

illumiceLL AI Places Second on Meet the Drapers Season 9, Receives \$500,000 Investment from Tim Draper

Spotted by Draper at HumanX after an elevator pitch, the company was invited to compete, slipped into the finals and finished second in the Season 9 finale.

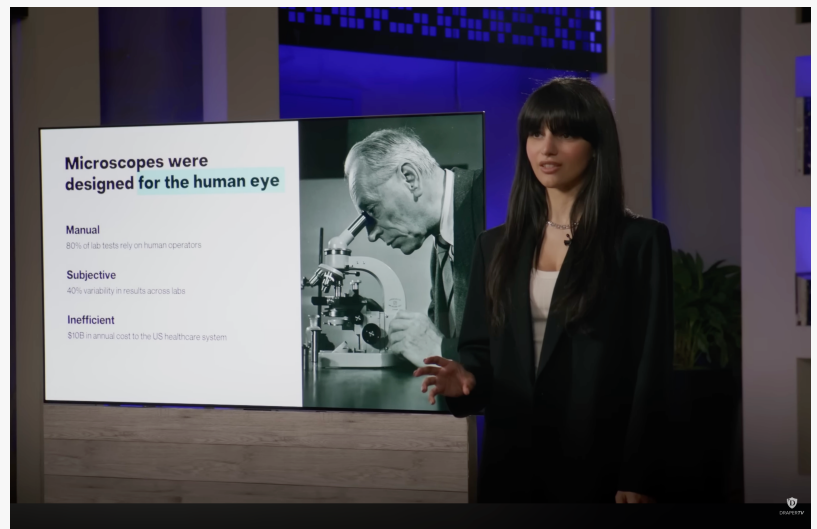
BOSTON, MA, UNITED STATES, June 19, 2026 /EINPresswire.com/ -- [illumiceLL AI](#), a healthtech company developing proprietary 3D imaging and AI to make biological samples machine-readable, today announced that it placed second in Season 9 of [Meet the Drapers](#) and secures a \$500,000 investment from Tim Draper.

illumiceLL AI had not initially applied to Meet the Drapers. The company entered the competition after a brief elevator pitch to Tim Draper at HumanX in Las Vegas, where Draper personally invited illumiceLL AI to participate. It advanced to the semifinals, narrowly missed an initial finals spot, was voted back by the public and ultimately finished second in the finale.

The company is addressing a core limitation in diagnostics: many biological samples are still interpreted through microscopes and workflows built for the human eye. illumiceLL AI's platform is designed to scan and analyze more of each sample at once, capture cellular movement and turn biofluids into machine-readable diagnostic data.

Its first application is male fertility diagnostics, where clinical decisions are still often shaped by manual workflows, limited fields of view and operator variability.

"What stood out about Tim's reaction was that he immediately understood both sides of the company: fertility diagnostics as a powerful first wedge, and machine-readable biology as the larger platform. Microscopes were built for the human eye. We are building imaging systems for a world where biology needs to be read by machines: objectively, without complex tools and in real time," said Jeyla Sadikova, Co-founder and Chief Strategy Officer of illumiceLL AI.



Jeyla Sadikova presents illumiceLL AI's machine-readable biology platform during Meet the Drapers Season 9.



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*Jeyla Sadikova, Co-founder
and Chief Strategy Officer of
illumiceII AI*

"This investment is validation, but more importantly it is fuel. If results vary by operator, microscope, or site, you are not tracking biology; you are tracking noise. illumiceII AI is designed to remove that variability through standardized, AI-powered cellular analysis," said Michel Bielecki, MD, MPH, Co-founder and CEO of illumiceII AI.

The Season 9 finale featured six companies across biotechnology, logistics and space. For illumiceII AI, the result adds to growing recognition of its mission to make cellular analysis faster, more objective and more accessible

across medicine.

Michel Bielecki
illumiceII AI

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