MIT Industrial Liaison Program Faculty Knowledgebase Report

2026 MIT Enterprise AI Forum

April 15, 2026 8:30 am - 12:00 pm

8:00 AM	Registration with Light Breakfast
9:00 AM	Opening Remarks
9:05 AM	Scaling AI for Real-World Implementation and Impact Brian Anthony Manufacturing is shifting from isolated automation to AI-enabled, increasingly autonomous operations, where human expertise remains essential. The core challenge today is not inventing new algorithms but scaling appropriate AI from pilot projects to repeatable deployment across production lines, sites, and supply chains. Digital twins (continuously updated virtual representations of materials, machines, and processes, informed by physical context and data) are one component at the center of this transition. When digital twins are integrated with machine learning and real-time control, AI moves beyond descriptive analytics to closed-loop decision support and optimization. Models can detect drift, anticipate failures, recommend corrective actions, and in some cases execute adjustments within defined safety and quality boundaries. Manufacturers are already demonstrating how these approaches reduce downtime, cut scrap and energy use, shorten qualification cycles, and deliver measurable operational gains. Human expertise remains fundamental. Scalable AI systems must encode domain knowledge, align with operator workflows, and provide transparent, context-aware recommendations—so people can supervise, intervene, and continuously improve performance. In practice, impact comes from the technology and the implementation stack: data pipelines and governance, appropriate AI tools, cybersecurity and safety guardrails, and change management that sustains performance over time. Through case studies, we will show how manufacturers are moving from proofs-of-concept to repeatable deployment patterns that translate industrial AI into real-world outcomes, at scale, with trust, and with people at the center.

9:40 AM

Deploying AI in the Corporation: From Pilots to Organizational Intelligence

Manolis Kellis

Most enterprise AI initiatives stall not because of model quality, but because organizations lack the cognitive architecture needed to connect data, reasoning, and action at scale. In this talk, Manolis Kellis reframes AI deployment as an organizational design problem rather than a technology problem, drawing on lessons from his MIT Sloan executive course *Deploying AI in the Corporation* and real-world enterprise deployments across healthcare, life sciences, manufacturing, and knowledge work.

The talk introduces cognitive cartography, a framework for representing enterprise knowledge, decisions, and workflows as structured, machine-interpretable maps, and shows how embeddings, knowledge graphs, and agentic workflows can be combined into deployable systems that actually change how organizations operate. Rather than focusing on isolated use cases, Kellis presents a principled approach for designing agentic enterprises: systems that sense, reason, act, and learn through explicit feedback loops and governance.

Through concrete examples, the session illustrates how common business functions, strategy, operations, finance, and R&D can be translated into AI-native architectures that move beyond experimentation toward durable impact. Attendees will leave with a clear mental model for why many pilots fail, what successful enterprise AI systems have in common, and how to design organizational intelligence that is explainable, adaptive, and aligned with business outcomes.

This talk is intended for executives responsible for scaling AI across the enterprise who are seeking not just adoption, but sustained competitive advantage.

10:15 AM

Networking Break

10:30 AM

Making AI Real: The Six Questions Leaders Should Ask

George Westerman

The conversation about artificial intelligence is rapidly changing from awareness and innovation to value and scale. As companies try to scale their pilot tests to a real enterprise environment, they find that much more is needed than just a good model. Our research has identified six key questions that leaders should ask - and answer - to truly AI- enable their organizations. Each corresponds to an essential action or capability. In this session we will examine the key questions and how you can start to answer them in your business.

11:05 AM

Setting your Data Strategy for Scaling AI Implementation in Enterprise

Kalyan Veeramachaneni

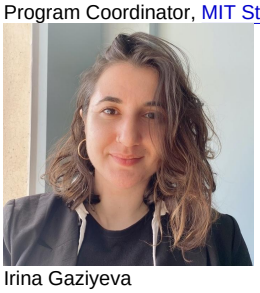
As enterprises race to deploy AI at scale, many discover that algorithmic innovation is not the limiting factor—data is. In Setting Your Data Strategy for Scaling AI Implementation in Enterprise, Kalyan Veeramachaneni explores how organizations can build the data foundations necessary to move from isolated AI pilots to repeatable, enterprise?wide impact. Drawing on real?world lessons from industry collaborations and advances emerging from MIT's Data?to?AI Lab, the talk outlines why traditional data collection and governance models fall short in high?velocity AI environments and what a modern, scalable data strategy must include.

Veeramachaneni will examine how enterprises can architect data pipelines that support continuous model development, ensure data quality at scale, and unlock the full potential of generative and predictive AI. He will highlight practical approaches for overcoming common bottlenecks—such as fragmented data assets, limited access for model builders, and compliance constraints—while demonstrating how emerging techniques like synthetic data can expand model training capabilities responsibly.

Participants will leave with a strategic framework for aligning data readiness with AI ambitions, enabling faster deployment cycles, more robust model performance, and organization?wide adoption. The session is designed for leaders seeking actionable guidance on transforming data from a constraint into a competitive advantage as they scale AI across their enterprise.

11:40 AM

MIT Startup Exchange | Startup Lightning Talks
Irina Gaziyeva
Program Coordinator, MIT Startup Exchange



Irina Gaziyeva
Program Coordinator
MIT Startup Exchange

Irina Gaziyeva comes to Corporate Relations from the Mechanical Engineering Department at MIT where she worked 10 years as Administrative Assistant where she has supported four senior faculty members and their research groups (20-25 graduate students). Since 2018, Irina has acted as program coordinator, teaming-up with the program manager and program faculty lead for the MechE Alliance program. She has facilitated 45+ virtual seminars, workshops, and mentoring events in this informal role. Irina has also actively connected members of the MechE community to support student career development, mentorship, and networking opportunities with MIT alumni and industry. Before MIT, Irina held positions as Administrative Assistant and Member Representative at Brookline Dental and Tufts Health plan, respectively. Irina has also been a Community Organizer in Worcester, MA.

Irina earned her B.A., Management (with Innovation & Entrepreneurship track) at Clark University in Worcester, and her M.S., Program and Project Management from Brandeis University in Waltham. She has received many awards at MIT for outstanding service, and she has extensive community volunteer work to her credit.

Dr. Stewart Jamieson
Head of Technology
Themis AI

Katie Trauth Taylor
Co-Founder & CEO
Narratize

Dr. Bernardo Aceituno
Co-Founder & President
Stack AI

12:15 PM

Panel Discussion
Graham Rong
Director, MIT Corporate Relations

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Director
MIT Corporate Relations

Dr. Rong is a Director of Corporate Relations at MIT. He currently supervises a group of ILP program directors who promote and manage the interactions and relationships between the research at MIT and companies worldwide to help them stay abreast of the latest developments in technology and business practices.

Previously, Dr. Rong founded IKA, LLC. He has led corporate development and product innovation and provided strategic advice to companies in corporate strategy, IT leadership, digital transformation, AI, enterprise content management, and customer relationships. He held senior roles in Harte-Hanks and Vignette Corporation. He held an EU postdoctoral research fellowship at the University of Edinburgh in Scotland where he started global collaborative research.

Dr. Rong is on the board of multiple organizations, including the MIT Sloan Alumni Association of Boston from 2009 to 2012. He chaired MIT Sloan CIO Symposium from 2009-2011. He is a senior expert invited by international organizations.

Dr. Rong holds an M.B.A. in global and innovation leadership from the MIT Sloan School of Management and a Ph.D in numerical computing from the University of Guelph in Canada.

View full bio

Simon Nip

Sami Shalabi

Kalyan Veeramachaneni

12:55 PM

Closing Remarks, Lunch, and Networking