

Ryan C.C. Chin, Ph.D.

Professional Summary

Technology executive with exceptional fundraising track record having secured over \$130M in venture capital, federal grants, and industrial research sponsorships. Proven ability to build and manage multi-stakeholder partnerships between academia, industry, and government. Over twenty-five years of experience in strategic vision, operational execution, and fundraising expertise.

Fundraising & Strategic Partnership Leadership (\$130M)

Investment & Grant Acquisition

- Raised \$125M+ venture capital for Optimus Ride, Inc. (2015-2021)
- Led Series Seed, A, and B funding rounds
- Secured investments from prominent firms including Emerson Collective
- Secured \$6M venture funding for TRAM Global, Inc. (2021-2024)
- Built investor relationships in climate tech sector
- Structured strategic funding and corporate partnerships
- Obtained \$4.3M U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) grant for Optimus Ride
- Successful exit through acquisition by Magna International

Research Sponsorship & Industry Partnerships

- Engaged with over 150 sponsoring companies through MIT's ILP and Media Lab
- Secured and managed directed research agreements at MIT Media Lab including:
 - General Motors (10-year sponsorship for MIT CityCar EV)
 - Spanish Automotive Consortium: design development of CityCar
 - Denso Corporation: Self-driving mobility systems
 - Austrian Institute of Technology: Persuasive technology
- Developed and maintained partnerships with 25+ global corporations including:
 - Energy sector: Shell, Schneider Electric
 - Automotive: GM, Ford, Toyota, Daimler-Chrysler, Hyundai
 - Technology: Google, Microsoft, Samsung

Executive Leadership Experience

Managing Director, Sustainable Mobility Center, Stanford University (2026-Pres.)

- Lead the development and execution of the center's vision and mission, creating innovative research and educational programs
- Build industrial partnerships and membership programs
- Create land-sea-air mobility grand challenges to galvanize university, academic, and industrial partners that can be deployed and scaled globally
- Engage with Stanford University faculty to accelerate the development of disruptive technologies that can be deployed in real-world environments
- Manage budgets, financial stewardship, and staff resources, including recruiting and mentoring multi-disciplinary teams

Co-Founder and COO, TRAM Global Inc. (2021-2025)

- Led strategic initiatives in carbon emissions measurement & reduction technology
- Managed cross-functional teams across AI, behavioral science, and sustainability
- Built and maintained corporate partner and customer relationships
- Oversaw multi-million dollar annual operational budget and financial planning

Entrepreneur-in-Residence, OVO Fund (2021)

- Created a partnership with MIT's AI for Impact Venture Studio to engage faculty and students to grow OVO Fund's ecosystem of future entrepreneurs
- Provided deal flow through personal networks to the fund's general partner
- Incubated TRAM Global Inc. for which OVO Fund would be the first investor

Co-founder and CEO, Chief Sustainability Officer, Optimus Ride, Inc. (2015-2021)

- Scaled self-driving company from founding to 200+ employees
- Raised and managed \$125M+ in capital deployment
- Managed cross-functional teams within Computer Vision, Robotics, AI, and electro-mechanical design
- Built research partnerships with leading universities (Berkeley and Clemson) with DOE grant.
- Deployed revenue-generating autonomous vehicle (AVs) fleets in five different locations (New York City, Boston, Washington DC, Reston (VA), and Fairfield (CA)).
- Managed government relations to enable self-driving permits in multiple states

Managing Director & Research Scientist, MIT Media Lab: City Science Initiative (2012-2015)

- Directed multi-million-dollar research portfolio
- Advised and mentored graduate students as a Principal Investigator

- Managed industrial sponsor relationships
- Secured and administered research grants

Research, Innovation, Mentorship, Consulting, & Advising

- Led MIT CityCar with GM and Frank O. Gehry project (2000-2010)
- CityCar awarded Time Magazine "Automotive Invention of the Year" (2007)
- Co-instructor of MIT Smart Cities courses taken by hundreds of MIT and Harvard students (2002-2015)
- Member, Boston Mayor's Mobility Plan Advisory "Go Boston 2030" (2015)
- Member, White House PCAST "Technology and Future Cities" Working Group (2015-2016)
- Partnered with City of Boston and Massachusetts Department of Transportation to create the "Autonomous Testing Zone" in the Boston Seaport District (2015-2021)

Academic Leadership

- Managing Director, MIT Social Carbon Economy Initiative (2024-present)
- Research Affiliate, MIT CMS and Design Lab (2015-2017)
- Co-instructor, MIT Professional Education Programs (2011-2016)

Education

- Ph.D., Media Arts and Sciences, MIT Media Lab
- M.S., Media Arts and Sciences, MIT Media Lab
- M.Arch., Architecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- B.S., Architecture & Civil Engineering, the Catholic University of America

Patents

- Ramiro Almeida, Jenny Larios Berlin, Ryan Chin, Sertac Karaman, Albert Huang, "Redundancy System and Method," US 11,511,762. Nov 29, 2022.
- Künzler, Patrick A., Peter Schmitt, Raul-David Poblano, Brian Chan, Philip A. Liang, Franco H. Vairani, Axel Kilian, Ryan C.C. Chin, and William J. Mitchell, "Wheel-Embedded Suspension," U.S. Patent No. 7,938,210. May 10, 2011.
- Chin, Ryan C.C., Raul-David Poblano, Michael Chia Liang Lin, Arthur J. Petron, and William J. Mitchell, "Folding Motor Scooter," U.S. Patent No. 7,882,918. Feb. 8, 2011.

Selected Publications and Articles

- Wunsch, M., Stibe, A., Millonig, A., Seer, S., Dai, C., Schechtner, K., & Chin, R. C. (2015). What Makes You Bike? Exploring Persuasive Strategies to Encourage Low-Energy Mobility. In *Persuasive Technology* (pp. 53-64). Springer International Publishing.
- Chin, Ryan C.C., "Solving Transportation Headaches in Cities of 2050," *BBC Future, Science and Technology*, June 18, 2013.
- Chin, Ryan C.C., "Vehicle Electrification: Lessons in Technological Substitution," *Network*, FH Technikum Wien (October 2011).
- Chin, Ryan C.C., "Sustainable Urban Mobility in 2020," *The Futurist*, (July-August 2010): 29-33
- Mitchell, William J., Ryan C.C. Chin and Andres Sevtsuk, "The Media Laboratory City Car: A New Approach to Sustainable Urban Mobility" in Peter Droege (Ed.), *Urban Energy Transition*, Elsevier Science, 2008.