



A Tennessee Flagship Carnegie R1 Research Institution

RESEARCH + **INNOVATION**

NEWSLETTER



Global Excellence at the University of Memphis

Advancing critical research across disciplines — from public health to materials engineering — while fostering global connections.

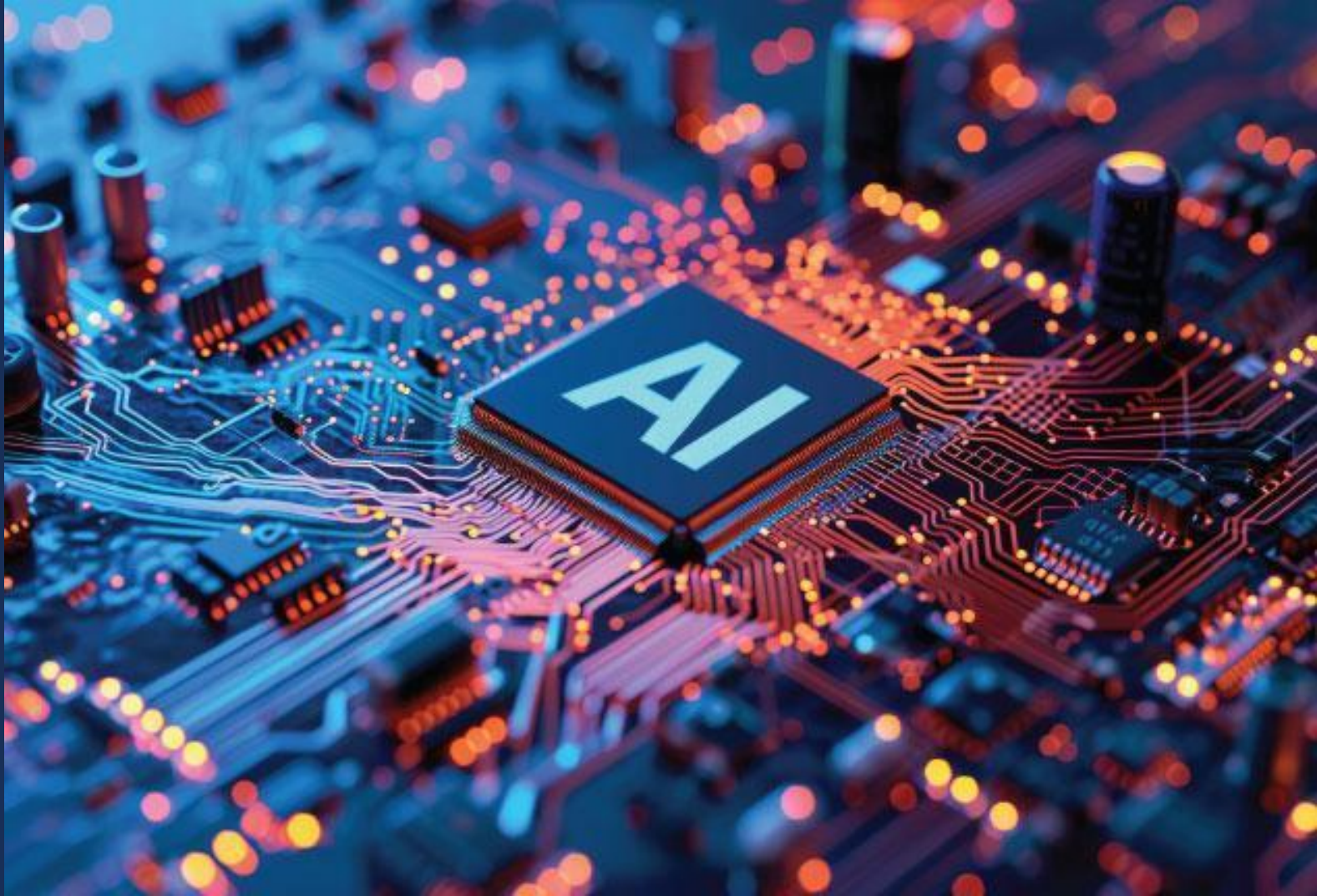
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NORDP Southeast Regional Meeting at the UofM

Held at the FedEx Institute of Technology, the meeting united Southeast institutions to strengthen regional innovation ecosystems.

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UofM Featured in Atom Grants AI Research Case Study

New platform accelerates grant discovery and proposal activity across campus.

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Groundbreaking NSF Project on Metal-Carbon Chemistry

How researchers are redefining what's possible in spectroscopic and computational chemistry.

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Enhanced Internet2 Connectivity to Support Research

Stronger, Faster, Smarter: UofM upgrades research network infrastructure.

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Research in a Minute: Addressing and Advancing Health Solutions

Dr. Matthew Smeltzer uses data-driven research to understand and improve health outcomes.

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UofM Honors 2025 Faculty Award Recipients for Research Excellence

Recognized faculty excellence in research, scholarship and creative achievement at the University of Memphis.

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Jennings Named Finalist in National Institute on Aging 2025 Start-Up Challenge

Innovative UofM research, led by Dr. Amber Jennings, targets early detection of infection made simpler, particularly for aging populations.

[Read Full Story](#)



AHA, DOD, DOE, NSF and Foundation Funding

Learn more about recent funding opportunities from the National Science Foundation.

[See Full List](#)



Calendar of Events: June 2025

Learn more about research, UMRF Research Park and FedEx Institute of Technology events.

[See Full List](#)

Research Awards May 2025

Dr. James Whelan awarded \$2,965,681 from the Tennessee Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services.

Dr. Emily Puckett awarded \$1,463,502 from the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Subhash Jha awarded \$500,000 from the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development.

Robert Hewitt awarded \$300,000 from Delta Regional Authority.

Melvyn Harding awarded \$286,109 and \$272,364 from the U.S. Department of Education.

Dr. Marian Levy awarded \$125,000 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation.

Dr. Aaron Robinson awarded 120,000 from the United States Army Research Laboratory.

Dr. Shelby Peel awarded \$65,380 from Nike Inc.

Dr. Bradley Harrell awarded \$50,000 from the Tennessee Hospital Association.

Dr. Meghan McDevitt Murphy awarded \$48,146 from the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Bert Burraston awarded \$43,234 from the U.S. Department of Justice.

Dr. Meghan McDevitt Murphy awarded \$28,229 from the Health Resources and Services Administration.

Dr. James McCutcheon awarded \$20,000 from the U.S. Department of Justice.

Dr. Xiaolei Huang awarded \$20,000 from the National Science Foundation.

Dr. John Jefferies awarded \$18,206 from National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Mary Tucker awarded \$15,442 from U.S. Department of Education.

Dr. Jessica Jennings awarded \$12,500 from the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Stephanie Ivey awarded \$6,000 from Women's Foundation for a Greater Memphis.

Dr. Shawn Brown awarded \$4,904 from ABB, Inc.

Dr. Sheri Howard awarded \$2,500 from Labster, Inc.

Dr. John Sabatini awarded \$2,250 from the International Association for the Evaluation of Education Achievement College.

Dr. Robin Lennon-Darling awarded \$2,000 from the Regents of the Gilead Foundation.

** Data reported on the 18 of each month. Awards finalized after the 18 will be reported the following month.*

[Full project and award details available here.](#)

Upcoming Events & Announcements



MEMSEC - DEFCON901 Memphis InfoSec Social #21

Looking to connect with fellow InfoSec enthusiasts in Memphis? Join us for an informal evening of cybersecurity conversations and community building. This month's meetup is agenda-free but packed with opportunities to:

- Swap stories and insights from recent CTFs or red/blue team exercises
- Talk about the latest AI threats, vulnerabilities and cyber tools
- Share resources on getting into InfoSec or advancing your career
- Discuss current events and trends in security, privacy and hacking culture

Whether you're a seasoned pro or just starting out, there's always something to learn — and someone here who can help answer your questions.

This meetup is FREE and open to the public, with Garibaldi's pizza provided!

Friday, June 6 | 5 PM
FedEx Institute of Technology | Innovation Classroom (225)

REGISTER



FedEx Institute of Technology Hosts
AI Conference

AI + Cybersecurity 2025: Where Intelligence Meets Infrastructure
Save the Date

The future is now — and it's accelerating. Join us for AI + Cybersecurity 2025, a high-impact, one-day event where the region's brightest minds and national thought leaders converge to explore how artificial intelligence is transforming the frontlines of cyber defense.

This isn't just a conference — it's a movement. Designed for enterprise innovators, government experts, AI architects, cybersecurity pioneers and academic leaders, AI + Cybersecurity 2025 dives deep into the real-world impact of AI. From national defense to corporate infrastructure, we're tackling the most pressing questions: What's working? What's next? And who's leading the charge?

Featured Keynotes:

- **Dr. David Bray, CEO/Principal at LeadDoAdapt Ventures, Inc.**
"AI, Leadership and National Transformations"
- **Dr. Seth Dobrin, CEO of QANTM AI**
"AI, Cybersecurity and Trust"

Get ready for bold ideas, unfiltered insights and practical strategies for scaling and securing AI-powered systems— at speed and at scale.

Why You Should Attend:

- Discover how AI is reshaping cybersecurity from the inside out
- Learn from global experts driving the AI conversation forward
- Build your network with a high-signal community of innovators
- Leave with actionable ideas you can implement now

AI isn't coming. It's here. And it's rewriting the rules. This is your opportunity to lead — not lag — in an AI-driven world.

Register early — space is limited. Interested in becoming a sponsor, [review the sponsor packet](#) and [contact us](#) today.

Thursday, August 14 | All Day

FedEx Institute of Technology | The Zone, MPT (103), Lobby, Fishbowl (203/205), Innovation Classroom (225), VCC (313), DLR (315)

REGISTER



May Professional Development Sessions

Recorded Learning Opportunities for Faculty

The Division of Research & Innovation hosts a variety of workshops, networking events and other professional development throughout the year. Any events that can be recorded and uploaded to the training archive (UofM log-in required). Below are the events from May 2025 that have been recorded and uploaded to the archive:

- [Faculty Learning Community for Foundational Grant Pursuit Kickoff Meeting](#) (May 1)
- [Cayuse Training: Award Overview](#) (May 2)
- [2025 NIH R15 Cohort Q&A Session #2](#) (May 22)
- [2025 NSF CAREER Cohort Q&A Session #2](#) (May 28)

Upcoming professional development and other events can be found on the calendar [here](#). If you have any questions about the recorded events or have difficulty accessing any of the materials, contact researchdev@memphis.edu.



Research Study Participation Opportunities

Research study participation opportunities should be posted to the main college/departmental website versus individual/PI links to appear in This Week.

- [Center for Information Assurance >](#)
- [Cognition, Language and Speech Lab \(CLaSLab\) >](#)
- [College of Health Sciences >](#)
- [Department of Psychology >](#)
- [Hearing Aid Research Laboratory >](#)
- [Pediatric Auditory Research Laboratory >](#)

If your department or college would like to have its research study participation opportunities listed, email thisweek@memphis.edu.

CONTACT THIS WEEK

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