Ali Khan, Assistant Professor, Medical Biophysics, Biomedical Engineering and Scientist, Robarts

Dr. Khan is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Medical Biophysics and School of Biomedical Engineering at Western University, Scientist in the Centre for Functional & Metabolic Mapping (CFMM) at Robarts Research Institute, and Tier 2 Canada Research Chair in Computational Neuroimaging. His research has been funded by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council, the Canadian Institutes for Health Research, and the Ontario Brain Institute and the Canadian Open Neuroscience Platform. He leads the Khan Computational Imaging Lab, focused on the development of novel image processing and analytics using quantitative magnetic resonance imaging and machine learning techniques.

Dan Lizotte, Assistant Professor, Computer Science, Science and Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Schulich Medicine & Dentistry

Dan Lizotte, PhD, believes many of the answers to Canada’s biggest health questions could potentially be hiding in plain sight — in the shadows of large medical data sets, such as patient records. An assistant professor with a cross-appointment in the Departments of Epidemiology and Biostatistics and Computer Science, Lizotte’s background has given him a unique perspective on the future of medicine in Canada. He is using his skill set in data analysis and statistics to help improve the lives of patients and physicians in Canada. To help find better solutions, Lizotte and a team of researchers are drawing on a big data set of approximately one million patient records from across Canada. Using tools that already exist that help predict the risk of developing different chronic diseases, they have been able to look at clusters of diseases at the same time.

Kate Helsen, Assistant Professor, Music Research and Composition, Don Wright Faculty of Music

Kate Helsen is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Music Research and Composition at the Don Wright Faculty of Music at the University of Western Ontario. Her specialization in plainchant, and Early Music more broadly, has led to her involvement in several international projects that dismantle the traditional boundaries of music and technology and have resulted in publications in Plainsong and Medieval Music, Acta Musicologica, and Early Music. Her research interests include early notations, the structural analysis of chant, melodic encodings, and obsessing over gorgeous manuscripts. Kate also sings professionally with the Tafelmusik Chamber Choir in Toronto.
Elissa Strome, AVP Research and Executive Director, Pan-Canadian AI Strategy, CIFAR

Elissa was appointed Executive Director of the Pan-Canadian AI Strategy in January 2018 and AVP 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 the three 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.

Jacquie Burkell, Associate Professor and Assistant Dean of Research, FIMS

Jacquelyn Burkell is an Associate Professor and Assistant Dean of Research in the Faculty of Information and Media Studies at the University of Western Ontario. She holds a PhD in Cognitive Science from the University of Western Ontario. This background, including a focus on behavioural decision making, informs her research, which examines how technological mediation changes social interaction and information behaviour. She co-leads a working group on AI governance and policies in the Autonomy Through Cyberjustice Technologies SSHRC Partnership grant (led by Karim Benyekhlef of the University of Montreal), where her research focuses on accountability (explanatory mechanisms) and algorithmic bias. She is a co-investigator on the eQuality project (a SSHRC Partnership Grant lead by Valerie Steeves and Jane Bailey, University of Ottawa), where her work focuses on empirical examinations of attitudes toward and experiences of behavioural tracking.

Ben Switzer, CEO of Motiv8 Studios

Ben Switzer is the Founder of Motiv8 Studios, a technology social enterprise developing video games for mental health. His interest in AI began as a young science fiction writer, exploring the vagaries of neural networks and complex systems to create ever-better stories. Now, Ben works to facilitate convergent design through community, academic, business and technical systems integration. As a social entrepreneur, Ben subscribes to a model of human-centered design and symbiotic systems where AI, biometrics, cloud-computing, and game theory cooperate for the elevation of human experience.