



Association for
Computing Machinery

Media Advisory

Contact: Jim Ormond
212-626-0505
ormond@hq.acm.org

ACM Expands AI Leadership Summit Speaker Lineup with Eight Global AI Leaders

New Speakers From Microsoft, UNESCO, the National Science Foundation, and Leading Research Institutions Join A.M. Turing Award Laureates, United Nations Leaders, and Technology Pioneers at Inaugural Event

New York, NY, July 9, 2026 – As organizations, governments, and institutions across the globe grapple with the opportunities and challenges posed by artificial intelligence, [ACM, the Association for Computing Machinery](#), will convene leading researchers, practitioners, policymakers, educators and industry executives for the inaugural [ACM AI Leadership Summit](#), taking place August 30-September 2, 2026, in Atlanta, Georgia.

The Summit will tackle some of the most consequential questions facing society in the age of AI, from governing autonomous systems and preparing the workforce for transformation to accelerating scientific discovery and redefining human creativity. Through keynotes, panels, and interactive discussions, participants will move beyond the hype to examine both the promise and the hard tradeoffs of AI's rapid advance.

Today, ACM announced eight additional speakers whose expertise spans AI governance, software engineering, workforce transformation, scientific research, and the creative arts:

- **Virginia Dignum**, Professor of Artificial Intelligence at Umeå University and a global leader in responsible AI initiatives through the European Commission, UNICEF, the World Economic Forum, and IEEE; author of *The AI Paradox: How to Make Sense of a Complex Future* (Princeton University Press, 2026)
- **Maria Giulia Dondero**, Leading scholar examining the cultural and compositional implications of AI-generated imagery
- **Ahmed Hassan**, Mustafa Prize Laureate and internationally recognized expert in agentic software engineering; author of the defining open-access text *Agentic Software Engineering*
- **Gabriela Ramos**, Former Assistant Director-General of UNESCO who led 194 countries in adopting the Recommendation on the Ethics of AI

- **Jaime Teevan**, Chief Scientist and Technical Fellow at Microsoft and leader of the company's Future of Work initiative
- **Kristen Yeon-Ji Yun**, Cellist of global renown and director of the AI for Music research team at Purdue University, whose work bridges artistic practice and AI technology
- **Ellen Zegura**, Senior Science and Engineering Advisor at the National Science Foundation, overseeing the agency's AI portfolio spanning research, workforce, infrastructure, and translation
- **Yi Zeng**, Professor at the Gaoling School of AI, Renmin University of China, leading voice on AI governance, member of the United Nations Advisory Body on AI, and one of TIME's 100 Most Influential People in AI

These speakers join an already distinguished lineup that includes ACM A.M. Turing Award laureates **Andrew Barto** and **Yann LeCun**; robotics pioneer **Rodney Brooks**; United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology **Amandeep Singh Gill**; ACM Prize in Computing recipient **Amanda Randles**; Adobe Research scientist **Aaron Hertzmann**; Disney Chief Scientist **Markus Gross**; Microsoft AI Frontiers Lab leader **Ece Kamar**, and other internationally recognized experts.

The Summit will also feature the [Doctoral Consortium: Future Leaders of AI](#), a dedicated forum connecting emerging researchers with established leaders. The program has already attracted strong interest, receiving more than 140 applications from doctoral students seeking mentorship and engagement with the broader AI community at a formative stage of their careers.

"Artificial intelligence is advancing at an extraordinary pace, but the questions surrounding its future cannot be answered from a single perspective," said Elisa Bertino, President of ACM and Chair of the Summit's Organizing Committee. "The ACM AI Leadership Summit was created to bring together leading voices from research, industry, government, education, and civil society to foster meaningful dialogue around the technologies, policies, and decisions that will shape AI's next era."

In addition to keynote presentations and panel discussions, the Summit will feature peer-reviewed research presentations showcasing emerging advances in AI, providing attendees with insight into both cutting-edge research and the broader questions shaping the field.

Registration is now open. For the full speaker lineup, program details, and registration information, visit aisummit.acm.org.

About ACM

[ACM, the Association for Computing Machinery](#), is the world's largest educational and scientific computing society, uniting computing educators, researchers and professionals to inspire dialogue, share resources, and address the field's challenges. ACM strengthens the computing profession's collective voice through strong leadership, promotion of the highest standards, and recognition of technical excellence. ACM supports the professional growth of its members by providing opportunities for life-long learning, career development, and professional networking.

###