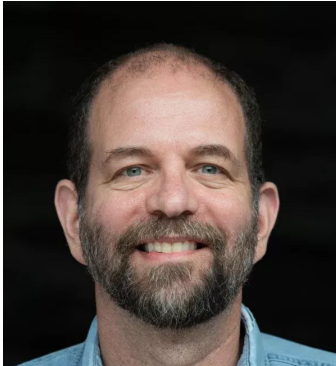




Speaker Biographies



Gill Pratt
Chief Scientist and
Executive Fellow for
Research
Toyota Motor Corporation

Chief Executive Officer
Toyota Research Institute

Gill Pratt is Chief Scientist and Executive Fellow for Research of Toyota Motor Corporation (TMC), founding Chief Executive Officer of Toyota Research Institute (TRI), and Executive Advisor of Toyota Central R&D Labs., Inc. (TCRDL).

As TMC Chief Scientist and Executive Fellow for Research and as Executive Advisor at TCRDL, Pratt helps guide research strategy for TMC and the Toyota Group. At TRI, Pratt directs research to create new tools and capabilities focused on improving the human condition through research in Energy and Materials, Human-Centered AI, Human Interactive Driving, Machine Learning and Robotics.

Pratt previously led the Robotics Challenge, Robotics Research, and Neuromorphic Computing research programs for the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), where he served as a program manager in the Defense Sciences and Tactical Technology Offices from January 2010 through August 2015.

Prior to his work at DARPA, Pratt was a founding professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs and Research at the Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering.

Prior to his work at Olin, Pratt was an Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science and Director of the Leg Lab at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Director of Network Development for Lisp Machine, Inc., and worked for the Physics and Computer Science Research Departments of Bell Telephone Laboratories in Murray Hill, New Jersey.

Pratt's academic research focused on robotics and intelligent systems. Specific areas of interest included interfaces that significantly enhance human/machine collaboration, mechanisms and control methods for enhanced mobility and manipulation, low impedance actuators, the application of neuroscience techniques to robot perception and control, and the impact of Robotics and AI on society.

Pratt holds several patents in robotics, intelligent prosthetics and orthotics, computer design, and electric vehicle power systems.

Pratt earned Doctor of Philosophy (1990), Master of Science (1987), and Bachelor of Science (1983) degrees in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from MIT. His Ph.D. thesis was in the field of spiking computation in natural and artificial neural systems.



Speaker Biographies



Brian Storey
Senior Director
Energy & Materials

Brian Storey is the senior director of Energy & Materials at Toyota Research Institute (TRI). The goal of the Energy & Materials program is to develop tools for accelerating the development of new energy materials for emissions-free mobility. The Energy & Materials program consists of our internal Energy & Materials research team as well as an extensive collection of funded collaborative research at leading universities. The Energy & Materials program aims to translate new ideas, tools and technology for accelerating materials discovery to practice within TMC and the broader research community.

Prior to TRI, Storey was a professor of mechanical engineering at Olin College. He joined the faculty at Olin in 2000 and was one of the founding faculty members for this undergraduate, engineering-focused college. Storey received his Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley, M.S. from University of Illinois, and B.S. from the University of Texas at Austin – all in mechanical engineering.



Speaker Biographies



Charlene Wu
Senior Director
Human-Centered AI

Charlene Wu is the senior director of the Human-Centered AI (HCAI) division at Toyota Research Institute (TRI). The goal of the HCAI division is to develop AI systems to augment human decision-making by advancing research at the intersection between behavioral science, machine learning, and human computer interaction.

Prior to TRI, Wu founded and led applied behavioral data science teams at Uber and Airbnb. She holds bachelor's degrees in economics and psychology from UCLA and master's and Ph.D. degrees in psychology from Stanford University, where she was also a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow.



Speaker Biographies



Avinash Balachandran
Director
Human Interactive Driving

Avinash Balachandran is the director of the Human Interactive Driving (HID) division at Toyota Research Institute (TRI). The goal of the HID division is to create AI-driven capabilities and tools empowering humans and increasingly automated vehicles to interact more effectively and naturally. The department blends competencies in machine learning, human-machine interaction and robotics to create novel and innovative technologies for the intelligent vehicles of the future.

Prior to TRI, Balachandran was one of the early engineers on Uber's self-driving program and was instrumental in developing their first autonomous service in Pittsburgh, PA (2016). He also led engineering teams focused on autonomous driving development at EV startup Faraday Future. He is passionate about bringing cutting-edge research closer to commercialization. He is also a noted public speaker, expert and adviser on topics around autonomy and human-centric research.

Balachandran holds a B.S. in mechanical engineering and a minor in computer science from Cornell University. He also holds M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in mechanical engineering from Stanford University focusing on autonomous technologies, performance driving and human interaction. He is also a recipient of the prestigious Stanford Graduate Fellowship.



Speaker Biographies



Adrien Gaidon
Director
Machine Learning

Adrien Gaidon is the director of Machine Learning at Toyota Research Institute (TRI) and an adjunct professor of computer science at Stanford University. Gaidon's research focuses on discovering machine learning principles at the foundation of embodied intelligence. He has over 80 publications at top AI venues covering fundamental topics like Computer Vision and Learning for Robotics. This research has led to more than 80 patents and applications in areas including safe and autonomous driving.

Gaidon received his Ph.D. from Microsoft Research - Inria Paris and has received multiple scientific awards at top conferences like CVPR and international AI competitions like PASCAL VOC and NeurIPS ProcGen.



Speaker Biographies



Max Bajracharya
Senior Vice President
Robotics

Max Bajracharya is Senior Vice President of Robotics at Toyota Research Institute (TRI), where he leads TRI's robotics effort to develop fundamentally new robotics capabilities to enable robots to empower, amplify, and improve the quality of life of people in an increasingly aging society. Previously at TRI, Bajracharya was a director of Robotics, leading the Mobile Manipulation Technology team to combine in-situ and fleet learning to enable robots to perform complex mobile manipulation tasks in unstructured human environments.

Prior to joining TRI, Bajracharya was the autonomy technical team lead for a confidential robotics project at X, Alphabet's "Moonshot Factory," focusing on mobile manipulation and machine learning. He was the software technical team lead and system architect of a confidential mobile manipulation consumer robot project as part of Google Robotics, and the perception lead for Boston Dynamics' quadruped and humanoid robots, while part of Google.

From 2001–2014, Bajracharya was a member of Technical Staff and group leader of the Computer Vision group at the NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Caltech. His initial focus was on developing advanced autonomous technology for the Mars rovers, which was used on the 2003 Mars Exploration Rover and 2011 Mars Science Laboratory missions. He was subsequently a principal investigator, task lead, system architect, and project manager for many NASA and US Department of Defense projects.

Bajracharya graduated with a B.S. and M.Eng. in electrical engineering and computer science from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2001.