

### **AI & Society Task Force**

Reflective of the research community at York to which Al is relevant

Providing strategic advice that represents broader community interests

Develop ideas and examine options for building and featuring York's research strengths and curricular offerings in the area of Artificial Intelligence and its implications for society

Solicit advice from the York community, generate recommendations on how to advance York's research, scholarship and academic programming in Al Provide a series of high-level recommendations by spring 2019

# **AI & Society Task Force - Membership**

- Pina D'Agostino (Co-Chair), Associate Professor, Osgoode
- James Elder (Co-Chair), Professor & York Research Chair, Psychology, Health, EECS, Lassonde
- Kristin Andrews, Associate Professor & York Research Chair, Philosophy, LA&PS
- Barbara Edwards, Senior Policy Advisor, Research, (Task Force Support), VPRI
- Aviv Gaon, PhD Student, Osgoode
- Hui Jiang, iFLYTEK Endowed Professor, EECS, Lassonde
- Murat Kristal, Associate Professor, Management Science, Schulich
- Rebecca Pillai Riddell, Professor & Associate Vice-President Research, VPRI, Psychology, Health
- Alice Pitt, Professor & Vice-Provost Academic
- Mark Roseman, Director, SIRI, Office of Research Services, VPRI
- Shayna Rosenbaum, Professor & York Research Chair, Psychology, Health
- Terry Sachlos, Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering, Lassonde
- Ian Stedman, PhD Student, Osgoode
- Ruth Urner, Assistant Professor, EECS, Lassonde
- Graham Wakefield, Assistant Professor & Canada Research Chair, Visual Art & Art History, AMPD
- Jianhong Wu, Professor & Canada Research Chair, Mathematics & Statistics, Science

**Faculty Recruiting** 

**Graduate Student and Postdoc Recruiting & Training** 

Space/ Infrastructure

**Curriculum / Academic Partnerships** 

**Networking: Seminars, Websites, Social Media** 

**Ethics** 

Intellectual Property, Commercialization & Entrepreneurship

**Public & Private Sector Partnerships** 

International Partnerships/ Integration

**Areas of Research Focus** 

#### **Working Groups:**

- → Summarize current status @ York & identify major issues
- → Compare to other institutions
- → Propose key recommendations, where to we want to go from here to differentiate/ distinguish York

# Faculty Recruiting

- What are the existing resources available to attract top talent?
- Do we have Canada Research Chairs or ability to attract?
- Potential for industry partnerships to endow chairships?
- Diversity: what we have and what we need to get
- Potential for cross-appointments?
- How do we recruit/retain faculty given headhunting from industry
- Potential for joint positions with industry?



## **Grad Student and Postdoc Recruiting & Training**

- How do we attract top talent?
- How do we train top talent to be academic and AI industry ready?
- What are the available resources to attract top talent? Scholarships to attract students from far and wide?
- How important are international grad students to AI research at York? How can we relax restrictions on recruiting international grad students?

### Space / Infrastructure

- Review of existing space & infrastructure; identify gaps or ability for greater efficiencies
- Is space and infrastructure required to attract top talent?
- Do we need an actual AI footprint/ORU?
- Are there any industry/provincial/federal resources we can tap into?
- What is the importance of a research-focused AI building (cf. MIT's AI Lab, now CSAIL)



### Curriculum / Academic Partnerships

- Survey existing curriculum
- Identify curricular interventions necessary to promote AI
- What are the resource implications for developing AI curriculum?

### Networking: Seminars, Websites, Social Media

- What has already happened/review of past activities and outputs
- What needs to happen (engagement with industry and community)?
- What are the available resources? What are the resource requirements?

#### **Ethics**

- Can we identify some areas where AI has potential to do the greatest good for society? Should we promote these research directions?
- Should York establish an ethical position on issues relating to AI (bias, data ownership, privacy, etc.)?

### Intellectual Property, Commercialization & Entrepreneurship

- What are York's current strengths and resources in this area?
- Can York be a leader in research and practice in IP law for AI?
- How can we facilitate IP protection for AI research @ York
- How can we facilitate licensing?
- How can we facilitate start-ups? Incubators? Joint grad programs with Schulich? Team projects with Schulich?

### Public & Private Sector Partnerships

- Review of existing relationships
- 'Nexus' labs where public/private sector staff can have temporary space to facilitate interaction?
- Marketing campaign focused on GTA, particularly North York, Vaughan, Markham?
- Additional permanent York staff who can handle complex agreements and negotiations?



## International Partnerships / Integration

- With which international universities do we have strong/growing connections in AI domain?
- What international university partnerships would be most strategic for York's AI vision?
- How can international partnerships strengthen our access to top grad students?

#### Areas of Research Focus

- What are areas of current strengths in AI@York (core and applications)
- How are we distinguished from our competitors in these areas?
- What areas/questions do we predict to be most important in the next 5/10 years?
- How can we draw on York's broader strengths outside the AI domain to define a unique made@York AI strategy?



### **AI & Society Task Force**

We want to hear from you....

Please send your thoughts to Co-Chairs:

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James Elder: <u>jelder@yorku.ca</u>

