FedEx
INSTITUTE OF
TECHNOLOGY

THE UNIVERSITY OF
MEMPHIS.

RESEARCH +
INNOVATION

NEWSLETTER

Leading National Network Using Artificial Intelligence to Decode How Music Relieves Pain

UofM-led network uses artificial intelligence and computational modeling to uncover how music-based therapies reduce pain.

Read Full Story

CERI Expands Outreach and Earthquake Monitoring in Central and South America

UofM scientists extend seismic and volcano monitoring networks through international partnerships in El Salvador and Brazil.

Read Full Story

Memphis, with the University of Memphis, Charts a Bold Path as a Global Innovation Leader

Research, technology and collaboration fuel Memphis's rise as a national leader in innovation, the home to two R1 universities.

Read Full Story

2026 Distinguished Faculty and Engaged Scholarship Awards Call for Nominations

Honoring exceptional achievement in research, creative work, and engaged scholarship across all disciplines.

Read Full Story

Driving Smart Agriculture Innovation with New State Grant

Tennessee Department of Agriculture invests in UofM research to protect specialty crops and strengthen farm sustainability.

Read Full Story

Independent Study Sparks Interdisciplinary Research Discovery

A St. Mary's Episcopal School student gained hands-on research experience at the UofM's Institute for Agricultural and Conservation Research and Education (ACRE).

Read Full Story

National Award Honors UofM for Rural Innovation and Community Revitalization

DRIVE program recognized by UEDA for advancing economic growth and resilience across the Mid-South.

Read Full Story

MightyZebras Bio Wins First Prize in Innovate Xcelerate Pitch Competition

UofM PhD student research leads to first targeted therapeutic for Hypermobile Ehlers-Danlos Syndrome (hEDS); wins first place in competition.

Read Full Story

Student Team Selected for Prestigious SICK LiDAR Challenge

UofM Herff College and CAESER students develop breakthrough drone system for real-time waterway monitoring.

Read Full Story

ACRE Colloquium 2025 Highlights Statewide Impact of Research and Collaboration

Event highlighted research collaborations and new opportunities for students and partners across Tennessee.

Read Full Story

AHRQ, Burroughs Wellcome Fund, DARPA, NIH and NSF Funding Opportunities

Learn more about recently published funding opportunities and notices from various organizations.

See Full List

Calendar of Events and Activities for Research and Innovation: November 2025

Learn about upcoming events with Research and Innovation, UMRF Research Park and FedEx Institute of Technology events.

See Full List

Research Awards October 2025

Dr. Jacque Bradford awarded $1,647,267 from the Tennessee Higher Education Commission.

Melvyn Harding awarded $1,361,820 from the U.S. Department of Education.

Dr. Chrisann Schiro-Geist awarded $409,605 from the U.S. Department of Education.

Dr. Chrisann Schiro-Geist awarded $291,600 from the Tennessee Department of Human Services.

Dr. William Thompson awarded $245,000 from the Tennessee Department of Education.

Daniel Schaffzin awarded $175,913 from the City of Memphis.

Dr. Sabya Mishra awarded $150,000 from the National Science Foundation.

Dr. Latrice Pichon awarded $141,667 from Centers for Disease Control.

Dr. Satish Kedia awarded $224,234 from the Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration.

Dr. Ricky Leung awarded $100,000 from National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Richard Bloomer awarded $97,803 from Inno Supps.

Dr. Mohammed Yeasin awarded $49,500 from the National Institutes of Health.

Dr. Eraina Schauss awarded $43,736 from Methodist Le Bonheur Healthcare (MBLH) Incorporated.

Dr. Ashish Joshi awarded $34,830 from Tennessee Department of Health.

Dr. Jeffrey Marchetta awarded $5,000 from the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration and Air-Conditioning.

Dr. Jamie Brunsdon awarded $5,000 from the Association for Moral Education.

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.

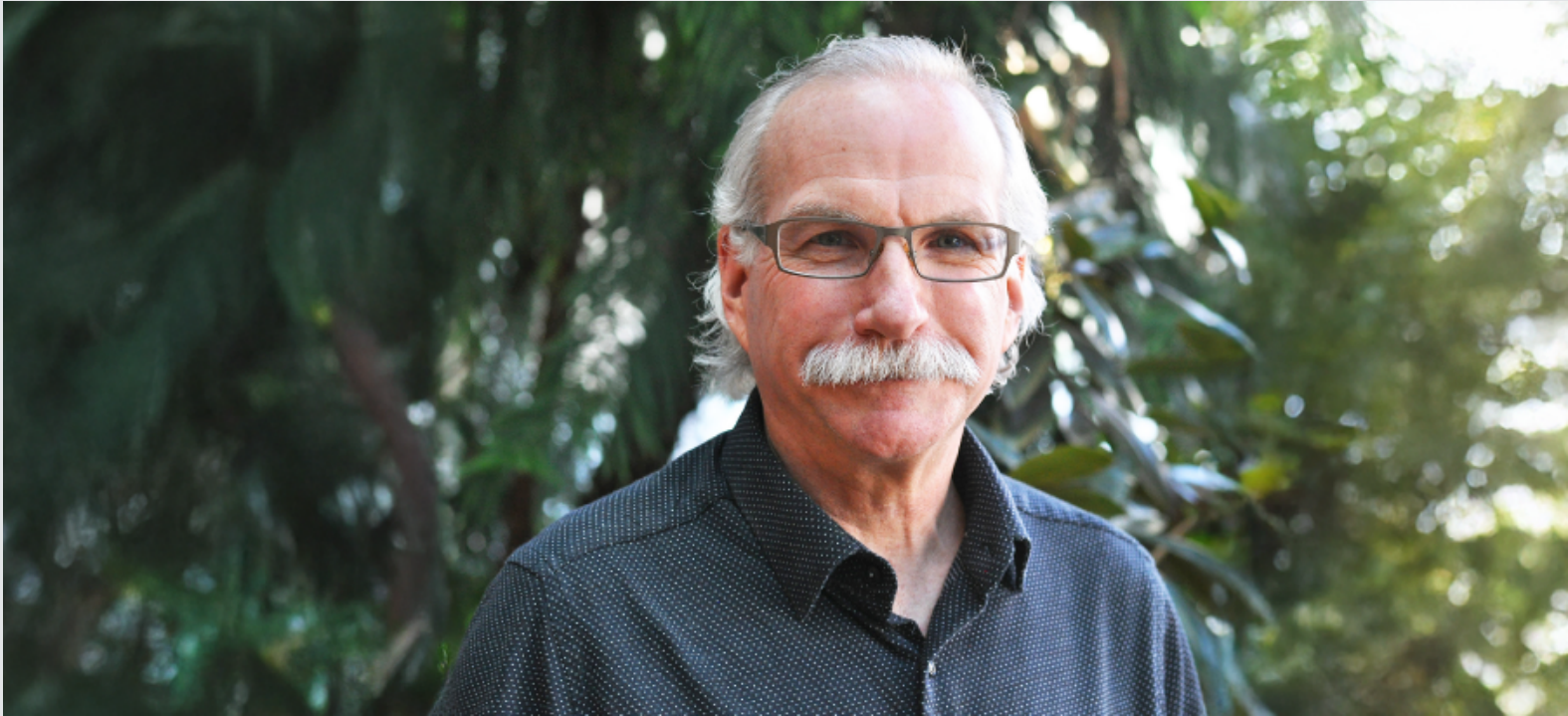
Upcoming Events and Announcements

DevMemphis
Meetup for Memphis Software Developers

Come learn, share, hang out and eat pizza with Memphis software developers. This is a free event open to anyone interested in attending

Register

FedEx Institute of Technology
Technology Serving Humanity
Environmental Speaker Series

"Ebola in a Stew of Fear"

This talk explores a range of moral tales put forth to account for the origin and spread of the 2014-16 Ebola outbreak in West Africa. These ecological fables told about a virus reveal contested histories, beliefs, fears, values, politics and rights that have shaped — and continue to shape — access to the natural resources of the Upper Guinean Forests of West Africa in a world increasingly threatened by deforestation, zoonotic disease, biodiversity loss and climate change.

SPEAKER
Dr. Gregg Mitman
ERC ProfessorLudwig Maximillian University's Rachel Carson Center for Environment and Society in Munich, and William Coleman Emeritus Professor of History, Medical History, and Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin–Madison

Thursday, Nov. 6 | 3-4:30 PM
FedEx Institute of Technology | Methodist Presentation Theatre (103)

2025 Hack Memphis
Sponsored by
FedEx Institute of Technology

Join the Hack Memphis and the tech community for the highly anticipated 2025 City Hackathon! Friday is a mandatory kickoff session where the challenge topics will be unveiled, teams will form and the weekend of innovation will officially begin.

What to Expect: Friday's Kickoff Agenda: This evening session sets the stage for the entire weekend, focusing on inspiration and collaboration:

- 4 PM: Doors Open and Registration (1st Floor Lobby)
- 5 PM: Opening Remarks: Mayor Young and overview challenge topics (The Zone)
  - Challenge Overviews include: Blight Analytics, User-Friendly Navigation/Info Tools (for 211, City Hall on the Go), and Supporting Small Business Partnerships
- 6 PM: Dinner and Happy Hour (non-alcoholic drinks available)
- 7-10 PM: Hackers brainstorm ideas and form teams for the weekend's solutions. Brian Swanson will be available to guide team formation.

Who Should Attend? All registered hackers must attend the kickoff to hear the challenges and form their teams. Whether you are a student, developer, designer, data scientist or community leader, bring your best ideas to address critical city issues.

Friday-Sunday, Nov. 7-9 | Fri. 4-7 PM; Sat. 8 AM-10 PM; Sun. 8 AM-1 PM
FedEx Institute of Technology |
The Zone, Lobby, MPT (103), Fishbowl (203/205)

Division of Research and Innovation
Community Mapping and Engagement Showcase: Healthcare Sector

The Division of Research and Innovation is launching this event series to build a collaborative ecosystem that supports our community and region, focusing on applied research, workforce development and other regional priorities.

The kickoff showcase focuses on the healthcare sector — from pediatric care to positive aging and all points in between.

What to Expect: **Building Collaborative Teams.** This session is designed to break down barriers to university partnership and build connections between faculty and community leaders:

- **Reverse Pitch Presentations**: Nonprofits and companies are invited to give five-minute presentations highlighting their organizational pain points and challenges. This gives UofM researchers a chance to hear directly how they can help solve issues through partnership.
- **Networking & Collaboration**: Following the presentations, a facilitated networking session will focus on building teams and mapping collaborations that can lead to joint grant applications and other mechanisms to support organizational missions.
- **Details**: Coffee, snacks and lunch will be provided.

Who Should Attend? Community partners, companies and nonprofits in the healthcare sector interested in partnering with the University of Memphis, as well as UofM faculty and researchers seeking new collaborative opportunities.

Register

FedEx Institute of Technology
Technology Serving Humanity Speaker Series

"AI in Business & Society"

Join us for an insightful talk focused on the crucial role of AI in today's businesses and society. Padmanabhan will focus on:

- The capabilities of modern AI and what led to the rapid advancements we are seeing.
- The big opportunities and challenges currently in front of us.
- How businesses should approach managing and governing AI systems today.

The session will conclude with a forward-looking examination of the future of work for humans in the age of AI, offering clear recommendations for individuals, business leaders, policy makers, and universities.
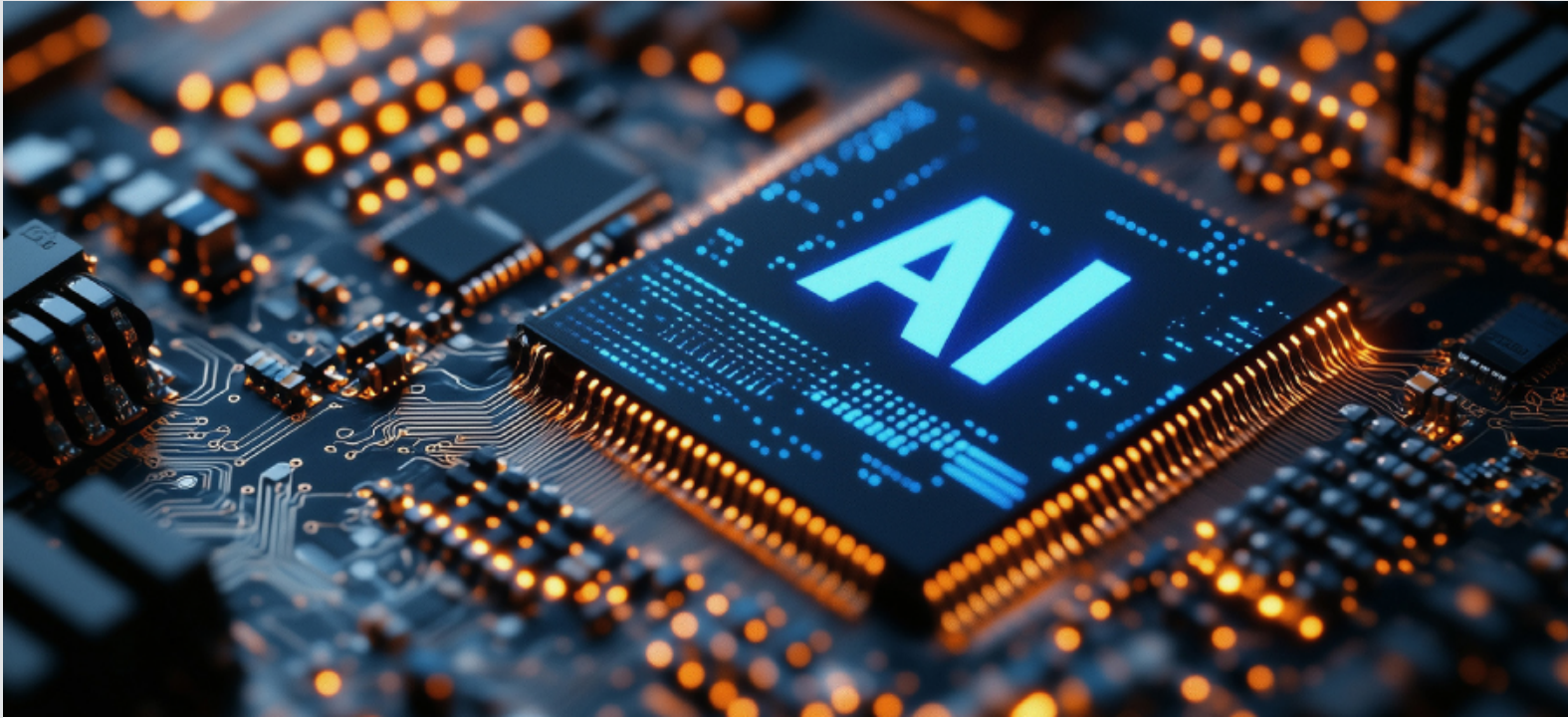
SPEAKER
Dr. Balaji Padmanabhan
Professor of Decision, Operations and Information Technologies
University of Maryland

Thursday, Nov. 13 | 3-4 PM
FedEx Institute of Technology | Methodist Presentation Theatre (103)

Register

Division of Research and Innovation
University of Memphis Responds to National Artificial Intelligence Action Plan with AI Town Hall

Campus town hall to explore federal AI priorities and identify new research and collaboration opportunities.

The National AI Action Plan lays out a framework for how artificial intelligence will be implemented across the federal government. This plan, launched in July of 2025, discusses sweeping and potentially transformational opportunities for the use of artificial intelligence across the federal government.

The plan, outlined here, represents planned investments in three main pillars: innovation, infrastructure and global influence. The AI Town Hall will review the document in detail, highlighting areas of potential research opportunity in current and future calls. The event will also be a chance for faculty interested in forming teams to discuss ideas that they are interested in pursuing.

Faculty interested in AI-applied research are encouraged to attend. Friday, November 14, 10 a.m. Event will be hybrid.

Friday, Nov. 14 | 10 AM
Hybrid
FedEx Institute of Technology | Methodist Presentation Theatre (103) |

Microsoft Teams

FedEx Institute of Technology
901 AI Speaker Series

"The Dark Side of AI"

Artificial Intelligence is transforming our world. It is enhancing how we work, connect, and protect. But while the spotlight often shines on AI's potential, its risks are growing just as quickly. From deepfakes and cybercrime to bias, surveillance and job disruption, this talk explores both sides of the AI revolution. This is a practical, real-world conversation about awareness and responsibility. If we want AI to benefit everyone, we must be intentional about how we build and guide it.

SPEAKER
Melanie Suria
CEO and Founder
Memphis Computer Support, LLC

Tuesday, Nov. 18 | 2-3 PM
FedEx Institute of Technology | Methodist Presentation Theatre (103)

Register

FedEx Institute of Technology
Catalyst Conversations Speaker Series

"Quantum Computing for Scientific Discovery"

This talk surveys the state of quantum computing with an eye toward scientific quantum advantage - where quantum computers deliver clear value for scientific discovery. After a brief primer (qubits, gates, circuits), We will review recent hardware progress from Google, IBM, Quantinuum and others, plus advances in error correction and algorithms, then map these milestones to near-term academic opportunities in many-body simulation, combinatorial optimization, drug discovery and materials.

SPEAKER
Dr. Hrant Gharibyan
CEO and Founder
BlueQubit

Wednesday, Nov. 19 | 3-4:30 PM
FedEx Institute of Technology | Methodist Presentation Theatre (103)

Register

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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