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Register [here](#).

Canada's Robotics Moment

Thursday, February 8, 2018
2:30 - 5:30 pm

Autodesk Technology Centre
661 University Ave., Suite 100, Toronto

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Canada's Robotics Moment

Canada has a unique opportunity to leverage its international reputation in artificial intelligence to tap into the fast-growing commercial robotics market. Canada invested early and wisely in AI. That laid the foundation for major breakthroughs, culminating in the recent explosion in investment, commercial activity and global recognition as an AI hotbed.



Richard Kikuta



Andra Keay



Hallie Siegel



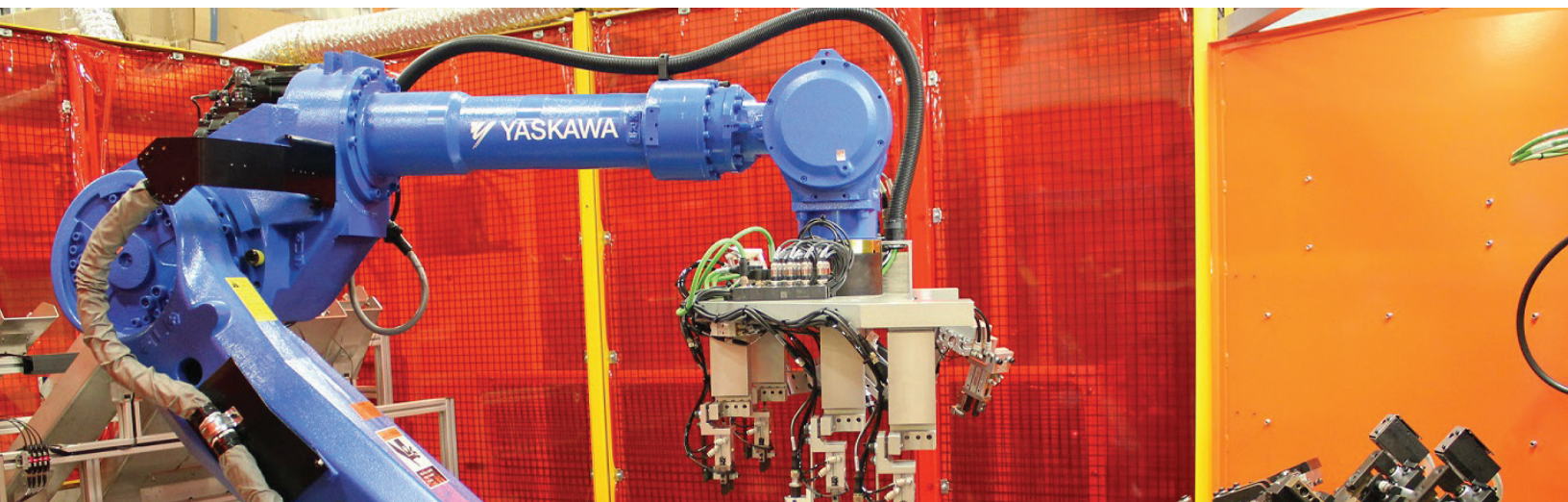
Dr. William Melek



Dr. Farzad Rayegani

Robotics is the next frontier for innovation and investment. The Canadarm delivered international profile for executing high-stakes feats of robotic ingenuity. That success has been repeated in field after field without similar recognition. It's time for a national robotics strategy.

Led by **Andra Keay, Managing Director, Silicon Valley Robotics**, speakers will explore the collaborations, supports and partnerships needed to establish Canada as a global player in the commercial robotics market. A panel from industry, government and academia will discuss Canada's strengths and how to capitalize on them to build a vibrant robotics industry.



Agenda

2:30 pm. Welcome

Adriana Ieraci, Founder, GYBO Robotics Network

2:35 pm. A National Robotics Strategy for Canada

Hallie Siegel, Innovation Strategist

Robotics is key to the next wave of innovation. Competing jurisdictions have developed comprehensive multi-year strategies that specifically target robotics as a critical area for investment and R&D.

Canada is the only G7 country without a national robotics initiative, risking talent, investment, jobs and reputation in the face of fierce global competition. Hallie Siegel, Dean's Scholar at the Strategic Foresight and Innovation Lab at OCAD, reports back on the NSERC-funded Canadian Robotics Stakeholder Meeting in Vancouver to explore these issues and the way forward.

2:50 pm. Global Trends and Opportunities

Andra Keay, Managing Director, Silicon Valley Robotics

Silicon Valley is synonymous with high tech innovation. Its name and reputation came from the semiconductor industry, but as trends in robotics, AI, machine learning and investment collide, Silicon Valley has evolved into a hotbed for commercial robotics activity. Andra Keay, Managing Director of Silicon Valley Robotics – the region's premiere robotics association – walks us through new innovation practices from co-work initiatives and hardware accelerators that have emerged to help corporations, research establishments and investors meet 'the need for speed' in this new wave of robotics innovation and commercialization.

4:05 pm. Panel Discussion: Making it Happen

Richard Kikuta, Director of Analytics and Advanced Technology, Ministry of Economic Development and Growth/Ministry of Research, Innovation and Science

Andra Keay, Managing Director, Silicon Valley Robotics

Hallie Siegel, Innovation Strategist

Dr. Farzad Rayegani, Dean of Applied Technology, Humber College

Dr. William Melek, Director of Mechatronics Engineering, University of Waterloo

Canada's innovation strategy is incomplete without a comprehensive robotics program. There are sophisticated robotics initiatives developing autonomous vehicles, medical robots, search and rescue, micro-robotics, and the range of collaborative and personal robots. Markets are exploding. Our panel will explore the global opportunities, what's holding us back – and how to capitalize on recent changes to build a vibrant robotics industry.

5:00 pm. Networking

Biographies



Andra Keay

Managing Director, Silicon Valley Robotics

Andra Keay is Managing Director and Founder of Silicon Valley Robotics, America's leading non-profit robotics cluster with more than 75% of the world's robotics startups and investments. Commercializing innovation is at the heart of Silicon Valley Robotics, and lessons learned here can be applied globally. SVR partners with organizations worldwide to develop ecosystems, teach innovation practices, and provide a landing pad for visiting companies looking to connect with robotics and AI startups and investors. Andra is an expert in aligning the multidisciplinary stakeholders required in a high tech innovation cluster, and speaks regularly on the growing business of AI, robotics, and the ethical issues that emerge.



Richard Kikuta

Director of the Analytics and Advanced Technology, Ministry of Economic Development and Growth / Ministry of Research, Innovation and Science

Richard Kikuta has extensive public and private sector experience and is the Director of the Analytics and Advanced Technology Branch of the Research, Science and Strategy Division at the Ministry of Economic Development and Growth/Ministry of Research, Innovation and Science. He leads a team looking at the implications of disruptive technologies on the province's future, and the use of analytics in Ministry strategy/policy. His group of disruptive technology "gurus" understand technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Robotics, Personalized Medicine, Virtual/Augmented Reality, provide trusted advice to government and spearhead analysis of their economic impacts and potential government strategies/policies. His analytics group is focused on analyzing the economic impacts of policy/strategy including tax changes, trade, productivity, and other competitive actions.

Richard has a deep understanding of economic development and innovation enablement through his roles in the Ministry. He led the Ministry's direct business support programs including the \$2B+ Jobs & Prosperity Fund. He was the lead director for the Ministry's entrepreneurship programs and his team managed the Ontario Network of Entrepreneurs (ONE). Richard led the Ministry's investment attraction in the ICT, Life Sciences and Financial Services areas, which enabled the province to be the leading North American investment attraction location for two years in a row.

In the private sector, Richard was the Global Director of Mergers & Acquisitions leading transactions in Germany, Japan, China and the US. He was the Global Director Corporate Business Development and invested in startups, Venture Capital Funds as a strategic, potential M&A candidates, and developed investment strategies for entering markets such as China. He was the Global Director Technology Licensing and led Intellectual Property licensing deals for major wireless and radio technologies in the US, China, and UK worth hundreds of millions in sales.

Biographies



Dr. William Melek

Director of Mechatronics Engineering, University of Waterloo

Dr. William Melek is the Director of Mechatronics Engineering at University of Waterloo. He was awarded the Young Engineer Medal of Professional Engineers Ontario in 2006, and is Past President of the North American Fuzzy Information Processing Society (NAFIPS). Dr. Melek's research on autonomous driving focuses on sensor fusion for off-road skid steer vehicles to enable map building through simultaneous localization and mapping (SLAM). His research in this area also spans optimal and intelligent control of vehicle subsystems. He develops machine learning algorithms for motion tracking, path planning and control of robotic systems. He is experienced in design and configuration optimization for multi-degree of freedom modular and reconfigurable robotic arms.



Dr. Farzad Rayegani

Dean of Applied Technology, Humber College

Dean of Applied Technology at Humber College, Dr. Farzad Rayegani has been developing a unique curriculum structure based on a new philosophy for engineering education. The framework educates students to Conceive, Design, Implement and Operate complex, value-added engineering products, processes and systems in modern, team-based, global environment. Rich in project-based, hands-on learning, he aims to produce engineers who are 'ready to engineer' when they graduate.

He has authored and co-authored numerous publications and has extensive experience consulting with industry. His career in higher education spans over 20 years and includes time as a faculty member, researcher, manager, director and associate dean. Dr. Rayegani is designated an Engineers Canada Fellow by Engineers Canada. This prestigious award is presented in recognition of exceptional contributions to the engineering profession in Canada.



Hallie Siegel

Innovation Strategist

Hallie Siegel is an innovation strategist with a focus on strategic communications in the fields of robotics, automation and AI. Hallie works with startups, universities, and other organizations in the robotics sector to build thought leadership and plan for change. As the first Managing Editor of the international robotics news website Robohub.org, Hallie helped to build a global network of over 150 expert contributors and a monthly readership of 75,000. She currently holds the Dean's Scholarship at the Strategic Foresight and Innovation Lab at OCAD University.

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Innovators. Ideas. Insight.

The GYBO Robotics Network is a platform to build the visibility of the robotics community. We encourage formal and informal collaborations, knowledge sharing and discussion to help the community hone their skills. We host the Women in Robotics speaker series and the GYBO Meetups that offer innovators and entrepreneurs a place to share their projects, products and challenges and tap into the distributed knowledge of their peers. Our workshops encourage interdisciplinary collaboration, foster knowledge-sharing and develop literacy in this complex and evolving domain. We are always looking for speakers, sponsors and volunteers. Find us on Twitter and join us on Meetup. For more information go to www.gyborobotics.com or email adriana@gyborobotics.com



Disruptor

Insight and Innovation

Disruptive technologies displace established practices and lay the foundation for powerful change. Often poorly understood, they can initially be relegated to the sidelines, capturing little or no market share. But as they mature and become pervasive, disruptive technologies frequently unleash aftershocks that spark new innovations, new services, new products, new models. What was once unimaginable becomes the status quo.

Disruptor specializes in disruptive ideas. Communicating them. Implementing them. Sometimes even inventing them.

Laura William
lwilliam@disruptor.ca

SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

