



ETALON

As the Founder & CEO of [Etalon](#), an equine genetics company, Christa Lafayette has combined her greatest passions: [Horses, science and discovery!](#) This unique company combines cutting-edge genetic technology with horse person know-how resulting in an accelerated discovery platform powered by horse folks.

As a biotech entrepreneur in Silicon Valley since 2004, she is a proven business executive. Having founded and developed several successful companies of her own, she also contributed to the growth and development of many more.

Beginning at Stanford and UCSF, in the world of human organ transplant, Christa made the leap into biotech with Renovis (2001); a neuroscience company led by Corey Goodman and Marc Tessier-Lavigne. Her focus and expertise are in therapeutic developmental translation for the animals to humans preclinical space. She later founded Catalyst Biosolutions (2004) specializing in surgical and behavioral models for preclinical development in biotechnology. Services included guidance, development, training and assistance, regulatory and team management guidance primarily to small biotech companies.

Along the way, Christa served as Founder and Vice President of LifeSource Biomedical (2008) on the NASA Ames Research Center campus. Her team supported the internal life science space programs, including the Mission to Mars, and developed a commercial CRO focused on preclinical development services for NASA and the surrounding biotech community.

As an avid equestrian, horse owner/addict, and occasional breeder, Christa has strong ties to the performance horse community. During her non-horsey hours, Christa is enamored with all things ocean and wildlife. She spends as much time as possible SCUBA diving, traveling and enjoying her family of two teenage boys; one a hacker, the other a pilot, and her husband Richard, a transplant nephrologist. Unfortunately, none of Christa's boys are hard-core horsey, but seem to suffer their mother's affliction and friends willingly - that is the definition of love!