



# Future Foods – A Patent Landscape Study

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# The Patent Landscape in the Future Foods Area

- Animal-free foods are here
- Health benefits from reducing animal protein intake and consuming more plant-based proteins:
  - Bolster interest from investors; and
  - Drive further R&D in the field
- Humane arguments
  - Environmental damage
  - Destruction of animal species
- Environmental arguments
  - Calorie for calorie, raising livestock is far more environmentally taxing than growing plants
    - Space, energy, methane
- Plant-based calories are more efficient to feed 7 billion people



# The Patent Landscape in the Future Foods Area

- If the alt-meat tastes the same, then people may switch
  - More environmentally friendly
  - Healthier?
  - Potentially a cheaper option
- Investors desire to transform consumer demand for meat into a desire to consume meat replicas
- Who are the big players?
- What types of patents / who has patents and on what?



### Non-Animal Meat / Lab-Grown Meat – 1/2

- Plant-based
  - Eating less meat is the answer
- Cell culture-based
  - Growing meat in the lab not eating less meat is the answer
  - Cultured meat biologically it is meat (for meat eaters); new kind of meat developed from advances in biology and engineering
    - Cell culture
    - Bio reactors
    - Avoids environmental degradation and mass slaughter
  - Relatively early stages VC's typically don't invest in tech that's decades away
- Good Food Institute
  - Funds research, political muscle for the industry, fight to limit restrictions on cultured meat products



### Non-Animal Meat / Lab-Grown Meat – 2/2

- Technical challenges and solutions
  - Growth media
    - Stock
      - Fetal bovine serum
      - Marine stock
  - Scaffolding
  - Bioreactor design
  - Large scale cellular agriculture behavior
- New Harvest
  - Not-for-profit, funds research on large scale / industrial scale bioreactors / large fermenting chambers
    - Current bioreactors are single-use and plastic
    - New Harvest helped launch Perfect Day and Clara Foods



### **Overview**

- Animal-free meat is hot
- Beyond meat in the news KFC offering plant-based chicken
  - People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals named Beyond Meat as its company of the year in 2013
  - Sold in the meat section of supermarkets
    - Right next to competing brands from the retailer
    - Food product label?
      - How patentable?
      - How secret?



### Overview – continued

- Multiple fast food companies offer plant-based food options
  - BK Impossible Whopper
  - Subway Beyond meatball marinara
  - Carl's Jr. meatless burger by Beyond Meat
  - White Castle Impossible Slider
  - KFC Beyond meat chicken
  - TGIF, Applebee's, Cheesecake Factory offering plant-based options
- Nestle is planning the Awesome burger; Tyson is planning on offering plant-based meats
- Plenty of competition



### Overview – continued

- Relatively low barriers to entry?
- Patents can provide a moat to competition
  - Compare with other food trends?
    - Organic as growth driver; big players come in, prices drop
  - How is alt meat different from other food stocks?
    - Like organic food? Or like flavored soda?
- Future?
  - One view: plant-based meat will be as popular as beef burgers today in 10 years
  - Valuations?
    - Beyond Meat is valued near Tyson
- Demand > supply
  - Beyond meat
  - Impossible



## Background – to the patent landscape

- Plant-based
  - Ancient / Roman cuisine falsification and disguise of ingredients
    - Anchovy casserole w/o anchovies
    - Turnips processed to look and taste like fish
  - Foodstuffs have been very diverse for a few thousand years
  - Disguising and creating faux foods have been known for a few thousand years
  - Food composition claims In re Levin: need a showing of coaction or cooperative relationship between the selected ingredients which produces a new, unexpected and useful scientific function.
    - Still good law or surpassed by section 103 obviousness?



# Background – to the patent landscape

- Clean meats / cell cultured meats / lab-grown meat
  - 1930s Sci/Fi
  - 1990s Dutch research
  - 1990s NASA work on in-vivo fish flesh
  - 2010 Cell-cultured meat
- Patent examiners are not food scientist or culinary experts



### **Investing in Food Innovation**

- Opportunities for investment in food and agriculture innovations
- Need for innovation remains.
- Different breed of startup
  - Agritech is closer to biotech and less like traditional industrial segments
- Boom in consumption of plant-based meats
  - Beyond meat, Impossible, Memphis meats
  - Tyson
- Market size
  - Food innovation: \$USD 700b by 2030 (current 135b)
  - Plant-based meat market \$USD 4.6b in 2018; projected to be \$USD 85b in 10 yrs
- Diversify
- Likely consolidation within 3-5 years
  - M&A opportunities



### The Big Players and the Patents

- Relatively few patent families
- Patents are at very early stages
- Less IP barriers to entry
  - Safeway sells competing Organics brand next to Beyond Meat's products
- Ripe for a shake-up?
- Impossible, Beyond Meat, and Just are leading the meatless meat revolution; Memphis Meats and others are also close behind



### Impossible Foods – 1/4

- Plant-based
- Founded in 2011
- Not a public company
- Holds many patents but sold only in restaurants
- BK offers Impossible Whopper
- Bleeding and meaty flavor secret is iron-rich Heme isolated from leghaemoglobin, isolated from soy plants
- Texture: isolated and purified proteins from plants to replicate muscle, connective tissue, fat and flesh
- Patent assets 197; 139 active; 51 grants; 16 granted U.S. patents; 36 U.S. pending applications
- Patents cover method of extracting and purifying non-denatured proteins, genetically engineering methylotropic yeast, soy-based cheese and ground meat patents



### Impossible Foods – 2/4

- U.S. 10,327,464 M & C for affecting the flavor and aroma profile of consumables
  - Covers a food product comprising:
    - .01-5% heme-containing protein;
    - Glucose, ribose, fructose, lactose, xylose ...
    - At least 1.5 mM of a compound selected from cysteine, cystine, thiamine, methionine, and mixtures of two or more thereof
    - One or more plant proteins,
    - Wherein the food product contains no animal products that contain heme; and
    - Wherein cooking the food product results in the production of at least two volatile compounds
- 10,314,325 M & C for affecting the flavor and aroma profile of consumables



### Impossible Foods – 3/4

- 10,172,380 Ground meat replicas
  - Method for imparting a beef-associated aroma to ground chicken, comprising adding a non-animal heme-containing protein to raw ground chicken to a final concentration of about 0.5% to about 1% (wt/wt), thereby producing heme protein-added, raw ground chicken, wherein cooking the heme protein-added, raw ground chicken results in the production of an increased amount of at least two volatile compounds that have a beef-associated aroma relative to the amount of the two volatile compounds produced upon cooking raw ground chicken lacking the added heme protein
- 10,172,381 method and composition for consumables
  - How granted in view of In Re Levin?
  - Levin additional test for / in place of section 103 obviousness
    - Impossible pushed back against the In re Levin rejection
    - Shows that ingredients coact in unexpected ways
    - Cucumis juice extract to increase the perceived meat flavor of the product
  - Examiner: "no reference was found for a meat replica containing ... Cucumis juice
  - Added tallow fatty notes that are enhanced with cooking
  - Food ingredients must coact unexpectedly



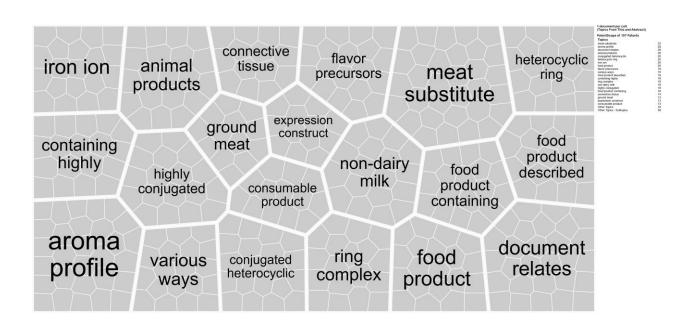
### Impossible Foods – 4/4

- Maraxi patents
  - A meat replica product, comprising:
    - a) Muscle replica comprising 0.1%-5% of a heme-containing protein, at least one sugar compound and at least one sulfur compound;
    - b) Fat tissue replica comprising at least one plant oil; and
    - c) Connective tissue replica;
      - Wherein said muscle replica, fat tissue replica, and connective tissue replica are assembled in a manner that approximates the physical organization of meat, wherein, upon cooking of the meat replica, two or more volatile compounds that are associated with a cooked meat aroma are produced in an increased amount relative to cooking a meat replica product lacking the heme-containing protein.



## Impossible Foods

### **Patent Wordscape**



### **Text Cluster**





# Beyond Meat (Savage River) – 1/2

- Building meat directly from plants
- Founded in 2009
- Public company
- Develops plant-based meats (chicken, and beef and pork sausage)
- Patents on meat structured protein products
- Cargill (pea protein supplier) invests an additional \$75 million
- KFC offering the plant-based chicken
- Patents 35 total assets; 8 pending U.S. applications; one U.S. grant;
  - U.S. 9,526,267 Nutrient-dense meat structured protein product
- A few abandoned, one application alleged as obvious not a Levin bar to patentability



## Beyond Meat – 2/2

- U.S. 9,526,267 Nutrient-dense meat structured protein product; claims to:
  - A process for producing a nutrient-dense meat structured protein product comprising protein fibers that are substantially aligned, wherein the process comprises:
  - a) Combining a non-animal protein material and water with at least one heat-stable nutrient to form a dough
  - Shearing and heating the dough to denature the proteins in the protein material and produce protein fibers that are substantially aligned in a fibrous structure
  - c) Setting the dough to fix the fibrous structure previously obtained, thereby obtaining a nutrient-dense meat structured protein product having a moisture content of at least 30% by weight and comprising at least 5% by weight of a non-animal protein material and at least 0.25 mg of heat-stable nutrient per ounce of the nutrient-dense meat structured protein product
  - d) As a post-processing step, adding at least one non-heat stable nutrient to the nutrientdense meat structured protein product

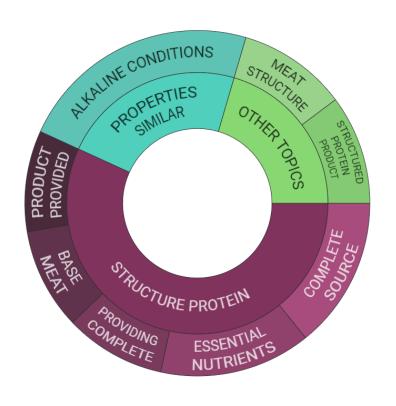


# **Beyond Meat**

### **Patent Wordscape**

#### base alkaline properties essential meat meat conditions similar nutrients structure product provided structured structure protein complete protein product providing source complete

### **Text Cluster**





### **JUST - 1/2**

- Founded in 2011
- Making healthier food better for the environment, and more delicious and cheaper
- Most-funded food and beverage startup in the field of synthetic biology
- Makes plant-based egg substitutes; eggless mayo and cookie dough
- Licenses ingredients to direct competitors to make vegan versions
- Plans for cultured meat?
- Patents refer to isolating adzuki and mung beans for meat-like creations
- Hampton Creek 18 total patent assets; 12 active; 3 grants (HK, CN and EP);
  - A few U.S. Grants
  - U.S. 10,321,705 Functional mung bean-derived compositions granted on 18, 2019
- 2 active U.S. applications
  - Functional adzuki bean-derived compositions pub 2017
  - Functional mung bean-driven compositions pub 2019



### **JUST - 2/2**

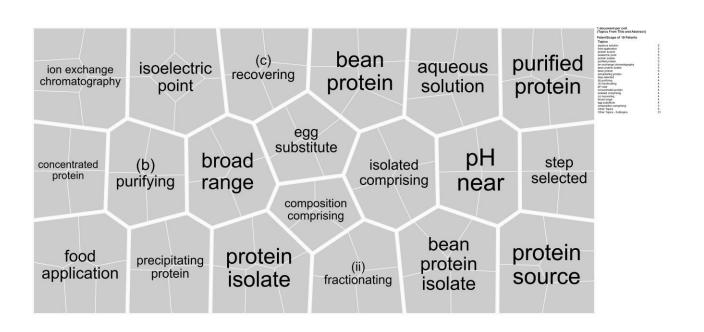
- Just Inc.: 36 total patent assets; 8 patent grants; 5 U.S. grants and 8 pending U.S. applications covering functional mung bean-derived compositions and plant-based egg substitute
  - U.S. 6,835,390 Method for producing tissue engineering meat for consumption 2000 priority
    - Method of providing nutrition .. consuming meat product produced by culturing nonhuman muscle cells ex vivo
  - U.S. 7,270,829 Industrial production of meat using cell culture methods
  - U.S. 9,760,834 Discovery Systems for identifying entities that have a target property
  - U.S. 10,321,705 see above assigned as originally assigned to Hampton Creek
  - U.S. 10,212,326 Notification for control sharing of camera resources Microsoft as original assignee



# **Just (Hampton Creek)**

### **Patent Wordscape**

### **Text Cluster**







### Memphis Meats, Inc.

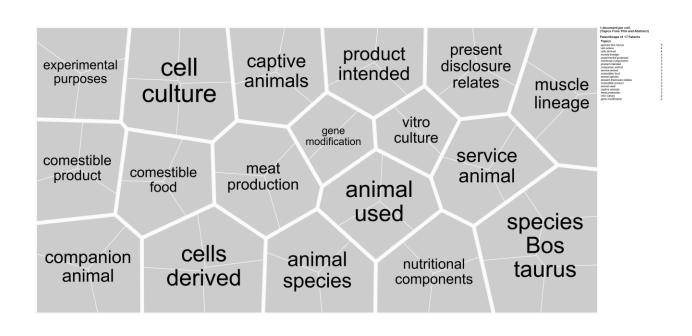
- Founded 2015
- Grows meat in small quantities using cells from cows, pigs, and chickens. Its products include hot dogs, sausages, burgers, and meatballs.
- Cultured meat from animal cells chicken meat and beef
- Serum from unborn calves and chicks.
- Patents on skeletal muscle cultivation.
- Backed by Tyson and Cargill and others
- VC-funded growth
- Patents 17 total assets; 15 active; 3 active U.S. patent application; none granted
- Three pending cases:
  - Method for scalable muscle lineage specification and cultivation pub 2016
  - Method for scalable muscle lineage specification and cultivation pub 2016
  - Method for extending the replicative capacity of somatic cells during ex vivo cultivation process Pub 2019

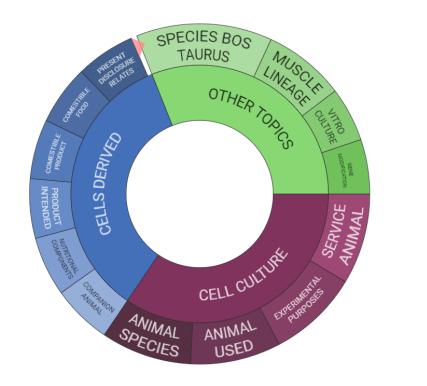


### Memphis Meats, Inc.

### **Patent Wordscape**

### **Text Cluster**







## Perfect Day Foods (Muufri)

- Founded on 2014
- Produces animal-free dairy milk
- Milk protein made from yeast instead of from cows
- Patents disclose formulations comprising casein protein, lipids, flavor compounds, sweetening agents.
- Patents: 14 total assets; 4 pending U.S. application; 1 granted:
- U.S. 9,924,728 Food compositions comprising one or both of recombinant beta-lactoglobulin protein and recombinant alpha-lactalbumin protein
- Claims to compositions
  - Wherein the food composition has one or more characteristics of a dairy food product selected from the group consisting of: taste, aroma, appearance, handling, mouthfeel, density, structure, texture, elasticity, springiness, coagulation, binding, leavening, aeration, foaming, creaminess, and emulsification; and
  - The food composition does not comprise any other milk proteins than those in (i)



# Other Players – 1/4

- Ripple Foods, PBC
  - Founded 2014
  - Produces plant-based milk
  - Patents 13 total assets; 2 pending U.S. applications pub 2019
    - Method for obtaining a yield of refined protein component from a non-animal natural and/or modified non-animal natural source
    - A refined protein component, wherein the refined protein component is obtained from a non-animal natural and/or modified non-animal natural source by the method
    - A plant-based yogurt analog comprising at least one of between 1% to 10% by weight of a plant protein, and between 1% to 90% by weight of a plant protein isolate



# Other Players – 2/4

- New Wave Foods
  - Shrimp substitute made from algae and plants
  - One patent family 3 total assets; none granted
    - Algae or plant based edible compositions:
      - An edible composition, comprising: a hydrocolloid material; a protein material; and an algal extract



# Other Players – 3/4

- Wild Type Inc.
  - Founded 2016
  - Sustainable meat using cellular agriculture technology
  - 1 patent family ex vivo meat production; filed in 2018
  - High-end meats sushi-grade fish and foie gras
- Alpine Roads, Inc.
  - Founded in 2016
  - Develops and produces animal-based food substitutes by using plants
  - Focuses on transforming plants into bioreactors for producing protein
  - Patents 1 family to cover a transgenic arabidopsis plant comprising a recombinant DNA construct; filed 2018/2017



## Other Players – 4/4

- Clara Foods
  - Founded in 2015
  - Produces baking products, food and beverages ingredients, nutrition supplements, and animal/pathogen/salmonella free egg white products
  - Its egg white products are used in food cakes, meringues, and macarons
  - Patents 6 total assets; 1 patent family; none granted
  - Compositions, proteins, polynucleotides, expression vectors, host cells, kits, and systems for producing egg white proteins
    - Recombinantly expressing a first egg white protein in a first host cell
- Zimitech Inc. dba Sugarlogix
  - Founded in 2012
  - Manufactures sugar with prebiotic functions
  - Patents: 1 patent family Engineered Microorganisms for Enhanced Use of oligosaccaarides



# **Conclusions / Summary**

- What did we cover?
  - The patent landscape in the future food area
    - Relatively few bigger players
    - Relatively few patent families
    - Relatively early in their lives
    - More opportunities for innovations
    - Likely to see consolidation
- How can audience benefit?
  - Learn what the patent landscape looks like
  - Recognize opportunities for innovation and investments
- What surprised me about the research?
  - Relatively few patents on the subject matter
  - Recipes and process know-how are kept a secret?
  - Many big players are supporting the early startups
  - Plenty of \$; and much technology innovation remains to be developed





Questions?

# **Speaker Contact Information**



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