

# IVAN PUSHKARSKY

Los Angeles, CA | [pushivan9@gmail.com](mailto:pushivan9@gmail.com) | 859-420-4398 | [linkedin.com/in/ivanpushkarsky](https://www.linkedin.com/in/ivanpushkarsky) | [ipush.me](https://ipush.me)

## Profile

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Product leader and builder who previously led end-to-end delivery of an experimental + data platform adopted by biopharma researchers, including teams at top-15 global pharma. Led a 12-person cross-functional team across engineering, data, automation, and applied science. Now builds and evaluates LLM applications with retrieval grounding, prompt iteration, and structured output enforcement.

## Professional Experience

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### Co-Founder, Product Lead, ForcYTE Biotechnologies (YC W21), Los Angeles, CA

Mar 2017 - Feb 2026

*Founded and led ForcYTE as a spin-out from my PhD research as CEO and sole full-time founder.*

- Defined core product across high-dimensional design space: diligenced options, standardized default config for widest user coverage with minimal customization, max manufacturing efficiency through optimal batching
- Evaluated four potential product directions requiring multi-year, multi-million-dollar commitment; selected one based on market signal and platform fit, killed three. Decision defined company direction for 5+ years and led to contracts with ~12 biopharma partners
- Shipped self-serve web app as portal to experimental database (Postgres, AWS) with visualization and export, reducing review timelines ~40%
- Built production data pipeline from microscopy ingestion through cellular feature extraction, generating >10M outputs with automated QC and monitoring
- Built and led 12-person team across science, engineering, data, automation, drug discovery. One departure in eight years.
- Owned commercial execution: 90%+ outbound sourcing, ~12 contracts, 8+ clients, >\$300K revenue

## AI Projects

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### LLM Document Co-Editor, Multi-Agent Reviewer ([ipush.me/projects/zorro-review](https://ipush.me/projects/zorro-review))

- Built an evaluation-driven multi-agent manuscript reviewer with an orchestration layer and UI
- Iterated prompts and routing logic to reduce hallucinated rewrites and improve source-grounding behavior
- Designed adversarial test cases and honeypot checks to catch superficially plausible but logically invalid citations and claims
- Enforced structured outputs with Pydantic to keep edits constrained and auditable

### ipush.me, Digital CV and ForcYTE Data Room

- Built an interactive data room experience and implemented a slide-synced RAG layer (slide content, per-element annotations, topic mappings, master docs)
- Implemented relevance gating using retrieval filters and prompt-routing guardrails to reduce off-topic conversation hijacks, validated on a 50-case adversarial test set

## Other Experience

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### Product Lead, Stealth Biotech Client, Hybrid

Jul 2025 - Present

- Built and led research team, established operations, vendor systems, and data pipelines for an early-stage company
- Deployed AI agents to perform deep research into technological options, biological approaches, and prior art
- Coordinated external expert consultants across key research functions (histology, profiling, assay development)

### Venture Partner, Pioneer Fund

Jun 2021 - Present

- Source, evaluate, and invest in pre-seed/seed life-science and AI startups; conduct technical diligence and provide ongoing support

## Education

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### UCLA, Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Bioengineering

Sept 2013 - May 2017

Invented the platform that became ForcYTE. 5 patents, 16 publications. [scholar.google.com/citations?user=oHdjM88AAAAJ](https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=oHdjM88AAAAJ)

### Y Combinator, ForcYTE Bio / W21

Dec 2020 - Mar 2021

**Raised >\$3.5M on Demo Day** as sole full-time founder.

## Technical Skills

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|-------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Product:</b>   | product strategy, roadmap prioritization, sprint planning, cross-functional execution, stakeholder management                                          |
| <b>AI and ML:</b> | LLM application development, prompt engineering, model evaluation, model selection and tradeoffs, neural network training exposure (LSTM, transformer) |
| <b>Technical:</b> | Python, SQL, Postgres, AWS, React, data pipelines, workflow orchestration, automation systems                                                          |
| <b>Business:</b>  | enterprise sales, SOW negotiation, fundraising, financial modeling                                                                                     |