

Itzhak Kurek, PhD

Dr. Kurek is the Chief Executive Officer and Co-founder of Cannformatics, Inc., a biomarkers-based bioinformatics platform providing personalized medical cannabis treatment recommendations. He also recently became a Scientific & Medical Subject Matter Expert at weedmaps.com.

Prior to founding Cannformatics, Dr. Kurek was consulting as VP of R&D at Solix Algreredients, Inc., a B2B supplier of algae-based Human and Nutritional Supplements, where he supervised the development of the new algae-based products pipeline in collaboration with international academic and industrial groups from China, Russia and Europe. Previously, he was the Senior Director of R&D and founding member of Kiverdi, Inc., a renewable energy startup generating biobased products from waste carbon sources. Dr. Kurek held research scientist positions at Pioneer Hi-Bred (DuPont), Verdia Inc. and Maxygen Inc.

Dr. Kurek's expertise and innovative approaches in yield enhancement, biomass, photosynthesis, secondary metabolites and the production of high-value molecules in industrial crops, algae and bacteria have been published in over 70 peer reviewed scientific papers and patents, including 13 granted US and international patents.

Dr. Kurek received his Ph.D. in Plant Sciences from Tel Aviv University and completed his postdoctoral research at the University of California, Davis. Dr. Kurek has also conducted research at the Technical University of Munich, John Innes Center Norwich, C.N.R.S Bordeaux and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratories.