2026 MIT Health Science Technology Forum

May 11, 2026 12:00 pm - 5:00 pm

12:00 PM	Registration and Light Lunch
1:00 PM	Welcome and Opening Remarks
1:15 PM	Talk Title: TBD Speaker Coming Soon
1:45 PM	Colonization & Competition in the Human Skin Microbiome Tami Lieberman Microbiome-based therapies for the skin and other body sites are a promising modality for treating disease and promoting wellness. However, a major challenge to realizing this potential is that most applied bacteria—even those taken from the same body site in healthy humans—do not remain or 'engraft' after application. In this talk, I will discuss how tracking evolution and ecology, along with the appropriate genomic and spatial resolutions, can help us design therapies with a higher chance of engraftment. I will present insights from *Cutibacterium acnes* and *Staphylococcus epidermidis*, which together comprise over 75% of the healthy facial skin microbiome and are both being actively explored as probiotics by industry.
2:15 PM	Talk Title: TBD Speaker Coming Soon
2:45 PM	Networking Break
3:15 PM	Multisensory AI for Health and Wellbeing Paul Liang Building multisensory AI systems that learn from multiple sensory inputs such as text, speech, video, real-world sensors, wearable devices, and medical data holds great promise for impact in supporting human health and well-being. This talk will cover our recent work on large-scale multimodal clinical benchmarks, with a million patient samples distributed across imaging, 3D/video, temporal sensing, graphs, and multimodal data. Using CLIMB, we trained QoQ-Med, the first and most powerful open-source foundation model for clinical reasoning across medical images, time-series signals, and text reports. These models enable strong reasoning and diagnosis capabilities to assist clinicians in their workflows.

3:45 PM	RareNet: Using AI and Disease Models to Decode Rare Brain Disorders Guoping Feng RareNet is built around a global, collaborative consortium of neuroscientists, clinicians, patient advocates, and industry partners that connects fragmented research efforts, expands access to patient data and samples, and fosters trust and shared goals. Central to its mission is a therapeutic pipeline accelerator that reduces early research risk, strengthens safety and reliability, and speeds translation from discovery to clinical and commercial readiness. Led by faculty director Guoping Feng, RareNet integrates MIT expertise with advanced tools such as disease modeling and artificial intelligence to extract insights from biological and clinical datasets, enabling a deeper understanding of complex and rare brain conditions and generating insights with broad relevance across uncommon neurological disorders.
4:15 PM	MIT Startup Exchange Lightning Talks
5:00 PM	Networking Reception