SURA 2026 Symposium Presenters

Monday, February 23rd, Day 1

Dr. Chaitan Baru, Section Head for Emerging Technologies in the Technology, Innovation, and Partnerships (TIP) Directorate at the National Science Foundation (NSF)

Over the past decade at NSF, Dr. Baru has held a series of senior leadership roles, including Senior Advisor for Data Science in the Computer and Information Science and Engineering (CISE) Directorate (2014–2018), Senior Advisor for the Convergence Accelerator (2019–2021), and Senior Advisor for the TIP Directorate (2022–2025). He assumed his current role as Section Head for Emerging Technologies in August 2025.

The TIP Directorate focuses on translating and accelerating critical technologies into practice to drive economic growth, workforce development, and the creation of high-quality, high-wage jobs. The Emerging Technologies portfolio spans artificial intelligence, quantum information science and applications, biotechnology, semiconductors, advanced materials, and disaster response and management.

Prior to joining NSF, Dr. Baru spent 25 years at the San Diego Supercomputer Center at the University of California, San Diego, he held multiple leadership positions, and his research spanned all aspects of data science across a very wide range of science discipline. Earlier in his career, he served in the IBM Database Group and as a member of the faculty in the Electrical Engineering and Computer Science Department at the University of Michigan.

Dr. Michael Williams, Deputy Director of the NSF AI Institute for Artificial Intelligence and Fundamental Interactions and Professor of Physics at MIT

Professor Williams is the founder and leader of the LHCb group at MIT and the inaugural Deputy Director of the NSF AI Institute for Artificial Intelligence and Fundamental Interactions (IAIFI). He is primarily focused on searching for as-yet-unknown particles and forces, possibly components of the dark sector of matter, and on studying largely unexplored emergent properties of QCD. The LHCb group at MIT is a leader in the LHCb real-time data-processing system. To enable his scientific pursuits, Mike also works on advancing the usage of machine learning algorithms and other state-of-the-art data-science tools within the domain of particle physics research, and on advancing our understanding of AI itself.

Mike Williams joined the MIT Physics Department as an Assistant Professor in July 2012. He grew up in the suburbs of Pittsburgh, received his undergraduate degree in Mathematics and Physics from Saint Vincent College in 2001 and his Ph.D. from Carnegie Mellon University in 2007. He was a postdoctoral researcher at Imperial College London from 2008-2012.

Dr. Tanja Horn, Professor of Physics at Catholic University of America

Dr. Horn's research in medium energy nuclear physics and applications focuses in the near and intermediate term on Jefferson Lab 12 GeV and in the long term on the US-based Electron-Ion Collider. Her science program aims at understanding light-meson structure and masses and providing essential constraints for 3D hadron imaging. An intertwined focus over the last decade has been to include AI/ML methods to expedite the science output. She is leading the Neutral Particle Spectrometer collaboration from its inception and is spokesperson for five Jefferson Lab experiments. Prof. Horn has a joint affiliation with Jefferson Lab and served on several DOE and NSF committees, including the Nuclear Science Advisory Committee, the NSAC Long Range Plan Writing Committee, and the Office of Science cross-examination of scientific opportunities and challenges from the intersection of Artificial Intelligence with data-intensive science. Prof. Horn has managed multiple NSF awards and has been leading two Major Research Instrumentation projects as well as a Research Experience for Undergraduates Site. She has been recognized for her work developing technology transfer partnerships between universities, national labs, and small businesses, and led several DOE Small Business Technology Transfer projects. She has served as spokesperson of the EIC ECCE detector proposal, Chair of the APS Topical Group of Hadronic Physics, the ISNET board, and has been on Fellowship, Program, and Dissertation Award Committees. Prof. Horn has organized and chaired multiple international workshops and conferences including the AI4EIC workshop series and the AI4NP Winter School and has over 100 publications in refereed journals on a variety of topics including a highly cited review article on machine learning in nuclear physics. She has mentored 32 high school and undergraduate, 7 graduate students, and 7 postdoctoral researchers.

Dr. Anuj Karpatne, Associate Professor of Computer Science at Virginia Tech

Dr. Anuj Karpatne is an Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Science at Virginia Tech (VT), where he also serves as a College of Engineering (COE) Faculty Fellow and Dean's Fellow. A key focus of Dr. Karpatne's research is to advance the field of knowledge-guided machine learning for applications in several domains including climate science, hydrology, ecology, geophysics, trait-based biology, mechanobiology, quantum mechanics, and fluid dynamics. He received the Faculty Fellow award for Excellence in Research from COE at VT in 2025, NAIRR Pilot Award for which he was invited to speak at the White House in 2024, NSF CAREEER Award in 2023, the Outstanding New Assistant Professor Award by COE at VT in 2022, the Rising Star Faculty Award by the Department of Computer Science at VT in 2021, and the Inaugural Research Fellow by the IS-GEO Research Coordination Network in 2019. He currently serves as an Associate Editor for the ACM Transactions on Knowledge Discovery from Data (TKDD) journal. Dr. Karpatne is also a co-author of the second edition of the textbook, "Introduction to Data Mining", and the lead editor of the first comprehensive book on "Knowledge-guided Machine Learning".

Dr. Jens Dilling, Jefferson Lab Director

Jens Dilling, a renowned physicist, is widely recognized for his contributions to nuclear physics, isotope science, and large-scale facility development. He brings more than 25 years of scientific leadership and management experience to the role.

Dr. Dilling leads Jefferson Lab's more than 900 employees and five accelerators, including the most well-known, the Continuous Electron Beam Accelerator Facility (CEBAF). As Laboratory Director, Dr. Dilling provides the vision for the lab's operations and future and oversees the successful delivery of its research program while also ensuring Jefferson Lab complies with DOE regulations and fulfills its mission.

Prior to joining TJNAF, DR. Dilling served as associate laboratory director for neutron sciences at Oak Ridge National Laboratory (ORNL), leading the High Flux Isotope Reactor and Spallation Neutron Source (SNS) research portfolios. His prior experience includes more than 20 years at TRIUMF, Canada's national particle accelerator center, where he played a pivotal role in establishing one of the world's leading isotope science programs.

Dr. Dilling holds a doctorate in atomic and nuclear physics from the University of Heidelberg in Germany. He has received numerous prestigious awards, including the Rutherford Memorial Medal of the Royal Society of Canada for breakthrough discoveries in nuclear physics and the Scientific Achievement Award from the European Exotic Nuclei Community. Dr. Dilling also was named a fellow of the American Physical Society and has been serving on many international advisory boards and scientific committees, demonstrating his commitment to fostering collaboration across the global research community.

Dr. Shantenu Jha, Head of the Computer Science Department at Princeton Plasma Physics Laboratory

Shantenu Jha is a professor of computer engineering at Rutgers University-New Brunswick and the head of computational sciences at the DOE's Princeton Lab. His primary research lies at the intersection of AI for Science, high-performance computing, and computational and data science. His research is driven by the modest goal of achieving an orders-of-magnitude increase in scientific computing performance within the next decade. He has received the ACM Gordon Bell Special Award (2020), numerous other awards in supercomputing, and was the winner of IEEE SCALE 2018 and the NSF CAREER Award (2013).

Dr. Laura Biven, Chief Data Officer at Jefferson Lab

Laura Biven is the Chief Data Officer for Jefferson Laboratory where she leads data strategy in support of the Jefferson Lab and DOE missions.
Prior to joining Jefferson Lab, Laura led the Integrated Infrastructure and Emerging Technologies branch at the NIH Office of Data Science Strategy. In this role, she led the development of federated, interoperable data infrastructure and multi-disciplinary, NIH-wide research programs in artificial intelligence. Her projects included the NIH Cloud Platform Interoperability program, the Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning Consortium to Advance Health Equity and Researcher Diversity (AIM-AHEAD) program, and the Advancing Health Research through Ethical, Multimodal AI Initiative.
Before joining NIH, Laura spent 12 years at the Department of Energy, where she led strategic efforts in data management and data science including the development and implementation of the department-wide data management plan requirements; the PuRE Data initiative; and a portfolio of research in data management, analysis, and visualization.
Laura began in public service as a AAAS Science and Technology Policy Fellow, serving first in the U.S. Department of Agriculture and then in the Department of State. She holds a first class MSci in math and physics from the University of Bristol and a Ph.D. in applied mathematics from the University of Warwick, both in the UK.

Ms. Diana McSpadden, Data Steward at Jefferson Lab

Diana McSpadden is a Data Scientist – Data Steward in Jefferson Lab's Chief Data Office. She leverages artificial intelligence and data science to advance scientific programs. Her work has spanned projects from fundamental nuclear physics to regional flood prediction. She collaborates with lab scientists across the DOE complex for the Genesis Mission to prepare research assets for AI workflows. She has particular interest in FAIR principles (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable) and ensuring AI-readiness with proper documentation, governance, and machine-actionable metadata.
Her key areas of interest include ethical AI, uncertainty quantification in safety-critical contexts (e.g., experimental control), and applied resilience work such as coastal Virginia flood-risk efforts that connect scientific insights to community impact. Diana will lead the AI + Ethics breakout at the 2026 SURA Symposium, connecting these interests to ethical AI culture in scientific research.

Dr. David Dean, Deputy Director for Science at Jefferson Lab

David Dean is the Deputy Director for Science and Technology (DDST) and Chief Research Officer at Thomas Jefferson National Accelerator Facility. Throughout his career, Dean has been instrumental in pursuing new programs and capabilities that capitalize on institutional strengths.

Dr. Dean is an accomplished theoretical and computational physicist, working in the areas of quantum manybody physics as applied to nuclear structure, astrophysics, and quantum chromodynamics. Dean has shepherded the lab's Science & Technology portfolio during the past 3½ years, ensuring that project execution for MOLLER (Measurement of a Lepton-Lepton Electroweak Reaction) and the Electron-Ion Collider (EIC) remain on track and that the Continuous Electron Beam Accelerator Facility enables a broad user community to perform world-leading investigations of the strong nuclear force.

Prior to joining Jefferson Lab in January of 2022, Dr. Dean led a large national team of scientists in proposing the Quantum Science Center at ORNL and was its inaugural director for two years. His seminal work in quantum information science included the first publication of a quantum computer calculation of ground-state properties of the deuteron. Prior to his associate laboratory director and Physics Division director positions at ORNL, Dean was senior advisor to the Under Secretary for Science at the DOE.

Dr. Dean is a fellow of the American Physical Society and the American Association for the Advancement of Science. He has served on numerous advisory boards and panels. He was a post-doctoral fellow in physics at Caltech and received a doctorate in physics from Vanderbilt in 1991. He has more than 200 publications in theoretical and computational physics.

Ms. Lisa Surles-Law, STEM Workforce Development Manager at Jefferson Lab

Surles-Law brings more than 35 years of service at Jefferson Lab, where her journey began as a student intern and evolved into a career dedicated to education, mentorship, and workforce development. With academic foundations in biology and counseling, she designs and leads programs that are intellectually stimulating, safe, and enriching for learners at every stage. A strong advocate for access in STEM, she is committed to creating innovative pathways that expand students' understanding of what is possible for their futures and inspire sustained engagement in science and technology.

Tuesday, February 24th, Day 2

Dr. Jamie Winterton, Chief Research Officer at Boston Fusion

As Chief Research Officer, Jamie Winterton is responsible for designing and leading Boston Fusion's company-wide research strategy, enabling the team to develop revolutionary scientific solutions to national defense challenges. Jamie leads marketing and shaping efforts across the company, and provides senior-level mentorship on strategically important programs.

Dr. Winterton's expertise comes from a long history in both academic and commercial defense research. As the Senior Director of Research Strategy at Arizona State University's Global Security Initiative, she designed interdisciplinary research concepts, oversaw GSI's large-scale research centers, and chaired the university's DARPA Working Group. As a staff scientist at Lockheed-Martin's Advanced Technology Center, Jamie directed projects in electro-optical and radar processing for military organizations that were recognized by the Pentagon for innovation and mission utility.

Jamie holds a B.S. in Physics from Arizona State University, an M.S. in Physics from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst, and a PhD in Cybersecurity Policy from ASU. Her doctoral research focused on misaligned incentives in U.S. federal cybersecurity policy.

Dr. Winterton is a strong advocate of interdisciplinary research. She believes that honesty, creativity, and inclusion are critical to research success. Outside of work, Jamie runs the Call for Papers (CFP) at CactusCon, the largest annual hacking and security conference in Arizona. She also enjoys painting, woodworking, archery, and spending time with her family, which includes far more pets than is reasonable.

Dr. Brynn Voy, UT-ORII Interim Executive Director and Education Director

Brynn Voy is the Education Director and interim Executive Director of the UT-Oak Ridge Innovation Institute, and a Professor in Animal Science, University of Tennessee, Knoxville. Prior to joining the faculty of UT, Brynn was a Staff Scientist in the Biosciences Division at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. She holds a PhD in Physiology from UTK.

Dr. Adrian Del Maestro, Professor and Head of the Department of Physics & Astronomy at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Adrian Del Maestro is Professor and Head of the Department of Physics & Astronomy at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville, with an additional appointment in the Min H. Kao Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science. He leads an interdisciplinary research group focused on AI for quantum materials at the Center for Advanced Materials and Manufacturing, a NSF-funded Materials Research Science and Engineering Center. His work applies high-performance computing and artificial intelligence to understand how collective and cooperative states of matter can be harnessed for future quantum technologies.

Del Maestro earned his Ph.D. in Physics from Harvard University in 2008, where he studied quantum phase transitions in superconductors. He then held postdoctoral appointments at the University of British Columbia and the Institute for Quantum Matter, a joint initiative between Johns Hopkins University and Princeton University. Before joining Tennessee in 2020, he was Professor of Physics with a joint appointment in Materials Science at the University of Vermont and served as Director of the Vermont Advanced Computing Core, where he engaged with public and private stakeholders to provide high-performance computing resources to partners across Vermont.

Dr. Joseph Glover, Interim Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, University of Florida

Dr. Joe Glover served as UF provost from 2008 to 2023, then returned as interim provost in 2024. Among other initiatives, he has spearheaded UF's embrace of AI, including UF's partnership with NVIDIA to create HiPerGator, the most powerful supercomputer in academia. He also led academic leaders in the UF Preeminence Plan, a multiyear effort to recruit all-star faculty in key fields that helped drive UF's rise into the Top Ten among public universities. UF launched UF Online, the Pathway to Campus Enrollment program and the UF Innovation Academy under his leadership.

Dr. Glover's previous positions include associate provost for academic affairs, interim dean and associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and chair of the math department. He received his bachelor's degree in mathematics from Cornell University and his master's and doctoral degrees in mathematics from the University of California, San Diego. He taught at the University of California, Berkeley, and the University of Rochester before joining the UF faculty.

Dr. Chrysoula Malogianni, Senior Associate Vice President of Digital Innovation & Chief Digital Experience Officer at Old Dominion University

Dr. Chrysoula Malogianni is the Senior Associate Vice President for Digital Innovation at Old Dominion University, where she leads enterprise-wide digital transformation and artificial intelligence strategy across academic, research, and operational domains. She holds a Master's degree in Educational Technology, a PhD in Instructional Design and Technology, and a postgraduate certificate in Advanced Educational Leadership. Chrysoula's work is grounded in the intersection of AI, human cognition, and large-scale system design, with a focus on how digital technologies shape thinking, decision-making, and performance at scale. With more than 15 years of leadership experience, she is nationally recognized for building ethical, human-centered AI-enabled ecosystems that advance institutional effectiveness, access, and long-term sustainability.

Dr. Alyson Wilson, Vice Provost for Research at the College of William and Mary

Dr. Wilson is a distinguished research and innovation leader with experience spanning academia, industry, and government. Currently serving as the Vice Provost for Research and Professor of Data Science at William & Mary, she oversees the research enterprise, focusing on continued research growth, enhancing infrastructure and administrative efficiency, and fostering collaboration that positions the university as a leader in discovery.

A recognized authority in data science and national security research, Dr. Wilson founded NC State's Data Science Academy, fostering data literacy and innovation across diverse disciplines. As the principal architect of NC State's Laboratory for Analytic Sciences, she secured over $90 million in funding to advance collaborative research solutions for the intelligence community. Before her role as Vice Provost for Research and William & Mary, Dr. Wilson held leadership positions at several notable institutions and research centers, including NC State University, the Institute for Defense Analyses and Los Alamos National Laboratory.

Dr. Wilson is a Fellow status of both the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Statistical Association. Her numerous accolades, including the ASA Distinguished Achievement Award in Defense and National Security and the Army Wilks Memorial Award, recognize her impactful contributions to statistics, defense, and interdisciplinary research. Dr. Wilson earned her Ph.D. in Statistics from Duke University, an M.S. in Statistics from Carnegie Mellon University and a B.A. in Mathematical Sciences from Rice University.