



THE TOP 100 INNOVATORS and *Entrepreneurs*

Celebrating
our 16th
Year of
Publishing

Featuring

MICHAEL STEVENS

Chairman and CEO
Valkyrie BioScience

-Story on Page 18





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& Entrepreneurs
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Here at the *Top 100 Magazine*, we are always inspired by the exceptional individuals who trust us to share their stories. Every edition is shaped by the vision, creativity, and determination of the leaders we feature—and this year's *Top 100 Innovators & Entrepreneurs* stands as a powerful reflection of that spirit. Bringing this publication together required meaningful collaboration between our team and the accomplished professionals highlighted throughout these pages, each generously offering their knowledge, perspective, and experience.

Inside this issue, readers will encounter stories defined by bold thinking, perseverance, and a deep commitment to possibility. These innovators have opened new doors, built impactful organizations, and driven progress within their fields, often while overcoming formidable obstacles. As you engage with their journeys, we hope you share in the sense of inspiration and respect that guided the creation of this edition. It is a privilege to honor their work and present the Top 100 Innovators & Entrepreneurs.

Joseph Nunziato
CEO, Redwood Media

THE TOP 100 INNOVATORS and *Entrepreneurs*

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**THE TRAILBLAZERS. THE LEADERS.
THE CHANGE-MAKERS. THE DREAMERS.**

We bring the stories of extraordinary people to the world.



MICHAEL STEVENS

CHAIRMAN AND CEO



When Michael Stevens first entered the business world, he expected a future in law, politics, and public service. Instead, an opportunity with a high-tech startup in Oregon sent him down a very different path, one that would ultimately lead him to become one of healthcare's most accomplished executives, entrepreneurs, and capital strategists.

Today, as chairman and CEO of Valkyrie BioScience, Michael leads a company preparing to launch a portfolio of innovative dental and veterinary technologies designed to improve diagnostics, treatment outcomes, and patient care. Yet his journey to biotechnology was anything but conventional.

Early in his career, Michael joined a leadership development program within the rapidly expanding telecommunications industry. Over the next eight years, he was promoted repeatedly, relocating often and tackling increasingly difficult assignments. The experience became his real-world MBA, teaching him how

to lead teams, manage growth, and make difficult decisions under pressure.

One of those decisions would become a defining moment. Tasked with rescuing a failing operation in Colorado, Michael quickly realized the business could not be saved. Closing the office meant laying off 200 employees. While many leaders remember their victories, Michael remembers the human cost of that experience. It taught him that leadership is not measured solely by financial outcomes, but by responsibility, empathy, and accountability.

Seeking a more meaningful path, he found himself drawn into healthcare through an unexpected friendship with two dentists. What began as chance soon became a lifelong passion. "I realized dentistry was about far more than teeth," he says. "It was about confidence, quality of life, and helping people see themselves differently." Watching patients regain the confidence to smile, interview for jobs, and engage with the world transformed his perspective. More importantly, it revealed the profound impact healthcare professionals can have on people's lives.

Over the next 25 years, Michael built an impressive career spanning dentistry, dermatology, ophthalmology, orthopedics, plastic surgery, ENT, and veterinary medicine. He launched medical technologies, worked alongside physicians and specialists, raised capital, served on boards, and helped scale organizations from startup ventures to publicly traded companies. Along the way, he participated in taking two companies public, helped position multiple businesses for acquisition, and raised more than \$100 million from retail investors, private equity firms, and family offices.

His experience also extended into private equity, where he contributed to raising nearly \$1 billion and participated in acquiring dozens of healthcare businesses. These experiences provided a unique understanding of how innovation, finance, clinical care, and operational execution must work together to create lasting impact. That broad perspective now guides his leadership at Valkyrie BioScience.

Founded in 2019 and headquartered in Lindon, Utah, Valkyrie BioScience has spent nearly six years researching, developing, and protecting a growing portfolio of technologies focused on dental and veterinary medicine. With more than 14 patents already secured and a commercial launch scheduled for July 1, the company is entering the market with a clear mission: helping clinicians identify problems earlier and treat them more effectively. For Michael, the company's purpose extends beyond products. "We are not selling devices," he explains. "We are solving problems for clinicians and patients."

That philosophy influences every aspect of the organization. Rather than focusing solely on technology, Valkyrie combines diagnostic tools with treatment solutions, enabling healthcare providers to detect conditions sooner and intervene earlier. The result is a comprehensive approach designed to improve patient outcomes while helping clinicians deliver more effective care.



Leadership Through Service

Michael believes exceptional leadership begins with understanding the people being served. Whether working with investors, clinicians, employees, or patients, he emphasizes listening first and acting with purpose. His leadership style combines accountability, collaboration, and empowerment. He builds multidisciplinary teams, encourages diverse perspectives, and creates environments where innovation can thrive without compromising quality or compliance. Equally important is his ability to bridge the gap between science, clinical practice, and business strategy. By understanding the language of healthcare providers while maintaining a strong grasp of capital markets and commercialization, he helps move ideas from concept to market with both speed and discipline.

Innovation with Purpose

What distinguishes Michael as an innovator is his commitment to patient-first thinking. Every initiative begins by identifying a real-world challenge rather than pursuing technology for technology's sake. Throughout his career, he has remained focused on translating scientific advances into practical solutions that clinicians can adopt and patients can benefit from. This combination of clinical understanding, technical fluency, and entrepreneurial execution has allowed him to

bring disruptive technologies to market while maintaining a relentless focus on safety, validation, and measurable outcomes. He also believes resilience is essential to innovation. Not every idea succeeds, and not every challenge can be solved immediately. The key, he says, is learning quickly, adapting thoughtfully, and never losing sight of the ultimate goal.

Creating a Lasting Legacy

Despite a career filled with impressive accomplishments, Michael is remarkably clear about how he hopes to be remembered. The fundraising milestones, acquisitions, public offerings, and business successes matter, but they are not what motivates him most. Instead, he hopes his legacy will be measured by the lives improved through the technologies, companies, and healthcare professionals he has supported throughout his career.

For Michael Stevens, success is not simply about building businesses. It is about helping clinicians change lives, empowering patients to live with greater confidence and wellness, and ensuring that innovation serves a purpose larger than itself. Through Valkyrie BioScience and the decades of experience that brought him there, he continues to do exactly that.

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TOP 100

★ ★ ★
INNOVATORS & ENTREPRENEURS

LEADERSHIP THAT INSPIRES



The most influential leaders are rarely remembered for the titles they held or the positions they occupied. Instead, they are remembered for the confidence they inspired, the opportunities they created, and the example they set for others. True leadership is less about authority and more about service—empowering people to achieve more than they believed possible.



Every meaningful innovation, thriving business, and lasting organization begins with someone willing to step forward, embrace uncertainty, and inspire others to join a shared vision. Great leaders understand that success is never a solo accomplishment. They cultivate trust, encourage diverse perspectives, and celebrate the contributions of every member of their team.



Leadership also demands resilience. Challenges are inevitable, but exceptional leaders view setbacks as opportunities to learn, adapt, and emerge stronger. Their optimism becomes contagious, motivating those around them to persevere even during difficult times.



Whether leading a global enterprise, a growing startup, or a small community initiative, the greatest leaders leave behind more than impressive achievements—they develop future leaders. Their legacy is measured not only by what they built, but by the people they inspired to continue building long after them.



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