

VASCO SINGH, 17 VIEWPOINT SCHOOL

When Vasco Singh was just 12 years old, he took a trip to India and got sick due to the lead in the water. "Taking antibiotics for my sickness, my immune system got wiped out, leaving me with allergies. With no current proactive solutions for allergies, only reactive (i.e., EpiPens), I sought a better solution."

Teaching himself immunology and business fundamentals, Vasco, along with three friends, researched and developed their first product, Allergy Immunity, in 2018. The 17-year-old says the probiotic relieved him of his allergies. "For people who have developed allergies later in life to things like gluten and peanuts, I challenge them to think of the exact time in which the onset of their allergies occurred. Many people will realize that it coincides with a sickness. If you can track the origin of your allergies to a time, probiotics can be a useful way of suppressing and fully relieving your allergies."

Encouraged by his parents (his mom is a chemical engineer at the biopharmaceutical company Amgen, and his dad is a biotech entrepreneur), Vasco and friends founded Realign Therapeutics. Vasco says in its first year the online company had \$10,000 in sales.

The four students are currently focused on getting their first patent, a proactive oral-immunotherapy methodology to be administered with probiotics, aimed at relieving allergies.

Of all his accomplishments, Vasco says filing for a patent is what he is most proud of. "In the world of medicine, many scientists and doctors carry skepticism about the nature and efficacy of probiotics. We had to go above and beyond to research, to self-study microbiology and immunology, to prove ourselves."

When not doing schoolwork (20 AP/honors classes; ranked near the top of his class), Vasco volunteers at the Westminster Free Clinic & Community Care Center in Oxnard. He also is a center midfielder for Viewpoint's varsity soccer team (captain, CIF All– League). After an undergrad degree in biomedical engineering, he hopes to go on to medical school.