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BRIDGING HEALTHCARE INNOVATION & EQUITY FOR A MORE ACCESSIBLE FUTURE

Amanda Waldhauser, Executive Director, Roivant Social Ventures (RSV) & Founder, of the Alliance for Ethical Economic Development (AEED), has built a career at the intersection of nonprofit leadership, healthcare, technology, communications, and organizational strategy. Her professional journey has been shaped by a consistent focus on learning, contributing, and creating meaningful impact through mission-driven organizations.

Beginning her career with a focus in communications, marketing, and project management, Amanda gradually took on broader responsibilities to expand her expertise in fundraising, organizational strategy and growth, and leveraging developing technologies to expand mission access. These experiences strengthened her understanding of how effective strategy and leadership can help organizations achieve greater impact.

A significant stage in her professional development came with the growing influence of technology, data, and analytics in organizational decision-making. Seeking to deepen her understanding of these areas, she completed the Harvard Business Analytics Program in 2023. The program strengthened her capabilities in quantitative analysis, emerging technologies, business and financial analytics, and data-informed decision-making. Today, these diverse experiences inform her leadership at RSV, where she works across nonprofit leadership, healthcare, biotechnology, philanthropy, and innovation to help address systemic barriers to equitable access to medical advances.

DRIVING EQUITABLE ACCESS THROUGH HEALTHCARE INNOVATION & PURPOSE

Amanda's motivation is rooted in curiosity and responsibility. She believes professional growth is most meaningful when it enables individuals to expand their impact and contribute to a purpose greater than themselves. Her perspective is particularly relevant in healthcare, where biotechnology, artificial intelligence, and data science are creating new possibilities while also raising questions about who benefits from innovation. For Amanda, innovation must be accompanied by efforts to ensure that progress is accessible and equitable. Her commitment to social impact also extends beyond her professional responsibilities, with more than two decades of nonprofit volunteer experience and leadership roles in organizations focused on communication, economic development, and community impact.

At RSV, Amanda is focused on addressing a fundamental healthcare challenge: ensuring that people have access to medicines and medical care regardless of geography, wealth, or insurance status. The organization recognizes that affordable medicines are critical to health equity, while conventional pharmaceutical manufacturing and distribution models can create dependencies, long supply chains, high transportation costs, shortages, and limited local capacity. RSV therefore emphasizes the need for regional scientific, manufacturing, quality-control, supply-chain, and workforce capabilities to support truly global access to advanced therapies.

RSV's 'Invest, Incubate, Educate' approach addresses barriers across healthcare innovation. Through strategic investment, it supports early stage companies and technologies focused on underserved populations. By balancing financial sustainability with social impact, RSV helps organizations advance technologies, validate concepts, build viable models, and move innovative solutions closer to patients.

The Incubate pillar leverages Roivant Sciences' expertise, resources, talent, and company building experience to support healthcare entrepreneurs. It helps organizations navigate scientific development, clinical testing, manufacturing, regulation, financing, and access. By strengthening strategies and capabilities, RSV bridges the gap between promising scientific discoveries and organizations capable of delivering meaningful patient impact.

Education is also central to RSV's healthcare equity mission. Through internships, fellowships, and its PharmD Access to Medicines Program, RSV supports greater diversity in drug development and medical research while providing exposure to clinical development, regulatory affairs, biostatistics, quality control, translational medicine, and global access.

Advanced therapies such as gene and cell therapies demonstrate why global access must be considered from the beginning of the innovation process. Amanda notes that while such treatments can offer transformative benefits, the infrastructure, manufacturing systems, financing mechanisms, clinical capabilities, and policy frameworks required to deliver them remain concentrated in wealthier countries. RSV advocates for integrating access considerations into formation and investment decisions rather than addressing them only after therapies have been approved. Its Global Access Scorecard evaluates factors including target outcomes and equity, scientific viability, and corporate governance and business structure.

Partnerships are central to RSV's strategy for creating systemic change. Amanda believes that healthcare inequities span drug development, clinical research, manufacturing, financing, education, workforce representation, and healthcare delivery, making collaboration essential. By working with academic institutions, pharmaceuticals companies, nonprofits, healthcare organizations, investors, and industry experts, RSV can combine capital, scientific expertise, infrastructure, technology, talent, institutional knowledge, and networks around shared objectives.

Her leadership philosophy reflects the same collaborative and purpose-driven approach. Waldhauser describes her style as collaborative, transparent, and grounded in purpose. She believes team members should understand not only what they are expected to accomplish, but also why their work matters. She emphasizes ownership, open communication, clear expectations, and access to the resources required for success. Her experience across multiple sectors has reinforced the value of challenging assumptions and bringing together people with different perspectives.

Amanda also places strong emphasis on data-informed leadership. She believes mission-driven organizations should be as rigorous about measuring performance and allocating resources as successful businesses. While passion provides purpose, data-centered feedback loops provide the potential to help organizations determine whether their actions are producing the intended outcomes. She therefore seeks to balance empathy and intuition with evidence, measurement, and disciplined decision-making.

Looking ahead, Amanda envisions RSV contributing to a fundamental shift in how healthcare and biopharmaceutical ecosystems approach access and sustainability. Her goal is for equity to become an integral part of innovation from the beginning rather than an issue addressed after medicines are developed or approved. She also emphasizes building local capacity and developing future leaders through partnerships and fellowship programs, helping communities strengthen their own healthcare infrastructure rather than becoming dependent on external organizations.

In her work launching and running AEED, Amanda is proud to have created an organization that is currently bolstering fair trade economic opportunities for artists and craftspeople in 32 countries across the globe, in addition to 17 cities within the United States. This includes sustainably supporting developing economies, upcycling resources to lessen negative environmental impacts, and actively preventing exploitation and human trafficking.

For aspiring professionals and women leaders, Amanda encourages actively seeking out diverse experiences, continuous learning, and meaningful relationships. Beyond titles, leadership develops through mentorship, collaboration, volunteering, community engagement, and taking ownership of meaningful responsibilities and outcomes.

WHERE INNOVATION, LEADERSHIP & HEALTHCARE EQUITY CONVERGE

