

Elliot Silk

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SUMMARY

PhD candidate in chemistry with experience in venture incubation, industry R&D, project management, and cross-functional collaboration. Proven track record evaluating early-stage life science startups and translating complex data into strategic recommendations. Applies data-driven analysis to high-impact scientific and business challenges in dynamic environments.

EDUCATION

New York University, Ph.D. Candidate in Chemistry Anticipated Graduation: May 2027

GPA: 4.0/4.0 | NSF Graduate Research Fellow (top ~15% of applicants) | Qualifying Exam: Distinction

University of Rochester, B.S. in Chemistry

August 2018 – May 2022

GPA: 3.6/4.0 | High Distinction in Chemistry | Teaching Assistant for 3 Honors and advanced chemistry electives

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

50 Years

September 2026 – Present

5050 Cohort Nine, San Francisco, CA

- Building a newco to accelerate drug discovery with high-dexterity robotics

Zephyr Venture Partners

April 2026 – Present

Venture Fellow, New York, NY

- Led diligence on competitive landscape, comps, market opportunity, scientific validity, and team fit for *two active CNS deals*: Stealth (pre-seed, \$4M), Stealth (Series 1A, \$12M) and presented both analyses to the partnership
- Authored a newco's founding scientific plan and business strategy identifying indication, target, payload, synthetic route, *in vivo* mouse model experiments, and CRO's for execution, presenting to company leadership

Nucleate

April 2025 – Present

Mentors & Experts Director, New York, NY

- Evaluated application pool of 270+ early-stage life science startups through pitch deck review, assessing team quality, technical differentiation, and commercial potential that resulted in the *selection of 17 final-round incubator teams*
- Accelerated venture development by recruiting and interviewing 80+ venture capitalists, regulatory strategists, clinical advisors, equity analysts, senior scientists, and founders *enabling targeted mentor-startup matching*
- Sourced 25+ biotech founders and CEOs to translate expertise into *company building strategies for incubator teams*

Merck & Co.

June 2025 – August 2025

Process Chemist Intern, Rahway, NJ

- Designed and executed analyses to broaden the commercialized process of a Phase III clinical asset, improving yield and impurity profile up to *decagram scale with >98% purity while supporting late-stage pipeline development*
- Collaborated with cross-functional R&D teams and engaged with enterprise strategy leaders to understand portfolio, commercialization, and pipeline decision frameworks within a global pharmaceutical organization
- Presented 10+ analyses and experimental strategy to process chemistry teams, translating technical findings into clear recommendations to guide project execution, resulting in a *peer-review publication and a patent (in preparation)*

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Secured ~\$275,000 of personal scientific funding across 8 research fellowships, grants, and awards.

NSF Pre-Doctoral Fellow

August 2022 – Present

New York University, Advisor: Prof. Tianning Diao

- Collaborated with Merck & Co. to implement data-driven, high-throughput experimentation, accelerating condition optimization for *AI predictive model training to enable faster evaluation of drug-like candidates*

Undergraduate Researcher

January 2020 – May 2022

University of Rochester, Advisor: Prof. C. Rose Kennedy

- Authored a *senior honors thesis* on the development of a single-component nickel catalyst for C-N bond activation.

VOLUNTEER LEADERSHIP & COMMUNITY IMPACT

New York University

October 2024 – Present

- Managed and organized community events including the coordination of 40+ sixth-grade students to NYU to visit and conduct experiments in teaching labs as *elected Graduate Student Organization Representative*
- Led 10 hands-on STEM lessons for 15+ fifth-grade students as a *Mentor for the New York Academy of Science*

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS, PRESENTATIONS & INTERESTS

- 3 [publications](#) in peer-reviewed journals, 2 in preparation | 8 invited presentations | Interests: Boxing, Soccer, Running