

2019 MIT Startup Ecosystem Conference

May 30, 2019 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

8:00

Registration & Breakfast

8:45

Welcome Remarks

Karl Koster

Executive Director, [MIT Corporate Relations](#)



Karl Koster

Executive Director

[MIT Corporate Relations](#)

Karl F. Koster is the Executive Director of the MIT Office of Corporate Relations. The Office of Corporate Relations includes the MIT Industrial Liaison Program, which celebrated 67 years of service to the Institute and its corporate partners in 2015.

In that capacity, Mr. Koster and his staff work with the leadership of MIT and senior corporate executives to design and implement strategies for fostering corporate partnerships with the Institute. Mr. Koster and his team have also worked to identify and design a number of major international programs for MIT, which have been characterized by the establishment of strong, programmatic linkages among universities, industry, and governments. Most recently these efforts have been extended to engage the surrounding innovation eco-system, including its vibrant startup and small company community, into MIT's global corporate and university networks.

Mr. Koster also serves as the Chairman of the University-Industry Demonstration Partnership (UIDP), an organization that seeks to enhance the value of collaborative partnerships between universities and corporations.

Mr. Koster graduated from Brown University with a B.A. in geology and economics in 1974, and received a M.S. from the MIT Sloan School of Management in 1980. At the Sloan School he concentrated in international business management and the management of technological innovation. Prior to returning to MIT, Mr. Koster worked as a management consultant in Europe, Latin America, and the United States on projects for private and public sector organizations.



On Innovation: Working with MIT Startups
Ariadna RodensteinProgram Manager, [MIT Startup Exchange](#)

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Ariadna Rodenstein is a Program Manager at MIT Startup Exchange. She joined MIT Corporate Relations as an Events Leader in September 2019 and is responsible for designing and executing startup events, including content development, coaching and hosting, and logistics. Ms. Rodenstein works closely with the Industrial Liaison Program (ILP) in promoting collaboration and partnerships between MIT-connected startups and industry, as well as with other areas around the MIT innovation ecosystem and beyond.

Prior to working for MIT Corporate Relations, she worked for over a decade at Credit Suisse Group in New York and London, in a few different roles in event management and as Director of Client Strategy. Ms. Rodenstein has combined her experience in the private sector with work at non-profits as a Consultant and Development Director at New York Immigration Coalition, Immigrant Defense Project, and Americas Society/Council of the Americas. She also served as an Officer on the Board of Directors of the Riverside Clay Tennis Association in New York for several years. Additionally, she earned her B.A. in Political Science and Communications from New York University, with coursework at the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey in Mexico City, and her M.A. in Sociology from the City University of New York.



Rebecca Xiong

Program Director, [MIT Startup Exchange](#)Rebecca Xiong
Program Director[MIT Startup Exchange](#)

Dr. Rebecca Xiong joined Corporate Relations as Program Director, Startup Exchange in October 2018.

Dr. Xiong comes to Corporate Relations with more than 15 years of experience in the MIT Startup Ecosystem, having co-founded and worked at multiple MIT startups. Most recently, as Co-founder and Chief Scientist at SocMetrics, she leads product management, data science, and machine learning for SocMetric's personalization and marketing campaign products. Before SocMetrics, Xiong co-founded Going.com. Going.com connected people via local events to enhance their offline social life, and through Rebecca's leadership grew to 1M members, tens of millions of monthly pageviews, and finally its acquisition by AOL. Before these two entrepreneurial endeavors, Xiong held positions as Product Marketing Manager (DataPower, acquired by IBM), Senior Program Manager (Performaworks, acquired by Workscape), and Team Lead (Akamai Technologies). She also has research experience at Microsoft, Silicon Graphics, and Xerox Palo Alto Research Center.

Dr. Xiong earned her B.S. in Computer Science at the University of California at Berkeley, and her Ph.D. in Computer Science at the Media Lab at MIT with her thesis "Visualizing Information Spaces to Enhance Social Interaction." She was a National Science Foundation (NSF) Fellowship Recipient. She holds multiple patents and is very involved in the community, as the Lead Organizer of the Cambridge Parent Summit.



9:05

A Catalyst for Innovation
Gururaj "Desh" Deshpande

President & Chairman, Sparta Group LLC



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Gururaj "Desh" Deshpande is a Trustee of the Deshpande Foundation along with his wife Jaishree. He is also the President and Chairman of Sparta Group LLC, a family investment office and is also the Chairman of Tejas Networks.

Dr. Deshpande has pursued an entrepreneurial career for the last three decades. He is involved either as the founder, a founding investor or chairman of several companies including Cascade Communications, Sycamore Networks, Coral Networks, Tejas Networks, Cimaron, Webdialogs, Airvana, Sandstone Capital, A123 Systems and Curata.

Dr. Deshpande lives in Boston and serves as a life-member of the MIT Corporation, and his support has made possible MIT's Deshpande Center for Technological Innovation.

The Deshpande Foundation strengthens ecosystems that create significant social and economic impact through entrepreneurship and innovation. Leveraging the experience gained at the MIT Center, the Deshpande Foundation has facilitated the setup of five other centers; Deshpande Center for Social Entrepreneurship in India, EforAll (formerly known as the Merrimack Valley Sandbox) in Lowell/Lawrence Massachusetts, the Pond-Deshpande Center at the University of New Brunswick in Canada, the Dunin Deshpande Queens Innovation Center at Queens University in Kingston, Ontario and the Gopalakrishnan Deshpande Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurship at the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, India. Deshpande Foundation also provided the founding grant for MassChallenge in Boston, National Science Foundation Innovation Corps (I-Corps™), Public Health Foundation of India (PHFI) and the UPOP program at MIT.

Dr. Deshpande holds a B. Tech. in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology - Madras, an M.E. from the University of New Brunswick in Canada, and Ph.D. from Queens University in Canada.

Deshpande co-chaired the National Council to support President Obama's innovation and entrepreneurship strategy from 2010 to 2015.



9:35

Startup Lightning Talks, Part I - Digital, Data, & AI

[ClimaCell](#): Micro weather, global coverage

[BlinkAI](#): Imaging AI for autonomy, robotics, sensing

[Distilled Identity](#): Driving financial & digital inclusion with Predictive Identity

[Interpretable AI](#): Turning data into trusted action

[Silverthread](#): Improving software health and economics

[Secure AI Labs](#): Streamlines data access for business analytics

[Nara Logics](#): AI for personalization and decision support

10:00

Creating an Entrepreneurial Culture

Rana el Kaliouby
Cofounder & CEO, [Affectiva](#)



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Cofounder & CEO
[Affectiva](#)

Pioneer of Emotion AI, Rana el Kaliouby is Affectiva's co-founder and CEO. She invented Affectiva's emotion recognition technology and is leading innovations in Emotion AI. An Inc. magazine columnist and recipient of numerous awards, el Kaliouby is frequently covered in leading publications and is a sought after speaker on topics of AI, ethics, and workforce. She is a passionate advocate for women in STEM and has a PhD from Cambridge University.



10:20

Startup Lightning Talks, Part II - Smart Manufacturing

- [Osaro](#): Industrial grade intelligent systems
- [DUST Identity](#): Diamond-grade supply chain security
- [Inkbit](#): 3D printing powered by machine vision and AI
- [BMF Material Technology](#): Ultra-high precision 3D printing capability
- [IQ3Connect](#): VR for collaborative engineering design review & training
- [RightHand Robotics](#): Robots for piece-picking and packaging
- [ThruWave](#): Making the invisible visible with human-safe millimeter waves

10:45

Networking Break

11:15

Keynote

Luca Marighetti

Managing Director, Group Head Tech Transformation, Swiss Re Management



Luca Marighetti

Managing Director, Group Head Tech Transformation, Swiss Re Management

Luca Marighetti has nearly 30 years of professional experience in a large variety of industries, in geopolitical matters, and in tech. He held a number of roles first in Academia, then at Procter & Gamble (European Brand Manager), SC Johnson (Commercial Director Central Europe), McKinsey & Company (Assembly, R&D, Chemicals, Banking), Deutsche Bank (global head of on-line trading, investment products), Allianz Group (market management across all banking segments and first hand management during the financial crisis), Zurich Insurance (Group Head of Strategy and Tech), and now Swiss Re, where he developed the tech strategy for the Group and is now leading its implementation.



11:35

Panel Discussion: Startup-Corporate Partnerships

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Ali Azarbayejani
CTO, [Cogito](#)



Ali Azarbayejani
CTO

[Cogito](#)

Ali Azarbayejani is CTO at Cogito. He has 18 years of commercial experience as a scientist, entrepreneur, and designer of world-class computational technologies. Azarbayejani's pioneering doctoral research at the MIT Media Lab in probabilistic modeling for 3-D vision was the basis for his first startup company, Alchemy 3D Technology, which created the market in the film and video post-production industry for camera match-moving software. He also has consulted in software development and business strategy and has been on the research staff at Mitsubishi Electric Research Labs.



Nazeer Bhore

Global Manager, Technology Scouting and Venturing, Exxonmobil Research & Engineering



Nazeer Bhore

Global Manager, Technology Scouting and Venturing, Exxonmobil Research & Engineering

Nazeer Bhore has 25 years experience in Technology and Business in Refining, Petrochemical, Fuels and Lubricants Products and Energy Industry. Experience ranges from research, development, deployment, planning and operations - at BU and corporate level. Recognized Leader in Improving Innovation and Breakthrough Capabilities of Organizations.



Rei Goffer
Cofounder & Chief Strategy Officer, [ClimaCell](#)



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Cofounder & Chief Strategy Officer

[ClimaCell](#)

Rei Goffer is the cofounder and chief strategy officer of ClimaCell. He served for ten years in the Israeli Air-Force as an F-16 Navigator and held managerial positions in the joint-operations unit and R&D department. Goffer holds a BA in economics from Ben Gurion University, an MBA from MIT Sloan, and an MPA from Harvard Kennedy School.



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12:05

Startup Lightning Talks, Part III - Health, New Categories, & Frontiers



[Zapata Computing](#): Algorithms for quantum computing

[Cellino](#)

[CATALOG](#): Infinite data archives

[Arbor Biotechnologies](#)

[Via Separations](#)

[Top Flight Technologies](#): Heavy lift, long range hybrid-electric UAVs

[CompanionMx](#): Proactive mobile monitoring of behavior health

12:30

Lunch with Startup Exhibition

2:00

Innovating in a Startup

What happens when a startup matures? How does it continue to generate innovative products? At what point does it need to create innovation processes while also remaining focused on existing business? Cogito was founded in 2006 as a health tech company, co-founded by Professor "Sandy" Pentland, one of the most entrepreneurial faculty at MIT. Cogito has since evolved to a company that provides augmented emotional intelligence and coaching to call center users, raising a total of \$72.5M. Ali, cofounder and CTO, will share insights into how the company continues to roll out innovative products as it grows and matures.

Ali Azarbajani
CTO, [Cogito](#)



Ali Azarbajani
CTO
[Cogito](#)

Ali Azarbajani is CTO at Cogito. He has 18 years of commercial experience as a scientist, entrepreneur, and designer of world-class computational technologies. Azarbajani's pioneering doctoral research at the MIT Media Lab in probabilistic modeling for 3-D vision was the basis for his first startup company, Alchemy 3D Technology, which created the market in the film and video post-production industry for camera match-moving software. He also has consulted in software development and business strategy and has been on the research staff at Mitsubishi Electric Research Labs.



Building an Innovation Ecosystem: MIT's future vision of Kendall Square and beyond

As other cities across the globe try to cultivate their own innovation ecosystems, Israel will discuss MIT's historical, ongoing and future strategies in fostering the Greater Boston, and specifically the Cambridge innovation ecosystem. He will cover MIT's senior leadership vision of the future and how corporations could participate and capture value as important ecosystem contributors.

Israel Ruiz

Executive Vice President & Treasurer, MIT



Israel Ruiz

Executive Vice President & Treasurer, MIT

Israel Ruiz is the Executive Vice President and Treasurer (EVPT) of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT). Mr. Ruiz is the Institute's chief financial officer and, as a trustee of the MIT Corporation and a member of its Executive Committee, is the chief steward of \$21.5 billion of MIT's financial assets, \$3.6 billion in operating revenues and is responsible for administering the Institute's \$5 billion capital plan through 2030.

He is responsible for financial and debt strategy development, budget and capital planning, and the integrity of financial information. Other administrative areas of responsibility include human resources, information systems, campus facilities, security and safety, compliance, government relations, international support, sustainability, and medical.

Prior to becoming Executive Vice President and Treasurer in 2011, Mr. Ruiz held several roles of increasing responsibility at MIT, most recently serving as Vice President of Finance. He previously held management and engineering roles at Hewlett-Packard and Nissan Automotive.

He was instrumental in leading the re-zoning efforts of Kendall Square and the Volpe Center in Cambridge, to enable mixed-use development and accelerate the process of moving ideas from lab to market. He continues to actively co-lead the development of the process through its complex execution phase, expected to last beyond 2020.

Mr. Ruiz serves on the Board of Directors of edX (an MIT and Harvard online learning initiative), MIT Endicott House, and MIT Technology Review. He chairs the board of The Engine, a new MIT initiative aimed to accelerate breakthrough innovations. He is a director of Fortive (NYSE: FTV) and Moderna Therapeutics. He is also a director of the Governing Board of the Eliot Innovation School and is very active in the Boston Public Schools.

His educational background includes a master's degree from the MIT Sloan School of Management and a six-year degree in industrial and mechanical engineering from the Polytechnic University of Catalonia, in his native Barcelona.



Panel Discussion: Corporate Presence in the Boston Innovation Ecosystem

Scott Kirsner

Editor & Cofounder, [Innovation Leader](http://www.innovationleader.com)



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Editor & Cofounder

[Innovation Leader](http://www.innovationleader.com)

Scott Kirsner is a journalist who writes about innovation and entrepreneurship. His "Innovation Economy" column appears Sundays in the *Boston Globe*, and he is also editor of the site Innovation Leader (www.innovationleader.com), which focuses on R&D, product development, corporate venturing, and new initiatives within large companies. Scott has been a regular contributor to *Fast Company*, *BusinessWeek*, *Variety*, and *Wired*. His books include *Fans, Friends & Followers: Building an Audience and a Creative Career in the Digital Age*, a technological history of Hollywood. He can be reached at scott@innovationleader.com and his Twitter handle is @ScottKirsner.



Hervé Coureil

Executive Vice President & Chief Digital Officer, Member of the Executive Committee, Schneider Electric SE



Hervé Coureil

Executive Vice President & Chief Digital Officer, Member of the Executive Committee, Schneider Electric SE

Hervé Coureil joined Schneider Electric in 1993. He is Chief Digital Officer and Member of Executive Committee since 2009.

Prior to assuming this role, Hervé served as Chief Information Officer. He also served as Chief Financial Officer for the Critical Power and Cooling Services (CPCS) Business Unit of Schneider Electric, which was formed in early 2007 following the acquisition of APC Corp. and its merger with MGE-UPS Systems. Hervé's responsibilities included overseeing Legal, IT and Strategy.

In the past, he has held a variety of finance and business development positions with Schneider Electric including Senior Vice President Finance, Control and Business Development for the Asia Pacific Operating Division of Schneider Electric, Vice President Financial Control for the International Division, Corporate Officer for Mergers and Acquisitions, and Financial Controller of various organizations.

Hervé holds a Master in Management from Reims Management School and a Graduado en Ciencias Empresariales Europeas from ICADE in Madrid.



Stas Gayshan

Founder, [CIC - Boston](#)
Managing Director, [Cambridge Innovation Center](#)



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Founder, [CIC - Boston](#)
Managing Director, [Cambridge Innovation Center](#)

Stas Gayshan is Managing Director at the Cambridge Innovation Center (CIC) and the founder of CIC Boston. Stas leads the development of new CIC projects in the Americas, Asia, Australia, the Middle East, and beyond, connecting innovators across boundaries and borders. Stas works with governments, universities, large corporations, real estate developers, entrepreneurs, nonprofits, funders, and other stakeholders to solve difficult problems, build powerful, interwoven innovation ecosystems, and help cities craft lasting, impactful outcomes. A globally sought-after thought leader on innovation and entrepreneurship, Stas is often seen speaking at conferences and judging startup competitions around the world. Stas Gayshan joined CIC in early 2014. Previously, Stas was the Founder & CEO of Space with a Soul, a 20,000 square foot coworking space in Boston's Innovation District. Stas is an entrepreneur and an attorney, and he worked in Democratic political campaigns at various levels prior to starting Space with a Soul. In his political work, Stas focused on the intersection of collaboration, technology and activism. Stas has been recognized by the Boston Globe as one of the Most Innovative People in Massachusetts Business and by CJP as one of Boston's most influential young leaders. He holds leadership positions in several philanthropic and nonprofit organizations active in the Greater Boston area. Stas has a B.A. and J.D. from Boston College.



Brian Rosnov
Senior Director, [Philips Healthworks](#)



Brian Rosnov
Senior Director
[Philips Healthworks](#)

Brian Rosnov is co-Founder and leader of external venturing activities at Philips HealthWorks in North America. In his role, Brian's responsibilities include investment strategy, opportunity selection and funnel management, program and deal execution, portfolio management, global partnership development, and community creation and management.



Reshma Shetty
Founder, [Ginkgo Bioworks](#)



Reshma Shetty
Founder

[Ginkgo Bioworks](#)

Reshma Shetty co-founded synthetic biology Ginkgo Bioworks in 2008. She has been active in the field of synthetic biology for 10+ years and co-organized SB1.0, the first international conference in synthetic biology in 2004. In 2005, Shetty and colleagues founded OpenWetWare.org, a wiki for the free sharing of information among biological and biological engineering researchers. In 2006, she was an advisor to the international Genetically Engineered Machines (iGEM) competition. Shetty has been named one of Forbes' Eight People Inventing the Future, one of Fast Company's 100 Most Creative People in Business, and one of Business Insider's most powerful female engineers. Shetty holds a BS in computer science from the University of Utah and a PhD in biological engineering from MIT.



Keynote

Helen Greiner

Robotic, AI, and Autonomy Expert, US Army



Helen Greiner

Robotic, AI, and Autonomy Expert, US Army

Helen Greiner is known for both innovation and business strategy in the field of robotics. Co-founding iRobot in 1990, Greiner served as President until 2004, and Chairman until 2008. During her tenure, Greiner guided iRobot into its position as a global leader with the release of the Roomba™, the PackBot™, and SUGV Military Robots. She built a culture of practical innovation and delivery that led to the deployment of over 6,000 tactical robots with our troops and over 15M home robots worldwide. In addition, Greiner led iRobot's financing efforts, raising \$35M in venture capital for a \$75M initial public offering. Helen Greiner is also the Founder of CyPhy Works, a drone company that delivered aerial platforms to defense and commercial markets. Greiner holds a bachelor's degree in mechanical engineering and a master's degree in computer science, both from MIT. She also holds honorary degrees from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI) and Clarkson University.



3:20

3:40

Closing Remarks

3:45

Networking Reception

6:00

Adjournment