



**Melissa P. Wu, PhD**

*CEO, Seeding Labs*

As the CEO of Seeding Labs, Dr. Melissa P. Wu connects scientists and institutions around the world to help reduce barriers to scientific discovery. Part scientist, part engineer, and part facilitator, Dr. Wu brings strategic insight and rigorous methodology to her work, together with a dedication to helping people.

Dr. Wu is driven by two overarching values: that scientific research is a critical tool for improving human lives, and that research thrives and we as a community make the best discoveries when we foster diversity in perspectives, approaches, and ideas. Joining these two ideas has given her a career focus on creating opportunities for people of all backgrounds to engage in scientific research.

Prior to being named CEO of Seeding Labs in 2019, Dr. Wu served as Senior Vice President of Operations. She revamped Seeding Labs' Instrumental Access program to increase its efficiency while expanding its impact. Dr. Wu's previous positions at the Harvard Office for Diversity Inclusion and Community Partnership and the BioBuilder Educational Foundation helped spread scientific knowledge to students nationwide. She is proud to have mentored many students through programs at the Journal of Emerging Investigators, Harvard, Boston Children's Hospital, and MIT. Dr. Wu earned a PhD in Cellular and Developmental Biology from Harvard University and holds an SB in Biology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

- **Leadership Superpower:** Creating the space for others to become leaders. It's critically important to me to support others in reaching their highest potential and making space is part of that.
- **What brings her joy:** Spending time with friends and family.
- **Theme Song:** "Tightrope" by Janelle Monáe. I love the sci-fi references, influences from a broad range of musical genres, and the story of a second-class citizen (an android) struggling to be free from discrimination and oppression, and reaching for love. Tightrope talks about having focus and not being distracted by 'haters', recognizing your own excellence and standing strong. And of course, keeping balance. Janelle Monáe is an amazing role model with vision, storytelling, empathy, confidence, and advocates for equity and progressive social change, which are all things that I think of when I listen to her music.