

University of Akron

Fall 2018 STEM Forum Speaker Bios and Titles of Their Talks - October 30, 2018



Dr. Brian Davis – Innovation Talk Title: "A path from math: how geometrical concepts lead to heart implants"

Dr. Brian Davis, graduated from the University of Cape Town with degrees in engineering and from Penn State with a PhD in Exercise and Sport Science. He has served as President of the International Society of Biomechanics and has been recognized as a Fellow by that society. He has conducted research ranging from designing instruments for use on the International Space Station to inventing new medical devices at the Cleveland Clinic. He served as Chairman of Biomedical Engineering at The University of Akron from 2012 to 2018 and is currently Director of Research for the College of Engineering. Over the course of his career he has secured over \$25,000,000 in grant funding.



Dr. James Keszenheimer – Innovation Talk Title: "Innovation and Commercialization of Laser Technologies"

Dr. Keszenheimer holds both Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Physics from John Carroll University, an M.B.A. from Myers University, and a Ph.D. in Electrical Engineering from Tufts University. He joined the University of Akron in 2014. Dr. Keszenheimer began his career researching lasers and fiber optic instruments before transitioning his interests to the commercialization of technology. He has over 25 years of technology and business development experience and is a leading expert in photonics. He has worked at several government-funded labs including NASA, AVCO-TEXTRON, MIT Lincoln Lab, and Draper Lab. Dr. Keszenheimer has been involved in start-up companies since college and has co-founded or assisted early stage-companies in Boston, Silicon Valley, Princeton, and Ohio, with over \$150M invested. His commercial interests have covered biomedical, communications, imaging, industrial, aerospace, as well as consumer products. He has delivered products to a broad range of markets by applying his combined business and technical acumen. Dr. Keszenheimer recently served as Director of the Wright Center for Sensor System Engineering (WCSSE) at Cleveland State University where he was managed \$24M in grants to various Ohio research institutions. He currently serves as mentor and advisory board member to entrepreneurs and startups.



Dr. Ajay Mahajan – Innovation Talk Title: "Ultra Low Cost/High Tech Remote Monitoring Platforms: Potential Impact on Healthcare"

Dr. Ajay Mahajan is a tenured Professor (Mechanical Engineering and Biomedical Engineering departments) at The University of Akron, USA. He is the Chair of the Investment Committee for the Akron BioInnovation Fund II (ABFII), a venture fund for the city of Akron. He was the Associate Vice President for Innovation for the University and the Associate Dean for Research in the College of Engineering till 2015. In the past he has worked with NASA, US DoD, US Federal Highway, as well as companies such as Timken, Caterpillar and Medtronic. He has also worked with two Formula One race teams (Renault F1 and Toyota F1). He is the Co-Founder and President of Clipius Technologies, a high-tech device company, and serves on the Board of many organizations/companies. He has developed numerous biomedical devices and also run cadaver labs for Medtronic while testing their new devices for FDA approval and marketing claims. Four years ago, he served on President Barak Obama's Advanced Manufacturing Partnership (AMP2.0) initiative at the White House that has helped focus billions of dollars of funding to provide the US with a competitive edge in advanced manufacturing for the next twenty years.



Dr. Gopal Nadkarni – Innovation Talk Title: "Imagineering your Future: If you can dream it, you can build it!"

Dr. Gopal Nadkarni is currently an Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering at the University of Akron. In 2016 he became a co-founder and investor of an Agro-tech startup in Bangalore, India. He has graduate degrees in Manufacturing and Mechanical Engineering from the University of Waterloo and the University of New Brunswick (UNB), Canada. He has worked in R&D, technology marketing strategy, sales, branding as well as implementation of supply chain in the automotive industry for over 30 years. Prior to joining the University of Akron as The Director, Proof of Concept Center, he was VP, Applied Technology at the Shale-Inland Corporation developing innovative metal laminate products. Dr. Nadkarni's interests are in invention, innovation & commercialization, a passion he brings to mentoring technologically minded students interested to create their own startups