

MIT Industrial Liaison Program Faculty Knowledgebase Report

2025 MIT Madrid Symposium

November 14, 2025 9:30 am - 2:30
pm

9:30 AM

Welcome and Opening Remarks

Raimundo Pérez-Hernández
Director

[Ramón Areces Foundation](#)

Gayathri Srinivasan
Executive Director, [MIT Corporate Relations](#)



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Executive Director
[MIT Corporate Relations](#)

Dr. Srinivasan is a distinguished scientist who received her PhD in Microbiology from The Ohio State University in 2004, where she contributed to the discovery of the 22nd amino acid, Pyrrolysine (2002). She first came to MIT as an NIH Postdoctoral Fellow in Prof. Tom Rajbhandary's lab, where her research focused on understanding protein synthesis mechanisms in Archaea.

Dr. Srinivasan subsequently moved into the business development and technology licensing space, serving in MIT's Technology Licensing Office, where she helped commercialize technologies in medical devices and alternative energies. She then moved to UMass Medical School's Office of Technology Management in 2009 and to Emory University in Atlanta in 2014 as the Director of Public and Private Partnerships for the Woodruff Health Sciences Center. In 2019, Dr. Srinivasan joined Emory's Office of Corporate Relations as Executive Director, and in 2021, she led the Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations.

9:50 AM

Geopolitics, Economics and Business Climate

Kenneth Oye

For five decades, business leaders took an open international economic system and a stable alliance system as givens. The United States, Europe, and Japan worked together to maintain the global order. Even as the power of the United States relative to China declined, the fundamental elements of the international system remained unchanged. In 2025, the international economic, political, and military order cannot be taken as a given. Tariffs and other restrictions on trade are rising, and bilateral and regional trade agreements and multilateral WTO rules are ignored. Fiscal imbalances and budget crises are undermining confidence in the dollar and producing turbulence in foreign exchange markets. Confidence in NATO commitments to mutual defense is declining. This talk will focus on the causes and implications of these developments. Are these changes likely to be enduring or transient? How will changes in geopolitics and geoeconomics affect businesses? What are the best-case and worst-case scenarios?

10:50 AM

Making Business Sense of AI: Key Questions for Leaders
George Westerman
Senior Lecturer, [MIT Sloan School of Management](#)
Founder, [Global Opportunity Forum](#), MIT Office of Open Learning



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Dr. George Westerman is a Senior Lecturer and Principal Research Scientist at the MIT Sloan School of Management. His research and teaching help executives to understand the transformative potential of new technologies and the steps they can take to build innovation capability in their firms.

During more than 20 years with the MIT Sloan School of Management, he has been a pioneer in the study of digital transformation. His early research and award-winning book, *Leading Digital: Turning Technology Into Business Transformation*, helped to frame the executive conversation on the topic. His research on workforce transformation and on digital-ready culture provides important insights for how to move from discrete technology projects to continuous innovation capability. And his most recent research, in Harvard Business Review and Sloan Management Review, is helping executives to understand the transformative potential of AI.

George is cochair of the MIT Sloan CIO Leadership Awards and a member of the Digital Strategy Roundtable for the US Library of Congress, and executive advisor to executives in numerous large numerous around the world. At MIT, he teaches the highly regarded MIT executive courses Leadership for the AI Age and Essential IT for Non-IT Executives. Prior to earning a Doctorate in innovation strategy from Harvard Business School, he gained more than a dozen years of experience in product development and technology leadership roles.

[View full bio](#)

The transformative potential and risks of AI go well beyond the technology itself. But senior executives can be forgiven if they can't stay current with the fast-multiplying set of AI tools and capabilities. Happily, you don't have to master the complex details of the AI landscape. But you do need to know enough to understand the challenges and opportunities arising from AI. In this session, we'll provide an executive-level overview of key categories of AI. We'll explore practical applications of digital transformation with AI. And we'll delve into key challenges and considerations surrounding AI implementation. This is not a technical discussion; it's a leadership one. By the end of this session, you'll be ready to ask the right questions and make the right decisions about how to lead your organization through the AI revolution.

11:50 AM

Networking Break & Coffee

12:20 PM

Future of Work and the Role of AI in Organizational Transformation

Nick van der Meulen

In the face of relentless technological change, an organization's resilience hinges on its ability to adeptly transform its workforce. As such, bridging technical skills gaps and navigating shifting employee expectations have become necessities—not options. In this session, we'll unpack diverse strategies for addressing these challenges and explore the pivotal role of AI in redefining talent management strategies. You'll leave with practical insights into how organizations are handling the talent-related challenges and opportunities that AI brings.

Roundtable Discussion
Eduardo Garrido
Program Director, [MIT Industrial Liaison Program](#)



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Program Director
[MIT Industrial Liaison Program](#)

Eduardo Garrido is a Program Director at the Office of Corporate Relations at MIT.

Eduardo Garrido has a strong multicultural and multidisciplinary background, with deep expertise in higher education, banking and management consulting, acquired in Argentina, Spain and USA. He currently serves as Program Director at the Industrial Liaison Program, Office of Corporate Relations (MIT), the largest conduit between corporations and MIT.

Before joining MIT, Eduardo was the Director of Santander Universities at Santander Bank, N.A., based in Boston, MA. In this role, he managed the institutional and business relationship with 46 universities, mainly in the northeastern US. He also served as Santander US representative at President Obama's 100,000 Strong in the Americas initiative and the Woman for Africa Foundation, among other relevant global higher education projects, and as Member of the Global President's Council at NYU and the Advisory Boards of the Deming Cup, ECLA (Columbia University) and Newcastle University Business School.

Before coming to the US, Eduardo had several roles at Banco Santander Rio (Argentina). As Director of Santander Universities, he started the first entrepreneurship initiative at Grupo Santander worldwide, including the launching of a business plan competition, the Technology Innovation Venture Capital Fund, and a national competitiveness development initiative. He also sponsored the first edition of MIT 50K in Argentina. As Director of Organization and Quality at Banco Santander Rio, he led the team that obtained the first Global ISO 9001:2000 certificate for a financial institution in Latin America, certifying all main processes and areas of the bank. He also steered the business process reengineering project for the whole Bank, partnering with Ernst & Young and McKinsey and Co and implemented the Retail Banking new operating model.

Before joining Banco Santander Rio, Eduardo was Senior Manager of the Financial Services and Capital Markets Group at Price Waterhouse Management Consultants in Madrid, Spain. He was the Practice Leader of Business Process Reengineering, Financial Risk Management and Risk Adjusted Profitability Measurement.

Before his assignment at Price Waterhouse he served as Director of Consulting Services at MSA International, Inc. and as Financial Control Manager at Citibank España, S.A.

Eduardo graduated as Industrial Engineer at Universidad de Buenos Aires and has a MBA degree from IE Business School.

Kenneth Oye

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Closing Remarks

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