



**Dr. Elissa Strome**

**Associate VP Research and Executive Director, Pan-Canadian AI Strategy, CIFAR**

Elissa was appointed Executive Director of the CIFAR Pan-Canadian AI Strategy in January 2018 and Associate VP Research in March 2019. Elissa completed her PhD in Neuroscience from the University of British Columbia in 2006. Following a post-doc at Lund University, in Sweden, she decided to pursue a career in research strategy, policy and leadership. From 2008 – 2015 she held senior leadership positions at University of Toronto's Office of the Vice-President, Research and Innovation, advancing major institutional strategic research priorities, including establishing and leading the SOSCIP research consortium. At CIFAR, she is working with Canada's three national AI Institutes in Edmonton (Amii), Montreal (Mila), and Toronto (Vector Institute) and researchers across the country to advance Canada's leadership in AI research and Innovation. She is a member of the federal government's AI Advisory Council and the OECD Network of Experts on AI.



**Avi Goldfarb**

**Chief Data Scientist, Creative Destruction Lab**

Avi Goldfarb is the Rotman Chair in Artificial Intelligence and Healthcare, and Professor of Marketing, at the Rotman School of Management, University of Toronto. Avi is also Chief Data Scientist at the Creative Destruction Lab, Senior Editor at Marketing Science, a faculty affiliate at the Vector Institute for Artificial Intelligence, and a Research Associate at the National Bureau of Economic Research. He has published over 80 academic articles in a variety of outlets in marketing, statistics, law, management, medicine, computing, and economics. Along with Ajay Agrawal and Joshua Gans, Avi is the author of the Globe & Mail bestselling book *Prediction Machines: The Simple Economics of Artificial Intelligence*. Avi received his Ph.D. in economics from Northwestern University.



**Sheldon Fernandez**

**CEO, DarwinAI**

Sheldon Fernandez is a seasoned executive and respected thought leader in the technical and enterprise communities. Throughout his career, he has applied emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence to the enterprise. First, in his capacity as CTO at Infusion, the company he founded out of Waterloo with five partners that grew to 700 people. Then subsequently, at Avanade, the organization that acquired Infusion in March of 2017.

Sheldon is also an accomplished author and speaker. He has spoken at numerous conferences in numerous contexts, including Singularity University and MIT technology conference, and has written technical books and articles on many topics. Through his career, Sheldon has coupled his entrepreneurial endeavors with non-technical pursuits, resulting in an interdisciplinary approach that is critical to the intelligent application of AI. In addition to his BSc in Computer Engineering from the University of Waterloo, he completed a Master's degree in theology at the University of Toronto with thesis work in neuroscience and metaethics and also pursued creative writing at Oxford University.



**Eli Fathi**

**CEO, MindBridge**

Eli Fathi is CEO at MindBridge, developer of the world's first auditing tool based upon artificial intelligence and machine learning technologies – Ai Auditor – to uncover errors in financial data. Eli has been a technology entrepreneur for over 30 years, having founded or co-founded many successful technology companies. Eli was recognized as the 2018 AI Leader of the Year by the Digital Finance Institute and is a prolific speaker, including talks at the AICPA, Startup Canada Day on the Hill, and TEDx. Eli also gives back to the community by mentoring future business leaders and sitting on the boards of various non-profit organizations.



**Saroop Bharwani**

**Cofounder and CEO, SensoAI**

Senso's Founder, Saroop Bharwani, is a serial tech entrepreneur who has spent over a decade building product and growth teams across global 100 enterprises and high-growth startups. Having been ingrained in Toronto's tech ecosystem since the early 2000s, Saroop and his team were well positioned to build a platform which helps digital-first businesses embed predictive intelligence into their workflows to increase client portfolio growth and retention using advanced forms of machine intelligence.



**Stephany Lapierre**

**Founder and CEO, Tealbook**

Stephany Lapierre is the founder/CEO of Tealbook, a highly coveted supply chain thought leader, and one of the most influential minds in emerging data technologies. She has been recognized as one of the Top 100 Most Influential Women in Supply Chain, and her company, Tealbook, has both been named a Top 50 company to watch by Spend Matters and won the Cool Vendor Award by Gartner. Prior to Tealbook, Stephany spent 10 years building a successful strategic sourcing and procurement consulting firm focusing on large scale sourcing optimization projects. Given her experience and visibility into the data issues crippling procurement she has made it her mission is to deliver a 'Trusted Source of Supplier Data' to an ever-growing eProcurement space. Currently, Tealbook is the only Big Data company that provides a self-enriching and self-maintaining mechanism to fix enterprise supplier data, forever.



**Cameron Schuler**

**Chief Commercialization Officer & VP, Industry Innovation, Vector Institute**

Cameron Schuler is the Chief Commercialization Officer & Vice President, Industry Innovation at the Vector Institute. He is the former Executive Director of Amii (amii.ca), where, for 8 years, he led one of the top-ranked Machine Learning and AI groups in the world. Cameron's multifaceted career has covered finance, business & product development, consumer products, IT and general management from start-ups to mature companies. His industry experience includes Alternative Energy, Banking, Consumer Products, Information Technology (Consumer and Enterprise), Investment Sales and Trading, Life Sciences, Manufacturing, Medical Devices, Oil & Gas, and Oil & Gas Services. Roles have included COO, CFO, President and CEO and he was COO & CFO of a food manufacturer whose products lead to sales of over 250 million units.

He has founded numerous start-up companies (including medical devices as well as computer software & hardware). Cameron is Chair & Co-founder of VibeDx Diagnostic Corp., was Managing Director & Co-Founder of Schuler Law Group, a boutique tax planning law firm and spent 8 years in investment sales & trading. In addition to being an A100 Member (thea100.org), he attained an MBA from Queen's University and is a Certified Investment Manager and Fellow of the Canadian Securities Institute.