

LIVIO VALENTI CV

Livio Valenti is the co-founder of [Vaxess Technologies](#) and Giorgio Ruffolo Research Fellow in the [Sustainability Science Program](#) at Harvard Kennedy School of Government and the [Harvard Global Health Institute](#). He received a [Master in Public Policy](#) from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government in 2013, where he was the recipient of the [Empedocle Maffia Fellowship](#) provided by the Italian Government to one outstanding individual to attend Harvard.

While a student at Harvard, he co-founded [Vaxess Technologies](#), an innovative life sciences company that aims to create vaccines that do not need refrigeration. Vaxess has raised \$4.75m in venture capital, angel investors, and various public institutions, including the Massachusetts Life Science Center (MLSC). Harvard Business School (HBS) published a case on Vaxess in 2014.

Livio was named by **Forbes** one of the [30 under 30](#) individuals likely to change the world for his commitment in improving global health and one of the 10 under 40 (PrimiDieci-Under40 2014) most distinguished individuals with Italian origins or Italian nationality currently in the USA by the Italian-American Chamber of Commerce and the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

His academic research at Harvard focuses on the space at the intersection between Government and Business. Livio is researching the potential to sustainably commercialize innovative technologies to improve global health. He is contributing to collaborative work with the [Initiative on Innovation and Access to Technologies for Sustainable Development](#) led by [William Clark](#).

Professional experience

Prior to studying at Harvard, Livio worked for the United Nations in several developing countries. His work included advising government clients and international financing institutions in the identification, appraisal and financing of large investment projects. He also backstopped a diversified portfolio of economic and social development projects. He worked on short-term assignments for the Asian Development Bank, the World Bank, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the United Nations Development Program, The Government of Haiti and the Government of Cambodia.

2011-present **VAXESS TECHNOLOGIES, INC.**

BOSTON, MA

Founder, leads formulation of company strategy, development of pharmaceutical partnerships, and fundraising

- Venture-backed start-up commercializing an innovative vaccine delivery technology
- Vaxess' silk-based vaccine technology has been featured on The Economist, Forbes, NPR, and Fast Company
- Harvard Business School Business Plan competition grand prize-winner (USD 50k). Harvard President's Challenge winner (USD 70k). Finalist in the MassChallenge start-up accelerator program (<5% acceptance rate), final prize of USD1mn

Role

- Set-up: Recruited co-founders, built a world-class advisory board and hired 5 Harvard/MIT PhD. scientists and engineers
- Client acquisition: Finalized commercial agreement with 3 global pharmaceutical companies
- Partnerships: Forged collaborations with NIH, PATH, Gates Foundation, Wellcome Trust, Clinton Foundation
- Intellectual property: Secured exclusive licensing agreement with Tufts University technology licensing office

2009-2011 **UNITED NATIONS, INVESTMENT CENTER (UNFAO/TCI)**

ASIA & PACIFIC

Officer, Investment Projects (financial and economic analysis: loans and grants)

- Developed strategic and financing plans for international investment projects funded by IFIs
- Supported public sector clients on large-scale loan and grant identification, appraisal and negotiation
- Managed economic development portfolio of projects financed by international organizations
- Delivered trainings in investment program planning to different ministries in the Asia Pacific region

Clients

- The Asian Development Bank: team leader, economic analysis. Infrastructure rehabilitation project (US\$55m)
- The World Bank: project evaluation, economic and financial analysis. Land titling reform (US\$33m)
- Royal Government of Cambodia: Ministry of Economy and Finance. Credit guarantee program (US\$39m)
- Government of Haiti: emergency deployment, January 2010. Disaster needs assessment, damage and loss analysis
- Ministry of Interior/UN Capital Development Fund: Cambodia local governance and decentralization reform
- United Nations Development Programme (UNDP): private sector development program

2009 **FUDAN UNIVERSITY, SCHOOL OF MANAGEMENT**

SHANGHAI, CHINA

Teaching Fellow, MSc. and MBA courses in economics and business-government relations

2008 **NET PRESENT VALUE, MANAGEMENT CONSULTING** **SHANGHAI, CHINA**
Intern, Shanghai Office

Education and Training

2011-2013 **HARVARD UNIVERSITY** **BOSTON, MA**

Harvard Kennedy School of Government: Master in Public Policy, Business and Government Policy

Harvard Business School: Elective MBA coursework in Strategy, Finance and Entrepreneurship

- Full Government sponsorship for graduate studies at Harvard University, Italian Council Of Ministers
- Research Fellow, Centre for Business and Government, Sustainability Science Program, Harvard U.
- Research Fellow, Harvard Global Health Institute, Harvard University
- Resident Entrepreneur, Harvard Innovation Lab, Harvard Business School

2007-2009 **BOCCONI UNIVERSITY/FUDAN UNIVERSITY** **MILAN/SHANGHAI**

School of Management and School of Economics, *summa cum laude* (Top 5%)

- Double Degree MSc. in International Management
- Highly selective joint degree program created by the Italian and Chinese governments
- Merit scholarships covering full tuition and fees

2004-2007 **BOCCONI UNIVERSITY** **MILAN, ITALY**

School of Economics, *summa cum laude* (Top 1%)

- Bachelor of Science in Economics: Economic Policy and Public Management concentrations
- Final honor thesis "Los Angeles City Accounting and Control System: Insights for Italy"
- Merit scholarship covering full tuition and fees

2007 **UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES (UCLA)** **LOS ANGELES, CA**

Exchange student, Department of Economics and Anderson School of Management

2000-2004 **MUSIC CONSERVATORY** **ITALY**

First Level Diploma with Honors in Flute, Composition, Music History and Music Theory

Languages

Italian (native), English (fluent), French (working knowledge), Mandarin (basic), Khmer (basic)

Publications and Appearances

Livio received numerous mentions in international press. His work has been featured in international media such as [The Financial Times](#), [The Economist](#), [Forbes Magazine](#), and [elsewhere](#).

Awards

Livio was the recipient of the Empedocle Maffia Fellowship, awarded by the Italian Government to one outstanding individual to attend Harvard University's Master in Public Policy (MPP). A summer research award to support research to identify high-potential applications of silk biomaterials was co-sponsored by the [Sustainability Science Program](#) and the [Harvard Global Health Institute](#) (2012).

Livio was named by [Forbes Magazine's 30 under 30 list](#) as one of the most influential leaders in the science and healthcare category (2014) for his work at Vaxess. Vaxess was the recipient of first prize in the [Harvard President's Challenge for social entrepreneurship](#) (2013) and the [Harvard Business School New Venture Competition](#) (2013), Harvard Business School new Venture alumni competition and "Start-up to watch" from the Massachusetts Technology council.

Other activities

Livio is the president of the [Italian Society at Harvard](#). The mission of the Italian Society is to create opportunities for dialogue and exchange of ideas among all the members of Harvard community — undergraduates, graduates, staff and faculty — who share an interest in the Italian culture, current affairs, history and traditions.