

2019 Startup Showcase Silicon Valley

October 10, 2019 8:45 am - 3:00 pm

8:45

Registration

9:15

Welcome Remarks

Karl Koster
Executive Director, [MIT Corporate Relations](#)



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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.



Dong-Su Kim
CEO
[LG Technology Ventures](#)

9:25

MIT Startup Innovation Ecosystem

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



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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.



9:35

Industry's View

Mohak Shah

9:55

Closing the perception-actuation loop using machine learning: New perspectives and strategies

Recent advances in perception technology, fueled by progress in deep learning, have materially changed the degree of situational awareness one can expect from robots engaged in the real world: in addition to perceiving the geometry of the world around them, robots can now also reason about its semantics and communicate intuitively with the people sharing their environment.

Yet, we're arguably still struggling to deploy robots in human-centered environments. Much of the difficulty centers around closing the loop between perception and actuation in a manner that's safe, reliable, precise, and flexible. This talk explores recent progress in machine learning which directly addresses these challenges and opens up new avenues in connecting perception and behaviors in real-world environments.

Vincent Vanhoucke

10:15

Startup Lightning Talks: Applications of Industrial AI

Imaging AI for autonomy, robotics, sensing

Bo Zhu

CTO, [BlinkAI](#)



Bo Zhu

CTO

[BlinkAI](#)

Bo Zhu is the CTO of BlinkAI, a spinoff from imaging research he proposed as a postdoctoral research fellow at Harvard and published in *Nature*. This revolutionary technique rethinks the conventional image reconstruction signal processing pipeline with a fully automated deep learning approach based on human perceptual learning, significantly improving image quality from rapidly acquired low-quality raw data. Zhu received his SB and MEng in electrical engineering from MIT and PhD in biomedical engineering at the Harvard-MIT Division of Health Sciences and Technology (HST). At BlinkAI, he leads the development of machine learning techniques to accelerate high-fidelity CMOS image acquisition and reconstruction in difficult environments using efficient inference that can be deployed on mobile and embedded systems.



Bastiane Huang
Product Manager

[Osaro](#)

Conversational AI for customer service & helpdesk

Karan Kashyap

Cofounder, [Posh](#)



Karan Kashyap

Cofounder

[Posh](#)

Karan Kashyap is cofounder and CEO at Posh, a Boston-based conversational AI startup focused on powering contextually aware bots for enterprises. Kashyap graduated from MIT with both a Bachelor's and Master's degree in computer science, where his research focused on AI and natural language processing.



Subbu Kuchibhotla
Vice President, Growth & Customer Success

[Xapix](#)

Will Tashman
Cofounder & Chief Revenue Officer

[Uncountable](#)

10:40

Networking Break

11:00

Corporate Investor Talk

Thomas d'Halluin
Managing Partner

[Airbus Ventures](#)

11:20

Startup Lightning Talks: AI & Tech Enablement

AI security & data privacy to accelerate digital transformation

Anne Kim

Cofounder & CEO, [Secure AI Labs \(SAIL\)](#)



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Cofounder & CEO

[Secure AI Labs \(SAIL\)](#)

Anne Kim is cofounder and CEO of Secure AI Labs, which is based on her Media Lab graduate work at MIT with Professor Alex "Sandy" Pentland of the Human Dynamics Group. Secure AI offers a federated learning and blockchain solution for accessing siloed data from genomic and clinical trial data to corporate databases. Kim's experience in computer science and molecular biology include genome-wide association studies, natural language processing for EHR, machine learning, and cyberbiosecurity work with the EFF, ACLU, and DEFCON. She sees accessibility to healthcare as a right, and believes that the interface between biology, healthcare policy, and technology is a promising way to achieve that mission.



Ned Semonite

Managing Director of Business Operations

[Southie Autonomy](#)

[Silverthread](#)

Waikit Lau

Cofounder & CEO

[RemoteHQ](#)

Beth Porter

Cofounder & CEO

[Riff Learning](#)

Boaz Efroni Rotman

VP of Marketing & Business Development, [Lightelligence](#)



Boaz Efroni Rotman

VP of Marketing & Business Development

[Lightelligence](#)

Boaz Efroni Rotman is the VP of Marketing and Business Development at Lightelligence. He is a creative and forward-thinking professional with over 24 years of hands-on global technology in business development, product management, strategic marketing, and sales. Boaz oversaw operations to manage and lead over 20 semiconductor SoCs and products into Consumer, IoT, Cellular, Mobile, Media, Telecom, and Automotive markets through strong technical background and aggressive and innovative go-to-market strategies. Boaz holds a BS in electrical engineering from the Ben-Gurion University in Israel and an MBA from Netanya Academic College in Israel.



11:50

Lunch with Startup Exhibit

1:10

Fireside Chat on Operationalizing AI
Nick Meyer

Entrepreneur-in-Residence and Lecturer, [Martin Trust Center for MIT Entrepreneurship](#)
Chief Product Officer, [Relativity6](#)



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Entrepreneur-in-Residence and Lecturer, [Martin Trust Center for MIT Entrepreneurship](#)
Chief Product Officer, [Relativity6](#)

Nick Meyer is an Entrepreneur-in-Residence and Lecturer at the Martin Trust Center for MIT Entrepreneurship. His passion lies in pushing learning to be fun and hands on, smashing disciplines together, and supporting founders who believe the world can be better.

A serial co-founder, Nick has been product or engineering lead for software companies in industries as diverse as gaming, video, travel, music, social, and consumer products. While still in high school, he co-founded the MMOG (multi-player massive online game) Kings of Chaos, one of the first browser-based viral casual games. At peak, KoC attracted hundreds of thousands of daily active players and is still running 15 years later.

While an undergraduate student at MIT, Nick founded Reble.FM, a peer-to-peer streaming music service. Nick left MIT in 2006 to participate in Y Combinator, and then moved to San Francisco after raising seed capital from Tandem Entrepreneurs. Reble.FM was acquired by Playlist.com. After running Product at Playlist.com, Nick co-founded SocialShield, a subscription service for parents to protect their children from online bullying and cyber-stalking. SocialShield was later acquired by Avira.

In 2009, Nick moved to New York and joined Vinay Pulim, an old MIT buddy and co-founder of Reble.FM, in founding MileWise. Frequent travelers are demanding, and MileWise saved time and money by optimizing reward travel spend. As an engineer and designer, Nick wore every hat you could wear, until the company's acquisition by Yahoo! in 2013. MileWise's investors included General Catalyst, Founder Collective, Atlas, Mitch Kapor, Naval Ravikant, and Keith Rabois.

His most recent company was Sup, a mobile video app funded by Khosla Ventures. In a surprise twist, the company turned into Wim Yogurt, producing a kitchen appliance making healthy frozen yogurt right on your countertop.

As a lecturer, Nick teaches classes and workshops across the engineering and business schools. His current classes include "Building an Entrepreneurial Venture," "Intro to Making," and "Digital Product Management." Last year Nick taught "Open Source Entrepreneurship" with Professor Saman Amarasinghe, a software lab that applied the Disciplined Entrepreneurship framework to Open Source Software projects. During MIT's Independent Activities Period in January, Nick runs MIT fuse, an intense three-week program he jokingly calls "Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Founders."

When not teaching, Nick loves sports and music. He is an IASI-certified alpine ski instructor and PADI-certified scuba diver, loves rock climbing, and is trying very hard at squash and golf. On Mondays, you'll find him in the 9-ball tournament at Flat Top Johnny's, and Wednesdays at the Plough and Stars working on his blues harmonica.



Katherine Gallagher
AI Software Engineer
[MIT Quest for Intelligence](#)

1:30

Privacy preserving machine learning: Data utility and privacy using split learning

Ramesh Raskar

1:50

Panel Discussion: Opportunities & challenges in corporates working with startups on Industrial AI

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John Wass
CEO, [Profit Isle](#)



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[Profit Isle](#)

John Wass is CEO of Profit Isle. He is the former Senior Vice President of Staples and CEO of WaveMark, an RFID company recently acquired by Cardinal Health. Wass was also a key senior executive during Staples' growth from three stores to over 1,000 nationwide. He is a graduate of Princeton and MIT.



2:30

Local startups rapid fire intros

2:40

Networking & Startup Exhibit