

Michael Jochum

Michael Jochum is the Chief Scientist at AlgEternal Technologies, LLC, an Austin based startup company focused on the growth of unicellular microalgae for biofuels production and secondary markets. Michael studies microalgal culture in both the laboratory scale (0.01ml-15ml) and large scale outdoor (>50,000L) environments at AlgEternal, and is considered a subject matter expert on achieving exponential growth rates in microalgal culture. Michael also maintains preserved cultures of different strains using aseptic techniques and researches different abiotic growth variables in a laboratory setting that when applied at commercial scale will increase growth rates and productivity of microalgae.

Michael is listed as a co-inventor of AlgEternal Technologies patent-pending closed system vertical photobioreactor entitled “Biomass Production System and Apparatus”. He has played a critical role in the overall system design of the Vertical Growth Module™ (VGM) and Light Canopy. His research on the abiotic factors associated with exponential growth of microalgae have been a critical asset when designing the prototype photobioreactors to manipulate the outdoor environment and ensure the continued rapid growth of the cultures. He has been featured for his work on the large-scale growth of unicellular microalgae in the Texas A&M College of Agriculture and Life Sciences Newsletter, The Austin American Statesman, The Texas Tribune, Algae Industry Magazine, and The NY Times.

Michael is also currently serving as a First Lieutenant Medical Service Corps Officer in the HHT 1/112th CAV RSTA Squadron in the Texas Army National Guard. Michael is the Medical Platoon Leader for the Squadron as well as a Search and Rescue (SAR) Team Leader with the Texas Military Forces (TMF) Force Multiplier for Texas Task Force 1. Michael is a graduate of Texas A&M University, with a B.S. in Bioenvironmental Science and concentrated his studies in Biofuels, Biotechnology and Bioproduction.

