

# Best and Brightest

From awards to regulatory changes to national recognition, young professionals are charting new trails in cannabis



In an industry evolving as rapidly as cannabis, it should come as no surprise that some of the sector's biggest changemakers are also among the newest.

For this special section, we identified top industry leaders age 30 and younger to learn about their past achievements as well as their visions for the

future of regulated marijuana.

One common thread: These changemakers view cannabis as a passion, not a job.

"For me, this is not merely a job," said Kevin A. Koby, chief scientific officer at Abstrax Tech.

"It's an ongoing exploration, a labor of love and an opportunity to leave a lasting leg-

acy in an industry that I hold dear."

From cultivation to manufacturing, testing and retail, cannabis changemakers are all around us.

Keep reading to learn how one young professional is rewriting the rules—and the burgeoning cannabis industry in the process.



## Kevin A. Koby

**CHIEF SCIENTIFIC OFFICER**

ABSTRAX TECH | ABSTRAXTECH.COM | IRVINE, CALIFORNIA

Kevin Koby wasted no time making a name for himself in North America's regulated marijuana industry.

By age 30, he had:

- Made pioneering advances in solvent-free cannabis extraction.
- Co-founded Abstrax Tech, a California-based leader in cannabis research and product development.
- Led a dedicated team of research scientists.
- Co-written scientific articles published in prestigious journals such as Nature and ACS Omega as well as Popular Science.

As former vice president of product manufacturing and research for Loudpack, the maker of Kingpen vapes, Koby created cannabis products that won 10 High Times Cannabis Cup awards, including six for vape formulations and four for concentrates.

Today, his continued interest in terpenes and cannabinoids inspires creativity among the Abstrax Tech team, and Koby has overseen groundbreaking discoveries in cannabis flavor technology and advancements in cannabis and hops-extraction technologies.

Koby played an integral role in the landmark research

study, "The Science of Dank," which advanced the understanding of cannabis flavor technology and led the Abstrax team to unearth a new class of cannabis compounds responsible for the plant's distinctive, skunky aroma.

"I find myself drawn to the challenge of leadership, the art of building efficient systems and the endless pursuit of the latest research," Koby said.

"My goal is to be on the precipice when cannabis goes mainstream and becomes federally legal. I want to be there to help integrate cannabis into society."