

ABSTRACT TEMPLATE: CHECKLIST AND INSTRUCTIONS

Please complete the ABSTRACT TEMPLATE online, for Biomed 2025 Company Presentations
All items marked with an * are mandatory to complete
The maximum number of words for this abstract is 400
Please be sure to complete the following:

Company name CartiHeal*

Founder & ex CEO name Nir Altschuler

CATEGORY: Medical Devices

SESSIONS

- Medical Device Company: The Route from Vision to a Successful Outcome
- Executive Summary
The R&D and M&A Rollercoaster of CartiHeal: From Sea Corals to FDA Approval and Beyond

CartiHeal's story is a rare convergence of scientific innovation, clinical rigor, and business resilience. In this talk, Nir Altschuler—CartiHeal's founder, CEO, and inventor of the technology—will share the 16-year journey of transforming a preliminary concept inspired by marine biology into the world's first and only FDA-approved implant for true cartilage regeneration.

The journey began with a bold idea: that sea coral, could be engineered into a scaffold capable of regenerating both cartilage and subchondral bone. Through years of intensive R&D, clinical studies, and regulatory interaction, that idea became Agili-C™—a breakthrough, off-the-shelf implant for the treatment of osteochondral lesions. Designed to enable cell infiltration and remodeling without the need for cell therapy or fixation, Agili-C™ succeeded where decades of cartilage repair technologies fell short.

The pivotal moment came with the completion of one of the largest IDE studies in orthopedic history, leading to the first-ever FDA approval for a product that regenerates hyaline cartilage. But the company's story did not end with regulatory success.

The business arc was equally dramatic. After an initial acquisition agreement with Bioventus, unforeseen financial turmoil on the acquirer's side led to the collapse of the deal—just months after FDA approval. What followed was a rapid and determined rebuild of the company under immense pressure, reaffirming investor confidence, restoring commercial momentum, and eventually leading to a second acquisition, this time by Smith+Nephew, a global orthopedic leader.

From sea coral to the surgical suite, from startup labs to boardrooms of global acquirers—CartiHeal's path is a case study in visionary entrepreneurship, scientific perseverance, and business adaptation. This is not just the story of a device—it's the story of how a founder stayed the course to deliver a first-in-class solution to one of orthopedics' biggest unmet needs