

Career Event January 30, 2020

Speaker Bios

Daniel Badali

Consultant

BSc (University of Toronto)

MSc (University of Hamburg)

PhD (University of Hamburg)

Daniel holds a B.Sc. in Biological Physics and Mathematics from the University of Toronto, and MSc and PhD degrees in Physics for work he did at the Max Planck Institute for the Structure and Dynamics of Matter. In his academic research he specialized in linear accelerator design, processing large amounts of noisy image data, and developing iterative reconstruction algorithms. For the last 5 years he has been doing contract R&D work, first at a premier consulting firm in Silicon Valley, and more recently through his own consulting company Lighthouse Scientific. Daniel has a range of industrial experience developing medical and analytic devices, with a specialty in biomedical optics and radiation systems.

Steven Leonard

Entrepreneur

BSc (Queens University)

MSc (University of Guelph)

PhD (University of Toronto)

After earning an MSc in gravitational wave theory from the University of Guelph and a PhD in experimental laser physics from the University of Toronto, Steve went on to work at several startup companies in telecommunications, software and medical diagnostics. Steve has worked in numerous roles that include scientific research, product development, business development, strategy, and intellectual property management. Steve is a Registered US and Canadian Patent Agent, and is currently an associate at Hill and Schumacher, a boutique IP firm in Toronto. Steve's intellectual property practice includes drafting and prosecuting patent applications and advising tech startups, teaching hospitals, and universities on patent strategy. Steve is also a co-founder at Qvella, a medical diagnostics startup that is located in Richmond Hill. Qvella is developing a rapid molecular test for diagnosing sepsis, and Steve's role at Qvella focuses on intellectual property and strategy.

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Eisha Patel

Data Scientist

BSc (University of Toronto)

MSc (Ryerson University)

Eisha Patel has a unique educational background coming out of the University of Toronto's Physical Sciences and Mathematics Program. Her background in physics has equipped her with indispensable problem-solving and research skills. After spending 2 years in the work-force, she realized she wanted to pursue a post-grad degree that would allow her to find a field-related job position. So Eisha recently obtained her MSc degree in Data Science at Ryerson University. Data Science is an interdisciplinary field that combines expertise from several domains. As a Data scientist, she possesses a diverse set of skills such as statistics, mathematics, machine learning, programming, data visualization, communication, and domain expertise. Graduates like Eisha are highly trained and qualified individuals who can pursue careers in the industry, government or research. Eisha has acquired the technical knowledge required to answer questions critical to a company's success and has also gained the managerial skills to implement her findings and communicate them effectively.

Kirsten Vanstone

Executive Director, Royal Canadian Institute for Science (RCIScience)

BSc (Astronomy and Physics, UofT)

MSciComm (Central Queensland University)

Kirsten is a non-profit manager specializing in science engagement and science communication. She has worked in museums as an educator, exhibition content lead and manager, and is also a freelance script and feature story writer. Kirsten began her career in science engagement at the Ontario Science Centre and practiced her skills at UofT Department of Physics and Astronomy outreach events. She is also a member of the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada, where she continues to volunteer. She has worked at the California Academy of Sciences and the Royal Ontario Museum as well. Kirsten maintains ties to the museum and planetarium community through her volunteer work with the RASC, Earthshine Astronomy and Space Place organizations. As the first Executive Director of Canada's oldest, public scientific society, the Royal Canadian Institute (RCIScience), Kirsten's goal is to increase the impact of science engagement programs to strengthen Canada's science culture.