

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Mirá Biotech Announces the Appointment of Joseph Napier, Ph.D. as Principal Scientist**

February 4, 2025 – Dallas Fort Worth, Texas and São Paulo, Brazil – Mirá Biotech, a transformative renewable energy startup dedicated to converting waste into clean energy solutions, announced the appointment of Joseph Napier as Principal Scientist, effective immediately. Joseph is a multidisciplinary scientist with a distinguished track record in plant genetics, biofuel feedstock, and climate change research, who will focus on the company's R&D efforts, reporting directly to Chief Technology Officer and co-Founder, André Candelaria, Ph.D.

Joseph holds a Ph.D. in Plant Biology from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, where he was recognized as a GAANN (Graduate Assistance in Areas of National Need) Predoctoral Fellow. He also earned a B.S. in Biology with a minor in Chemistry from Wake Forest University, where he received an Undergraduate Research Fellowship. His academic background has provided a strong foundation for a career centered on leveraging advanced biotechnology to address critical environmental challenges.

Most recently, Joseph served as the Germplasm-by-Trait Study Director and on program leadership teams for late development and technological innovation supporting the GMO (Genetically Modified Organism) Biotechnology Pipeline at Syngenta, a global leader in agricultural innovation specializing in crop protection and seeds. In this role, he directed strategic R&D initiatives and guided the development of new processes to optimize GMO product deployment while navigating evolving regulatory landscapes. His leadership ensured the evaluation and timely delivery of high-performance agricultural products suitable for commercial deployment operations.

Before joining Syngenta, Joseph was a Postdoctoral Fellow and Life Scientist at The University of Texas at Austin, where he managed a large-scale Department of Energy-sponsored project. He utilized advanced statistical methods to identify key patterns in complex datasets to offer recommendations for improving renewable biofuel feedstock resilience and sustainability. His ability to predict agricultural performance and advance technological applications supports Mirá Biotech's goal of innovating transformative scientific solutions.

Throughout his career, Joseph has authored more than a dozen peer-reviewed articles published in journals, including *Nature* and the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* (PNAS), further establishing his expertise in the field. His commitment to advancing biotechnology in sustainable agriculture and renewable energy production reflects Mirá Biotech's vision of a net-positive planet.

"We are pleased to welcome Joseph to our leadership team," said Gustavo Candelaria, CEO and co-founder of Mirá Biotech. "His extensive experience and innovative approach to plant biology will



advance our R&D programs and help us achieve our mission of developing sustainable energy solutions, rooted in nature, that reduce the dependence on fossil fuels.”

Joseph added, “I am excited to join Mirá Biotech, where innovation and sustainability are central to the company’s mission. It’s proprietary enzyme technology, PhytoCy™, delivers an innovative approach for the conversion of agricultural waste into biofuel pellets, and I believe this will help lead to a substantial shift in energy solutions for heavy industries. I look forward to exploring the possibilities in reimagining resource utilization for energy.”

For more information or to inquire about potential collaborations, please contact Mirá Biotech’s CMO, Jude Davies at [jude@mirabio.co](mailto:jude@mirabio.co). To learn more, visit us at <https://mirabio.co/> or follow us on LinkedIn at [Mirá: Overview | LinkedIn](#).

### **About Mirá Biotech**

Mirá Biotech, an IndieBio company with dual headquarters in the United States and Brazil, is a transformative startup focused on delivering sustainable energy solutions to heavy industries such as cement, electricity, and steel, accelerating the transition from fossil fuel. The company’s proprietary enzyme technology, PhytoCy™ converts agricultural waste into high-performance BioTerra™ biofuel pellets, helping to significantly reduce carbon emissions and production costs. Committed to adopting a cleaner energy landscape, Mirá Biotech envisions a net-positive planet by developing nature-rooted sustainable energy solutions. For more information, please visit us at <https://mirabio.co/>.

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