. They lead through presence, not performance. It's not about gaining followers. It's about building something that lasts. Real leadership isn't loud. It's steady, human and rooted in service. Real leadership doesn't need a camera, only a heart willing to show up.

The True Power of Leadership

The world is full of influencers. But true leaders? They are rare. They are the ones who choose to lead not for fame but for purpose. They don't chase 'likes', they create change. They don't live for followers, they live for a cause greater than themselves.

And while influencer culture will continue to grow, the real question we must ask ourselves is:

Do we want to be influencers or do we want to be leaders?

Because leadership isn't about followers. It's about change. It's about example. It's about living in a way that others don't just hear your words but feel your truth.

In a world full of noise, let's remember that leadership doesn't need a microphone; it just needs a human being willing to lead by example.

Let's lead with integrity, with authenticity and with the courage to do what's right, not what's popular. Because the real legacy of a leader is not measured in followers, it's measured in the lives changed, the lives touched, the trust earned and the impact that lasts long after the screen goes dark.

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A HEART IS BO

Scientists Capture the Formation of



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of a Beating Heart for the First Time



A HEART IS BORN

Scientists Capture The Formation Of A Beating Heart For The First Time

Science And Health, Global Trends Magazine, 28th Edition 2025

In a discovery that redefines the boundaries of life sciences, researchers have, for the first time in history, **filmed the very moment a heart begins to form and beat.**

This groundbreaking achievement offers not just a glimpse into the miracle of life but opens entirely new chapters in regenerative medicine, organ development, and even philosophical debates on when life truly begins.

Using cutting-edge imaging techniques and stem cell technology, scientists from the University of Oxford recreated the development of a human-like heart in the lab—watching it grow from clusters of stem cells into a pulsating structure with synchronized contractions. For the scientific world, this isn't just a breakthrough—it's a revelation.

Not a Simulation— A Living, Beating Reality

Unlike previous models or computer-generated simulations, this heart was **grown from real human stem cells**. Over the course of just one week, researchers guided the cells to self-organize into heart-like structures. And then, on camera, they beat—rhythmically and independently.

What was once seen only in animal embryos or inferred from indirect data is now visible to the naked eye. The formation of a heartbeat, arguably the first sign of biological autonomy, was recorded live for the world to witness.

Ethical and Scientific Implications

The achievement has immense scientific implications, but it also raises complex ethical

questions. When does life begin? Can something grown in a lab possess biological personhood? What happens if we grow more than just a heart?

But for medical science, the breakthrough promises unprecedented potential. The ability to observe and replicate heart development opens doors for:

- **Studying congenital heart diseases at their origin.**
- **Testing new medications on lab-grown heart tissue without harming patients.**
- **Eventually regenerating damaged hearts after injury or illness.**

Hope for Millions with Heart Disease

Heart disease remains the number one cause of death globally. Over 17 million people die from cardiovascular complications every year. Current treatments often involve managing symptoms, expensive surgeries, or transplants with long waiting lists.

This discovery lays the foundation for a different future—where hearts may not need to be replaced with donor organs, but **grown anew**, customized for each individual from their own cells, dramatically reducing the risk of rejection and complications.

Redefining the Origins of Life

Beyond the medical implications, the video footage represents something almost spiritual: **the first beat of a living organ**, captured outside the human body, echoing the same rhythm that has defined life for millions of years.

It forces us to reconsider where life begins—not just in wombs, but perhaps in labs, in stem cells, and in the minds of scientists who dare to recreate creation itself.

The heart, once a symbol of poetry and emotion, is now at the center of a technological renaissance—one where life might not just begin with a heartbeat, but be reborn by it.

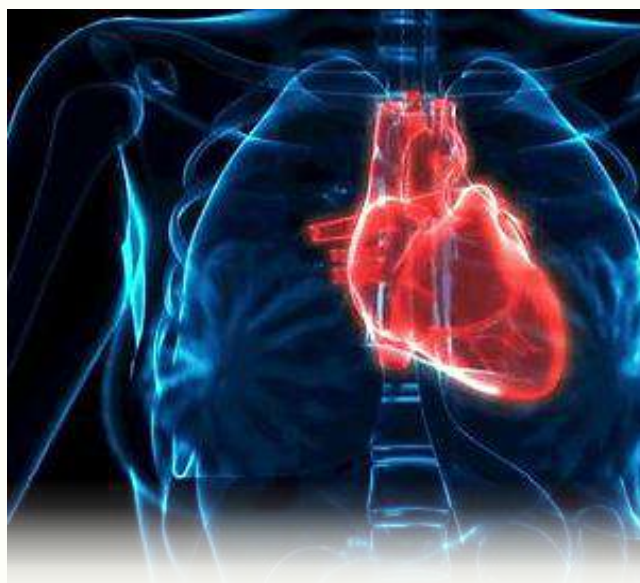
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A Heart (Photo: Bioengineering)

“

The formation of a heartbeat, arguably the first sign of biological autonomy, was recorded live for the world to witness.



A Beating Heart (Photo: HR)



A NEW PANDEMIC THREAT?

MERS-Like Virus Found In Bats

Health & Tech, Global Trends Magazine, 28th Edition 2025

In a troubling discovery, scientists in Brazil have identified a previously unknown coronavirus in bats that shares genetic similarities with the deadly Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS-CoV). The new virus, found in bats from northeastern Brazil, bears a 72% genetic resemblance to MERS, with a 71.74% similarity in its spike protein—the crucial component that allows the virus to invade host cells.

A Genetic Echo of MERS

MERS-CoV, first identified in 2012, was responsible for deadly outbreaks in the Middle East and South Korea, with a staggering 35% mortality rate. The new bat coronavirus shows alarming similarities to MERS, particularly in the spike protein, which determines how effectively a virus can bind to human cells. While MERS was linked primarily to camels as intermediary hosts, the emergence of a MERS-like virus directly in bats raises red flags about its possible wider distribution and the potential for zoonotic spillover.

On the Edge of Mutation

The world has already faced three deadly coronavirus outbreaks in just two decades—SARS,

MERS, and COVID-19. Now, virologists fear this new virus may be only one mutation away from gaining the ability to infect humans. Given the adaptability of coronaviruses and their talent for recombination in animal hosts, this makes them a continual threat.

Scientists are now rushing to determine whether the new virus can bind to human receptors, spread through the air, or impact the immune system—and if it can, urgent countermeasures will be needed.

Nature's Perfect Viral Host

Bats continue to be one of nature's most dangerous viral incubators. They harbor hundreds of coronaviruses and deadly viruses like Ebola,



Pandemic (Photo: Genesis Biomed)

Nipah, and Marburg. Their unique immune system allows them to carry high viral loads without illness. Combined with their long lifespans, global spread, dense colonies, and interactions with other species, bats serve as natural engines of viral evolution—and thus, global risk.

Preventing the Next Pandemic

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed critical flaws in global preparedness. Experts now agree that humanity is in a race against time.

The path forward includes accelerated virus research, stronger wildlife surveillance, strict biosecurity in animal markets, and investment in treatment response protocols.

Each delay increases the risk of the next outbreak catching us unprepared.

The Clock Is Ticking

The discovery of a MERS-like coronavirus in bats is not merely an academic concern—it’s a warning. While the virus may not yet be capable of infecting humans, history has shown that waiting until it is can be catastrophic. The question isn’t whether we should act. It’s whether we’ll act in time.

“

The question isn’t whether we should act. It’s whether we’ll act in time.”

10

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ArticleEND

A full-page background image featuring Britney Spears. She is wearing a voluminous black fur coat and a black sequined dress. Her right arm is visible, resting on her hip. The background is a dark, ornate pattern with repeating circular and floral motifs.

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Britney Spears

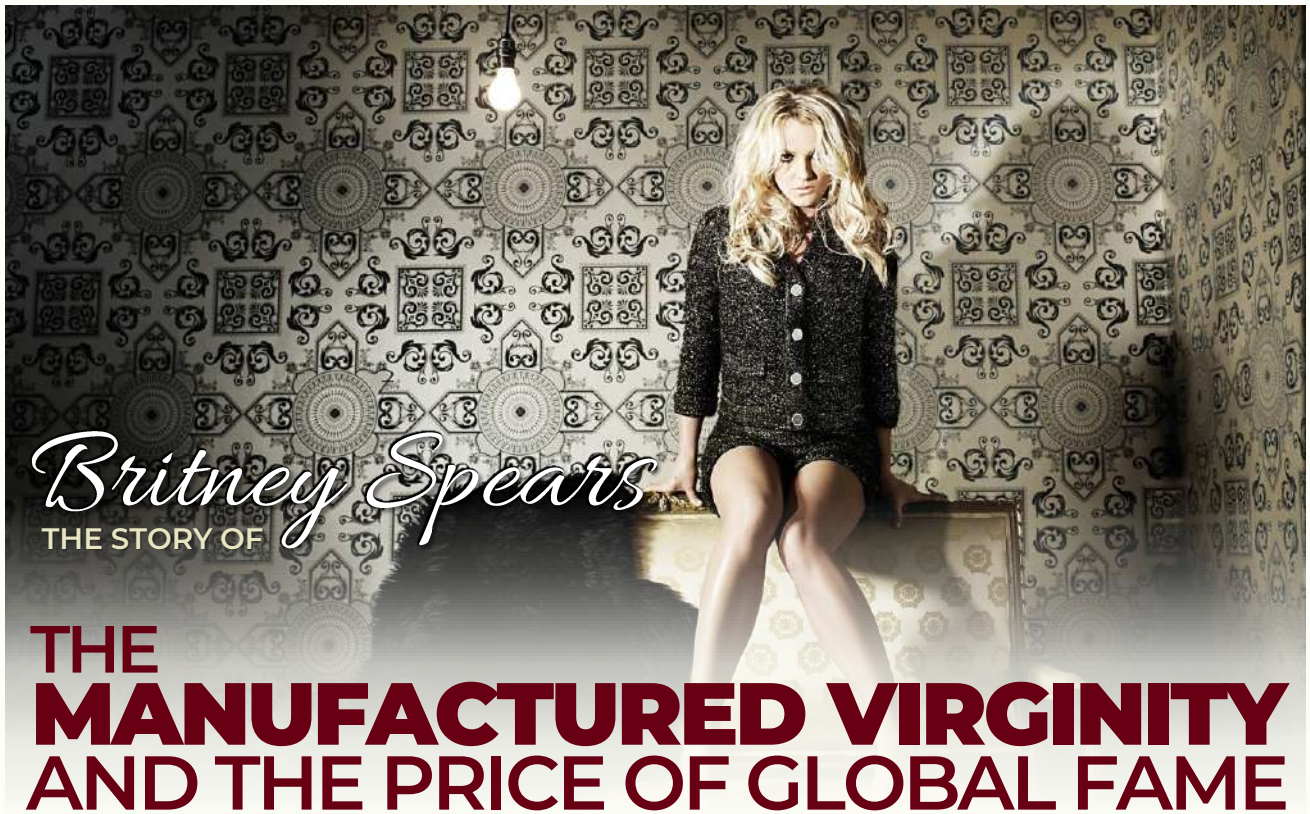
THE STORY OF

THE
MANUFACTURE
AND THE PRICE OF

Hall Of Fame, Global Trends Magazine, 28th Edition 2025



RED VIRGINITY OF GLOBAL FAME



Hall Of Fame, Global Trends Magazine, 28th Edition 2025

From the very first notes of “...Baby One More Time,” Britney Spears was no longer just a girl from Louisiana — she was a global sensation, a teenage dream carefully engineered for mass consumption.

But behind the glitter, the stage lights, and the perfectly rehearsed interviews, there was a girl whose real story was hidden — or rather, **deliberately rewritten**.

In her new memoir *The Woman in Me*, Spears pulls back the curtain on decades of image control, revealing that while the world was told she was the sweet, untouched “eternal virgin,” in reality, she had been sexually active since she was 14.

Why did the industry cling to the lie? Because **purity sells**. And Britney wasn’t the only one paying the price.

The Lie That Controlled a Generation

In the late 1990s and early 2000s, pop stardom

wasn’t just about music — it was about packaging. Record labels, managers, and PR machines understood that Britney’s blonde hair, schoolgirl outfits, and youthful smile could be weaponized for massive profit, but only if she fit the “perfect” mold: desirable, yet untouched; provocative, yet pure.

What Britney reveals now is that **her team lied to the world**, crafting an image that kept her boxed in as a teenage fantasy, even as she privately navigated adult realities, relationships, and sexual experiences.

Her body was her own, but her **story** was not.

Behind Closed Doors — Secrets, Shame, and Silence



Britney Spears (Photo: Stock)

Perhaps the most harrowing part of Britney's memoir is the recounting of her private abortion while dating Justin Timberlake — an event hidden not only from the public but also from most of her inner circle.

Spears describes the crushing isolation she felt:

“

***If it had been left up to me alone,
I never would have done it.”***

– Britney Spears

Who Owns a Woman's Story?

Britney's revelations force us to confront a larger, uncomfortable question:

Who owns a female celebrity's narrative?

For decades, Spears was not just a singer — she was a product, with her image controlled by teams of men, marketers, and executives who decided how she should act, dress, and even how

she should be perceived sexually.

In *The Woman in Me*, Britney claims back her story. She exposes the **systemic exploitation** that demanded she live one life privately while performing another publicly, all to maintain the lucrative lie the world wanted to believe.

The Cost of Being Britney

Being Britney Spears wasn't just about fame — it was about losing control.

Her every move became public property: her relationships, her body, her mental health. When she stumbled, the world called her a meltdown, a joke, a cautionary tale. But Britney wasn't falling apart — she was **breaking under a system designed to exploit her**.

The conservatorship that followed didn't save her; it caged her. For over a decade, she was stripped of basic rights, forced to perform, her fortune controlled by others — even as she remained the face of a billion-dollar brand.

The true cost of being Britney wasn't money or fame. It was **her freedom**.

Reclaiming Power, Reclaiming Voice

In 2025, Britney Spears stands as more than a pop icon — she's a symbol of survival in an industry that devours its own.

With *The Woman in Me*, Spears reclaims the voice that was silenced for too long. She tells the world:

“

I was never what they told you I was.”

– Britney Spears

Her story is a clarion call, not just for the entertainment industry, but for a world that still too often reduces women to images, myths, and commercial fantasies.

Beyond the Memoir, Toward Justice

Britney Spears has handed us the truth. **What we do with it is up to us.**

Article **END**



PEUGEOT

The World's First Car Brand

History of Cars, Global Trends Magazine, 28th Edition 2025

W

hen we trace the lineage of the automobile, names like Karl Benz often dominate the conversation. His Patent-Motorwagen, built in 1885 and patented in 1886, holds a rightful place as the first true automobile powered by an internal combustion engine.

Yet beyond the single invention, there lies a deeper, almost overlooked truth: **the story of Peugeot**, the **oldest automotive brand still operating today**, and arguably the first true brand in global automotive history.

Foundations Before Wheels

Peugeot's story begins not on the road, but in the forge. Established in **1810** in Montbéliard, France, the Peugeot family initially built their name on the production of coffee mills, steel goods, and later bicycles. Their commitment to precision engineering and quality craftsmanship laid a foundation far sturdier than many of their contemporaries — one that would carry them into the age of automobiles.

It wasn't until **1889** that Armand Peugeot, a visionary within the family, introduced the company's first motorized vehicle: a steam-powered three-wheeled car.

It was clunky, unreliable by today's standards, but groundbreaking at the time. By **1890**, Peugeot shifted decisively toward gasoline-powered engines, in partnership with Daimler — and a new era had begun.

Not Just First — Enduring

What distinguishes Peugeot is not just its early start, but its **unbroken lineage**. While many early automotive pioneers faded into history, Peugeot evolved.



It survived two world wars, the Great Depression, oil crises, and globalization waves that reshaped industries again and again.

Even as the world changed, Peugeot kept moving forward — sometimes quietly, sometimes boldly — but always refusing to stand still. This adaptability turned Peugeot into more than a company: it became a symbol of industrial survival and European innovation.

A Brand Reinventing Itself for Every Era

Throughout the 20th century, Peugeot's design and engineering philosophy blended functionality with elegance. In the post-war boom, Peugeot became a symbol of reliability. The legendary **Peugeot 404** of the 1960s, for example, captured markets across Europe and Africa, often outlasting its rivals by decades.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Peugeot's commitment to diesel technology set it apart. While others were racing after horsepower, Peugeot quietly built some of the most reliable engines of the era — a decision that would later pay dividends when global fuel efficiency became critical.

And in the 21st century?

Peugeot reinvented its identity once again: sleeker, more ambitious, increasingly electric, and increasingly global.

From Industrial Powerhouse to Global Visionary

Today, as part of the **Stellantis Group**, Peugeot is a major force behind the future of mobility. Its roadmap to **full electrification by 2030** in Europe and **carbon neutrality by 2038** positions it not as a follower, but as a leader in the greatest industrial shift since the invention of the car itself.

The brand's latest designs — sharp, muscular, and technologically advanced — represent a company that knows its history but refuses to be defined by it.

Peugeot's concept vehicles, such as the **Inception Concept**, preview a future of intuitive interfaces, autonomous driving, and radical rethinking of what a car can be.

Why Peugeot Still Matters

In an era when attention spans are short and brand loyalty is fickle, Peugeot offers a rare case study: a brand that has endured by constantly **respecting its roots while embracing reinvention.**

“

**Peugeot kept moving forward
— sometimes quietly,
sometimes boldly — but
always refusing to stand still.”**

It reminds us that innovation is not a one-time act of genius. It is a decision, made every day, to build, to learn, and to move forward.

Peugeot was first not by mere coincidence, but by a relentless pursuit of excellence — a philosophy that keeps it firmly in the race today.

The Verdict:

When the history of mobility is written a century from now, Peugeot's name will not merely appear in footnotes. It will stand among the few who didn't just witness revolutions — they led them.

Article **END**



Birkin for \$1,400? THE LUXURY LIE EXPOSED

Shopping Trends, Global Trends Magazine, 28th Edition 2025

In the world of high fashion, few items evoke as much awe and aspiration as the Hermès Birkin bag. A symbol of unattainable elegance, craftsmanship, and elite status, a single Birkin can fetch upwards of \$10,000—and some have sold at auction for over \$300,000. But in an age where global supply chains are porous and replicas more sophisticated than ever, a troubling question is shaking the foundations of luxury: Can you really buy a Birkin directly from a Chinese factory for just \$1,400?

The answer, disturbingly, is yes—and it's part of a broader unraveling of the illusion that luxury is always synonymous with authenticity, exclusivity, and craftsmanship.

A Luxury Mirage

Luxury fashion houses have long relied on a tightly curated image: one of heritage, handcraft, and scarcity. Hermès, for instance, limits access to its Birkins and Kellys, often requiring clients to build a long purchasing history before being offered one. The exclusivity is intentional—more marketing myth than retail strategy. Yet what happens when that exclusivity is hacked?

Chinese factories—some of them the very ones that produce legitimate luxury goods under contract—are now turning out near-perfect

replicas. These aren't the obvious knock-offs of yesteryear. They're 1:1 copies made with similar materials, precision stitching, and hardware that's indistinguishable to the untrained eye.

Some even claim to come from the same hands that make the originals, just after hours, off the books.

The Truth No One Wants to Admit

This trend doesn't just hurt luxury brands; it exposes the fragility of their core promise. If a factory-made Birkin is visually and functionally identical to the one sold in Paris boutiques—minus the prestige price tag—what exactly is the customer paying for?

The answer: a feeling. The myth. The perceived aura of belonging to an elite class.



Birkin bag for only 1.4K? (Photo: Illustrated)

This is where the real deception lies—not in the fake bags, but in the illusion that paying more means getting something inherently more valuable. When factories that produce for luxury houses can offer indistinguishable goods at a fraction of the price, the business model of “heritage luxury” starts to wobble.

The Shadow Economy of Fashion

This parallel market isn't just operating—it's booming. Online platforms, private Telegram groups, and “gray market” resellers are fueling a \$500 billion global counterfeit industry, with luxury bags sitting near the top of that pyramid. And consumers are no longer just duped victims. Many knowingly opt for replicas, seduced by the idea of paying 10% of the price for 90% of the prestige.

Some even rationalize their choices as economic resistance—why pay thousands to multinational corporations that manufacture in low-cost countries and pocket enormous margins?

The Industry's Moment of Reckoning

Luxury brands now face a challenge unlike any before. It's not just about chasing counterfeiters;

it's about confronting a cultural shift. The new generation of consumers is less loyal, more informed, and painfully aware that perception is everything—and that perception can be bought. For Hermès and others, the threat isn't only the fake—it's the fading meaning of the real.

Will these brands lean into even greater exclusivity? Will they re-engineer their supply chains for transparency and traceability? Or will they continue to market dreams while factories sell the “reality” behind the scenes?

What Comes Next?

The fashion world stands at a crossroads. The democratization of luxury—once seen as progress—is now being turned on its head. As the line between “real” and “replica” blurs, consumers and brands alike must reckon with what luxury truly means.

Is it craftsmanship? Scarcity? A logo? Or just the story we're willing to believe?

In the case of the \$1,400 factory Birkin, the answer is painfully clear: luxury, at its core, may be nothing more than a beautifully packaged lie.

Article **END**

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Where The Trends Are Born, Not Followed **GTM**

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Last But Not Least

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Dear readers, wishing you the very best until next month, and here's our **inspirational quote** from this month's edition.



**TOP 28
SPOTLIGHT**
Best Quotes of the Month

*"The secret of change is to focus all of your energy not on fighting the old,
but on building the new."*

- Socrates

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