NAI

From Discovery to DESTINY

The National Academy of Inventor's 15th Annual Conference

June 1 - 4, 2026

Los Angeles, California

15years

of shaping what is possible.

Hosted by The University of Southern California

THANK YOU
TO OUR HOST SPONSOR

USC

We extend our deepest gratitude to our host sponsor, the University of Southern California, for making the 15th Annual Conference possible.

NAI
National Academy of Inventors

The National Academy of Inventors is a member organization comprising U.S. and international universities, governmental and non-profit research institutes, with over 4,600 individual inventor members and Fellows spanning more than 260 institutions. It was founded in 2010 to recognize and encourage inventors with patents issued from the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, enhance the visibility of academic technology and innovation, encourage the disclosure of intellectual property, educate and mentor innovative students, and translate the inventions of its members to benefit society. Since the establishment of the Academy, the USPTO and NAI have cultivated a strong and enduring partnership rooted in a shared commitment to advancing innovation. This collaboration was formally reinforced in 2022 through the signing of a Joint Project Agreement (JPA). Under this initiative, NAI launched a series of impactful programs, including the Invention Ambassadors Program, the Invention Insider Innovators Gallery, an expanded GAIN platform, and a revitalized From Campus to Commerce video series, while also developing new curricula and certification pathways. Although the formal JPA has concluded, the momentum generated endures, and NAI and the USPTO continue to enjoy a dynamic and productive partnership that fosters innovation and national progress.

www.academyofinventors.org

Distinguished Colleagues, Partners, Members, and Friends:

On behalf of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) Board of Directors and staff, welcome to NAI's 15th Annual Conference in Los Angeles, California. We extend our sincere gratitude to our host sponsor, the University of Southern California, whose leadership and partnership made this year's conference possible.

This year's theme, "From Discovery to Destiny," was chosen with both the 15th anniversary of the NAI Annual Conference and the approaching 250th anniversary of our nation in mind. Destiny need not be predetermined. We can shape it — through perseverance, innovation, and a shared commitment to building a better future. As we gather with leaders from academia, industry, and government, NAI embraces the important role each of us plays in advancing innovation and creating lasting impact.

The Annual Conference remains a premier opportunity to connect with inventors and innovation leaders from across the ecosystem. Take the conversations, collaborations, and ideas shared here with you far beyond this event. Let them inspire progress at your institutions, in your communities, and across the world.

This year, we proudly celebrate and induct the 2025 Class of NAI Fellows, which includes 169 exceptional inventors representing 127 institutions, companies, and government agencies. Collectively they hold more than 5,300 U.S. patents. Since the Fellows program began in 2012, NAI has inducted 2,253 Fellows whose innovations have generated an estimated $3.8 trillion in revenue and supported 1.4 million jobs worldwide.

We also recognize our largest-ever class of Senior Members—230 rising innovators from 82 Member Institutions who collectively hold more than 2,000 patents. These leaders are helping shape the future of innovation, while mentoring and inspiring the next generation of inventors.

NAI's continued growth is made possible through the support of our more than 260 Member Institutions spanning 49 states and 22 countries. This expanding global network of NAI Chapters now serves more than 2,400 members and plays a vital role in fostering innovation, collaboration, and inventor engagement at the local level. We are especially grateful for our longstanding partnership with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), whose support has been instrumental to NAI's mission since our founding. We are honored to welcome the Honorable John A. Squires, Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the USPTO, as a keynote speaker and participant, as well as presenting the honors to our newest class of Fellows and Senior Members.

As the Academy continues to grow, we remain committed to expanding programs, partnerships, and resources that support inventors at every stage of the innovation journey. Thank you to our members, partners, and friends for your continued leadership and dedication to advancing invention and innovation worldwide. 1

It is an honor to serve as President of the National Academy of Inventors, and I look forward to shaping destiny together with all of you.

Enjoy the Conference!

Dr. Paul R. Sanberg, FNAI
President, The National Academy of Inventors

FROM DISCOVERY TO DESTINY

For the Fifteenth Annual Conference of the National Academy of Inventors, we aim to honor and empower the world's brightest innovators and professionals by creating powerful connections between them, generating a momentum that will enhance and transform our innovation ecosystem. The Annual Conference features stimulating presentations, networking opportunities, a celebration of our Senior Members, and culminates in the formal NAI Fellows Induction Ceremony and Gala Reception.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

About the NAI 4
Letter from the President 5
About the Location 7
Detailed Agenda 9-19
Board of Directors 21-27
NAI Staff 28
Program Committee 29-39
Presenter/Speaker Biographies 41-77
Sustaining Member Institutions 79-84
Member Institutions Since 2010 85-86
Thank You to Our Sponsors &
Fellows Congratulatory Ads 87-101
Common Abbreviations 102
Save the Date: 2026 Annual Meeting ..... Back Cover

NAI
National Academy of Inventors

A Love Letter to Los Angeles

Los Angeles is a city built on imagination.

It is where ideas are not only dreamed, but brought vividly to life — projected onto screens, scaled into industries, and shared with the world. From the earliest days of motion pictures to today's most advanced technologies, Los Angeles has long stood at the intersection of creativity and invention.

This is a place where storytellers and scientists, artists and engineers, visionaries and entrepreneurs move in parallel — each shaping what comes next.

In Los Angeles, innovation is not confined to a lab or a studio. It lives in the spaces between — where disciplines collide, where risk is embraced, and where bold thinking becomes reality.

As we gather for the National Academy of Inventors' 15th Annual Conference, we are reminded that discovery and destiny are deeply connected — and few places embody that journey more powerfully than this city. As we mark 15 years of shaping what's possible, we could imagine no better backdrop than a city that has spent more than a century doing exactly that.

Here, ideas take center stage.

Here, breakthroughs find their audience.

Here, the future is not only imagined — it is created.

We extend our sincere gratitude to our host sponsor, University of Southern California, whose leadership and commitment to advancing innovation help shape the very future we are here to celebrate.

We are also grateful to our partners at the Loews Hollywood Hotel and the Dolby Ballroom, whose collaboration and dedication bring this experience to life in such an iconic setting.

To Los Angeles —

Thank you for inspiring possibility, for celebrating creativity in all its forms, and for reminding us that the most extraordinary innovations often begin with a story.

MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2026

10:00 AM — **Registration and Information Desk Open**
Location: Third Floor Landing, Loews Hollywood Hotel

4:00 PM — **Bus Departure for University of Southern California's Welcome Reception**
Location: Lobby, Loews Hollywood Hotel

5:00 PM - 8:00 PM — **Welcome Reception**
Sponsored by University of Southern California
Location: Town and Gown, University of Southern California

Featured Speakers:
Beong-Soo Kim, President, University of Southern California

Mark Stevens, Founder, Stevens Center for Innovation, University of Southern California

Paul R. Sanberg, FNAI, President, National Academy of Inventors

8:00 PM — **Bus Departure for Loews Hollywood Hotel**
Location: Town and Gown, University of Southern California

8:30 PM — **Buses to Arrive Loews Hollywood Hotel**

TUESDAY, JUNE 2, 2026

7:00 AM — **Registration and Information Desk Open**
Location: Third Floor Landing, Loews Hollywood Hotel

7:00 AM - 8:00 AM — **Welcome & Networking Breakfast**
Sponsored by Fulgent Genetics
Location: Hollywood Ballroom, Loews Hollywood Hotel

8:00 AM - 8:10 AM — **Transition to Morning Opening Session**

8:10 AM — **General Session Opening Session Welcome Remarks**
Location: Hollywood Ballroom, Loews Hollywood Hotel

8:10 AM - 8:35 AM — **Opening Keynote Speaker**
Location: Hollywood Ballroom, Loews Hollywood Hotel

Andrei Iancu, HonNAI, NAI Presidential Fellow, Chairman of the Board, C4IP, Partner at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, Former Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property of the United States, Former Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

8:35 AM - 9:35 AM — **Workshop: Advancing University Innovation by Encouraging and Supporting Faculty Invention and Translation**
Sponsored by AUTM, PTIE and VentureWell
Location: Hollywood Ballroom, Loews Hollywood Hotel

Presenters:
Mike Brizek, Director, Higher Education Ecosystems, VentureWell

Almesha L. Campbell, HonNAI, Vice President of Research and Economic Development, Jackson State University

Rich G. Carter, HonNAI, Professor, Department of Chemistry, Faculty Lead for Innovation Excellence - Office of Research, Oregon State University

Stephen J. Susalka, HonNAI, Chief Executive Officer, AUTM

Phil Weilerstein, HonNAI, Chief Executive Officer, VentureWell

9:35 AM - 9:45 AM **Morning Break**
Sponsored by Council for Innovation Promotion (C4IP)
Location: Hollywood Ballroom Foyer, Loews Hollywood Hotel

9:45 AM - 10:45 AM **PANEL: Accelerating National Competitiveness Through Critical Technologies & Strategic Partnerships**
Location: Hollywood Ballroom, Loews Hollywood Hotel

Moderated by:
Stephen J. Susalka, HonNAI, Chief Executive Officer, AUTM

Speakers:
Anthony Boccanfuso, President and Chief Executive Officer, UIDP

Frank Cullen, Executive Director, Council for Innovation Promotion (C4IP)

Kate Hudson, HonNAI, Deputy Vice President and Counsel for Government Relations and Public Policy, Association of American Universities (AAU)

10:45 AM - 10:55 AM **Morning Break**
Sponsored by Morehouse School of Medicine
Location: Hollywood Ballroom Foyer, Loews Hollywood Hotel

10:55 AM - 11:50 AM **PANEL: Patent to Business- Where the Pipeline Breaks**
Location: Hollywood Ballroom, Loews Hollywood Hotel

Moderated by:
Erwin Cruz, Co-Founder & CEO, Forge & Fortress Corporation, IPLA Chair, and President, Zoro Intellectual Property Holdings, LLC for W.W. Grainger, Inc. (Retired)

Speakers:
Charleson Bell, HonNAI, NSF Mid-South I-Corps Hub Director, Vanderbilt University, National Chair, NSF I-Corps National Innovation Network

James Conley, FNAI, Clinical Professor, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University

Mihri Ozkan, FNAI, Professor, Department of Electrical and Computer Engineering, University of California, Riverside

11:50 AM - 11:51 AM **AM Session Closing Remarks**
Location: Hollywood Ballroom, Loews Hollywood Hotel

11:51 AM **Transition to Chapters Luncheon**

12:00 PM - 1:00 PM **NAI Chapters Award Luncheon**
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 4 & 5, Loews Hollywood Hotel

12:15 PM	**USIPA State Alliance Announcement** Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 4 & 5, Loews Hollywood Hotel **Scott Frank, HonNAI,** (Retired) President & CEO, AT&T, Intellectual Property, USIPA Chair
12:20 PM - 12:55 PM	**PANEL: Strengthening the Institutional Innovation Engine, Lessons from NAI Chapter of Excellence Finalists** Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 4 & 5, Loews Hollywood Hotel **Moderated by:** **Scott Frank, HonNAI,** (Retired) President & CEO, AT&T, Intellectual Property, USIPA Chair **Panelists:** **Rusty Kruzelock**, Executive Director for Innovation, University of Texas at Arlington **Sarah Sapouckey,** Licensing Associate, University of Iowa Research Foundation **Ryan Sharp,** Assistant Vice Chancellor for Innovation & Business Engagement, University of California, Santa Cruz
12:55 PM - 1:00PM	**Announcement of NAI Chapters of Excellence Award Winner** Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 4 & 5, Loews Hollywood Hotel
1:00 PM - 1:15 PM	**Transition to Afternoon General Session**
1:15 PM - 1:30 PM	**Host Sponsor Presentation: University of Southern California** *Sponsored by University of Southern California* Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 1 & 2, Loews Hollywood Hotel **Ishwar K. Puri,** Senior Vice President of Research and Innovation, University of Southern California
1:30 PM - 2:15 PM	**Fireside Chat with Mark A. Stevens** Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 1 & 2, Loews Hollywood Hotel **Moderated by:** **Ishwar K. Puri,** Senior Vice President of Research and Innovation, University of Southern California **Mark A. Stevens,** Founder, Stevens Center for Innovation, University of Southern California
2:15 PM - 2:35 PM	**Keynote Speaker:** **Sir Cato T. Laurencin, FNAI,** University Professor, Albert and Wilda Van Dusen Distinguished Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, Professor of Biomedical Engineering, University of Connecticut, Chief Executive Officer, The Cato T. Laurencin Institute for Regenerative Engineering Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 1 & 2, Loews Hollywood Hotel
2:35 PM-2:50 PM	**Afternoon Break** *Sponsored by Morehouse School of Medicine* Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salon 3, Loews Hollywood Hotel

2:50 PM - 3:35 PM

Military Fireside Chat & Cadet Showcase: Innovation at the Academies
Sponsored by Command Strategies, LLC
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 1 & 2, Loews Hollywood Hotel

Moderated by:
Tobias Rodill, HonNAI, Managing Partner, Command Strategies, LLC

Featuring:
Colonel Brad McCoy, Associate Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, United States Military Academy, Associate Dean of Research for the Office of Research and Academy Dean, United States Military Academy

3:35 PM - 3:45 PM

NAI Innovation Alliance and Command Strategies Research and Technology Award Finalists Presentation
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 1 & 2, Loews Hollywood Hotel

3:45 PM - 4:15 PM

Innovation Showcase, Genspiration Program Presentation
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 1 & 2, Loews Hollywood Hotel

K-8
Henry Carlson—California Invention Convention - (Finalist)
Kaia Minn—The Park School (Finalist)
Mahi Patel—USF Invention Convention / Tampa Bay Invention Convention (Finalist)

9-12
Darren S. Lau—Florida Inventors Hall of Fame (FIHF), Invention Convention Florida at the University of South Florida (ICF@USF) - (Finalist)
Brad T. Wu—STEAM National Honor Society - (Finalist)
Katia Thomas & Claire Desrosiers—The Lemelson-MIT Program, InvenTeams, The Archer School for Girls - (Finalist)

University / Collegiate
Rayna Borah—University of California, Santa Cruz (Finalist)
Aditya Kanteti—University of California, Santa Cruz (Finalist)
Suyog Neupane—The University of Texas at Arlington (Finalist)

Innovation Showcase
K-8 Innovation Showcase
Nirbhuy Arun—U.S. National Innovator Challenge
Keila Coughlin— California Invention Convention
Sailesh Vinothkumar— Innovation World
Eleanor Wyskiel— Young Inventor Challenge

9-12 - Innovation Showcase
Sahana Karthikeyan— Business Battlefield
Sai Chaitanya Sanku Sai, and **Sai Sri Nandh Bhimavarapu** (Team)— Career and Technical Education Center

University Innovation Showcase
Shufeng Liu—Yale University
Anastasia Marx—University of Georgia
Eralbi Musaj—University of North Florida
Nisarga Nagaraj—Georgetown University
Mayukha Ajeesh Ramsha Nath—New Jersey Institute of Technology
Veda Velamuri—University of Southern California
Zijian Zhong—Tufts University

4:15 PM — **General Session Closing Remarks**
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 1 & 2, Loews Hollywood Hotel

4:15 PM — **Transition to Connection Space**

4:15 PM - 6:30 PM — **Connection Space Reception**
Location: Hollywood Ballroom, Loews Hollywood Hotel

Participating Exhibitors
Arizona State University
Genspiration
IDIyas
Innovation Showcase
Military Innovation Showcase
NAI Program Info Table
The Cato T. Laurencin Institute for Regenerative Engineering
The Florida Inventors Hall of Fame
University of California, Riverside

6:30 PM - 9:00 PM — **NAI Board Meeting/Dinner (By Invitation Only)**
Location: Panorama Suite, Loews Hollywood Hotel

7:00 PM - 9:00 PM — **Genspiration Committee Dinner (By Invitation Only)**
Location: Hollywood Hills Suite, Loews Hollywood Hotel

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 3, 2026

7:30 AM — **Registration and Information Desk Open**
Location: Third Floor Landing, Loews Hollywood Hotel

7:30 AM - 8:45 AM — **Leadership Breakfast**
Location: Hollywood Ballroom - Loews Hollywood Hotel

7:55 AM — **Opening Remarks**
Location: Hollywood Ballroom - Loews Hollywood Hotel

7:56 AM — **Department of Energy Innovator of the Year Award Winner Announced**
Location: Hollywood Ballroom - Loews Hollywood Hotel

Anthony Pugliese, HonNAI, Director of the Office of Technology Commercialization and the Chief Commercialization Officer of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

8:00 AM - 8:40 AM — **Department of Energy Fireside Chat with Winner, Innovator of the Year**
Location: Hollywood Ballroom - Loews Hollywood Hotel

Anthony Pugliese, HonNAI, Director of the Office of Technology Commercialization and the Chief Commercialization Officer of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

8:40 AM **Announcement of Winner: NAI Innovation Alliance and Command Strategies Research and Technology Award**
Location: Hollywood Ballroom - Loews Hollywood Hotel

Tobias Rodill, HonNAI, Managing Partner, Command Strategies, LLC

8:45 AM - 9:00 AM **Transition to Morning Opening Session**

9:00 AM - 9:02 AM **General Session Opening Remarks**
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 1 & 2, Loews Hollywood Hotel

9:02 AM -9:05 AM **Welcome from University of Southern California**
Sponsored by University of Southern California
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 1 & 2, Loews Hollywood Hotel

Steven Moldin, Associate Vice President of Research Strategy and Innovation, University of Southern California

9:05 AM - 9:30 AM **National Academy of Inventors Recognitions**
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 1 & 2, Loews Hollywood Hotel

New Member Institutions, Charter Members, Past Board Members

9:30 AM - 10:30 AM **PANEL: Artificial Intelligence - Transforming Discovery and Decision Making**
Sponsored by University of South Florida
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 1 & 2, Loews Hollywood Hotel

Presentation by Moez Limayem, HonNAI, President, University of South Florida

Moderated by:
Moez Limayem, HonNAI, President, University of South Florida

Panelists:
Robert Duncan, FNAI, Professor & President's Distinguished Chair in Physics. Department of Physics and Astronomy, Texas Tech University

Hossam Haick, FNAI, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Full Professor and Dean of the School of Undergraduate Studies at Technion Israel Institute of Technology

Robert Hayes, United States Patent and Trademark Office, Acting Chief AI Officer and Acting Chief Data Officer

Sudeep Sarkar, FNAI, Distinguished University Professor, Launch Dean for the Bellini College of Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity and Computing

10:30 AM - 10:45 AM **Morning Break**
Sponsored by Morehouse School of Medicine
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salon 3, Loews Hollywood Hotel

10:45 AM - 11:45 AM **PANEL: The Missing Middle - Funding IP from Discovery to Impact**
Sponsored by United Arab Emirates University
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 1 & 2, Loews Hollywood Hotel

Moderated by:
Ali H. Al-Marzouqi, FNAI, Professor, Department of Chemical & Petroleum, United Arab Emirates University

Panelists:
Carmine Denisco, Chief Executive Officer, United Inventor Association

Juan Harrison, Vice President of Strategic Alliances and Business Development, Harrington Discovery Group

Steven Moldin, Associate Vice President of Research Strategy and Innovation, University of Southern California

11:45 AM - 11:50 **Transition to Genspiration Prize Luncheon**

11:50 AM - 12:50 PM **Genspiration Prize Luncheon**
Sponsored by Genspiration Foundation
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 4 & 5, Loews Hollywood Hotel

Announcement of Winners

Presentation by Genspiration Founders: Judy Genshaft, FNAI and Steven Greenbaum, HonNAI

Genspiration Prize Winners Announced

12:50 PM - 1:00 PM **Transition to Afternoon General Session**

1:00 PM - 1:05 PM **Announcement of the Winner of The Yogi and Lovely Goswami Achievement Award in Energy and Sustainability**
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 1 & 2, Loews Hollywood Hotel

1:05 PM - 2:05 PM **PANEL: Eco Innovation in Action — Transforming Science into Sustainable Enterprise**
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 1 & 2, Loews Hollywood Hotel

Moderated by:
Yogi Goswami, FNAI, Distinguished University Professor of Chemical, Biological, and Materials Engineering, University of South Florida

Panelists:
Chandrakant Patel, FNAI, President, Chandrakant Patel Consulting

Kaushik Rajashekara, FNAI, Distinguished Professor of Engineering, University of Houston

Aldo Steinfeld, Professor Emeritus at the Department of Mechanical and Process Engineering, ETH Zurich, Previous Award Recipient

Winner of Yogi and Lovely Goswami Achievement Award in Energy and Sustainability (TBA)

2:05 PM - 3:05 PM **PANEL: When Universities and Industry Build Together**
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 1 & 2, Loews Hollywood Hotel

Moderated by:
John A. Squires, Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

Panelists:
Fred Farina, Chief Innovation & Corporate Partnerships Officer, CalTech University

Erwin Gianchandani, Assistant Director for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships, National Science Foundation (NSF)

Ram Krishnan, Vice President of Engineering, Qualcomm, Inc.

Luna Lu, FNAI, Vice President, Office of Industry Partnerships, Indiana ACPA Professor, Lyles School of Civil Engineering, Purdue University

3:05 PM - 3:10 PM **Break**

3:10 PM - 4:10 PM **Film Premiere Presentation Patent Man: A Life of Jerome Lemelson**
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 1 & 2

4:30 PM - 5:00 PM **Senior Member Induction Rehearsal**
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 4 & 5, Loews Hollywood Hotel

5:00 PM - 5:30 PM **Senior Member Induction Ceremony**
Sponsored by Tufts University
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 4 & 5, Loews Hollywood Hotel

Sponsor Presentation:
Bernard Arulanandam, FNAI, Vice President of Research, Tufts University

Ceremony Presented by:
Sethuraman Panchanathan, FNAI, Former Director of the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), University Professor of Technology and Innovation, Arizona State University

John A. Squires, Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

5:30 PM - 6:30 PM **Senior Member Induction Reception**
Sponsored by Tufts University
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salon 3, Loews Hollywood Hotel

THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2026

7:30 AM **Registration and Information Desk Open**
Location: Third Floor Landing, Loews Hollywood Hotel

7:30 AM - 8:30 AM **Fellows Celebration Breakfast**
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 4 & 5, Loews Hollywood Hotel

8:00 AM - 8:05 AM **Morning Announcements**
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 4 & 5, Loews Hollywood Hotel

8:05 AM - 8:10 AM **Inaugural Fellows Recognition**
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 4 & 5, Loews Hollywood Hotel

8:10 AM - 8:25 AM **Fireside Chat with Kirti Gupta**
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 4 & 5, Loews Hollywood Hotel

Moderated by:
Karen J.L. Burg, FNAI, Interim Chief Executive Officer, NextGA,; Harbor Lights Endowed Chair, Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery University of Georgia; AAAS-Lemelson Invention Ambassador

Kirti Gupta, Vice President and Chief Economist of Global Technology, Cornerstone Research

8:30 AM - 8:40 AM **Transition to Morning General Session**

8:40 AM - 8:42 AM **General Session Opening Remarks**
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 1 & 2, Loews Hollywood Hotel

8:42 AM - 8:45 AM **University of Southern California Welcome**
Sponsored by University of Southern California
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 1 & 2, Loews Hollywood Hotel

Erin Overstreet, Executive Director, University of Southern California, Stevens Center for Innovation

8:45 AM - 10:00 AM **Fireside Chat: Innovation Outside the Lab - IP in Arts and Entertainment**
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 1 & 2, Loews Hollywood Hotel

Moderated by:
Almesha L. Campbell, HonNAI, Vice President of Research and Economic Development, Jackson State University

Panelists:
Eric Haseltine, Chairman Of The Board, US Technology Leadership Council

Lanny Smoot, Disney Research Fellow, The Walt Disney Company

10:00 AM - 10:15 AM **Morning Break**
Sponsored by Qualcomm, Inc.
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salon 3, Loews Hollywood Hotel

10:15 AM - 11:15 AM **Fireside Chat: Legacy of Invention:**
Lessons from Two Iconic Innovation Families
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 1 & 2, Loews Hollywood Hotel

Moderated by:
Phil Weilerstein, HonNAI, President and Chief Executive Officer, Venturewell

Panelists:
David Dolby, Chief Executive Officer, Dolby Family Ventures

Robert Lemelson, Vice President, The Lemelson Foundation

11:15 AM - 12:15 PM

PANEL: Competing and Collaborating on the Global Stage: How Academic Innovation Shapes National Advantage
Sponsored by Arizona State University
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 1 & 2, Loews Hollywood Hotel

Moderated by:
Sethuraman Panchanathan, FNAI, Former Director of the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), University Professor of Technology and Innovation, Arizona State University

Panelists:
Kelly Anderson, Vice President, International Policy, U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Carsten Fink, The World Bank, Chief Economist at World Intellectual Property Organization

Darryll Pines, FNAI, President, University of Maryland College Park

12:15 PM - 12:30 PM

Transition to Keynote Luncheon

12:30PM - 1:30 PM

Keynote Luncheon
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 4 & 5, Loews Hollywood Hotel

12:45 PM - 1:30 PM

Keynote Speaker:
David B. Agus, Founding CEO, Ellison Medical Institute

1:30 PM - 1:40 PM

Transition to Afternoon General Session

1:40 PM - 1:45 PM

Presentation of the Dr. Barry B. Bercu Biomedical Collegiate Inventor Prize Winner Announced
Dolby Ballroom, Salons 1 & 2, Loews Hollywood Hotel

1:45 PM - 2:45 PM

Presidential Fireside Chat
Sponsored by Michelson Intellectual Property Institute
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 1 & 2, Loews Hollywood Hotel

Moderated by:
Paul R. Sanberg, FNAI
President, National Academy of Inventors

Featuring: Robert S. Langer, FNAI, Institute Professor - Langer Lab, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Gary K. Michelson, FNAI, Founder and Co-Chair, Michelson Philanthropies

2:45 PM - 3:00 PM

Closing Keynote Speaker
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 1 & 2, Loews Hollywood Hotel

John A. Squires, Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

3:00 PM - 3:10 PM

General Session Closing Remarks
Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 1 & 2, Loews Hollywood Hotel

3:10 PM	**Break Before Fellows Induction Ceremony**
4:30 PM - 5:00 PM	**Fellows Induction Ceremony Rehearsal** Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 4 & 5, Loews Hollywood Hotel
5:00PM - 6:00 PM	**Fellows Induction Ceremony** Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 4 & 5, Loews Hollywood Hotel **Co-Presiding Officers:** **Paul R. Sanberg, FNAI,** President, National Academy of Inventors **John A. Squires,** Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM	**Cocktail Reception** *Sponsored by Florida High Tech Corridor* Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salon 3, Loews Hollywood Hotel
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	**Gala Dinner** *Sponsored by Florida High Tech Corridor* Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 1 & 2, Loews Hollywood Hotel **Speaker:** **Paul Sohl, HonNAI,** Chief Executive Officer, Florida High Tech Corridor
8:00 PM	**State of the Academy** Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 1 & 2, Loews Hollywood Hotel **Paul R. Sanberg, FNAI,** President, National Academy of Inventors
8:45 PM	**Announcement of 2027 Annual Conference Location** Location: Dolby Ballroom, Salons 1 & 2, Loews Hollywood Hotel

Paul R. Sanberg, Ph.D., D.Sc., FNAI

President of National Academy of Inventors
University of South Florida

Dr. Paul R. Sanberg is the former Senior Vice President for Research, Innovation and Knowledge Enterprise at University of South Florida, and currently Distinguished University Professor of Medicine, Engineering, and Business.

His innovations have been instrumental in translating new pharmaceutical and cellular therapeutics to clinical trials and commercialization for ALS, Alzheimer's, Huntington's, Parkinson's disease, stroke, and Tourette syndrome.

He is an inventor on 167 U.S. and international patents; author of over 700 scientific articles and 14 books, with over 40,000 citations. He has served on editorial boards for numerous scientific journals, is co-editor-in-chief of NAI's journal Technology and Innovation, and has received numerous scientific awards, including the AIMBE Advocate Award; Australian Alumni Award (ANU); Bryden Alumni Award (York U); UBC Alumni Award; Fulbright Specialist; McGovern Science & Society Award (Sigma Xi); Ove Ferno Prize; IEEE George F. McClure Award; Florida Academy of Sciences Medalist; Florida Inventors Hall of Fame inductee and Pioneer Award recipient; Fellow of AAAS, ACNP, AIMBE, BMES, IEEE, Sigma Xi, the Royal Societies of Biology, Chemistry, Medicine and Public Health; AAAS-Lemelson Invention Ambassador; and Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars inductee.

He served twice on the nomination evaluation committee for the US National Medal of Technology and Innovation; and advisory board for the APLU Commission on Innovation, Competitiveness, and Economic Prosperity. He was the first in his family to graduate college, and has been an airplane enthusiast most of his adult life, becoming a master flight instructor and Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society. He is a NAI Charter Fellow and recipient of the NAI Founders Award (2021) and President's Award.

Howard J. Federoff, Ph.D., M.D., FNAI

Vice President of NAI Board; President, Director and CEO
Brooklyn ImmunoTherapeutics

Howard J. Federoff, M.D., Ph.D., received his M.D. and Ph.D. degrees from the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City. Following clinical training in Internal Medicine and Endocrinology/Metabolism and a post-doctoral fellowship in molecular neurobiology at Harvard Medical School's Massachusetts General Hospital he joined the faculty of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine.

In 1995 he joined the University of Rochester faculty. During his tenure at Rochester, he founded the Division of Molecular Medicine and Gene Therapy, the Center for Aging and Development and also served as Senior Associate Dean for Basic Research.

In 2007 he joined the Georgetown University Medical Centers as Executive Vice President of Health Sciences and Executive Dean for the School of Medicine. His research is on novel treatments for neurodegenerative diseases. He serves on four editorial boards, two foundation boards, has chaired NIH Study Sections, was a member of the Board of Scientific Counselors of National Institute of Dental and Craniofacial Research, was a member of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS) Scientific Advisory Committee, Co-Chaired the NINDS strategic planning process, and was Chair of the NIH Recombinant DNA Advisory Committee.

He has published numerous papers, chapters and editorials and received a number of awards including the Arthur Kornberg Research Award, Society for Neuroscience Grass Lectureship, Abreu Memorial Lectureship, induction into Alpha Omega Alpha, Bernard Sandberg Award, and election to the AAAS. He has co-founded two biotechnology start-up companies and has been awarded numerous patents.

He and his wife Wendy Solovay, an immigration attorney, reside in Irvine California. Their two daughters, Allison and Monica, are pursuing careers in law and medicine, respectively. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors.

Kenneth Blank, Ph.D., FNAI

Treasurer of NAI Board; President
University Research Strategies, LLC

Ken Blank is a demonstrated innovative and effective academic leader in building high impact, sustainable use-inspired research programs that result in practical solutions to critical national problems through technology development and commercialization.He has a proven ability to engage industry, mission oriented government agencies, and universities in productive collaboration. These key alliances increase funded research to support the development of new emerging technologies and contribute to successful technology commercialization, technology park development and workforce-related programs. Blank has served as Vice Provost for Research at Drexel University, Northeastern University and Temple University as well as Founding Senior Vice President for Health Sciences at Rowan University. Each of these institutions successfully increased metrics in research revenue and technology commercialization during his tenure. He serves on the Board of Directors of The University City Science Center (Philadelphia, PA) and the New Jersey Innovation Institute (Newark, NJ) and is a Fellow of The National Academy of Inventors and The College of Physicians of Philadelphia. Blank is presently the President of University Research Strategies, LLC and a Senior Advisor with Command Strategies, LLC.

Karen J.L. Burg, Ph.D., FNAI

Interim Chief Executive Officer, NextGA; Harbor Lights Endowed Chair, Department of Small Animal Medicine and Surgery University of Georgia; AAAS-Lemelson Invention Ambassador University of Georgia

Honored with a 2022 U.S. Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics and Engineering Mentoring for her work with underrepresented groups to develop fully the Nation's human resources in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics, Karen J.L. Burg is the interim Chief Executive Officer of NextGA, a National Science Foundation Engine-in-Development, and is the Harbor Lights Chair of Biomedical Research in the Department of Small Animal Medicine & Surgery and Professor of Chemical, Materials, & Biomedical Engineering at the University of Georgia. Burg is an internationally recognized biomaterials educator, inventor, and researcher for her work to inspire equitable innovation in biomedicine and biomedical education. Her body of published work initiated and elucidated critical processes and technologies that have led to the current state of commercial tissue fabrication. Her 3D tissue fabrication cultureware and methodology was the impetus for the launch of functional precision oncology company Kiyatec, Inc., which has demonstrated the utility of her technology in multiple clinical trials, evaluating patient-specific predictor tests for improved response to cancer therapies. Dr. Burg's research and innovation has inspired hundreds of mentees now working in industry, academia, and government; her research mentoring efforts are most recently visible in the National Institutes of Health's National Research Mentoring Network Launching Research course series, which she authored. Honors to Karen include the inaugural Swiss AO Research Prize, recognition as an MIT TR Young Innovator, an American Association for the Advancement of Science Fellow, an American Council on Education Fellow, a Biomedical Engineering Society Fellow, an American Institute for Medical & Biological Engineering Fellow, a National Academy of Inventors Fellow, a Presidential Early Career Awardee for Science & Engineering, an International Union of Societies for Biomaterials Science and Engineering Fellow, and an American Association for the Advancement of Science-Lemelson Invention Ambassador. A tireless innovator with passion for leadership, she has served as vice president for research at Kansas State University and the University of Georgia and as vice provost for research and innovation and dean of the graduate school at Clemson University.

Pierre Comizzoli, Ph.D., D.V.M.

Research Biologist Center for Species Survival D.V.M., Veterinary College of Alfort; M.S., Université de Paris VI ; Ph.D., Université de Tours

Pierre Comizzoli Ph.D., D.V.M. is a scientist at the Smithsonian Institution and Senior Program Officer for Science in the Office of the Under-Secretary of Science and Research. He began his career as a veterinarian in French Guyana studying the seasonal reproduction of different mammalian species. In 2002 he joined the Smithsonian Conservation Biology Institute at Washington, DC 's National Zoological Park as a staff scientist developing cryo-banking on gametes and gonadal tissues from rare and endangered species. In addition to 15 years of studies funded by National Institutes of Health grants, Dr. Comizzoli has published over 120 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters, He has also received several distinguished awards including the Smithsonian Secretary's Research Prize and the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers for his innovative work on fertility preservation. More recently, he has received the Innovation Award from the National Research Council of Thailand with his Thai colleagues.

Atam Dhawan, Ph.D., FNAI

Senior Vice Provost for Research
New Jersey Institute of Technology

Dr. Dhawan is an elected Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI), Fellow of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering (IEEE), Fellow of the American Institute of Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE), and Fellow of the International Academy of Medical and Biological Engineering (IAMBE) for his contributions in medical imaging and image analysis, and healthcare innovations. His research interests lie in medical imaging, medical image analysis, point-of-care technologies, pattern recognition and computer-aided-diagnosis. Dr. Dhawan has received more than $82 million in research grants and contracts as Principal Investigator or Co-PI. He has published over 216 research papers and book chapters. He has also authored and co-authored several books in medical imaging, and image analysis. He holds several patents, three of which have been commercialized or licensed.

Dr. Dhawan pioneered low-angle trans-illumination technology and first demonstrated its application in skin-cancer imaging and specifically diagnostic screening of skin-cancers in 1984. His invention, patented as Nevoscope, established the ffeasibility of point-of-care (POC) in-situ diagnostic evaluation of skin-lesions, creating the field of dermatoscopy for effective early detection of skin-cancers. His optical imaging cornerstone technology led to two successful medical companies (Translite and 3GEN) for manufacturing and marketing of Veinlite and Dermlite devices, which respectively are being used in the interventional treatment of spider-vein diseases and early diagnosis and clinical management of skin-cancers, specifically malignant melanomas.

Dr. Dhawan chairs the NIH Point-of-Care Technology Research Network (POCTRN) Independent Expert Board. He is a recipient of numerous awards including Martin Epstein Award (1984), NIH FIRST Award (1988), Sigma-Xi Young Investigator Award (1992), IEEE EMBS Early Career Achievement Award (1995), Doermann Distinguished Lecture Award (1999), EMBS Distinguished Lecturer award (2012-2013) and IEEE EMBS William J. Morlock Award in Excellence in Biomedical Technology (2021). He served as the Conference Chair of the IEEE 28th International Conference of Engineering in Medicine and Biology (EMB) Society (2006) and conference co-chair IEEE 42nd International Conference of Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society (2020). He has organized and chaired the NIH-IEEE-EMBS International Conferences on Point- of-Care Technologies and Healthcare Innovation in Bangalore, India (2013), and in Seattle (2014), co-chaired the NIH- IEEE Strategic Conference on Point-of-Care Technologies for Precision Medicine in Bethesda (2015), co-chaired IEEE-NIH Conference on Healthcare Innovation and Point-of-Care Technologies in Cancun (2016) and co-chaired 2017 IEEE-NIH Special Topics Conference on Healthcare Innovation and Point-of-Care Technologies in Bethesda. Dr. Dhawan served as the founding Editor-In-Chief of the IEEE Journal of Translational Engineering in Health and Medicine (2012-2018), and the founding chair of the IEEE EMBS technical committee on Translational Engineering and Healthcare Innovations (2014-2018). He also served as the Senior Editor of the IEEE Transactions on Biomedical Engineering, Editorial Board Member for International Journal of Pattern Recognition, and steering committee member for IEEE Transactions on Medical Imaging. Dr. Dhawan has chaired numerous NIH special emphasis and review panels, and site visit & review panels for NIH BTRR P41 program (1990-present). From 2008-2011, He chaired the NIH Chartered Study Section on Biomedical Computing and Health Informatics.

Dr. Dhawan obtained his bachelor's and master's degrees from the Indian Institute of Technology, Roorkee, and Ph.D. from the University of Manitoba, all in Electrical Engineering. From 1985-2000, he held faculty positions in Electrical & Computer Engineering, and Radiology departments at University of Houston, University of Cincinnati, University of Texas at Arlington, UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, and University of Toledo. From 2000-2009, He served as the Chair of Electrical and Computer Engineering Department, and Associate and Interim Dean of Albert Dorman Honors College (2009-2014).

Anna Leese, FNAI

CEO Technology Vector Inc, CEO PICOSYNC Technology Inc., Entrepreneur in Residence,and UCSD Office of Innovation and Commercialization

Anna Leese has >35 years of RDT&E in cryogenic and superconducting electronics. After retiring from NIWC PACIFIC in 2022 where she founded the Cryogenic Exploitation of Radio Frequency (CERF) Laboratory, she has served as Chief Science Officer in one, and founded 2 start-ups to continue moving cutting edge technology forward. She is a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors and a Senior Member of the IEEE with 22 patents and 57 publications, and serves her community as member of several technical committees and boards including the Applied Superconductivity Education Foundation, the National Academy of Inventors, the National Academy of Inventors Innovation Alliance and Ambature.

Robert V. Duncan, PhD., FNAI

Professor of Physics, President's Distinguished Chair in Physics
Texas Tech University

Currently President's Distinguished Chair in Physics at Texas Tech University (TTU). Former Vice Chancellor for Research at University of Missouri, and Former Senior Vice President for Research at (TTU). Robert V. Duncan, Ph.D. also serves on the Scientific Advisory Board of the US Air Force, and on both the current (and on the last) Decadal Survey for Biological and Physical Sciences in Space (BPSS) of the National Academy of Science. Duncan was the Gordon and Betty Moore Distinguished Scholar in the Division of Physics, Mathematics, and Astronomy, and a member of the visiting Faculty, at Caltech. Duncan has served as the first Associate Dean for Research at UNM, and as the Founding Director of the New Mexico Consortium at Los Alamos National Laboratory. He has published extensively in experimental low-temperature physics, with over 70 articles in peer-reviewed journals. He has co-invented twelve U.S. patents, with multiple international filings.

Cato T. Laurencin, M.D., Ph.D., FNAI

University Professor & Albert and Wilda Van Dusen Distinguished Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery
University of Connecticut NAI Fellow

Cato T. Laurencin, M.D., Ph.D. is the University Professor and Albert and Wilda Van Dusen Distinguished Endowed Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Connecticut. A surgeon-engineer-scientist, he is Professor of Chemical, Materials, and Biomedical Engineering at UConn. He serves as Chief Executive Officer of the Connecticut Convergence Institute for Translation in Regenerative Engineering, at UConn Health. He earned his B.S.E. in Chemical Engineering from Princeton University, his M.D., Magna Cum Laude, from the Harvard Medical School, and his Ph.D. in Biochemical Engineering/Biotechnology from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Dr. Laurencin has produced seminal research and technologies on nanotechnology and tissue regeneration, polymer/ceramic systems for bone regeneration, and biomaterials for soft tissue regeneration.

Dr. Laurencin is a pioneer of the field of Regenerative Engineering. He received the NIH Director's Pioneer Award, and the National Science Foundation's Emerging Frontiers in Research and Innovation Grant Award for this field. For his work he has received singular honors including the American Association for the Advancement of Science Philip Hauge Abelson Prize given 'for signal contributions to the advancement of science in the United States', the Simon Ramo Founder's Award from the National Academy of Engineering and the Walsh McDermott Prize from the National Academy of Medicine.

He is the first in history to win all three of these awards. Dr. Laurencin is a world leader in invention and innovation, and he is the recipient of the National Medal of Technology and Innovation, America's highest award for technological achievement, awarded by President Barack Obama in ceremonies at the White House.

Sethuraman Panchanathan, FNAI

University Professor of Technology and Innovation Foundation Chair in Computing and Augmented Intelligence, Arizona State University

The Honorable Sethuraman Panchanathan is a computer scientist and engineer. He is a leader in the fields of science, engineering, and education, with more than three decades of experience in higher education and government. Throughout his career, he has designed and built knowledge enterprises aimed at advancing research innovation, strategic partnerships, entrepreneurship, global development, and economic growth.

From 2020-2025, he served as the 15th Director of the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), a $9.06 billion independent federal agency and the only government agency charged wth advancing all fields of scientific discovery, technological innovation, and STEM education.

During his tenure as director, Panchanathan committed to several strategic priorities, including strengthening the NSF, increasing access and participation in research, and accelerating technology and innovation. He established the first new directorate in 31 years, the Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships, aimed at delivering “Innovation Everywhere for Everyone” by accelerating the translation of science and technology for economic progress, national security, and societal impact. He also founded the novel program GRANTED (Growing Research Access for Nationally Transformative Equity and Diversity) to democratize participation and access to research and education funding from the NSF. Additionally, he directed the NSF to build Artificial Intelligence Institutes (AII) across the U.S. to increase the country’s competitiveness in AI, resulting in 27 institutes with $540 million in funding through partnerships with federal agencies, municipalities, NGOs, and industry. As director, Panchanathan maintained leadership roles on several key interagency councils and committees, including: co-chair of the National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship; member of the White House CHIPS Implementation Steering Council; member of the White House Gender Policy Council; chair of the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee; and co-vice chair of the Council for Inclusive Innovation.

Panchanathan currently serves as the University Professor of Technology and Innovation at Arizona State University, where he has held a faculty appointment since 1997. His previous roles at ASU included several administrative appointments, leading the university’s research portfolio as the Executive Vice President of the ASU Knowledge Enterprise and the chief research and innovation officer. Under his leadership, ASU increased its research performance fivefold, earning recognition as the fastest growing and most innovative research university in the U.S.

Panchanathan’s commitment to advancing science and technology has extended to numerous appointments and leadership positions within the science and engineering field, including:

- The National Science Board, where he was a chair of the Committee on Strategy and a member of the External Engagement and National Science and Engineering Policy committees;
- Chair of the Council on Research of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities;
- Co-chair of the Extreme Innovation Taskforce of the Global Federation of Competitiveness Council;
- Senior Science and Technology advisor to the Governor of Arizona; and
- Editor-in-chief of the IEEE Multimedia.Magazine and editor and associate editor of several international journals.

Panchanathan’s scientific contributions have advanced the areas of human-centered multimedia computing, haptic user interfaces, and ubiquitous computing technologies for enhancing the quality of life for individuals with different abilities; machine learning for multimedia applications; and media processor designs. He has published close to 500 articles in peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings, and has mentored more than 150 graduate students, postdocs, research engineers, and research scientists throughout his career, many of whom now occupy leading positions in academia and industry.

Panchanathan has received numerous awards throughout his career in recognition of his achievements, including Honorary Doctorates from prestigious universities, Distinguished Alumnus Awards, the Governor’s Innovator of the Year for Academia Award, the Washington Academy of Sciences Distinguished Career Award and the IEEE-USA Public Service Award. He is a Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering and

the National Academy of Inventors as well as a Member of the National Academy of Engineering. In 2025, he was awarded the Padma Shri, the Government of India's fourth-highest civilian award, in recognition of his distinguished contributions to science.
Panchanathan is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors, where he also served as vice president for strategic initiatives. He is also a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Canadian Academy of Engineering, the Association for Computing Machinery, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and the Society of Optical Engineering.

Panchanathan received his B.Sc. in Physics from the University of Madras and a B.E. in Electronics and Communication Engineering from the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore. He went on to receive an M.Tech in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology in Madras and completed his Ph.D. in Electrical and Computing Engineering from the University of Ottawa.

He is married to Sarada "Soumya" Panchanathan, an academic pediatrician and informatician, who has taught medical students, pediatric residents, and informatics fellows. They have two adult children, Amritha and Roshan.

Sudeep Sarkar, Ph.D., FNAI

Chair and Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering Associate Vice-President for I-CORPS Programs University of South Florida

Sudeep Sarkar, Ph.D., is a professor of computer science and engineering and is the associate vice president for research & innovation at the University of South Florida in Tampa.

He received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in electrical engineering, on a University Presidential Fellowship, from The Ohio State University. He is the recipient of the National Science Foundation CAREER award in 1994, USF Teaching Incentive Program Award for Undergraduate Teaching Excellence in 1997, Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award in 1998, and Theodore and Venette Askounes-Ashford Distinguished Scholar Award in 2004. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and International Association for Pattern Recognition (IAPR), and a charter member of the National Academy of Inventors.

He has 25 year expertise in computer vision and pattern recognition algorithms and systems, and holds three U.S. patents and has published high-impact journal and conference papers.

NATIONAL ACADEMY OF INVENTORS | STAFF

Jamie Renee, HonNAI
Executive Director

Cheryl Hedrick, Assistant Director
Office of Member and Partner Relations

Casey L. Gorman, Senior Director
Department of Innovation Events & Awards

Carrie White, Assistant Director
Innovation Showcase

Paul J. Corson, HonNAI, Senior Director
Office of Strategic Communications
& Engagement

Madeleine Keys, Assistant Director
Executive Communication and Storytelling

Veena Ganeshan, Director
Curriculum, Learning & Academic Integration

Akira Mitchell, Manager
GAIN Mentoring Program

Ned Pope, Senior Advisor
Office of Operations and Systems

Ray Leslie, Assistant Director
Operations and Project Management

Diana Jerome, Senior Director
Office of Member and Partner Relations

Raymond Jake, Operations Manager
Office of Member and Partner Relations

Rogue Shindler, Assistant Operations Director
Department of Innovation Events & Awards

Danny Alice, Manager
Department of Innovation Events & Awards

Rebekah Rittenhouse, Assistant Director
Marketing and Communications

Jason Lillard, Creative Director
Visual Storytelling and Campaign Design

Erik Johnson, Assistant Director
Department of Programs
and Strategic Initiatives

Julie Akhter, Managing Editor
Technology and Innovation Journal

Lindsey Fiedler, Assistant Director
Finance and Information Technology

Adrian Chrysanthou, Assistant Director
Security and Infrastructure

Kenneth Blank, FNAI

President, University Research Strategies, LLC

Ken Blank is a demonstrated innovative and effective academic leader in building high impact, sustainable use-inspired research programs that result in practical solutions to critical national problems through technology development and commercialization.He has a proven ability to engage industry, mission oriented government agencies, and universities in productive collaboration. These key alliances increase funded research to support the development of new emerging technologies and contribute to successful technology commercialization, technology park development and workforce-related programs. Blank has served as Vice Provost for Research at Drexel University, Northeastern University and Temple University as well as Founding Senior Vice President for Health Sciences at Rowan University, Cooper Medical School of Rowan University and Rowan School of Osteopathic Medicine. Each of these institutions successfully increased metrics in research revenue and technology commercialization during his tenure. He is a Fellow of The National Academy of Inventors and The College of Physicians of Philadelphia. Blank is presently the President of University Research Strategies, LLC.

Rich G. Carter, HonNAI

Professor of Chemistry, Faculty Lead for Innovation Excellence, Oregon State University

Rich G. Carter is a Professor of Chemistry and Faculty Lead for Innovation Excellence in the Division of Research & Innovation at Oregon State University. In his role, he supports faculty seeking to leverage their discoveries to benefit society through innovation & entrepreneurship (I&E). Along with Jana Bouwma-Gearhart, Karl Mundorff and Julie Risien, Rich created the Promotion & Tenure-Innovation & Entrepreneurship (PTIE) effort in 2019 with the support of a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant. This grant resulted in the formation of the PTIE Coalition - a collection of over 65 universities from around the country with a shared interest in supporting faculty outputs in I&E. In 2020, the PTIE Coalition created the PTIE recommendations for revising P&T guidelines to support faculty outputs around I&E as a portion of their promotion dossiers. These recommendations have been widely employed on university campuses around the country. More recently, Rich and Jana received additional funding from NSF to support the initial cohort of Accelerating Research Translation awardee institutions. Rich received his BS degree in chemistry from Gettysburg College and his PhD in organic chemistry from the University of Texas at Austin. He served as Department Chair of Chemistry at Oregon State University from 2012-2017. In addition to his academic roles, Rich is co-founder and CEO for a technology-based chemical manufacturing company based in Oregon called Valliscor.

Almesha Campbell, HonNAI

Vice President for Research and Economic Development Division of Research and Economic Development, Jackson State University & Chair AUTM

Almesha L. Campbell, Ph.D., RTTP, is the Vice President for Research and Economic Development at Jackson State University (JSU). In this capacity, she oversees Sponsored Programs, Grants and Contracts, Research Compliance, Federal Relations, the Office of Innovation Management (Tech Transfer), JSU Global, and all TRIO programs. She is an exemplary leader in research, technology transfer, innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic development. She has secured and managed numerous federal grants from multiple funding agencies such as the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Small Business Administration, the U.S. Department of Labor, Leidos, W. K. Kellogg Foundation, and Delta Regional Authority. She plays a pivotal role as principal investigator (PI) and co-PI in various federally funded innovation and commercialization programs such as the National Science Foundation (NSF) Mid-South I-Corps Hub, NSF Accelerating Research Translation (ART), and the National Institutes of Health Mid-South Research Evaluation and Commercialization (REACH) Hub, highlighting her commitment to advancing entrepreneurship and research translation.

Almesha co-developed the JSU Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship to leverage the best of JSU's STEM, business, and entrepreneurial capabilities to foster talent development, university-industry partnerships, and drive economic impact. Initiatives such as the JSU Innovation Fellows Program, the micro-credential program, the certificate program in AI and Data Science for Cybersecurity, the JSU Artificial Intelligence Multi-Disciplinary Education (AIME) Hub and integrating virtual reality into the STEM curriculum showcase her role in shaping the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs, preparing students to be ready for the future of work. Dr. Campbell served as chair of the AUTM Board of Directors for 2023 — 2024 and serves on the advisory board of the Center for Advancing Research Impact in Society (ARIS) and is affiliated with national organizations, including the Licensing Executives Society and the Society of Research Administrators International. She is also an honorary member of the National Academy of Inventors.

Walter Copan, FNAI

Emeritus Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer, Colorado School of Mines

Dr. Walter G. Copan is Emeritus Vice President for Research and Technology Transfer with Colorado School of Mines, a leading U.S. research university, and Senior Advisor and co-founder of the Renewing American Innovation Project at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. He previously served as Under Secretary of Commerce for Standards and Technology and 16th Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). Dr. Copan is a distinguished leader with wide-ranging experience spanning large company, entrepreneurial tech startup, U.S. government, non-profit, and academic sectors. He also served with two of the U.S. Department of Energy's national labs — at Brookhaven National Laboratory and the National Renewable Energy Laboratory.

He earned undergraduate degrees (chemistry & music) and Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Case Western Reserve University, and the advanced business administration certificate program at Harvard Business School.

Dr. Copan serves with the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine Leadership Council for the Government-University-Industry-Philanthropy Research Roundtable (GUIPRR), and with the Council on Competitiveness. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors (FNAI) and was named 2020 Laboratory Director of the Year by the Federal Laboratory Consortium (FLC). He received the 2022 Baldrige Foundation Award for Leadership Excellence in Government.

Paul Corson, HonNAI

Senior Director, Office of Strategic Communications & Engagement, National Academy of Inventors

Paul J. Corson is an internationally recognized leader in building regional economies through entrepreneurship and technology-based economic development. Paul's primary focus is on maximizing the societal benefit of science, research, and innovation. He has held executive and senior-level positions in higher education across the United States, including at the University of California Office of the President, University of Texas at Arlington, and University of Utah. Paul also led Innovation Fund America, the U.S. Department of Commerce Office of Innovation and Entrepreneurship, and the launch and growth of multiple startup companies in the United States and abroad. Paul began his career leading a USAID-funded economic development program in Armenia and Georgia.

Paul holds an MA in International Relations from The George Washington University and a BA in Political Economies from Franklin and Marshall College. Both degrees concentrated on Soviet and post-Soviet studies. He also completed an executive management program at Singularity University.

Francisco Valero Cuevas, FNAI

Professor, University of Southern California

I attended Swarthmore College from 1984-88 where I obtained a BS degree in Engineering. After spending a year in the Indian subcontinent as a Thomas J Watson Fellow, I joined Queen's University in Ontario and worked with Dr. Carolyn Small. The research for my Master's Degree in Mechanical Engineering at Queen's focused on developing non-invasive methods to estimate the kinematic integrity of the wrist joint.

In 1991, I joined the doctoral program in the Design Division of the Mechanical Engineering Department at Stanford University. I worked with Dr. Felix Zajac developing a realistic biomechanical model of the human digits. This research, done at the Rehabilitation R & D Center in Palo Alto, focused on predicting optimal coordination patterns of finger musculature during static force production.

After completing my doctoral degree in 1997, I joined the core faculty of the Biomechanical Engineering Division at Stanford University as a Research Associate and Lecturer. In 1999, I joined the faculty of the Sibley School of Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering at Cornell University as Assistant Professor, and was tenured in 2005. In 2007, I joined the faculty at the Department of Biomedical Engineering, and the Division of Biokinesiology & Physical Therapy at the University of Southern California as Associate Professor; where I was promoted to Full Professor in 2011. In 2013 I was elected Senior Member of the IEEE, and in 2014 to the College of Fellows of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineers. In 2018, I was awarded an Honorary Doctorate in Biology from Swarthmore College. In 2024, he joined Science Advances, the open access multidisciplinary journal from the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), as Associate Editor. In 2024, I joined Science Advances, the open access multidisciplinary journal from the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), as Associate Editor. In 2025, I was elevated to Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors, and appointed as the Dean's Professor of Biomedical Engineering at the University of Southern California.

Michael Dixon, HonNAI

Director, Strategic Operations in the Office of Commercialization, Georgia Institute of Technology

Dixon is the Director of Strategic Operations at the Office of Commercialization at Georgia Tech. With over a decade of experience in higher education, Dixon brings a unique blend of skills and perspectives. He excels in organizational cultural transformation, people development, and optimizing operational processes to meet strategic goals. Known as a Positive Disruptor, Dixon specializes in driving organizational excellence through strategic development and implementation, helping leaders navigate and manage strategic improvements with impact and energy.

Robert Duncan, FNAI

Professor of Physics, President's Distinguished Chair in Physics, Texas Tech University

Prof. Duncan joined Sandia National Labs, and then the Physics and Astronomy Department at UNM, after earning his physics degrees at MIT and UC Santa Barbara. He was a Distinguished Member of the Technical Staff at Sandia in 1995, and then the first Associate Dean for Research at UNM in 1999. He served as the founding Director of the New Mexico Consortium at Los Alamos National Laboratory in 2006, before going on to serve as the Vice Chancellor for Research at the University of Missouri in 2008, and then as the Senior Vice President for Research at Texas Tech University in 2014. He currently serves as the President's Distinguished Chair in Physics at Texas Tech, where he directs the Center for Emerging Energy Sciences, which invents and tests new fission / fusion cycles and their associated diagnostics.

Duncan has served as a NASA Flight Principal Investigator in fundamental physics, and then he Chaired the Fundamental Physics in Space Panel for the Decadal Survey of the National Academies. He serves on the Scientific Advisory Board of the United States Air Force, where he has been a member of the Cybersecurity and the Quantum Technologies studies. He is a Fellow and a Life Member of the American Physical Society, and a Fellow and an Executive Board Member of the National Academy of Inventors. He has co-invented 14 US patents and 31 international patents, and he has assisted in the formation of NASDAQ companies, including Adagio Medical, Organovo, and Beyond Meat. Prof. Duncan was named the Gordon and Betty Moore Distinguished Scholar within the Division of Physics, Mathematics, and Astronomy at Caltech in 2004. He has helped start successful small businesses, and he has served on many federal 'blue ribbon' executive review committees, including at the Naval Research Laboratory, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Duncan currently serves as a Principal Investigator (PI) in a nuclear ARPA-E Exploratory Topic, and an effort to experimentally evaluate superior fission-fragment rocket designs for NASA (NIAC). Duncan and Major General (ret., AZANG) Annette "Annie" Sobel married in 1993, and they reside in Lubbock, TX and near Santa Fe, NM.

Suzanne Harrison, HonNAI

CEO,IDII (Percipience)

Suzanne S. Harrison is an author, patent futurist, and economist. She works with companies both large and small to help them utilize their patent data to make more informed decisions and realize the true value of their intellectual property.

She is a former Patent Public Advisory Committee (PPAC) Chair and member for the USPTO.She is also the Founder and Principal of Percipience LLC, a board-level advisory group focused on IP and innovation strategy, management, and quantifying and mitigating IP risk.
Since 1995, she has led a group called the ICM Gathering, an invitation-only group of 20 companies that meet regularly to define, create, benchmark and test best practices in IP management. Her books draw on her work with the Gathering, and feature success stories of companies leading the way in innovative IP management.

She is the co-author of Innovation Warfare, which describes a Chinese Government strategy to destabilize the US economically using intellectual property through both legal and illegal means.

She holds an undergraduate degree in economics from UC Davis, and an MBA from the University of Chicago. She lives in San Francisco, CA, with her husband and two children.

David Haun

Licensing Associate , Georgia Institute of Technology

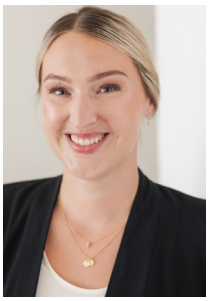
David Haun is a licensing professional with a research background in life and marine sciences. Prior to joining the Office of Technology Licensing at Georgia Tech, David worked at the Office of Innovation & Commercialization at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, where he helped accelerate the technology transfer initiatives and developed both university and community-based startups. He has experience licensing technologies to Fortune 500 companies and has fostered relationships with stakeholders from various government agencies. David holds a B.S. in biology from the Pennsylvania State University and received his M.S. from the University of North Carolina Wilmington.

GT Research Units:

- Aerospace Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Earth & Atmospheric Sciences
- College of Business
- Psychology

Industry Sectors:

- Energy
- Mechanical
- Nanotechnology
- Transportation



Robyn Hejmej

Executive Director, Research and Innovation Strategy, University of Southern California

Robyn Hejmej is Executive Director of Research Strategy and Development at the University of Southern California. She leads efforts to expand USC's research and innovation enterprise by securing competitive federal funding and supporting large, multidisciplinary projects. Robyn implements programs that strengthen the university's innovation ecosystem, including internal funding initiatives and a USC Techstars partnership, while engaging faculty across disciplines.

Keith Holland, HonNAI

Associate Vice President for Research and Economic Development, James Madison University

Keith Holland serves as the Associate Vice President for Research and Economic Development at James Madison University and Professor of Engineering. Prior to joining academia, he was an inventor and startup creator, experiences that shaped his passion for helping students and innovators translate ideas into real-world impact. His work focuses on building systems that connect researchers, students, entrepreneurs, and industry partners to the resources needed to move discoveries from concept to application. Keith leads initiatives that strengthen technology commercialization, workforce-aligned innovation, and regional entrepreneurial ecosystems in Virginia.

James Howard, HonNAI

Executive Director, Black Inventors Hall of Fame Museum

James Howard is a lecturer, design historian, and industrial designer/inventor of some 300 products with 20 patents. He owns and operates entrepreneurial U, a specialty private career school of Design Thinking. Howard's course, "Bridge" Exploring New Career Pathways, takes students through the problem-solving processes: problem/necessity, solution, and execution and leads them to new career pathways and job opportunities. James Howard serves as Executive Director of THE BLACK INVENTORS HALL OF FAME, (www.BIHOF.org) a virtual museum devoted to immortalizing African Americans whose noteworthy inventions have improved lives yet gone unnoticed. James also serves on the Board of Directors for the United States Intellectual Property Alliance, and recently assisted the National Inventors Hall of Fame to curate their very first Black Inventors exhibit Breaking Barriers. James serves on the advisory board for the American Institutes for Research, addressing the question - Does Race and Gender of the Patent Examiner Matter for Innovation? He is also the recent recipient of the TAGGIE award for his documentary film, The GATHERING, and the co-producer of the groundbreaking film, The Great Equalizer, examining fairness in the patent system. James has served as a subject matter expert on Design thinking for the Keller Innovation Center at Princeton University. He is also a visiting lecturer for the University of Texas Center for Integrated Design. James earned a Master's and Bachelor of Fine Arts -Industrial Design at the University of Illinois, Urbana, IL. James was recently awarded Honorary member of the National Academy of Inventors, and he serves on the panel for Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the innovation ecosystem. He is also a recent recipient of the Inspire Top 100 award. For the past two years, James has served as a keynote speaker for various USTPO Black history month symposiums. For the past three years James has served as a judge for the esteemed Conrad Challenge program and he has also served as a judge for the Fairleigh Dickinson FDU Pitch competition.

Anna Leese, FNAI

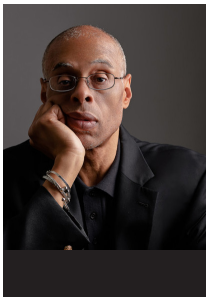
CEO Technology Vector Inc, CEO PICOSYNC Technology Inc., Entrepreneur in Residence,and UCSD Office of Innovation and Commercialization

Anna Leese has >35 years of RDT&E in cryogenic and superconducting electronics. After retiring from NIWC PACIFIC in 2022 where she founded the Cryogenic Exploitation of Radio Frequency (CERF) Laboratory, she has served as Chief Science Officer in one, and founded 2 start-ups to continue moving cutting edge technology forward. She is a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors and a Senior Member of the IEEE with 22 patents and 57 publications, and serves her community as member of several technical committees and boards including the Applied Superconductivity Education Foundation, the National Academy of Inventors, the National Academy of Inventors Innovation Alliance and Ambature.

James Lillard, FNAI

Senior Associate Dean for Research, Innovation and Commercialization Director, Office of Translational Technologies Director, MSM Georgia Research Alliance VentureLab, Morehouse School of Medicine

James W. Lillard, Jr., PhD, MBA, is a distinguished immunologist, academic leader, and Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI). He currently serves as the Senior Associate Dean for Research, Innovation, and Commercialization and Professor of Microbiology, Biochemistry, and Immunology at Morehouse School of Medicine (MSM). As the Director of the Office of Technology Transfer and Georgia Research Alliance (GRA Venture Lab) at MSM, Dr. Lillard has been instrumental in bridging the gap between laboratory discovery and market-ready solutions. He has overseen the creation of multiple startups that have collectively raised more than $250 million in capital. A prolific inventor himself, Dr. Lillard recently led the negotiations and licensing for Atrasentan, a therapy for IgA nephropathy that received FDA approval in April 2025. He is also the founder of JYANT Technologies, Inc. Throughout his career, he has secured over $100 million in peer-reviewed funding and authored more than 300 scientific communications with over 13,000 citations. In addition to his NAI Fellowship, Dr. Lillard is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and a Distinguished Fellow of the American Association of Immunologists (AAI). He serves on several high-level boards, including the Personalized Medicine Coalition, the Milken Institute's FasterCures Health Equity Advisory Council, and the Scientific Advisory Board for the Frederick National Laboratory. Dr. Lillard holds a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from the Ohio State University, a Ph.D. in Microbiology and Immunology from the University of Kentucky, and an MBA from Emory University's Goizueta Business School with a focus on Biotechnology.



Lateef Mtima, HonNAI

Senior Scholar (C-IP2) and Professor of Law, Harvard School of Law

Lateef Mtima is a Professor of Law at the Howard University School of Law, and the Founder and Director of the Institute for Intellectual Property and Social Justice, an accredited NGO member of the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), which advocates for core principles of socially equitable access, inclusion, and empowerment in the development and implementation of the IP ecosystem. A graduate of Amherst College and Harvard Law School, Professor Mtima has testified before Congress in support of legislation to promote IP social justice and inclusivity, including the Unleashing American Innovators Act, which President Biden signed into law on December 29, 2022. He is the author of numerous publications on IP law, including the co-editor/contributing author of the Cambridge Handbook on Intellectual Property and Social Justice (Cambridge University Press 2024).

Erin Overstreet

Executive Director, University of Southern California, Stevens Center for Innovation

Dr. Erin Overstreet is the Executive Director of the USC Stevens Center for Innovation with more than 18 years of experience in academic technology transfer, licensing, industry partnerships, and research administration. She oversees the day-to-day operations of the office, manages the university's extensive IP portfolio, facilitates collaboration between university researchers and industry partners, supports the formation of startups on the commercialization path, and brings inventions to market for the betterment of society.

A seasoned executive, Dr. Overstreet has vast experience working with early-stage technologies and companies and has held leadership roles at the University of California, San Francisco, and the University of Texas at Austin. Most recently, she was Head of Corporate Strategy at a cancer immune-oncology company, Delta TpX, where she gained first-hand operational experience in forming and financing early-stage companies. Throughout her career, she has worked closely with faculty and researchers to license more than 250 technologies and assisted over 50 startups in their journey to spin out from universities, which collectively raised $500+ million in VC funding, including four IPOs. She has broad experience in evaluating early-stage technologies, refining and protecting key IP, marketing to industry partners, and negotiating deals that mature the technology and lead to commercialization.

Dr. Overstreet holds a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology and a BS in Microbiology from the University of Texas at Austin.

Kelly Parsons, HonNAI

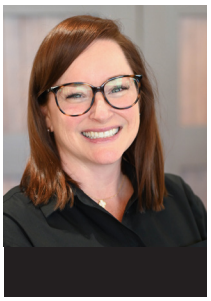
Director of Technology Commercialization, UNC Office of Technology Commercialization, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Kelly Parsons serves as the director of technology commercialization, while also managing a portfolio of innovations related to gene therapies and biologics. Since joining the office in 2008, Kelly has worked across numerous UNC schools and departments to advance life science inventions including vaccines, small molecules, biologics, and research tools. Prior to joining the technology commercialization team full-time, Kelly worked as a postdoctoral research associate in the UNC-Chapel Hill Cystic Fibrosis and Pulmonary Research and Treatment Center studying the effect of chronic bacterial infection on innate lung immunology while also serving as an intern in the technology transfer office. Kelly is a member of the Association of University Technology Managers, the Licensing Executives Society, and is a licensed patent agent. She earned her bachelor's degree in biology, with a minor in chemistry, from Virginia Tech and her Ph.D. in microbiology and immunology from Wake Forest University.

Subhash Shinde, FNAI

Senior Technical Advisor, Booz Allen Hamilton

Subhash Shinde is an Associate Director at the Center for Sustainable Energy at Notre Dame (cSEND), University of Notre Dame. Subhash does basic research projects development in Materials Science, Materials Physics and Solid State Physics. His current interests span materials for energy production, storage and its distribution. He is also interested in system level considerations and grid resiliency.



Jennifer Souter, HonNAI

Managing Director Intellectual Property, Office of Research Commercialization, Texas Tech University

Jennifer Souter serves as Senior Managing Director for Research Commercialization, where she leads the Office of Research Commercialization, the technology transfer office for the Texas Tech University System, in advancing the university's intellectual property (IP) portfolio, strengthening commercialization pathways, and cultivating strategic industry partnerships. Her leadership plays a vital role in driving innovation and expanding the impact of university research across Texas and beyond. With more than 17 years of experience in intellectual property management, licensing, and research commercialization, Jennifer has built a career focused on transforming early-stage discoveries into real-world solutions. Before joining Texas Tech, she served as Director of Patents and Licensing at WiSys, managing IP and licensing activities for the 11 regional campuses of the University of Wisconsin System. Jennifer's career also includes technology transfer roles in both the United States and the United Kingdom, where she supported university researchers and entrepreneurs across a broad range of disciplines. She holds a bachelor's degree in the life sciences and an MBA. Throughout her career, Jennifer has been dedicated to developing innovative strategies that protect, commercialize, and accelerate the societal and economic impact of academic research.

Sylvia W. Thomas, FNAI

Professor, College of Engineering, Electrical Engineering, University of South Florida

Dr. Sylvia Wilson Thomas is Professor in Electrical Engineering, and leads the USF Advanced Membrane and Materials Bio and is former Vice President of Research & Innovation at the University of South Florida. Dr. Thomas is a Fellow of the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE), a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI), a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), a Board member of the Florida Space Research Consortium (FSRC), Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine of Florida (ASEMFL), Florida Semiconductor Institute, and Museum of Science & Industry (MOSI), member of the Pan American Academy of Engineering (PAN-API), and Senior Member of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE). She leads the USF Advanced Membrane and Materials Bio and Integration Research (AMBIR) laboratory for biomedical, biological, and nano electronic device integration using advanced material systems for membrane technology. Having over 30 years of global experience with academia, non-profits, and industry, Dr. Thomas has authored over 200 peer-reviewed journal articles, proceedings, presentations, and six book chapters. She has championed K-12 engagement in STEAM and has collaborated with teachers, research experience for high school students, and school districts. As an advocate for innovation and collaborative engagement and inductee to the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame, she has produced several patents/patent disclosures and assisted in the success of such companies as Bell Labs, Agere Systems, Lucent, Kimberly Clark Corporation, IBM, and Procter & Gamble. She has also fostered and been engaged in collaborations and engineering education efforts in Italy, Puerto Rico, Singapore, Portugal, South Korea, Mexico, Panama, France, Brazil, and South Africa. She holds BS and MS degrees in Electrical Engineering from Vanderbilt University and a PhD in Electrical Engineering from Howard University.

Ken Tobin, FNAI

Chief Research and University Partnerships Officer, Oak Ridge Associated Universities

Kenneth W. Tobin, Jr. holds a B.S. in physics and M.S. in nuclear engineering from Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University, and a Ph.D. in nuclear engineering from the University of Virginia (1987). He is Director of the Electrical & Electronics Systems Research Division at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), where he has worked since 1987.

Dr. Tobin is a leading expert in applied computer vision, with significant contributions to semiconductor manufacturing including patented technologies for automatic defect classification, spatial signature analysis, and content-based image retrieval. His technologies have been licensed by IBM, AMD, HP, Motorola, Applied Materials, and others. He also led development of a direct-to-digital holographic microscopy technology — the only optical method capable of detecting submicron defects in high-aspect-ratio surface features — licensed to nLine Corp.

A Fellow of SPIE and member of IEEE, Dr. Tobin has served on the U.S. Defect Reduction Technology Working Group and the FBI's Scientific Working Group on Imaging Technologies. He is the founder and chairman of SPIE's conference on Data Analysis and Modeling for Process Control. He has authored more than 120 publications, holds six U.S. patents, and has received numerous honors including the Tennessee Academy of Science's Industrial Scientist of the Year (2001) and an R&D 100 Award (2002). He was named an ORNL Corporate Fellow in 2003.

Tariq Warsi

Investment Director, USC AMI, University of Southern California

Tariq Warsi is a Venture Partner at Awaken Capital. He is the Alfred E. Mann Institute Investment Director at the University of Southern California, an Entrepreneur in Residence at the University of California Riverside, and a multi-industry expert across Synthetic Biology, Cell Therapy, Genome Editing, and Therapeutics. Previously Tariq was Senior Director at AstraZeneca, Vice President of Technical Operations at Novome Biotechnologies and held a number of scientific roles in industry and academia, including at Amgen, Aurora Algae, and Stanford University. Tariq completed a Postdoctoral Fellowship at Harvard Medical School and earned a PhD in cell and molecular biology and a bachelor's degree in biological sciences from the University of California Riverside.

Phil Weilerstein, HonNAI

President and CEO, VentureWell

Phil Weilerstein has led VentureWell since its founding in 1995 and today serves as president and CEO. By developing and expanding VentureWell's programs on a national and global scale, Phil has helped advance VentureWell's mission to solve global challenges through science- and technology-driven innovation and entrepreneurship. Phil is committed to sharing VentureWell's learnings and resources to support the creation of inclusive and more equitable pathways for student innovators to succeed in venture creation. Under Phil's leadership, VentureWell has collaborated with key science funding agencies, major philanthropies, and hundreds of universities to train and support thousands of emerging students, researchers, and faculty innovators.

Helena S. Wisniewski, FNAI

Marion Porter Endowed Chair-professor, Dept Chair, Co-Founder Alaska Data Science and AI Lab, University of Alaska Anchorage

Dr. Helena S. Wisniewski, a Fellow of NAI, is Marion Porter Endowed Chair, Professor of Entrepreneurship, Department Chair, Marketing, Management, Logistics and Business Analytics, and Co-Founder Alaska Data Science and AI Lab (ADSAIL), College of Business and Public Policy (CBPP), University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA).

Dr. Wisniewski is a seasoned leader whose career spans industry, government, academia, and service on public and private boards. A Fellow of NAI she is a successful technological entrepreneur, who launched and sold multiple technology startups, She is spearheading AI initiatives at UAA by leveraging AI advances she pioneered at DARPA and industry. In addition to Co-founder of the AI Lab, she created CBPP's first AI graduate course and launched the successful AI webinar series with renowned speakers covering impactful AI topics. She integrates AI across disciplines in CBPP and initiated a new major — Business and Data Analytics. She also organizes the Business Plan and Big Idea Competitions, and initiated UAA as an Institutional member of NAI. Previously, as vice provost for research and dean, graduate school dean, she was Founding Director of the Arctic Domain Awareness Center, securing its designation as a DHS Center of Excellence—the first in Alaska. She also created an entrepreneurial ecosystem, and her book Academic Entrepreneurship provides insights into a successful process.

At DARPA she launched and managed the Applied and Computational Mathematics Program where she initiated and directed breakthroughs in science, engineering and artificial intelligence (pioneering advances in neural networks). At the CIA she contributed to technological innovations. She held strategic roles at Lockheed Corporation Headquarters as a corporate director and as Vice President at Titan Corporation and ANSER. There, she spearheaded innovative technology initiatives and partnerships, developed advances in AI including AI solutions to locate missing and exploited children. As Founder and CEO of Aurora Biometrics, she built an international business and sold the company.

Her book, Global Supply Chains in the Age of AI, published by World Scientific, examines how artificial intelligence enhances the resilience, efficiency, and sustainability of global supply chains. She was editor for the NAI's special issue journal, AI Education, and is an invited speaker internationally on AI. She was the IBM Distinguished Speaker for their global webinar series, presented -The Convergence of AI with Emerging Technologies. She was featured in IEEE Women in Engineering Anniversary Issue as a prolific innovator. Dr. Wisniewski earned her Ph.D. in Mathematics from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, an M.S. in Mathematics from Stevens Institute of Technology, and a B.A. in Mathematics from William Paterson University, where she is honored as a Distinguished Alumna.

David B. Agus

Chief Executive Officer, Ellison Medical Instituate

Dr. David B. Agus is one of the world's leading physicians and pioneering biomedical researchers. He is the Founding CEO of the Ellison Medical Institute and a Professor of Medicine and Engineering at the University of Southern California, as well as a Visiting Professor of Medicine at the University of Oxford.

A medical oncologist by training, Dr. Agus leads a multidisciplinary team that develops and applies cutting-edge technologies for cancer and preventive medicine -- including artificial intelligence -- to help physicians deliver personalized, data-driven care. An international leader in global health and precision medicine, he serves in leadership roles with the World Economic Forum and co-chairs the Global Health Security Consortium. He is also a regular medical contributor for CBS News.

Dr. Agus is the author of four international and New York Times bestselling books: *The End of Illness (2012), A Short Guide to a Long Life (2014), The Lucky Years: How to Thrive in the Brave New World of Health (2016), and The Book of Animal Secrets: Nature's Lessons for a Long and Happy Life (2023).* He also hosts the docuseries *The Checkup with Dr. David Agus*, where he has conversations with celebrities about their personal health journeys. He was awarded the Ellis Island Medal of Honor in 2017.

Kelly Anderson

Vice President, International Policy, Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC),
U.S. Chamber of Commerce

Kelly Anderson serves as vice president of international policy at the U.S. Chamber's Global Innovation Policy Center (GIPC). Anderson oversees the GIPC's global advocacy efforts and leads the GIPC's policy engagement in the multilateral organizations and developed economies.

Anderson is also the lead of the production and marketing of the U.S. Chamber's International IP Index. Anderson discusses the report's findings with U.S. and foreign government officials, industry stakeholders, and international third party groups. In her thirteen years at the Chamber, Anderson has presented the U.S. Chamber's IP Index at events in over a dozen global markets.

Prior to joining the Chamber, Anderson handled congressional affairs at the Embassy of Gabon in Washington, D.C. During her time at the Embassy, she worked with congressional staff to raise the profile of Gabon both on the Hill and throughout Washington, D.C. Prior to this, Anderson worked at the lobbying firm American Continental Group after previously interning on the Hill.

Anderson received an Executive Masters of Public Administration at the London School of Economics and Political Science. She earned her B.A. in Political Science from Drew University in Madison, NJ.

Bernard Arulanandam, FNAI

Vice President of Research, Tufts University

Dr. Bernard Arulanandam is Tufts University Vice Provost for Research, where he oversees the Tufts research enterprise. As the Chief Research Officer, Dr. Arulanandam helps set the strategic vision and directs key regulatory areas for research at Tufts. Dr. Arulanandam is a strong advocate for building multidisciplinary research efforts and promoting a vibrant and inclusive innovation ecosystem to ensure Tufts' eminence as a research-intensive institution within the Association of American Universities. In his role, Dr. Arulanandam spearheads strategic partnerships with key organizations that complement Tufts' strengths, and partners with university leadership to advance institutional research goals and reputation as a research-intensive institution with defined capabilities and with a deep commitment towards societal impact.

As an established Immunologist, Dr. Arulanandam holds an appointment as Professor of Immunology at the Tufts University School of Medicine. His research focuses on elucidating host-microbial interactions and the cellular and molecular mechanisms involved in the induction of immune responses against infectious diseases. His work has provided new insights into the development of vaccines against Chlamydia trachomatis, the leading cause of sexually transmitted bacterial disease and the creation of a potential live attenuated vaccine against multidrug-resistant Acinetobacter baumannii identified as an important nosocomial pathogen.

Dr. Arulanandam was named a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) and received the Fulbright International Education Administrator Award in 2016. In 2017, Dr. Arulanandam was elected as a fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology (AAM). He was inducted as a fellow to the National Academy of Inventors (NAI) in 2019 and most recently elected as a foreign fellow of the Indian National Science Academy (INSA) in 2025.

Dr. Arulanandam obtained a Ph.D. in Microbiology and Immunology at the Medical College of Ohio and received a postdoctoral fellowship at the Albany Medical College in New York and an executive M.B.A. at The University of Texas at San Antonio.

Issa Batarseh, FNAI

Pegasus Professor of Electrical Engineering, University of Central Florida

Dr. Issa Batarseh is a Pegasus Professor of Electrical Engineering at the University of Central Florida (UCF) and serves as the Founder and Director of the Florida Power Electronics Center (FPEC). He earned his B.S. degree in Electrical and Computer Engineering and his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1983, 1985, and 1990, respectively.

Dr. Batarseh's work focuses on solar energy conversion technologies, particularly in high-frequency, high-efficiency, and smart grid-tied photovoltaic (PV) energy systems. His research team has led the design, development, and commercialization of transformative technologies, including smart microinverters, which have significantly improved energy efficiency and accessibility. These innovations have been instrumental in advancing renewable energy adoption, optimizing energy conversion, and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, benefiting modern clean energy systems worldwide.

Dr. Batarseh has authored over 110 journal articles, 450 conference papers, and holds 40 issued U.S. patents. He has mentored 45 Ph.D. and 45 M.S. students, many of whom have contributed to leading advancements in academia and industry. He is the author of the widely referenced textbook, Power Electronics — Circuit Analysis and Design (2nd Edition, Springer, 2018).

His contributions to renewable energy have earned him numerous accolades, including the 2025 IEEE Medal for Environmental and Safety Technologies, and the prestigious IEEE PELS R. David Middlebrook Achievement Award and UCF's Pegasus Professor Award, the university's highest academic honor. He is a Fellow of both IEEE and AAAS, a member of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI), and an inductee into the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame. In 2025, he was short listed for the Global Energy Prize.

Dr. Batarseh has co-founded three start-up companies—Petra Solar, Advanced Power Electronics Corporation (ApECOR), and Protium Power Systems, Inc.—each contributing to the commercialization of innovative energy solutions.

From 2010 to 2014, Dr. Batarseh served as the President of Princess Sumaya University for Technology (PSUT) in Amman, Jordan. He is also a Registered Professional Engineer in the State of Florida.

Charleson Bell, HonNAI

NSF Mid-South I-Corps Hub Director, Vanderbilt University, National Chair, NSF I-Corps National

Charleson S. Bell, PhD is the National Chair of the NSF National Innovation Network, the Hub Director of the NSF I-Corps Hub, Mid-South Region ("Mid-South Hub"), Program Director of the NSF ExLENT Coalition Responsible for Excellence in Skills Training (CREST), and State Lead of the NIH Mid-South Research, Evaluation, and Commercialization Hub (REACH) Hub. He is a Research Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Director of the Vanderbilt Innovation Corps unit at Vanderbilt University, and Associate Director of the Medical Innovators Development Program in the Vanderbilt School of Medicine. Dr. Bell is a "Triple 'Dore" earning his Bachelors in Engineering, Masters in Science, and Doctor of Philosophy in Biomedical Engineering — the first African-American to earn a PhD in Biomedical Engineering at Vanderbilt. Dr. Bell's Department of Defense funded research seeks to improve point-of-care deployability, interoperability, and smartphone-compatibility. Dr. Bell has always possessed an entrepreneurial spirit and embraces new endeavors and innovations with great enthusiasm and passion. The first graduate student at Vanderbilt to receive an investment of venture capital to launch a startup while in school, Dr. Bell uses his innovative mind to combine his engineering knowledge to create novel technologies of great impact. He has garnered multiple patents across many fields and co-authored multiple peer-reviewed publications. Most importantly, he is a staunch believer that the value and practice of convergent innovation is critical to optimize the way innovators empathize with humanity and ideate solutions that create positive change across the world.

Anthony Boccanfuso

President and Chief Executive Officer, UIDP

Anthony M. (Tony) Boccanfuso, Ph.D. has led UIDP as Chief Executive since 2007, driving its mission to strengthen collaborations among leading companies, research universities, government, and nonprofits. He has transformed UIDP into a trusted resource for advancing public-private partnerships that fuel innovation in areas ranging from contracting and commercialization to workforce development.

Tony spearheaded the launch of the organization's Strengthen and Modernize University-Industry Partnerships Initiative (SAMI), a bold effort to reimagine how universities and industry work together. SAMI delivers actionable strategies to expand the impact of collaborative innovation across partnerships, talent and workforce, infrastructure, and regulatory frameworks.

He also launched UI-Collab, UIDP's global consulting practice, which leverages the partnership's extensive library of learnings and seasoned experts to provide targeted guidance for universities and companies seeking to optimize their research and innovation enterprises.

With more than 30 years of leadership experience in research, commercialization, and strategic program management at organizations such as the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, and PricewaterhouseCoopers, Tony brings unmatched expertise in building and strengthening innovation ecosystems. He holds a Ph.D. in inorganic chemistry and a B.A. in chemistry and political science.

Tony and his wife, Dr. Laura Boccanfuso, a computer scientist and founder of Van Robotics, live in South Carolina. They have three children: Carolina, a registered nurse; Michael, a mechanical engineer; and Ana Catherine, a software engineer.

Almesha L. Campbell, HonNAI

Vice President of Research and Economic Development, Jackson State University

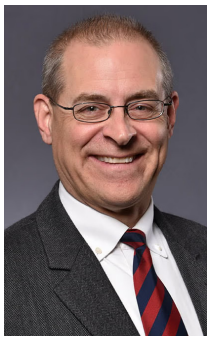
Almesha L. Campbell, Ph.D., RTTP, is the Vice President for Research and Economic Development at Jackson State University (JSU). In this capacity, she oversees Sponsored Programs, Grants and Contracts, Research Compliance, Federal Relations, the Office of Innovation Management (Tech Transfer), JSU Global, and all TRIO programs. She is an exemplary leader in research, technology transfer, innovation, entrepreneurship, and economic development. She has secured and managed numerous federal grants from multiple funding agencies such as the National Science Foundation, the National Institutes of Health, the Small Business Administration, the U.S. Department of Labor, Leidos, W. K. Kellogg Foundation, and Delta Regional Authority. She plays a pivotal role as principal investigator (PI) and co-PI in various federally funded innovation and commercialization programs such as the National Science Foundation (NSF) Mid-South I-Corps Hub, NSF Accelerating Research Translation (ART), and the National Institutes of Health Mid-South Research Evaluation and Commercialization (REACH) Hub, highlighting her commitment to advancing entrepreneurship and research translation.

Almesha co-developed the JSU Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship to leverage the best of JSU's STEM, business, and entrepreneurial capabilities to foster talent development, university-industry partnerships, and drive economic impact. Initiatives such as the JSU Innovation Fellows Program, the micro-credential program, the certificate program in AI and Data Science for Cybersecurity, the JSU Artificial Intelligence Multi-Disciplinary Education (AIME) Hub and integrating virtual reality into the STEM curriculum showcase her role in shaping the next generation of innovators and entrepreneurs, preparing students to be ready for the future of work. Dr. Campbell served as chair of the AUTM Board of Directors for 2023 — 2024 and serves on the advisory board of the Center for Advancing Research Impact in Society (ARIS) and is affiliated with national organizations, including the Licensing Executives Society and the Society of Research Administrators International. She is also an honorary member of the National Academy of Inventors.

Rich G. Carter, HonNAI

Professor, Department of Chemistry, Faculty Lead for Innovation Excellence, Office of Research, Oregon State University

Rich G. Carter is a Professor of Chemistry and Faculty Lead for Innovation Excellence in the Division of Research & Innovation at Oregon State University. In his role, he supports faculty seeking to leverage their discoveries to benefit society through innovation & entrepreneurship (I&E). Along with Jana Bouwma-Gearhart, Karl Mundorff and Julie Risien, Rich created the Promotion & Tenure-Innovation & Entrepreneurship (PTIE) effort in 2019 with the support of a National Science Foundation (NSF) grant. This grant resulted in the formation of the PTIE Coalition - a collection of over 65 universities from around the country with a shared interest in supporting faculty outputs in I&E. In 2020, the PTIE Coalition created the PTIE recommendations for revising P&T guidelines to support faculty outputs around I&E as a portion of their promotion dossiers. These recommendations have been widely employed on university campuses around the country. More recently, Rich and Jana received additional funding from NSF to support the initial cohort of Accelerating Research Translation awardee institutions. Rich received his BS degree in chemistry from Gettysburg College and his PhD in organic chemistry from the University of Texas at Austin. He served as Department Chair of Chemistry at Oregon State University from 2012-2017. In addition to his academic roles, Rich is co-founder and CEO for a technology-based chemical manufacturing company based in Oregon called Valliscor.



James Conley, FNAI

Clinical Professor, Kellogg School of Management, Northwestern University

James Conley is an inventor who serves as a faculty member in the Operations Group and the Kellogg Center for Research in Technology & Innovation. He also serves as a Faculty Fellow at the Northwestern University Segal Design Institute. He is a Charter Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors and has served presenting at workshops hosted at the National Academy of Sciences.
In 2004, 2007, 2014, 2015 and 2016, he received the Professor of the Year award from the Master of Product Development program at Northwestern University. In 2011 and 2013 he received the Professor of the Year award from the Master of Science program at the WHU in Germany.

His academic research investigates the strategic use of intangible assets and intellectual properties to build and sustain competitive advantage. Research sponsors have included the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO), Chicago Biomedical Consortium, US Department of the Treasury IRS, Microsoft, National Science Foundation, NASA, FAA, NIST, the Department of Defense, Motorola and others. His publications have been recognized with “Best Paper” commendations from the American Foundry Society, the Society of Automotive Engineers, The Rapid Prototyping Journal and others. Mainstream outlets for his scholarship include the Wall Street Journal, the Sloan Management Review and the California Management Review.

Beyond Northwestern, he serves as an expert and author for the UN based World Intellectual Property Organization and has served as an appointed member on the United States Department of Commerce Trademark Public Advisory Committee to the Patent and Trademark Office. He also serves on the board of several companies and the US Intellectual Property Allliance and the Illinois Intellectual Property Alliance.

He has been called to offer testimony on intellectual property related matters in legal and policy forums including the International Trade Commission, US Federal District Court, US Federal Tax Court and at International Tribunals in Asia and beyond. Further, he is appointed to serve as an external Ph.D. examiner by Abo Akademi in Finland.

He is serving as Senior Editor of Technology and Innovation and serves on the editorial boards of the California Management Review and The Journal of the National Academy of Inventors.

Erwin Cruz

Co-Founder & CEO, Forge & Fortress Corporation, IPLA Chair, and President, Zoro Intellectual Property Holdings, LLC for W.W. Grainger, Inc. (Retired)

Erwin is an executive strategist and globally recognized intellectual capital leader, serving as Founder and CEO of Forge & Fortress, where he combines practitioner-led expertise with AI-powered platforms to modernize IP strategy, enhance portfolio management, and unlock new sources of enterprise and innovation-driven value. With more than two decades of experience, he advises Fortune 500 companies, high-growth enterprises, and research institutions on transforming invention into measurable impact, competitive advantage, and scalable business outcomes.

He holds graduate degrees in Information Systems Management, Business Administration, and Law, bringing an integrated perspective that bridges technology, business strategy, and intellectual property law. He is a named inventor on multiple U.S. patents across digital commerce, computer vision, artificial intelligence, and robotics, and is recognized for building IP strategies that directly contribute to revenue growth, capital efficiency, and enterprise risk mitigation.

He is at the forefront of applying agentic AI to intellectual capital strategy. Through Forge & Fortress, he is developing AI-driven platforms that leverage broad data environments to deliver AI-driven insights that unlock immediate strategic action and create first-mover advantage in rapidly evolving innovation landscapes. His work supports a diverse set of stakeholders—including inventors, research institutions, product teams, executives, and investors—redefining intellectual capital as a scalable, data-driven asset class.

He has built and operationalized IP-centered innovation hubs, designed enterprise portfolio governance models, and led invention strategies aligned to global market expansion and emerging technology trends.

A sought-after advisor across industry and academia, he is known for translating complex technical and legal frameworks into actionable strategies that accelerate innovation, commercialization, and long-term value creation in an AI-enabled economy.

Frank Cullen

Executive Director of the Council for Innovation Promotion (C4IP)

Frank Cullen is Executive Director of the Council for Innovation Promotion (C4IP), a bi-partisan non-profit promoting intellectual property policies that support innovation and creative output.

Frank previously served as Vice President of U.S. Policy at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. He was Public Relations Director for the City of Palm Springs under Mayor Sonny Bono, and Director of Bono for U.S. Senate '92. He was U.S. Representative Bono's Communications Director until Bono's death and served Rep. Mary Bono as Chief of Staff.

A talented writer and communicator, he has appeared on The Today Show, Good Morning America, CBS This Morning, Larry King Live, ABC Radio, and CBS Radio. Frank provided political analysis and election coverage for KESQ TV, KMIR TV, and The Desert Sun newspaper, and worked for Francis Ford Coppola at Zoetrope Studios. He is a graduate of the University of Southern California School of Cinema and Television.

Carmine Denisco

Chief Executive Officer, United Inventor Association

Carmine Denisco is a respected leader and advocate in the inventor community, known for his long-standing commitment to supporting innovators at every stage of development. In his current role as President of the United Inventors Association, Carmine has played an instrumental role in advancing education, resources, and opportunities for inventors and Innovators across the country and the world.

With decades of hands-on experience in product design, development and manufacturing, Carmine has dedicated his career to helping inventors and Entrepreneurs navigate the often complex journey from idea to marketplace. Through mentorship, speaking engagements, and industry leadership, he continues to empower innovators of all ages, fostering creativity, protecting Inventors, and promoting ethical invention practices.

David Dolby

CEO, Dolby Family Ventures

David Dolby is a San Francisco-based investor and philanthropist focused on science, technology and media. He studied civil engineering at Duke University and received an MBA from the Stanford Graduate School of Business.

David is CEO of Dolby Family Ventures, where he specializes in seed-stage technology and neuroscience investments; director of Dolby Laboratories; CFO of the Ray and Dagmar Dolby Family Fund; trustee of the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, governor of the Alzheimer's Drug Discovery Foundation; and investment committee chair for the Academy of Motion Pictures Arts and Sciences. David is also a commercial fixed-wing and helicopter pilot.

David is committed to honoring Ray Dolby's values, his belief in supporting highly innovative cultures, and in furthering the impact of his outstanding legacy.

Robert Duncan, FNAI

Professor & President's Distinguished Chair in Physics, Department of Physics and Astronomy, Texas Tech University

Prof. Duncan joined Sandia National Labs, and then the Physics and Astronomy Department at UNM, after earning his physics degrees at MIT and UC Santa Barbara. He was a Distinguished Member of the Technical Staff at Sandia in 1995, and then the first Associate Dean for Research at UNM in 1999. He served as the founding Director of the New Mexico Consortium at Los Alamos National Laboratory in 2006, before going on to serve as the Vice Chancellor for Research at the University of Missouri in 2008, and then as the Senior Vice President for Research at Texas Tech University in 2014. He currently serves as the President's Distinguished Chair in Physics at Texas Tech, where he directs the Center for Emerging Energy Sciences, which invents and tests new fission / fusion cycles and their associated diagnostics.

Duncan has served as a NASA Flight Principal Investigator in fundamental physics, and then he Chaired the Fundamental Physics in Space Panel for the Decadal Survey of the National Academies. He serves on the Scientific Advisory Board of the United States Air Force, where he has been a member of the Cybersecurity and the Quantum Technologies studies. He is a Fellow and a Life Member of the American Physical Society, and a Fellow and an Executive Board Member of the National Academy of Inventors. He has co-invented 14 US patents and 31 international patents, and he has assisted in the formation of NASDAQ companies, including Adagio Medical, Organovo, and Beyond Meat. Prof. Duncan was named the Gordon and Betty Moore Distinguished Scholar within the Division of Physics, Mathematics, and Astronomy at Caltech in 2004. He has helped start successful small businesses, and he has served on many federal 'blue ribbon' executive review committees, including at the Naval Research Laboratory, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, and at the United States Military Academy at West Point. Duncan currently serves as a Principal Investigator (PI) in a nuclear ARPA-E Exploratory Topic, and an effort to experimentally evaluate superior fission-fragment rocket designs for NASA (NIAC). Duncan and Major General (ret., AZANG) Annette "Annie" Sobel married in 1993, and they reside in Lubbock, TX and near Santa Fe, NM.

Fred Farina

Chief Innovation and Corporate Partnerships Officer, California Institute of Technology

Fred Farina is Caltech's Chief Innovation and Corporate Partnerships Officer. His responsibilities include commercializing inventions made at Caltech and the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL/NASA) through the creation of new startup ventures and partnerships with established companies. His office is responsible for evaluating inventions, supervising patent prosecution and portfolio management, negotiating licensing deals with industry, assisting Caltech/JPL entrepreneurs with the creation of new startup companies and establishing research collaborations with industry. Prior to joining the office, Frederic worked as a research engineer in the GPS field at JPL and the University of Miami. He subsequently joined a law firm where he prosecuted patent applications on various technologies before the U.S. and European patent offices. Fred holds a "Diplôme d'Ingénieur" in Electrical Engineering from the Institut National des Sciences Appliquees, Lyon, France, and is a graduate of Caltech from which he received a Master's degree in Electrical Engineering in 1992. He is a registered patent agent with the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

Carsten Fink

Chief Economist, World Intellectual Property Organization

Carsten Fink is the Chief Economist of the World Intellectual Property Organisation (WIPO) based in Geneva. Before joining WIPO, he was Professor of International Economics at the University of St.Gallen. He also held the positions of Visiting Professor at the Fondation Nationale des Sciences Politiques (Sciences Po) in Paris and Visiting Senior Fellow at the Group d'Economie Mondiale, a research institute at Sciences Po. Prior to his academic appointments, Mr. Fink worked for more than 10 years at the World Bank. Among other positions, he was a Senior Economist in the International Trade Team of the World Bank Institute, working out of the World Bank's office in Geneva and an Economist in the Trade Division of the World Bank's research department, based in Washington, DC. Mr. Fink's research work — focused on intellectual property, innovation, and international trade — has been published in academic journals and books. He holds a doctorate degree in economics from the University of Heidelberg in Germany and a Master of Science degree in economics from the University of Oregon in the United States.

Scott Frank, HonNAI

(Retired) President & CEO, AT&T, Intellectual Property, USIPA Chair

Scott Frank is the former President/CEO of AT&T Intellectual Property LLC. For almost 30 years, he was responsible for AT&T's company-wide intellectual property, including protection and monetization where he lead over 10,000 patents, 1000+ IP Deals, and billions of dollars in intellectual property revenues and profits.

Scott is currently working for Venadar, a strategic consulting company, as managing partner of intellectual property. He is also the Chair/President of the Global Intellectual Property Alliance, United State Intellectual Property Alliance and Georgia Intellectual Property Alliance; Chair of the Georgia Tech and Georgia State University Intellectual Property Advisory Boards; a member and former Chair of the Board of Directors of the Georgia Tech Research Corporation.

He was a former White House Advisor on International Trade Related to Intellectual Property; a member of the Board of Directors of the Intellectual Property Owners Assoc for over 25 years and a former Chair of the State Bar of Georgia's Intellectual Property Law Section.

He is also Chair of the Peace, Harmony, Joy Alliance, is former Chair of the Swift School for Dyslexic children, and former Vice-Chair of the Board of Directors of the Mary Hall Freedom House for rehabilitating women with addiction problems. Scott is also a member of the Atlanta Rotary, which brings business people together for the greater public good.
Scott received his Bachelors in Electrical Engineering from Georgia Tech, and his Law Degree and Masters in Business from Georgia State University. He lives in Atlanta, Georgia, and is married with six children.

Erwin Gianchandani,

Assistant Director for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships, National Science Foundation (NSF)

Erwin Gianchandani is the assistant director for the NSF's newly established directorate of Technology, Innovation and Partnerships (TIP). He previously served as the senior advisor for Translation, Innovation and Partnerships, helping to develop plans for TIP, and as the deputy assistant director for Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE), twice serving as acting assistant director. Before joining NSF in 2012, Gianchandani was the inaugural director of the Computing Community Consortium, where he led the identification and pursuit of high-impact research directions such as health information technology and sustainable computing. Gianchandani holds a Ph.D. in biomedical engineering from the University of Virginia. In 2021, Gianchandani received the Distinguished Presidential Rank Award, awarded to members of the Federal Government's Senior Executive Service for sustained extraordinary accomplishment.

Yogi Goswami, FNAI

Professor of Chemical, Biological, and Materials Engineering, University of South Florida

Dr. D. Yogi Goswami is a Distinguished Professor and Director of the Clean Energy Research Center at the University of South Florida. He is the Editor-in-Chief of Solar Compass, journal of the International Solar Alliance and Emeritus Editor-in-Chief of the Solar Energy journal. Within the field of energy he has published 23 books, more than 400 papers, and holds 42 patents. Professor Goswami has made transformative contributions to the field of Solar Energy, including Thermodynamic Power Cycles, and Solar photocatalytic Detoxification and Disinfection of Air and Water. He developed a new combined Power and Cooling Cycle, now known as the Goswami Cycle, which has resulted in global research in a new class of Combined Cycles with multiple outputs. He pioneered the development of photo-electrochemical oxidation (PECO) technology for disinfection of air, which is now available commercially. He has now developed the next generation Photonic technology to disinfect and detoxify the indoor air. Products based on this invention are helping allergy and asthma sufferers. Dr. Goswami's textbook, Principles of Solar Engineering based on his classroom teaching, is now in its 4th edition and is being used worldwide. Prof. Goswami has served as the President of the International Solar Energy Society (ISES), and a Governor and Senior Vice President of ASME-International among many professional leadership positions. As a leader in professional societies, he developed a number of energy policy options and impacted energy policies in many countries by direct interaction with their leaders. Dr. Goswami is a recipient of the highest awards of many professional societies related to solar energy including the Farrington Daniels Award and Karl Boer Medal for Solar Energy from International Solar Energy Society, and the Charles Greely Abbott award from American Solar Energy Society, the Frank Kreith Energy award and John Yellott Solar Energy award from ASME, and the Joan Hodges Queneau Palladium Medal from the American Association of Engineering Societies. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors, ASHRAE, AAAS, ASME, ASES, ISES and a member of the Pan American Academy of Engineers and has been inducted in the Florida Inventors Hall of Fame.

Kirti Gupta

Vice President and Chief Economist of Global Technology

Kirti Gupta is an engineer and economist specializing in technology; intellectual property (IP) issues such as standard essential patents (SEPs) and fair, reasonable, and nondiscriminatory (FRAND) licensing; and antitrust. Dr. Gupta addresses class certification, breach of contract claims, licensing, and damages in IP matters, and liability and damages issues in antitrust matters.

Dr. Gupta provides economic and statistical consulting, analysis, and expert testimony in complex business litigation. Her expertise in the technology sector spans engineering, supply chain, litigation, and policy issues. She serves as a senior advisor at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS), a Washington, DC-based think tank, and as a research director at the University of California, Berkeley.

Before joining Cornerstone Research, Dr. Gupta was the vice president and chief economist at Qualcomm Inc., a global leader in mobile communications and semiconductors.

Hossam Haick, FNAI

Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Full Professor and Dean of the School of Undergraduate Studies at the Technion Israel Institute of Technology

Hossam Haick is a materials scientist, inventor, and technology entrepreneur whose work bridges nanoscale materials engineering with real-world medical and industrial innovation. Aa a Fellow of the U.S. National Academy of Inventors and Full Professor at the Technion — Israel Institute of Technology, he develops functional nanomaterials and AI-enabled nanoarrays for non-invasive chemical sensing. His platforms detect disease-specific biomarkers from breath and skin, enabling classification of more than 17 diseases, including cancers and infectious disorders, and have been validated in tens of thousands of subjects across dozens of medical centers worldwide, demonstrating his ability to translate advanced materials design into measurable clinical impact. Extending beyond diagnostics, he has advanced wearable, self-powered, and self-healing sensing systems for continuous physiological and molecular monitoring, contributing to next-generation digital health and distributed sensing technologies.

Prof. Haick is the inventor or co-inventor of more than 100 patents, many granted in the United States and Europe and licensed internationally, spanning chemical sensing platforms, wearable electronics, self-healing polymers, hybrid nanostructures, and AI-integrated diagnostics. These inventions underpin multiple startup companies he co-founded, including Nanose Medical and Feelit Technologies, which have brought CE-marked and ISO-certified technologies to market through regulatory approval and industrial scale-up.

As a scholar with over 500 peer-reviewed publications and two scientific books, he has received >91 international recognition including the Materials Research Society Impact Award, the Humboldt Senior Research Award, the Michael Bruno Award, and the Chevalier Academic Palms distinction. Committed to education and innovation culture, he has mentored dozens of graduate students and postdoctoral researchers and launched one of the first global MOOCs on Nanotechnology and Nanosensors, reaching over one million learners worldwide. Through sustained invention, commercialization, and academic leadership, Hossam Haick exemplifies the mission of the National Academy of Inventors — transforming discovery into technologies that improve lives at scale.

Juan Harrison

Vice President of Strategic Alliances and Business Development, Harrington Discovery Group

Mr. Juan Harrison is Vice President, Strategic Partnerships and Business Development. He is responsible for developing institutional partnerships with industry to expand Harrington's capabilities, resources and expertise to accelerate drug discovery and development.

Juan is a seasoned partnering professional with more than three decades of transaction and partnership building experience in the pharma, biotech and venture capital arenas. His experience covers licensing transactions, company formation, investment and partnership building, both on the buy and sell sides.

He is particularly interested in the business translation of early-stage drug discovery to mature drug opportunities in organizations with the resources and capabilities to create bona fide medicines.

Prior to joining Harrington, Juan was CEO/CAO of IMIDomics Inc., a immunology focused drug discovery company utilizing a deep, proprietary patient dataset and machine learning, where he led a multinational organization and presided over successful financings. Previously, he was VP Strategic Academic Alliances and VP Takeda Ventures at Takeda Pharmaceutical Company. He was responsible, together with the institutions, for establishing the Tri-Institutional Therapeutics Discovery Institute in New York, as well as the formation of Bridge Medicines, Inc., a translational company associated with the Tri-I TDI. While at Takeda Ventures, he spearheaded the financing of several biotech companies the formation of Envoy Therapeutics, Inc. which was eventually acquired by Takeda. His work has been informed by an early career in pharmaceutical product development and his degree in Combined Sciences at Santa Clara University, which emphasized organic chemistry

Eric Haseltine

Chairman Of The Board, US Technology Leadership Council

Technologist: media, industrial sensors, national security
Inventor ("Greatest hits" from 75 patents)

- Comb-filter color stereo glasses (Dolby now uses them)
- Interactive connected toys (Marvel repulsor blaster, Hulk Hands)
- Disney AR/VR displays (Aladdin, Jedi Challenges)
- Ultra-wide field of view electro-optic proximity sensor
- "Magnetic X-ray" location finder for navy ship repair

Writer

- >100 articles on the brain and science for Discover Magazine
- >150 articles on the brain for Psychology Today
- Two books on Innovation: Long Fuse Big Bang, Riding the Monster (with Chris Gilbert MD PhD)
- One book on the brain: Brain Safari
- One book on Mind Body Medicine (Chris Gilbert MD PhD first author)
- One bestselling spy thriller: The Spy in Moscow Station
- Two novels: The shadow of time and Viki's Martian dream

Leader

- Current Chairman, US Technology Leadership Council
- Led successful launch of Disney's Toon Town Online
- Led team that cut Iraq IED casualties in half
- Created IARPA (Intelligence DARPA)
- Founded successful Disney connected smart toy busines

Executive roles

- Executive Vice President, Disney Imagineering
- Associate Director of National Intelligence
- Associate Director of NSA

Education

- PhD in physiological psychology
- BA, Economics

Robert Hayes

United States Patent and Trademark Office, Acting Chief AI Officer and Acting Chief Data Officer

Robert Hayes is a Senior Advisor to the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO). He is also currently serving as the Acting Chief AI Officer and Acting Chief Data Officer for the USPTO.

As Acting Chief AI Officer and Acting Chief Data Officer, Mr. Hayes leads the USPTO's enterprise AI and data strategy to elevate examination quality, modernize patent and trademark operations, grow department revenue, and inform U.S. and international intellectual property policy. He oversees responsible AI deployment—including examiner copilots, AI-assisted prior art discovery, automated classification and translation, and model risk management—and directs the Office's data program covering governance, interoperability, privacy and security, and analytics. Mr. Hayes works across Commerce bureaus and with federal partners, the tech industry, and academia to advance IP-safe generative AI workflows and establish best practices that position the USPTO as America's innovation agency.

Across his career at X (formerly Twitter), Dow Jones/The Wall Street Journal, NBCUniversal, and HBO, Mr. Hayes has driven complex change management and end-to-end transformation—aligning people, processes, data, and technology to deliver positive, measurable outcomes. He is known for translating early adoption of emerging technologies into market advantage, operational efficiency, and new revenue growth—from modernizing platforms and data pipelines to launching AI-enabled products and go-to-market motions. Mr. Hayes is a graduate of American University's Kogod School of Business, with an MBA in International Business.

Kate Hudson, HonNAI

Deputy Vice President and Counsel for Government Relations and Public Policy at the Association of American Universities (AAU)

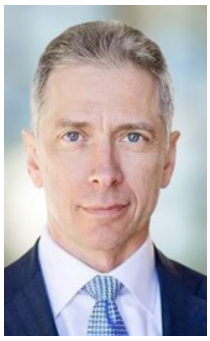
Kate Hudson has served at AAU since March 2022. As Deputy Vice President and Counsel for Government Relations and Public Policy, Kate assists in managing and directing the Government Relations and Public Policy department and developing and executing strategies to advance AAU's advocacy and public policy priorities in the federal legislative and regulatory arenas. Her portfolio includes intellectual property, technology transfer, open and public access, export controls, sexual harassment, data privacy, and copyright issues. In addition, she supports AAU's policy and federal relations work in areas that require legal expertise, such as tax issues related to research, labor and employment, research security policy, higher education Title IX issues, and other regulatory matters important to America's leading research universities. Kate also leads AAU's General Counsels (GC) constituent group and the CFR Tax Task Force.

Prior to joining AAU, Kate served in the U.S. federal government as a senior attorney-advisor in the legislative and executive branches, most recently with the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). At GAO, she provided legal counsel on a range of issues including interagency governance bodies, federal financial management, legislative drafting, and technical advice to Congress. Before her work at GAO, Kate served as an attorney-advisor with the U.S. Office of Personnel Management (OPM), as both an administrative litigator and regulatory counsel. Additionally, she served as agency counsel for three years in the federal litigation surrounding the 2015 OPM cyberbreach case (In re: OPM, 928 F.3d 42 (D.C. Cir. 2019), the largest federal class action privacy lawsuit in U.S. history. Before serving at OPM, she was the inaugural director of the Executive branch CXO Fellows Program at the U.S. General Services Administration (GSA).

Before her federal government service, Kate began her legal career as an attorney with the Georgia Legal Service Program (GLSP), providing comprehensive civil and administrative representation to low-income and indigent clients in rural Georgia. Following a move to North Carolina, she became an assistant public defender with the NC Office of the Public Defender in the 13th Judicial District. Following the subprime mortgage crisis of 2008, Kate became a staff attorney with Legal Aid of North Carolina (LANC) as part of the Mortgage Foreclosure Defense Project, representing clients in affirmative litigation including emergency bankruptcy petitions and negotiating loan modifications to save clients' homes from unlawful foreclosure. Before law school, Kate worked in government relations with the American Hospital Association (AHA) and as a data analyst with the National Committee for an Effective Congress (NCEC).

An active volunteer, Kate is a member of the Military Spouse JD Network (MSJDN), the Women's Bar Association of the District of Columbia (WBA), and Women in Government Relations (WGR). She also provides pro bono legal services to District of Columbia residents through Whitman-Walker Health and the District of Columbia Bar Association Volunteer Lawyers Project.

She holds a master's degree in public administration and policy from American University; a law degree from the University of Dayton School of Law; and both a master's and bachelor's degree in political science from Ohio University. She is licensed to practice law in Georgia, North Carolina, and the District of Columbia.



Andrei Iancu, HonNAI

NAI Presidential Fellow, Chairman of the Board, C4IP, Partner at Sullivan & Cromwell LLP, Former Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property of the United States, Former Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

Andrei Iancu is a partner at Sullivan & Cromwell and one of the leading voices in intellectual property law and innovation policy. He is a former Undersecretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), a position to which he was confirmed unanimously by the Senate. Andrei has decades of experience representing plaintiffs and defendants in IP matters across the technical and scientific spectra, including medical devices, genetic testing, therapeutics, the Internet, telephony, TV broadcasting, video game systems and computer peripherals.

He represents clients in litigation and trials before the district courts, the U.S. International Trade Commission and the USPTO, the Federal Circuit and U.S. Supreme Court, and also counsels clients onobtaining, licensing, enforcing and defending against IP rights globally.

Beong-Soo Kim

President, University of Southern California

As the 13th president of the University of Southern California, Beong-Soo Kim leads one of the world's top private research universities — home to 23 schools; more than 46,000 students; 4,700 faculty; 500,000 alumni; and Keck Medicine of USC, one of California's leading academic health systems — all united by a mission to advance knowledge and transform lives.

As president, Kim launched the Open Dialogue Project, aimed at strengthening USC's academic culture of engagement with differing perspectives. He also formed an AI Strategy Committee, and launched a number of university-wide initiatives to engage faculty, staff, and students on the opportunities and challenges posed by AI.

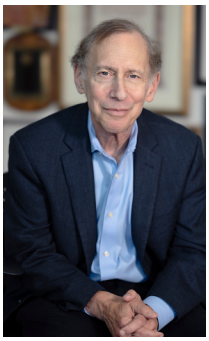
Recognizing the importance of the Trojan Family, Kim has focused on re-engaging alumni across the globe and relaunching alumni networks. He has also worked to strengthen USC's partnerships with private industry, foundations, and local community leaders. Kim is recognized for his thought leadership on free expression and the future of higher education, and enjoys communicating with broader audiences and the Trojan Family through his presidential podcast, "Trojan Talks."
Kim first joined USC senior leadership in 2020 as its senior vice president and general counsel. In that role, he helped the university navigate unprecedented changes in higher education, accelerate investment in research and innovation, and expand USC's impact in the community.
Prior to USC, Kim held senior roles at Kaiser Permanente, was a partner at an international law firm, and served in the U.S. Department of Justice as a highly-regarded federal prosecutor. He is a frequent speaker on academic freedom, health system compliance, and the future of college athletics.

The son of Korean immigrants who attended graduate school at USC, Kim was born and raised in the Los Angeles area. He earned his bachelor's degree from Harvard College, his master's degree from the London School of Economics, and his law degree from Harvard Law School.

Ram Krishnan

Vice President of Engineering, Qualcomm, Inc.

Ram Krishnan is a technology and Intellectual Property leader at Qualcomm. Ram's tenure at Qualcomm spans over three decades, during which he played pivotal roles in various divisions. As a key leader in the modem chipset division, he contributed to the pioneering launch of the world's first 4G service. Later Ram worked in Qualcomm's IP department, where he spearheaded the 5G wireless patent portfolio, and drove acquisition and litigation projects. For several years Ram was a technology leader in Qualcomm's technology licensing group, where he was involved in major handset IP license negotiations. Presently, Ram is Senior Director of Engineering and Global IP Ecosystem Development lead in Qualcomm's Government Affairs group, engaged IP and technology ecosystem efforts globally, with particular focus on United States, India, South East Asia (SEA), and Middle East Africa (MEA) regions. As Global IP Ecosystem Development lead, Ram has established strong relationships with US and International universities, startup hubs, trade organizations, and government entities to promote IP and entrepreneurship education across the globe.



Robert S. Langer, FNAI

Institute Professor - Langer Lab, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Robert Langer is one of 9 Institute Professors at MIT; being an Institute Professor is MIT's highest honor. His articles have been cited over 460,000 times; his h-index of 332 is the highest of any engineer in history. His patents have licensed or sublicensed to over 400 companies; he is a cofounder of many companies including Moderna. He holds 44 honorary doctorates and has received over 220 awards, including both the United States National Medals of Science and Technology & Innovation (one of 3 living individuals to have received both honors), and has been elected to the National Academies of Medicine, Engineering, Sciences, and Inventors.

Cato T. Laurencin, FNAI

University Professor & Albert and Wilda Van Dusen Distinguished Professor of Orthopedic Surgery University of Connecticut

Professor Sir Cato T. Laurencin, M.D., Ph.D., K.C.S.L., is the University Professor and Albert and Wilda Van Dusen Distinguished Endowed Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery at the University of Connecticut. He is Professor of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, and Professor of Biomedical Engineering. He serves as Chief Executive Officer of The Cato T. Laurencin Institute for Regenerative Engineering, a cross university institute created and named in his honor at UConn.

Dr. Laurencin earned his B.S.E. in Chemical Engineering from Princeton University, his M.D. magna cum laude from Harvard Medical School, and his PhD in Biochemical Engineering/Biotechnology from MIT.

Dr. Laurencin is recognized as the pioneer of Regenerative Engineering, a field he founded. In receiving the Spingarn Medal, he was named the world's foremost engineer physician scientist. His groundbreaking work in polymeric biomaterials for musculoskeletal repair has advanced fundamental science and led to clinical products that have improved patient care. In recognition of these achievements, the American Institute of Chemical Engineers established the Cato T. Laurencin Regenerative Engineering Founder's Award.

Dr. Laurencin is the first surgeon in history elected to the National Academy of Medicine, National Academy of Engineering, National Academy of Sciences, and National Academy of Inventors. He is also the first individual to receive both the National Academy of Medicine's Walsh McDermott Medal and the National Academy of Engineering's Simon Ramo Founder's Award. The American Association for the Advancement of Science honored him with the Philip Hauge Abelson Prize for exceptional contributions to the advancement of science in the United States.

His recognitions span science, engineering, and medicine, including the Priestley Medal (American Chemical Society's highest honor), the Founders Award (American Institute of Chemical Engineers' highest honor), and the Dickson Prize in Medicine.

Dr. Laurencin was named Inventor of the Year by the Intellectual Property Owners Educational Foundation and is also a recipient of the National Medal of Technology and Innovation, the nation's highest honor for technological achievement, awarded by President Barack Obama at the White House.

Robert Lemelson

Founder, The Lemelson Foundation

Dr. Robert Lemelson is an adjunct professor of Anthropology and a research anthropologist at the Semel Institute of Neuroscience, both at UCLA. His work explores the relationship of culture and history to trauma, psychiatric illness, structural and gender-based violence, and their relationship to subjectivity and phenomenology. He is also a visual anthropologist and ethnographic filmmaker with over 30 years of experience conducting fieldwork in Southeast Asia.

He has completed over 15 films on a wide range of topics, including mental illness, polygamy and gender-based violence, the sex trade, genocide, kinship and ritual, neurodiversity, and trance and possession. He is also the co-editor of three volumes with Cambridge University Press: "Understanding Trauma: Integrating Biological, Clinical, and Cultural Perspectives", "Re-Visioning Psychiatry: Cultural Phenomenology, Critical Neuroscience, and Global Mental Health", and "Culture, Mind and Brain: Emerging Concepts, Models and Applications". His newest book, "Widening the Frame: Visual Psychological Anthropology Perspectives on Trauma, Gendered Violence and Stigma in Indonesia," was published in 2021 by Palgrave Press.

Moez Limayem, HonNAI

President, University of South Florida

Moez Limayem took office as the ninth president of the University of South Florida in February 2026 following his unanimous selection by the USF Board of Trustees and confirmation by the Florida Board of Governors. Limayem is a higher education leader with more than 35 years of experience advancing student success, research impact, fundraising and community and industry partnerships. With an energetic, passionate and collaborative style, he is a strategic leader with a record of achievements in student and faculty success, development and industry-education partnerships. Throughout his career, he has emphasized the role of universities as engines of opportunity, innovation and economic impact. He has also been an advocate for intercollegiate athletics as a means to strengthen institutional identity, bolster alumni engagement, and opportunity for advancement. He is a strong believer in the transformational potential of USF's new on-campus stadium that is scheduled to open in 2027.

Limayem joined USF following a 3 ½-year tenure as president of the University of North Florida, where the institution set records in student retention, transfer student graduation rates, research investment and private and public fundraising. UNF welcomed its largest incoming class of students in fall 2025, leading to its highest overall enrollment since being founded in 1972. Using a strategic focus on community and corporate partnerships, UNF reached No. 1 in the state for the highest percentage of bachelor's graduates employed in Florida.
At UNF, Limayem received numerous recognitions, including being named by Florida Trend as one of the state's 500 most influential business leaders and by the Jacksonville Business Journal as an Ultimate CEO. He received an award from the National Academy of Inventors for his many contributions to innovation and invention.
In addition, he recently was inducted into the Florida Council on Economic Education's First Coast Business Hall of Fame, and the Tampa Bay Business Journal included Limayem in its lists of "25 People to Watch" in 2026 and "2026 Power 100".

Limayem has a deep connection to USF and the Tampa Bay region, having served for a decade as the Lynn Pippenger Dean of the Muma College of Business, starting in 2012. While dean at USF, Limayem and his team raised more than $126 million in private donations for the college, including a $25 million gift from Pam and Les Muma in 2014, which at the time was the largest individual gift in the university's history.

He also led key efforts to enhance career preparation, job placements, internships and talent development of students. A $10.6 million gift from alums Arnie and Lauren Bellini led to the creation of the Bellini Center for Talent Development, which houses a professional development certification program and supporting career preparation programs and other services exclusively for business student success.

Born in Tunisia, Limayem was the first in his family to attend college. He earned his MBA and doctoral degree from the University of Minnesota and he has held academic leadership roles at the University of Arkansas and internationally.

Limayem is a globally recognized scholar in information systems, and his research has been cited more than 16,000 times in prestigious academic journals, including MIS Quarterly, Information Systems Research, Management Science and the Journal of Management Information Systems.

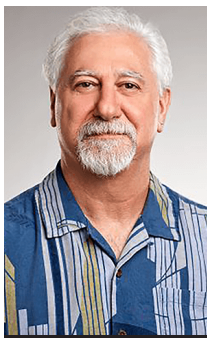
His wife, Alya, is a renowned researcher who holds multiple U.S. patents, was named a Senior Member of the National Academy of Inventors last year and was recognized as a 2024 Rising Star of the Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine of Florida. The couple has two children.

Luna Lu, FNAI

Title

Luna Lu (FNAI) is an academic leader, innovator, and entrepreneur passionate about bridging academia and industry to create impactful, real-world solutions. She currently serves as the Vice President of Industry Partnerships at Purdue University, where she leads strategic collaborations between Purdue with corporate partners. She is the Indiana ACPA endowed chair professor in the Lyles School of Civil and Construction Engineering, and the founding director of Center for Intelligent Infrastructure (CII) at Purdue University. Lu is also a founder, board chair, and former CEO of Wavelogix Inc., a venture-backed high growth tech company for intelligent infrastructure sensing applications.

Dr. Lu has extensive research expertise in concrete and cementitious materials. Her research program integrates civil engineering, electrical engineering, and materials science with three main topic areas: 1) IoT sensors and data analytics for infrastructure monitoring; 2) high performance, low carbon civil engineering materials; and 3) thermoelectric and piezoelectric devices for energy harvesting. She has authored over 150 peer-reviewed publications, 2 books, 6 book chapters, and over 15 patents and provisional patents. Dr. Lu is a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors and the Royal Society of Arts. She has received numerous prestigious awards including the ASCE Alfred Noble Prize (2022), the Edison Gold Award (2024), a National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER Award (2014), the Vebleo Scientist Award (2020), an ASCE Gamechanger Award (2021) and she was named a Purdue Faculty Scholar (2019), among others . She has also been named to the list of most impactful faculty inventors at Purdue University in 2021, 2022, and 2023.



Chris Malachowsky, FNAI

Co-founder of NVIDIA, NVIDIA Fellow

Chris Malachowsky founded NVIDIA in 1993 and has more than 30 years of industry experience. He serves as a member of the executive staff and a senior technology executive for the company.

Malachowsky has been instrumental in managing, defining and driving the company's core technologies as it has grown from a startup to the global leader in visual and parallel computing. As an executive at NVIDIA, he has led numerous functions, including IT, operations and all facets of the company's product engineering. Most recently, he was responsible for NVIDIA's world-class research organization, which is chartered with developing the strategic technologies that will help drive the company's future growth and success.

Prior to NVIDIA, Malachowsky held engineering and technical leadership positions at HP and Sun Microsystems. A recognized authority on integrated-circuit design and methodology, he has authored close to 40 patents. He holds a BSEE degree from the University of Florida and an MSCS degree from Santa Clara University. Both schools have honored Malachowsky with Distinguished Alumnus awards.

Malachowsky serves on the boards of the Computer History Museum and Hiller Aviation Museum, in Silicon Valley, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art's Art & Technology Lab. Beyond his technical accomplishments, Malachowsky has also received an Emmy for a film he helped produce that won Best Documentary in 2009.

Ali Al-Marzooqi, FNAI

Dean, College of Graduate Studies, United Arab Emirates University

Prof. Ali Al-Marzouqi is the Dean of College of Graduate Studies and a Professor in the Chemical and Petroleum Engineering Department at UAEU. He earned his PhD in Chemical Engineering from Oregon State University in 1997, where he also served as an Instructor before joining UAEU in 2000. His research focuses on CO2 capture, brine management, conversion of biomass to high value chemicals, formulation and processing of biodegradable polymers, food and pharmaceutical products. Prof. Al-Marzouqi has built strong partnerships with leading industries and global institutions. His research projects contribute to UAE's sustainability agenda while driving local innovation to address critical global challenges.

Col. Brad McCoy

Associate Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, United States Military Academy

U.S. Army Colonel Brad McCoy is the Vice Dean for Engagement and Research at the United States Military Academy. As the Vice Dean for Engagement and Research, he is the senior advisor to the Dean of the Academic Board on strategic engagement and research initiatives. Col. McCoy also serves as the Co-Director of the West Point Werx Innovation Hub, a synchronization and integration body that drives strategic partnerships and engagement for the Academy to leverage the USMA intellectual capital against problems facing the Army and Nation. Col. McCoy holds a B.S. in Civil Engineering (USMA, 2001), and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Civil Engineering, from North Carolina State University (2011 and 2019 respectively).

Additionally, he serves in leadership on multiple academy and professional service committees, most notably as Past Chair of the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) Sustainable Infrastructure Standard Committee, a national-level committee charged with creating and maintaining ASCE 73: Standard Practice for Sustainable Infrastructure. His research interests include leveraging interdisciplinary expertise against national defense interests and innovation, resilient infrastructure development and design, and concrete materials and structures. Col. McCoy's research is published in numerous peer-reviewed journals, refereed conference proceedings, and technical reports. Additionally, he has given multiple invited lectures, featured presentations, and panel discussions for academia and industry.

Prior to joining the USMA faculty, Col. McCoy served in the operational Army as both an Infantry Officer and an Engineer Officer. His military decorations and awards include the Bronze Star Medal (2 awards), the Meritorious Service Medal (3 awards), the Army Commendation Medal (4 awards), Joint Service Achievement Medal, Army Achievement Medal (4 awards), and several other campaign and service medals. Additionally, he has earned the Master Combat Infantry Badge, Combat Action Badge, Expert Infantry Badge, Parachutist Badge, Pathfinder Badge, and Ranger Tab.

He and his wife of more than 23 years, Stephanie, have two children, Gabriel (22 yrs.), and Michael (19 yrs.).

Gary K. Michelson, FNAI

Founder and Co-Chair, Michelson Philanthropies

Dr. Gary Michelson is an inventor, philanthropist, entrepreneur, and humane advocate with a background as a board-certified orthopedic surgeon specializing in spinal surgery. In a field where outcomes are often unpredictable and recovery can be long and painful, his revolutionary advancements in procedures, instruments, and implants consistently led to better patient outcomes, and the surgical techniques and materials he developed remain the global industry standard. Dr. Michelson holds more than 990 patents worldwide.

Among his many awards and accomplishments, Dr. Michelson is one of a handful of individuals ever inducted into both the National Inventors Hall of Fame and the National Academy of Inventors. In 2006, he was recognized as the world's leading scientist in spinal research by the Paralyzed Veterans of America, and in 2011 he was invited to the White House by President Obama to witness the signing of the America Invents Act, which he had publicly supported alongside other prominent inventors.
In 2015, he received both the Albert B. Sabin Humanitarian Award for his contributions to neglected disease vaccine research and the Distinguished Achievement Award from B'nai B'rith International for his leadership, philanthropy, and humanitarian work. He later received an honorary Doctor of Humane Letters degree at USC's 134th Commencement Ceremony for the Class of 2017, alongside Will Ferrell and Dame Helen Mirren.

In 2022, Dr. Michelson was honored with the Humanitarian Award from the Inner City Law Center for his longstanding commitment to serving unhoused and low-income populations throughout Los Angeles, as well as the IP Champion Award from the Intellectual Property Owners Education Foundation. In 2024, he received the Tommy Lasorda Leadership Award from the Milken Institute and the Humanitarian Award from the World Brain Mapping Foundation. In April 2025, he was honored with the Gordon and Llura Gund Leadership Award for elevating advocacy for medical, public health, and health-related research at the local and national levels, an honor previously bestowed on leaders such as Joe Biden, Michael Bloomberg, and Michael Milken.

Dr. Michelson founded, funds, and directs Michelson Philanthropies, a group of private foundations focused on medical research, animal welfare, and education. In 2014, he and his wife, Alya Michelson, donated 50 million dollars to the University of Southern California to establish the USC Michelson Center for Convergent Bioscience. Dr. Michelson lives in California with Alya, their three children, and their dog, Blue, and they are active members of the Giving Pledge, the campaign founded by Bill Gates and Warren Buffett that encourages the wealthiest individuals and couples to commit most of their fortunes to philanthropic causes.

Steve Moldin

Associate Vice President of Research Strategy and Innovation and Adjunct Research Professor of Psychiatry and the Behavioral Sciences, University of Southern California's Keck School of Medicine

Dr. Steven Moldin is Associate Vice President of Research Strategy and Innovation and Adjunct Research Professor of Psychiatry and the Behavioral Sciences at USC's Keck School of Medicine.

He has conducted research at New York State Psychiatric Institute/Columbia University and was a faculty member at Washington University School of Medicine. In 1995, Dr. Moldin joined the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), one of the National Institutes of Health, to manage an extramural research portfolio. He left in 2006, having led the Office of Human Genetics and Genomic Resources and having served as Associate Director of the Division of Neuroscience and Basic Behavioral Science. Dr. Moldin was responsible for the fiscal and scientific management of a $200 million grants and contracts portfolio and increased the yearly funding of NIMH's human genetics research portfolio by 56% over two years.

Dr. Moldin has published over 50 papers and book chapters in the areas of psychiatric genetics, schizophrenia, autism and neuroscience. He is co-editor of Methods in Genomic Neuroscience and Understanding Autism: From Basic Neuroscience to Treatment.

Dr. Moldin received his B.A. magna cum laude with distinction and Phi Beta Kappa in Psychology from Boston University (1983), his M.A. in Psychology from Yeshiva University (1985), and his Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology from Yeshiva University (1988). He completed an internship at Hillside Hospital — Long Island Jewish Medical Center (1988) and postdoctoral training in human genetics at Washington University School of Medicine (1988-1991).

Mihrimah Ozkan, FNAI

Professor Climate Action Champion Professor, UC Riverside

Professor Mihri Ozkan is a Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of California, Riverside (UCR), and a globally recognized scientist at the intersection of advanced materials, sustainable energy systems, and next-generation computing. With advanced degrees from Stanford University and the University of California, San Diego, she has built an interdisciplinary career focused on developing transformative technologies for a climate-resilient future.

Her research spans sustainable AI infrastructure, climate-aligned computing, nanoelectronics, advanced energy storage, and carbon capture technologies, with a strong emphasis on translating scientific discovery into scalable, real-world solutions. Professor Ozkan holds nearly 50 issued patents, with additional applications pending, and has authored over 400 peer-reviewed publications, accumulating 14,649 citations (h-index: 63). Her work has had broad impact across academia, industry, and policy, positioning her as a leading voice in sustainable innovation.

She is a Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI), a Frontier Fellow of the National Academy of Engineering, and a Fellow of the American Association of University Women. She serves on the Advisory Board of MRS Energy & Sustainability, contributing to shaping global research priorities in energy and sustainability. As an NAI Invention Ambassador, she plays a national leadership role in advancing innovation ecosystems, entrepreneurship, and effective technology transfer in partnership with the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO).

In 2024, Professor Ozkan represented the United States as a delegate to the United Nations Climate Panel in Vienna, where she presented on the energy and cost dynamics of Direct Air Capture technologies—highlighting pathways for scalable carbon removal and global climate action. At UCR, she has been recognized as both a Climate Action Champion Professor and a Changemaker Professor for her leadership in sustainability-driven research and societal impact.

A dedicated educator and mentor, Professor Ozkan has trained nearly 85 graduate students and mentored a large cohort of undergraduate researchers, many of whom have advanced into impactful roles in academia, industry, and national laboratories. Through her research, leadership, and mentorship, she continues to shape the future of innovation at the nexus of technology, sustainability, and global impact.

Sethuraman Panchanathan, FNAI

University Professor of Technology and Innovation Foundation Chair in Computing and Augmented Intelligence, Arizona State University

The Honorable Sethuraman Panchanathan is a computer scientist and engineer. He is a leader in the fields of science, engineering, and education, with more than three decades of experience in higher education and government. Throughout his career, he has designed and built knowledge enterprises aimed at advancing research innovation, strategic partnerships, entrepreneurship, global development, and economic growth.

From 2020-2025, he served as the 15th Director of the U.S. National Science Foundation (NSF), a $9.06 billion independent federal agency and the only government agency charged wth advancing all fields of scientific discovery, technological innovation, and STEM education.

During his tenure as director, Panchanathan committed to several strategic priorities, including strengthening the NSF, increasing access and participation in research, and accelerating technology and innovation. He established the first new directorate in 31 years, the Directorate for Technology, Innovation and Partnerships, aimed at delivering “Innovation Everywhere for Everyone” by accelerating the translation of science and technology for economic progress, national security, and societal impact. He also founded the novel program GRANTED (Growing Research Access for Nationally Transformative Equity and Diversity) to democratize participation and access to research and education funding from the NSF. Additionally, he directed the NSF to build Artificial Intelligence Institutes (AII) across the U.S. to increase the country’s competitiveness in AI, resulting in 27 institutes with $540 million in funding through partnerships with federal agencies, municipalities, NGOs, and industry. As director, Panchanathan maintained leadership roles on several key interagency councils and committees, including: co-chair of the National Advisory Council on Innovation and Entrepreneurship; member of the White House CHIPS Implementation Steering Council; member of the White House Gender Policy Council; chair of the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee; and co-vice chair of the Council for Inclusive Innovation.

Panchanathan currently serves as the University Professor of Technology and Innovation at Arizona State University, where he has held a faculty appointment since 1997. His previous roles at ASU included several administrative appointments, leading the university’s research portfolio as the Executive Vice President of the ASU Knowledge Enterprise and the chief research and innovation officer. Under his leadership, ASU increased its research performance fivefold, earning recognition as the fastest growing and most innovative research university in the U.S.

Panchanathan’s commitment to advancing science and technology has extended to numerous appointments and leadership positions within the science and engineering field, including:

- The National Science Board, where he was a chair of the Committee on Strategy and a member of the External Engagement and National Science and Engineering Policy committees;
- Chair of the Council on Research of the Association of Public and Land-Grant Universities;
- Co-chair of the Extreme Innovation Taskforce of the Global Federation of Competitiveness Council;
- Senior Science and Technology advisor to the Governor of Arizona; and
- Editor-in-chief of the IEEE Multimedia.Magazine and editor and associate editor of several international journals.

Panchanathan’s scientific contributions have advanced the areas of human-centered multimedia computing, haptic user interfaces, and ubiquitous computing technologies for enhancing the quality of life for individuals with different abilities; machine learning for multimedia applications; and media processor designs. He has published close to 500 articles in peer-reviewed journals and conference proceedings, and has mentored more than 150 graduate students, postdocs, research engineers, and research scientists throughout his career, many of whom now occupy leading positions in academia and industry.

Panchanathan has received numerous awards throughout his career in recognition of his achievements, including Honorary Doctorates from prestigious universities, Distinguished Alumnus Awards, the Governor’s Innovator of the Year for Academia Award, the Washington Academy of Sciences Distinguished Career Award

and the IEEE-USA Public Service Award. He is a Fellow of the Indian National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Inventors as well as a Member of the National Academy of Engineering. In 2025, he was awarded the Padma Shri, the Government of India's fourth-highest civilian award, in recognition of his distinguished contributions to science.
Panchanathan is a member of the National Academy of Engineering and a fellow of the National Academy of Inventors, where he also served as vice president for strategic initiatives. He is also a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Canadian Academy of Engineering, the Association for Computing Machinery, the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, and the Society of Optical Engineering.

Panchanathan received his B.Sc. in Physics from the University of Madras and a B.E. in Electronics and Communication Engineering from the Indian Institute of Science in Bangalore. He went on to receive an M.Tech in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology in Madras and completed his Ph.D. in Electrical and Computing Engineering from the University of Ottawa.

He is married to Sarada "Soumya" Panchanathan, an academic pediatrician and informatician, who has taught medical students, pediatric residents, and informatics fellows. They have two adult children, Amritha and Roshan.

Chandrakant Patel, FNAI

President, Chandrakant Patel Consulting

Chandrakant is the President of Chandrakant Patel Consulting offering "Chandrakant-as-a-Service" (CaaS) with the mission to learn, teach, guide, and solve.

Chandrakant's Silicon Valley journey began in 1983 at Memorex Hard Disc Drive Division, the early days of building hard drives at scale. After 38 years of service at HP Inc., Chandrakant retired in 2024. In his last role, he served for 14 years as a Senior Vice President, Chief Engineer and Senior Fellow. Formerly leading HP Labs, he shaped advancements in chips, high performance computing systems, storage, networking, 3D additive manufacturing systems, and software platforms. Pioneering energy-efficient data center solutions, he founded the Smart Data Center research program at HP Laboratories that led to multi-billion-dollar data center infrastructure and services business. Chandrakant's technical interests span microbusiness connectivity, AI for cost and energy reduction, cyber-physical integration, sustainable cities, distributed computing, and 3D printing industrialization.

With deep passion for fundamentals, and workforce development, he has served as adjunct faculty at UC Berkeley, San Jose State, Santa Clara University and Chabot College for two decades placing more than five hundred students in Silicon Valley jobs. An IEEE Fellow, ASME Fellow, member of the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) and Silicon Valley Engineering Hall of Fame, Chandrakant holds 165 US patents and has published more than 150 papers.

In 2025, he received the IEEE Itherm 2025 Richard Chu Award for Excellence in Thermal and Thermo-Mechanical Management of Electronics, and the ASME Honorary Member Award for unprecedented creativity, breadth, and permanent impact on engineering. The 2022 ASME Inaugural The Next Gen Award recognized Chandrakant for empowering next generation of engineers to build more equitable and sustainable future

Chandrakant has served on the board of Mphasis, an IT Services Company in India. He has also served on the Industrial Advisory Boards in Electrical Engineering Computer Science at UC Berkeley, in Mechanical Engineering at Santa Clara University and in workforce development at Chabot College in Hayward, CA.

Darryll Pines, FNAI

President, University of Maryland, College Park

Darryll J. Pines has proudly served as the 34th president of the University of Maryland since July 2020. The Glenn L. Martin Professor of Aerospace Engineering, Pines has emphasized achieving excellence in all aspects of university life while creating a diverse and multicultural community that allows everyone to reach their full potential.

He has led efforts to address the grand challenges of our time, and 50 university projects have received $30 million in university-sponsored grants to study and implement solutions in areas such as sustainability, literacy, and food, energy and water insecurity. Pines also co-founded the 120 Initiative, an effort to reduce gun violence in collaboration with the Consortium of Universities of the Washington Metropolitan Area.

Other signature campus initiatives include the Terrapin Commitment, the largest single-year investment in need-based scholarships in university history; TerrapinSTRONG, an onboarding program to create a shared understanding of the university's mission, history and values; and a pledge to achieve net-zero carbon emissions by 2025.

Pines first arrived on campus in 1995 as an assistant professor and steadily rose through the ranks of academic leadership. He served as chair of the Department of Aerospace Engineering from 2006—09 and for the following 11 years as dean and Nariman Farvardin Professor of Aerospace Engineering at the A. James Clark School of Engineering.

A member of the National Academy of Engineering, he is a fellow of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, American Society of Mechanical Engineers and Institute of Physics; chairs the Engineering Advisory Committee for NSF's Engineering Directorate; sits on the Board of Trustees for Underwriters Laboratory not-for-profit arm; and serves as a member of the MIT Corporation, the board of trustees for the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Pines received a B.S. in mechanical engineering from the University of California, Berkeley, and M.S. and Ph.D. in mechanical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Anthony Pugliese, HonNAI

Director of the Office of Technology Commercialization and the Chief Commercialization Officer of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

Anthony Pugliese is the Director of the Office of Technology Commercialization and the Chief Commercialization Officer of the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE). In this role, he leads efforts to accelerate the commercialization of innovative energy technologies, strengthen public-private partnerships, and enhance technology transfer across the DOE's National Labs.

Before joining DOE, Mr. Pugliese held leadership roles in both the public and private sectors. In the private sector, he focused on energy, permitting, economic development, and national security, advising businesses and organizations on navigating regulatory landscapes and advancing strategic initiatives.

In the federal government, Mr. Pugliese previously served as the Chief of Staff at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). Along with overseeing the Commission's daily activities, he led efforts to improve interagency coordination. He negotiated key Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) promoting efficiencies between several federal agencies, most notably the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration in the U.S. Department of Transportation and with the U.S. Department of the Interior. He also spearheaded MOUs with several countries including Mexico, Japan, India, and Israel to strengthen energy cooperation.

Prior to his role at FERC, Mr. Pugliese served as the Senior White House Adviser at the U.S. Department of Transportation, where he played a key role in overseeing all aspects of the department, including the various modes and regulatory reform. Earlier in his career, he was Director of Legislative Affairs for the Pennsylvania Governor's Office and at the Department of Community and Economic Development where he served on several technology and economic boards.

Ishwar K. Puri

Senior Vice President of Research and Innovation, University of Southern California

Dr. Ishwar K. Puri is an academic leader, researcher, and professor whose career spans engineering, research administration, innovation, and entrepreneurship. He serves at the University of Southern California as senior vice president of research and innovation and professor of aerospace and mechanical engineering, with affiliate appointments in chemical engineering and materials science, as well as biomedical engineering. Through his leadership role, he has overseen USC's research, commercialization, and entrepreneurship enterprise from 2021 to 2025, helping grow the university's research expenditures from roughly $900 million to over $1.3 billion.

Dr. Puri is a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Society of Mechanical Engineers. He has authored more than 200 archival publications and books, with more than 10,500 citations and an h-index of 59. He has also founded and mentored startups, reflecting a strong commitment to translating research into real-world impact. His scholarship has placed him among the top 0.4% of scholars worldwide, according to ScholarGPS. He continues to contribute to the broader scientific community through editorial leadership, including editorial service for Scientific Reports and Research.

Kaushik Rajashekara, FNAI
Hugh Roy and Lillie Cranz Cullen Distinguished University Professor, University of Houston

Dr. Kaushik Rajashekara received his PhD degree in Electrical Engineering from Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in 1984. After serving as a faculty member in IISc and then in ABB Switzerland, he moved to Canada and worked as a Visiting Research Professor in University of Quebec. He joined Delphi division of General Motors Corporation in the USA as a staff project engineer in 1989. In Delphi and General Motors, he held various lead technical and managerial positions, and was a Chief scientist and Technical Fellow with leading an engineering group for developing electric machines, controllers, and power electronics systems for electric, hybrid, and fuel cell vehicle propulsion systems. In 2006, he joined Rolls-Royce Corporation as a Chief Technologist for More Electric and Hybrid Electric Aircraft systems. In August 2012, he joined as a Distinguished Professor of Engineering at the University of Texas at Dallas. Since September 2016, he has been a Distinguished University Professor at the University of Houston.

Prof. Rajashekara was elected as a Member of the US National Academy of Engineering in 2012, Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors in 2015, and International Fellow of Indian(2013), Chinese (2021), and Japanese (2024) Academies of Engineering for his contributions to electrification of transportation and renewable energy. He has received the 2022 Global Energy Prize (highest international Energy Prize- equivalent to Nobel Prize in Energy), IEEE Medal for Environmental and Safety Technologies (2021), IEEE Technical Field award Richard Kaufmann award, IEEE Industry Applications Society Outstanding Achievement Award (2009), SAE Charles Manly Memorial Award (2013), and induction into Delphi Innovation Hall of Fame (1999), and other awards.

He is a Distinguished Alumnus of Indian Institute of Science, Fellow of IEEE, and a Fellow of SAE International. He has published over 300 papers in international journals and conferences, has 37 U.S. and 15 foreign patents; and has written one book, and contributed individual chapters to 8 books. He has given over 250 invited presentations (including many keynotes) in over 50 countries at universities and international conferences. His major contributions are in the areas of Power Conversion and Propulsion Systems for Electric, Hybrid, and Fuel cell vehicles; More Electric and Hybrid Electric Aircraft systems; Hybrid flying car and vertical take —off and landing (VTOL) vehicles; and grid integration of battery and renewable energy sources.

Tobias Rodill, HonNAI

Managing Partner, Command Strategies, LLC

Tobias Rodill is a seasoned leader and entrepreneur with a deep understanding of government affairs and strategic business deployment. Based in Northern Virginia, Tobias Rodill is driven by a passion for innovation, collaboration, and making a meaningful impact in the world. His expertise in strategic planning, business development, and technology readiness positions him as a valuable asset in leadership roles within defense contracting, business development, and government affairs.

As the Founder and Managing Partner of Command Strategies, Tobias specializes in providing invaluable strategic counsel to the Department of Defense and other federal agencies. With a focus on national policy areas such as federal appropriations, defense, economic development, energy, civil works, transportation projects, education initiatives, and homeland security, Tobias navigates complex landscapes with precision and expertise. Over the past ten years, Mr. Rodill has led successful strategies to secure over one billion dollars in national security funding.

Throughout his career, Tobias has played a leading role in establishing large multi-year programs, ranging from critical medical initiatives to cutting-edge technology projects. His ability to bridge the gap between government, academia, and private industry has driven innovation and progress and often involves consortium development. Tobias is dedicated to ensuring that all projects have a positive impact on end-users, aligning objectives with real-world needs.

Prior to founding Command Strategies, Tobias served as a Senior Associate at a government relations firm based in Washington, D.C. In this role, he honed his skills in federal appropriations and policy development, representing a wide range of clients, from business organizations and industry associations to academic institutions and governmental bodies. This experience was instrumental in shaping his understanding of government affairs and strategic business deployment.

Tobias holds a bachelor's degree in international studies and political science from Towson University, with a focus on international economics. This academic background has equipped him with a deep understanding of global affairs and economic principles, which he applies in his work. He has a strong commitment to service and leadership and is actively involved in various professional and community organizations, including board memberships and professional memberships.

Paul R. Sanberg, FNAI

President of National Academy of Inventors

Dr. Paul R. Sanberg is the former Senior Vice President for Research, Innovation and Knowledge Enterprise at University of South Florida, and currently Distinguished University Professor of Medicine, Engineering, and Business.

His innovations have been instrumental in translating new pharmaceutical and cellular therapeutics to clinical trials and commercialization for ALS, Alzheimer's, Huntington's, Parkinson's disease, stroke, and Tourette syndrome.

He is an inventor on 167 U.S. and international patents; author of over 700 scientific articles and 14 books, with over 40,000 citations. He has served on editorial boards for numerous scientific journals, is co-editor-in-chief of NAI's journal Technology and Innovation, and has received numerous scientific awards, including the AIMBE Advocate Award; Australian Alumni Award (ANU); Bryden Alumni Award (York U); UBC Alumni Award; Fulbright Specialist; McGovern Science & Society Award (Sigma Xi); Ove Ferno Prize; IEEE George F. McClure Award; Florida Academy of Sciences Medalist; Florida Inventors Hall of Fame inductee and Pioneer Award recipient; Fellow of AAAS, ACNP, AIMBE, BMES, IEEE, Sigma Xi, the Royal Societies of Biology, Chemistry, Medicine and Public Health; AAAS-Lemelson Invention Ambassador; and Johns Hopkins Society of Scholars inductee.

He served twice on the nomination evaluation committee for the US National Medal of Technology and Innovation; and advisory board for the APLU Commission on Innovation, Competitiveness, and Economic Prosperity. He was the first in his family to graduate college, and has been an airplane enthusiast most of his adult life, becoming a master flight instructor and Fellow of the Royal Aeronautical Society. He is a NAI Charter Fellow and recipient of the NAI Founders Award (2021) and President's Award.

Sarah Sapouckey

Licensing Associate University of Iowa Research Foundation

Dr. Sarah Sapouckey joined the UIRF as a Post-Doctoral Fellow in late 2019, and accepted a Licensing Associate position in 2021. She manages life science and biomedical innovations developed here at the University of Iowa. In addition, Sarah runs the UIRF Technology Analyst Student Program and serves as Vice President of the University of Iowa Chapter of the National Academy of Inventors. She earned her PhD in Molecular and Cellular Biology at the University of Iowa. Sarah's graduate research focused on understanding the molecular mechanisms within the brain that control sympathetic nerve activity and resting metabolic rate. Sarah also has a Graduate Certificate in College Teaching. Prior to her time in Iowa, she completed a BS in Biochemistry at the University of Massachusetts and an AS in Animal Science from Holyoke Community College

Sudeep Sarkar, FNAI

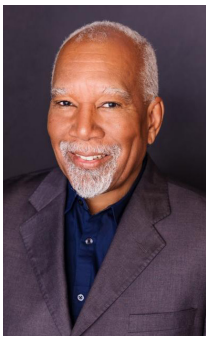
Distinguished University Professor, Launch Dean for the Bellini College of Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity and Computing

Sudeep Sarkar is the Launch Dean of the USF College of AI, Cybersecurity, and Computing, a Distinguished University Professor, and the Co-Director of the USF Institute for Artificial Intelligence (AI+X). He obtained his B. Tech. degree from the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur, and earned an M.S. and Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering, supported by a University Presidential Fellowship, from The Ohio State University, Columbus. With over 35 years of expertise in AI, computer vision, and pattern recognition algorithms and systems, he holds 10 U.S. patents and licensed technologies, in addition to publishing numerous high-impact journal and conference papers. He received the National Science Foundation CAREER award in 1994, the USF TIP Award for Undergraduate Teaching Excellence in 1997, the Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award in 1998, and the Ashford Distinguished Scholar Award in 2004. He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE), the International Association for Pattern Recognition (IAPR), and the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE), as well as a Fellow and member of the Board of Directors of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI). He has served on several journal boards and was an Editor-in-Chief for Pattern Recognition Letters (2011-2026).

Ryan Sharp

Assistant Vice Chancellor for Innovation & Business Engagement, University of California, Santa Cruz

Ryan Sharp has extensive experience in the private, non-profit, and academic sectors as a regional economist and economic developer. He currently serves as Assistant Vice Chancellor for Innovation & Business Engagement at UC Santa Cruz and oversees the Innovation & Business Engagement Hub, which helps support the campus community in bringing to market cutting-edge research and innovations, expanding corporate philanthropy and partnerships, creating more career pathways for students, and supporting a thriving regional economy. The Hub acts as the point of entry for industry partners, investors, and entrepreneurs to connect with the university's discoveries, innovations, resources, and talent. Prior to joining UC Santa Cruz, he contributed to new venture development and economic engagement initiatives at UC Davis, helping to build and lead the Venture Catalyst unit. Ryan's previous work includes senior leadership roles at a regional economic development organization in Northern California and a strategic consulting group with a focus on regional economics, real estate and land use, and economic development. He has a Bachelor's Degree in International Relations from the University of California, Davis and a Master's Degree in International Affairs from California State University, Sacramento and holds the designation of Certified Economic Developer from the International Economic Development Council.



Lanny Smoot

Disney Research Fellow, The Walt Disney Company

Lanny Smoot is Walt Disney Company's most prolific inventor, holding over 100 lifetime patents across interactive attractions, special effects, and theatrical technologies that have shaped guest experiences at Disney theme parks, resort hotels, and cruise ships worldwide.

Smoot grew up in Brooklyn, New York, earned his bachelor's and master's degrees in electrical engineering from Columbia University on a full Bell Labs Engineering Scholarship, and launched his career at Bell Labs in 1978. There he helped pioneer early fiber-optic transmission technologies, and at Bellcore he rose to the company's highest technical rank — Bellcore Fellow — and invented the "VideoWindow," the first high-quality large-screen video teleconferencing system, later featured in the Smithsonian Institution's "Information Age" exhibit.

In 1998, Disney recruited Smoot to lead its research division. His signature innovations since include interactive scavenger hunts at Disney Parks, motion-responsive floor surfaces for Disney Cruise Line, and the patented extendable and retractable lightsaber used in the Star Wars: Galactic Starcruiser experience.

A three-time Thea Award recipient, Smoot was named a TEA Master in 2020, became the first person in Disney history to earn 100 career patents in 2021, and was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2024. He is a passionate advocate for diversity in innovation and expanding opportunity for inventors everywhere.

Paul Sohl, HonNAI

Chief Executive Officer, Florida High Tech Corridor

Paul Sohl is CEO of the Florida High Tech Corridor, an organization serving a 23-county region anchored by three of the country's largest research institutions: the University of Central Florida, the University of South Florida and the University of Florida. The Corridor's mission is to converge and catalyze the capacity of high tech, innovation, and bright minds to generate a global ripple effect that advances the lives of people in the communities it serves.

As CEO, Sohl facilitates connection and collaboration between the three universities and their partners in academia, industry and economic development.

He also oversees The Corridor's portfolio of programs supporting research, marketing, workforce and entrepreneurship. This includes its cornerstone Matching Grants Research Program, which since its inception in 1996 has generated over $1 billion in verified downstream impacts;

Cenfluence — a clustering initiative in partnership with the governments of Orange County, Seminole County, the City of Orlando and Duke Energy; STEM outreach; and Small Business Innovative Research facilitation.
Sohl joined The Corridor in June 2020, following more than three decades of service in the U.S. Navy. In his last command, Sohl led over 500 civilian and military personnel at the Navy's Operational Test & Evaluation Force in Norfolk, Virginia, where he directed the operational testing and evaluation of all Navy warfighting systems and capabilities.

He has also commanded the Naval Aviation Fleet Readiness Center enterprise headquartered in Patuxent River, Maryland, where he was responsible for a workforce of over 16,000 and an operating budget of $2.9 billion; the Naval Air Warfare Center Weapons Division and Naval Test Wing Pacific in China Lake and Point Mugu, California; and the Fleet Readiness Center Southeast in Jacksonville, Florida. Sohl has extensive experience in simulation and training as a program director and test pilot and has served two tours overseas for Operation Desert Shield and Operation Enduring Freedom.

Sohl holds a bachelor's degree in aeronautical engineering from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and a master's degree in aeronautical and astronautical engineering from Stanford University.

John A. Squires

Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office

John A. Squires is the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO) where he leads one of the largest intellectual property (IP) offices in the world and is also the principal IP advisor to the President and Administration, through the Secretary of Commerce.

Prior to joining the USPTO, Mr. Squires served as Partner and Chair of the IP and Emerging Companies Practice at Dilworth Paxson LLP, an adjunct law professor at the University of Pennsylvania Carey School of Law, and previously served as Chief IP Counsel for Goldman Sachs. Mr. Squires has extensive experience in all aspects of IP and emerging companies, across a vast array of scientific and technology disciplines, including patent and trademark asset creation, procurement and acquisition, transactions, licensing, corporate formation, governance and structuring, high-stakes litigation and regulatory, and risk management matters.

Mr. Squires received his Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from Bucknell University and earned his Juris Doctor from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, magna cum laude, where he was a member of the Law Review and Order of the Coif.

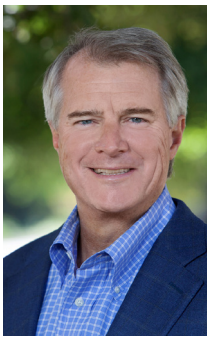
Aldo Steinfeld

Professor Emeritus, ETH Zurich

John A. Squires is the Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the Aldo Steinfeld (PhD University of Minnesota, 1989) is Professor Emeritus at ETH Zurich. He was Full Professor of the Department of Mechanical and Process Engineering at ETH Zurich, where he held the Chair of Renewable Energy Carriers (prec.ethz.ch) until 2025.

His research program was aimed at the advancement of the thermal and chemical engineering sciences applied to solar energy technologies. His research focused on the fundamentals of high-temperature heat/mass transfer phenomena, multi-phase reacting flows, and functional redox materials. These were applied in the development of technologies for concentrated solar power and solar fuels production, direct air capture of CO2 and its utilization, energy storage and carbon-neutral sustainable energy systems. Two spin-offs emerged from his research: Climeworks commercializes the technology for CO2 capture from air, and Synhelion commercializes the technology for solar fuel production.

He has authored over 360 refereed journal papers, filed 28 patents, and supervised 60 PhD theses. His contributions to science and education have been recognized with numerous accolades, including the Farrington Daniels Award by the ISES International Solar Energy Society (2013), the Kreith Energy Award by the ASME American Society of Mechanical Engineers (2016), the Sustainable Engineering Research Award by the AIChE American Institute of Chemical Engineers (2022), the Goswami Achievement Award in Energy and Sustainability by the US National Academy of Inventors (2024), and the SolarPACES Lifetime Achievement Award by the International Energy Agency (2024). Prof. Steinfeld was inducted into the Swiss Academy of Engineering Sciences (2010) and the Pan-American Academy of Engineering (2016).



Mark A. Stevens

Founder, USC Stevens Center for Innovation

Mark A. Stevens is the Founder and Managing Partner of S-Cubed Capital, a private family office established in 2012, focused on investments and philanthropy. From 1992 to 2011, he was a Managing Partner at Sequoia Capital, one of Silicon Valley's leading venture capital firms. Earlier in his career, he held positions at Intel Corporation and Hughes Aircraft Company.

Mark is actively engaged in a variety of board and advisory roles. He serves on the Board of Directors and is a founding investor at NVIDIA Corporation, is an Investor and Executive Board Member of the Golden State Warriors, and is a Trustee of the University of Southern California (USC), where he is Chair of the Investment Committee. He also serves on the Dean's Board of Advisors at Harvard Business School (HBS), the Board of Overseers at the Hoover Institution, and as Vice Chair and Executive Committee Member of the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Foundation. In addition, Mark sits on the boards of Sobrato Capital, The Steamboat Institute, Storm Mountain Ranch HOA, and the Yampa Valley Community Foundation. He is a former lecturer at Stanford Graduate School of Business (GSB), a current member of Stanford's Life Sciences Council, and a Special Limited Partner at Sequoia Capital.

A proud alumnus of USC, Mark earned a B.S. in Electrical Engineering and a B.A. in Economics, both magna cum laude, in 1981, followed by an M.S. in Computer Engineering in 1984. He completed his MBA at Harvard University in 1989.

In his free time, Mark enjoys college football, basketball, running, skiing, vegetable gardening, pickleball, and spending time with his family.

Stephen J Susalka, HonNAI

Chief Executive Officer, AUTM

Dr. Stephen J. Susalka is the Chief Executive Officer of AUTM, a 3,000+ member non-profit association, focused on supporting and enhancing technology transfer globally. He also oversees a cooperative agreement with the Federal Laboratory Consortium for Technology Transfer to support technology transfer for more than 300 federal labs across the US.

As an internationally recognized leader in technology commercialization, Susalka leverages his extensive experience in fostering successful university-industry collaborations, along with his expertise in IP, licensing, and startups, to empower AUTM members in bringing groundbreaking innovations to market.

Phil Weilerstein, HonNAI
President and Chief Executive Officer, Venturewell

Phil Weilerstein has led VentureWell since its founding in 1995 and today serves as president and CEO. By developing and expanding VentureWell's programs on a national and global scale, Phil has helped advance VentureWell's mission to solve global challenges through science- and technology-driven innovation and entrepreneurship. Phil is committed to sharing VentureWell's learnings and resources to support the creation of inclusive and more equitable pathways for student innovators to succeed in venture creation. Under Phil's leadership, VentureWell has collaborated with key science funding agencies, major philanthropies, and hundreds of universities to train and support thousands of emerging students, researchers, and faculty innovators.

THE UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA® | Center for Convergent Bioscience & Medicine

Where Discovery Becomes Impact

Advancing convergent bioscience to accelerate therapeutic innovation in immuno-inflammatory disease

WHAT WE DO

The Center for Convergent Bioscience and Medicine (CCBM) is a transdisciplinary research center addressing 21st-century healthcare challenges through horizontal innovation-bridging disciplines to move discoveries beyond the lab.

We specialize in accelerating drug development pipelines through cutting-edge discovery, advanced formulations, and rigorous preclinical testing.

ENGAGE WITH US

CCBM is committed to developing novel therapies for immuno-inflammatory diseases by adopting an integrated approach combining innovative drug delivery strategies with new drug-discovery and drug-repurposing.

- Partnership
- Research Excellence
- Re-envisioning Translation
- Multidisciplinary Research Training

Our Research Focus

Our research spans molecular to clinical scale, integrating data-driven and mechanistic approaches.

- New drug discovery & drug repurposing
- Formulation development
- In Vitro & Ex Vivo Testing
- Innovative drug-delivery strategies
- Preclinical to clinical translation
- Immuno-inflammatory diseases

Website
ccbm.ua.edu

PART OF THE University of Alabama System.

Email
ccbm@ua.edu

SUSTAINING MEMBER INSTITUTIONS

Arizona State University (ASU) is a top-ranked public metropolitan research university, with five academic campuses and four innovation campuses across greater Phoenix and four regional learning centers throughout Arizona. ASU is a comprehensive public research university, measured not by whom we exclude, but rather by whom we include and how they succeed; advancing research and discovery of public value; and assuming fundamental responsibility for the economic, social, cultural and overall health of the communities it serves. For three years in a row, U.S. News & World Report has ranked ASU as the #1 Most Innovative School in America.

NAI is honored to welcome The Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK) as its first Sustaining International Member Affiliate. The university, which overlooks Tolo Harbour, is the largest educational institution in Hong Kong, averaging twenty-thousand students each year. The university is honored to be ranked #32 in the world (QS World University rankings).

With a strong focus on innovation, CUHK's top areas of research are Interdisciplinary and Translational Biomedical, Artificial Intelligence, and Robotics & Automation. "As a proud member of the NAI community, we at CUHK are committed to advancing the visibility of academic innovation and its societal contributions," says Professor Allen Chan, Associate Vice President (Knowledge Transfer). "The NAI network provides our researchers with a vital platform for direct engagement and collaboration across disciplines, fostering impactful partnerships and accelerating the translation of discovery into real-world solutions."

Established in 1809, Miami University is consistently ranked among the top 50 national public universities by U.S. News & World Report for providing students with an Ivy League-quality education at a public school price. Located in quintessential college town Oxford, Ohio— with regional campuses in Hamilton and Middletown, a learning center in West Chester, and a European study center in Luxembourg—Miami serves more than 21,600 undergraduates across 120 areas of study, and more than 2,500 graduate students through 70 master's and doctoral degree programs. At this comprehensive research university, students engage and conduct research with premiere teacher-scholars. Miami adds $2.3 billion each year to Ohio's economy through innovative partnerships and job creation. Miami is a NCAA Division I school, serving more than 500 student athletes across 19 varsity sports.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

Founded in 1831, NYU is one of the world's foremost research universities and is a member of the selective Association of American Universities. NYU has degree granting university campuses in New York, Abu Dhabi, and Shanghai; has eleven other global academic sites, including London, Paris, Florence, Tel Aviv, Buenos Aires, and Accra; and both sends more students to study abroad and educates more international students than any other U.S. college or university. Though its numerous schools and colleges, NYU is a leader in conducting research and providing education in the arts and sciences, engineering, law, medicine, business, dentistry, education, nursing, the cinematic and performing arts, music and studio arts, public administration, social work, and professional studies, among other areas.

NC STATE UNIVERSITY

NC State University is a research powerhouse and a powerful economic engine for North Carolina. The Office of Research Commercialization (ORC) plays a crucial role in this by protecting and promoting University research discoveries and intellectual property, working with and guiding industry partners, and promoting the acceleration of startups. We're driving economic growth by facilitating the commercialization of research discoveries.

جامعة الأمير محمد بن فهد

PRINCE MOHAMMAD BIN FAHD UNIVERSITY

Founded in 2006, PMU is a fast growing private institution of higher learning in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. This university, with its highly innovative student-centered approach to impart education, offers a chance to students to explore genuine paths to learn and innovate when being groomed for their future roles as hardcore professionals. PMU intends on building its potential and entrepreneurial spirit through its colleges, to be a leader in conducting research and providing education in the engineering, computer science, business, law and other areas.

TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY®

Texas Tech University is located in Lubbock, Texas. Created by legislative action in 1923 as Texas Technological College, the name was changed to Texas Tech University in 1969. Campus physical facilities include a total of 7,449,218 square feet in 188 buildings. The university is composed of more than 26,400 undergraduate, 5,200 graduate and 700 law students. Annually, total research expenditures exceed $125 million. The Carnegie Foundation classifies Texas Tech University as a RU/H: Research Universities (high research activity).

Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research Northwell Health®

The mission of the Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research is to produce knowledge to cure disease. Other guiding goals that are pursued daily are a) publish and share expertise with the global scientific and medical communities, b) collaborate across labs, disciplines, and with other institutions, and c) deliver new discoveries to the bedside through clinical trials.

The Feinstein Institutes is the home of the research institutes of Northwell Health, the largest health care provider in New York. Encompassing 50 research labs, 3,000 clinical research studies and 5,000 researchers and staff, the Feinstein Institutes raises the standard of medical innovation through its five institutes of behavioral science, bioelectronic medicine, cancer, health system science and molecular medicine.

We make breakthroughs in genetics, oncology, brain research, mental health and autoimmunity, and are the global scientific leader in bioelectronic medicine—a new field of science that has the potential to revolutionize medicine.

U.S. DEPARTMENT of ENERGY

Office of Technology Commercialization

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Technology Commercialization (OTC) catalyzes the commercialization of energy, industrial and manufacturing technologies that build a vibrant economy. Whether originating in the Department of Energy's National Lab complex or the private sector, OTC works to move innovation from concept to tangible solution that is successful in the marketplace. Our mission benefits the American public by driving economic growth, strengthening energy security, and boosting the United States' global technological leadership.

The DOE is one of the largest champions of technology transfer and commercialization in the federal government. Congress established the Office of Technology Commercialization (originally the Office of Technology Transitions) in 2015 to advance this critical mission. By unlocking the tremendous potential within the Department and its 21 National Labs, plants and sites, and catalyzing private sector investment in novel technologies, OTC is driving innovation - and with it, American energy dominance and national security.

Together with our internal and external partners, OTC works to enhance the nation's economic competitiveness and strengthen its leadership in innovation and impactful technologies.

Visit us at energy.gov/otc to learn more, and subscribe to receive our latest opportunities and accomplishments via email. Follow us on X and LinkedIn.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
UC RIVERSIDE

The University of California, Riverside (UCR) is a powerful engine of economic growth for Inland Southern California and beyond, having contributed more than $2.7 billion to the U.S. economy during the fiscal year 2015-16 alone. UCR students and visitors contribute more than $287 million to the Inland region. The campus proudly partners with entrepreneurs, corporate leaders, and fellow research enterprises from around the world.

UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

We honor our heritage as the state's flagship and land grant university by providing accessible and affordable higher education of the highest quality; rigorous scholarship; the communication and application of knowledge; economic and community development; and responsible stewardship of our cultural, historical and natural resources.

In the exercise of our primary mission to promote learning, we seek to provide academic and co-curricular opportunities that will:

- Graduate students who have experienced the frontiers of scholarship and creative activity and who are prepared for the complexities of an interdependent world.
- Cultivate a community of learning energized by collaborative work among students, faculty, staff and external partners.
- Nurture an environment that values and manifests diversity, internationalization, free expression, academic freedom, personal integrity and mutual respect.
- Promote opportunities for personal health and growth, physical health, athletic competition and leadership development for all members of the university community.

UCF
UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL FLORIDA

The University of Central Florida (UCF) and its 13 colleges provide opportunities to 66,000 students from all 50 states and 140 countries. Located in Orlando, Florida, UCF is the nation's second-largest university with 210 degree programs to choose from. UCF is ranked as one of the "Most Innovative" universities by U.S. News & World Report, a best-value university by The Princeton Review and Kiplinger's, and one of the nation's most affordable colleges by Forbes.

UF | UNIVERSITY of FLORIDA

The University of Florida's mission is to prepare our students to lead and influence the next generation and beyond for economic, cultural and societal benefit. Recognized as among the top 10 public universities by U.S. News & World Report, UF is one of the nation's largest public universities, and is the only member of the Association of American Universities in Florida. UF scientists and scholars conduct about $800 million in research annually and UF consistently ranks among the top universities at transferring its discoveries to the marketplace. Teaching, research and scholarship, and service span all of UF's academic disciplines and represent its commitment to be a premier university that the state, nation and world look to for leadership.

UNIVERSITY OF Nebraska

The University of Nebraska—Lincoln is a top-tier national research university and a member of the Big Ten Academic Alliance. Like the university's founders in 1869, students and faculty at Nebraska look challenges and opportunities in the eye, using fresh thinking and creativity to forge new paths. The expansive geography of the state fosters a closeness and collaboration that makes way for solutions applied nearby and around the world, including innovative public-private partnerships and through Nebraska Innovation Campus, the university's rapidly growing research campus. Nebraska is the state's flagship and land grant university and continues to grow in size and prominence. Nebraska has nearly 26,000 students and more than 180 undergraduate and 120 graduate degree programs, and is ranked as a best-value university by Fiske Guide to Colleges, Kiplinger's and others.

UAEU جامعة الإمارات العربية المتحدة United Arab Emirates University

The first and foremost comprehensive national university in the United Arab Emirates. Founded in 1976 by the late Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan, UAEU aspires to become a comprehensive, research-intensive university and currently enrolls approximately 14,968 Emirati and international students. As the UAE's flagship university, UAEU offers a full range of accredited, high-quality graduate and undergraduate programs through nine Colleges: Business and Economics; Education; Engineering; Agriculture & Veterinary Medicine; Humanities and Social Sciences; IT; Law; Medicine and Health Sciences; and Science. With a distinguished international faculty, state-of-the art new campus, and full range of student support services, UAEU offers a living-learning environment that is unmatched in the UAE.

In its drive to achieve international research stature, UAEU works with its partners in industry to provide research solutions to challenges faced by the nation, the region, and the world. The University has established research centers of strategic importance to the country and the region which are advancing knowledge in critical areas ranging from water resources to cancer treatments. UAEU is currently ranked #5 in the Arab World and #296 worldwide.UAEU's academic programs have been developed in partnership with employers, so our graduates are in high demand. UAEU alumni hold key positions in industry, commerce, and government throughout the region. Our continuing investments in facilities, services, and staff ensure that UAEU will continue to serve as a model of innovation and excellence.

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA

The University of South Florida, a high-impact research university dedicated to student success and committed to community engagement, generates an annual economic impact of more than $6 billion. With campuses in Tampa, St. Petersburg and Sarasota-Manatee, USF serves approximately 50,000 students who represent nearly 150 different countries. U.S. News & World Report has ranked USF as one of the nation's top 50 public universities for five consecutive years, and this year USF earned its highest ranking ever among all universities public or private. In 2023, USF became the first public university in Florida in nearly 40 years to be invited to join the Association of American Universities, a prestigious group of the leading universities in the United States and Canada. Through hundreds of millions of dollars in research activity each year and as one of the top universities in the world for securing new patents, USF is a leader in solving global problems and improving lives. USF is a member of the American Athletic Conference. Learn more at www.usf.edu.

NAI MEMBER INSTITUTIONS SINCE 2010

Acacia Research Group
Academia Sinica
Adelaide University
Albany College of Pharmacy and Health Sciences
Amrita University
Arizona State University
Auburn University
Augusta University
Australian National University
Baylor College of Medicine
Baylor University
Beckman Research Institute of the City of Hope
Ben-Gurion University of the Negev
Benson Idahosa University
Binghamton University, State University of New York
Boise State University
Boston University
Brandeis University
BRIDG
Brown University
California Institute of Technology
California State University, Long Beach
Carnegie Mellon University
Case Western Reserve University
Center for Health Innovation and Entrepreneurship, Loyola University Chicago
Chapman University
China Medical University
City University of Hong Kong
Clark Atlanta University
Clarkson University
Clemson University
Cleveland Clinic
Cleveland State University
Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory
Colorado State University
Columbia University
Cornell University
Coventry University
Dartmouth College
Draper Laboratory (CDSL)
Drexel University
Dublin City University
Duke University
East Carolina University
Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University
Emory University
Florida A&M University
Florida Atlantic University
Florida Gulf Coast University
Florida International University
Florida Polytechnic University
Florida State University
Florida Tech Research Institute (FTRI)
Georgetown University
Georgia Institute of Technology
Georgia Southern University
Georgia State University
H. Lee Moffitt Cancer Center & Research Institute
Hamad Bin Khalifa University
Harvard University
Hualien Tzu Chi Hospital
Idaho State University
Illinois Institute of Technology
Indiana University
Institut Pasteur
Iowa State University
Jackson State University
James Madison University
Johns Hopkins University
KAATSU International University
Kansas State University
Kennesaw State University
King Abdulaziz University
King Abdullah University of Science and Technology
Lawrence Technological University
Lehigh University
Lieber Institute for Brain Development
Louisiana State University
Louisiana Tech University
Marquette University
Massachusetts General Hospital
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Mayo Clinic
Medical University of South Carolina
Miami University
Michigan State University
Mississippi State University
Missouri University of Science and Technology
Monash University
Montana State University
Morehouse School of Medicine
Mount Sinai Health System
MTF Biologics
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
National Institutes of Health
National Taiwan University
National University of Science and Technology POLITEHNICA Bucharest
Naval Information Warfare Center - NIWC Pacific
New College of Florida
New Jersey Institute of Technology
New Mexico State University
New York Institute of Technology
New York University
North Carolina State University
North Dakota State University
Northeastern University
Northern Arizona University
Northern Illinois University
Northwestern University
Nova Southeastern University
Oak Ridge Associated Universities
Office of Technology Commercialization | Department of Energy
Ohio University
Oklahoma State University
Olin College of Engineering
Oregon Health & Science University
Oregon State University
Parkview Mirro Center for Research and Innovation
Pontifícia Universidade Católica do Rio Grande do Sul
Portland State University
Prince Mohammad Bin Fahd University
Princeton University
Purdue University
RadTech International
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute
Rice University
Rochester Institute of Technology
Rowan University
Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology
Rutgers, The State University of New Jersey
Saint James School of Medicine
Saint Louis University
San Diego State University
Shandong Baofa Cancer Institute
Shanghai Jiao Tong University
Southern Illinois University
Southern Methodist University
Southern Research Institute
Southern University Law Center
SRI International
Stevens Institute of Technology
Stony Brook University

NAI MEMBER INSTITUTIONS SINCE 2010

Tel Aviv University
Temple University
Terasaki Institute
Texas A&M University
Texas State University
Texas Tech University
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center
Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center at El Paso
The Chinese University of Hong Kong
The City University of New York
The Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research, Northwell Health
The George Washington University
The Institute for Human & Machine Cognition (IHMC)
The Ohio State University
The Pennsylvania State University
The Rockefeller University
The University of Akron
The University of Alabama
The University of Alabama at Birmingham
The University of Alabama in Huntsville
The University of Arizona
The University of British Columbia
The University of Chicago
The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa
The University of Hong Kong
The University of Memphis
The University of New Mexico
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
The University of North Carolina at Charlotte
The University of Oklahoma
The University of Southern California
The University of Southern Mississippi
The University of Tennessee Health Science Center
The University of Tennessee, Chattanooga
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
The University of Tennessee, Martin
The University of Texas at Arlington
The University of Texas at Austin
The University of Texas at Dallas
The University of Texas at El Paso
The University of Texas at San Antonio
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
The University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
The University of Toledo
The University of Utah
Thomas Jefferson University
Tufts University
Tulane University
UL Research Institutes
United Arab Emirates University
University at Albany
University at Buffalo, The State University of New York
University of Alaska Anchorage
University of Alaska Fairbanks
University of Alberta
University of Arkansas
University of California, Berkeley
University of California, Davis
University of California, Irvine
University of California, Los Angeles
University of California, Riverside
University of California, San Diego
University of California, San Francisco
University of California, Santa Barbara
University of California, Santa Cruz
University of Central Florida
University of Cincinnati
University of Colorado Boulder
University of Colorado Denver
University of Connecticut
University of Delaware
University of Florida
University of Georgia
University of Houston
University of Idaho
University of Illinois at Chicago
University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
University of Iowa
University of Kansas
University of Kentucky
University of Limerick
University of Louisiana at Lafayette
University of Louisville
University of Maryland, Baltimore
University of Maryland, Baltimore County
University of Maryland, College Park
University of Massachusetts Amherst
University of Massachusetts Boston
University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School
University of Massachusetts Lowell
University of Miami
University of Michigan
University of Minnesota
University of Missouri-Columbia
University of Missouri-Kansas City
University of Missouri-St. Louis
University of Nebraska-Lincoln
University of Nevada, Las Vegas
University of Nevada, Reno
University of New Hampshire
University of North Carolina at Wilmington
University of North Dakota
University of North Florida
University of North Texas
University of Notre Dame
University of Oregon
University of Ottawa
University of Pennsylvania
University of Pittsburgh
University of Queensland
University of Rhode Island
University of Rochester
University of South Alabama
University of South Carolina
University of South Florida
University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UT Health Houston)
University of Texas Medical Branch
University of Vermont
University of Virginia
University of Washington
University of West Florida
University of Wisconsin-Madison
University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee
University of Wollongong
University of Wyoming
Utah State University
Vaccine & Gene Therapy Institute of Florida
Vanderbilt University
VentureWell
Virginia Commonwealth University
Virginia Tech
Wake Forest University Health Sciences
Washington State University
Washington State University Tri-Cities
Washington University in St. Louis
Wayne State University
West Virginia University
Wichita State University
Worcester Polytechnic Institute
Wright State University
Yale University
Yonsei University

Thank you to our Sponsors

Our Annual Conference would not be possible without the support of our sponsors.

We are grateful for your commitment to the National Academy of Inventors.

HOST Sponsor

About the University of Southern California:

Founded in 1880, the University of Southern California is one of the world's leading academic research institutions with 23 schools, a multi-billion-dollar health enterprise and a vast research and development engine. The university enrolls 46,000 highly accomplished undergraduate and graduate students and employs 4,600 faculty who are members of major national academies, and MacArthur, Academy Award and Pulitzer Prize winners, among many others. USC has a nationally recognized athletic program and a passionate global network of 500,000 alumni — the Trojan Family. Located in the heart of Los Angeles, USC is a powerhouse of innovation and impact with a global reach.

About the USC Stevens Center for Innovation:

As the technology transfer office for the University of Southern California, the Stevens Center for Innovation serves as a university-wide resource that works to move and maximize the discoveries of USC researchers from the lab to the marketplace. The Stevens Center manages a broad portfolio of university-owned intellectual property stemming from more than $1 billion in annual research revenues and licenses them to existing businesses or startups so they can be developed into products and services that improve human lives, transform industries, and fuel economic growth. Through collaborative commercialization of technologies, the Stevens Center plays an important role in the entrepreneurial ecosystem and supports the development of innovations that positively impact the world's greatest challenges.

the florida high tech corridor 30 1996 - 2026

fulgent

GENSPIRATION FOUNDATION

USF Bellini College of Artificial Intelligence, Cybersecurity and Computing

MOREHOUSE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

ASU Arizona State University

NJIT New Jersey Institute of Technology

MichelsonIP INSTITUTE

Council for Innovation Promotion C4IP

UTA THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON

UAEU جامعة الإمارات العربية المتحدة United Arab Emirates University

PTIE

Tufts University

Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research
Northwell Health®

VCU

IDiyas®

Qualcomm
Engineering Human Progress

autm

VENTUREWELL™
idea to impact

Stony Brook University

FLORIDA INVENTORS
HALL OF FAME

UC RIVERSIDE


TRUSTED PARTNERSHIPS
SHARED GOALS
SPURRING INNOVATION
DRIVING IMPACT
SCAN TO LEARN MORE
UTA
Center for Entrepreneurship
and Technology Development

Council for Innovation Promotion

C4IP®

Robust and reliable intellectual property protections ensure that inventors can continue to power American innovation, transform bold ideas into real-world solutions, and drive the breakthroughs that strengthen our economy and shape the future.

Innovation changes the world. Let's protect it.

@Council4IP @council4ip.bsky.social council-for-innovation-promotion C4IP.org

CONGRATULATIONS

2025 Fellow of the National Academy of Inventors

Carol Carter, PhD

SUNY Distinguished Professor, Department of Microbiology and Immunology
Adjunct Professor, Department of Physiology and Biophysics
Renaissance School of Medicine

GROWING OUR LEGACY OF INNOVATORS

NAI Fellows

Esther Takeuchi, PhD (2012)
Benjamin Chu, PhD (2013)
Benjamin S. Hsiao, PhD (2013)
Iwao Ojima, PhD (2014)
Jahangir Rastegar, PhD (2015)
Lorne Golub, DMD, MSc (2016)
Arie Kaufman, PhD (2017)
Clinton Rubin, PhD (2017)
Kenneth Kaushansky, MD (2018)
F. William Studier, PhD (2018)
Israel Kleinberg, DDS, PhD (2019)
Stanislaus Wong, PhD (2019)
Serge Luryi, PhD (2021)
Craig Lehmann, PhD (2021)
Yuanyuan Yang, PhD (2022)
Wei Zhao, PhD (2023)
Devinder Mahajan, PhD (2024)
Andrea Goldsmith, PhD (2024)

NAI Senior Members

Harbans S. Dhadwal, PhD
Fu-Pen Chiang, PhD
Anurag Purwar, PhD
Amir Rahmati, PhD

Stony Brook University

CELEBRATING HEALTH CARE INNOVATION

Northwell applauds our leaders at the **Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research** for being honored at the **National Academy of Inventors (NAI)**, including:

NAI FELLOW

KEVIN J. TRACEY, MD

President, CEO & Karches Family Distinguished Chair

Recognized for his discoveries in vagus nerve stimulation, the "inflammatory reflex" and bioelectronic medicine.

NAI SENIOR MEMBERS

LIOR BRIMBERG, PHD

Associate Professor, Institute of Molecular Medicine

JARED HUSTON, MD

Assistant Professor, Institute of Bioelectronic Medicine

STAVROS ZANOS, MD, PHD

Associate Professor, Institute of Bioelectronic Medicine

THEODOROS ZANOS, PHD

Professor, Institute of Health System Science & Institute of Bioelectronic Medicine

Northwell℠

John D'Angelo, MD
President & CEO

CONGRATULATIONS!

Tufts University congratulates its newly elected Fellow and Senior Members of the National Academy of Inventors

2025 Class of NAI Fellows

More on Tufts NAI Fellows

James Schwob

More on Tufts NAI Senior Members

2026 Class of NAI Senior Members

Simin Nikbin Meydani

Bruce Kristal

Athena Papas

Tufts University | Office of the Vice Provost for Research

NAI National Academy of Inventors

COMMON ABBREVIATIONS

American Academy	American Academy of Arts and Sciences
AAAS	American Association for the Advancement of Science
AACR	American Association for Cancer Research
AAM	American Academy of Microbiology
AAP	Association of American Physicians
AAU	American Association of Universities
ACerS	American Ceramic Society
ACM	Association for Computing Machinery
ACNP	American College of Neuropsychopharmacology
ACS	American Chemical Society
AHA	American Heart Association
AIC	American Institute of Chemists
AIChE	American Institute of Chemical Engineers
AIMBE	American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering
APA	American Psychological Association
APLU	Association of Public and Land-grant Universities
APMI	American Powder Metallurgy Institute
APS	American Physical Society
APhilS	American Philosophical Society
ASCE	American Society of Civil Engineers
ASCI	American Society for Clinical Investigation
ASEE	American Society for Engineering Education
ASM	American Society for Microbiology
ASM International	American Society for Metals International
ASME	American Society of Mechanical Engineers
AUTM	Association of University Technology Managers
BMES	Biomedical Engineering Society
DARPA	Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency
FDA	U.S. Food and Drug Administration
HHMI	Howard Hughes Medical Institute
IAPR	International Association of Pattern Recognition
IEEE	Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers
IET	Institution of Engineering and Technology
ISD	International Society for Differentiation
MRS	Materials Research Society
NAE	National Academy of Engineering
NAEd	National Academy of Education
NAI	National Academy of Inventors
NAM	National Academy of Medicine
NAS	National Academy of Sciences
NCI	National Cancer Institute
NIH	National Institutes of Health
NIHF	National Inventors Hall of Fame
NIST	National Institute of Standards and Technology
NSF	National Science Foundation
OSA	Optical Society of America
PAS	Pontifical Academy of Sciences
PECASE	Presidential Early Career Award for Scientist and Engineers
RSC	Royal Society of Chemistry
SDB	Society for Developmental Biology
SFB	Society for Biomaterials
SPIE	International Society for Optics and Photonics
TMS	The Minerals, Metals and Materials Society
U.S. DoD	United States Department of Defense
U.S. DOE	United States Department of Energy
USPTO	United States Patent and Trademark Office

SAVE THE DATE

NAI

16TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

JUNE 14-17, 2027

Join us during the 15th Annual Conference Gala
on Thursday June 4th at 8:45 pm for
a special announcement about the
2027 Annual Conference