

The Bookout Center

Surgical Technology and Robotics Summit

Theme: Exploring Embodied Surgical Intelligence

Oct. 26-30, 2026

HM Research Institute

6670 Bertner Avenue (2nd Floor), Houston, TX 77030

MITIE @ The Bookout Center (5th Floor) (Invite Only)

Join us for the Surgical Technology and Robotics Summit (STaRS) - a premier event bringing together leading surgeons, engineers, researchers and innovators to explore the latest advancements in surgical robotics, imaging and AI-integrated technologies. This summit will feature live demonstrations, interactive panels and cutting-edge research aimed at shaping the future of surgical care.

For more information:

https://bit.ly/STaRS2026

HOUSTON Methodist LEADING MEDICINE

SURGICAL TECHNOLOGY AND ROBOTICS SUMMIT (STaRS 2026)

OCTOBER 26-30, 2026 | THE BOOKOUT CENTER

The Bookout Center - *The Home of Embodied Surgical Intelligence*

MONDAY | OCTOBER 26

From Surgical AI to Embodied Surgical Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence · Computer Vision · Robotics · Autonomy

CLINICAL FOCUS: CARDIOVASCULAR SURGERY

TIME	PROGRAM	PARTICIPANT(S)	LOCATION
7:30-7:55 a.m.	Registration, Breakfast & Networking		RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
7:55-8:00 a.m.	**Introduction**	**Stuart Corr, PhD** *Director, Innovation Engineering, The Bookout Center, Houston Methodist*	RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
8:00-8:25 a.m.	**Building the Resident Vascular Robotics Program** *20 min presentation + 5 min Q&A*	**Alan Lumsden, MD** *Chair, Dept CV Surgery Houston Methodist* **Charu Bavare, MD** *Director of CV Robotics Houston Methodist*	RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
8:25-8:50 a.m.	**Vascular Robotics Research at The Bookout Center: From Research to Training** *20 min presentation + 5 min Q&A*	**Estela Abich, MD** *General Surgeon Orland Health*	RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
8:50-9:15 a.m.	**Research Spotlight: Inside the STaRS Cardiovascular Robotics Experiments** *20 min presentation + 5 min Q&A*	**Dora Zatyko MD** *Postdoctoral Fellow Houston Methodist*	RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
9:15-9:25 a.m.	Break		
9:25-10:25 a.m.	**RESEARCH & ENGINEERING TRACK — Featured Keynote** Agents and Digital Twins for Physical AI in Healthcare *45 min presentation + 15 min Q&A*	**Mathias Unberath, PhD** *Associate Professor Johns Hopkins University*	RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
10:25-10:30 a.m.	Break		
10:30-11:30 a.m.	**RESEARCH & ENGINEERING TRACK — Featured Keynote** Datasets and Foundation Models for Healthcare Robotics *45 min presentation + 15 min Q&A*	**Sean Huver, PhD** *Principal Engineer & Sr. Manager NVIDIA*	RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
9:30-11:30 a.m.	**HANDS-ON ROBOTIC WORKSHOP — INVITE ONLY** Cardiovascular robotic surgery using da Vinci Xi, da Vinci V & CMR Versius System *STaRS ENGINEER TRACK — INVITE ONLY: Select cohort of up to 15 engineers observing hands-on workshop activities.*		MITIE @ The Bookout Center, RI 5th Floor
11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Lunch & Networking		RI 5th Floor & RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
12:30-2:00 p.m.	**HANDS-ON ROBOTIC WORKSHOP — INVITE ONLY** Cardiovascular robotic surgery using da Vinci Xi, da Vinci V & CMR Versius System *STaRS ENGINEER TRACK — INVITE ONLY: Select cohort of up to 15 engineers observing hands-on workshop activities.*		MITIE @ The Bookout Center, RI 5th Floor
1:00-2:30 p.m.	Tours / Research Collaboration / Technology Engagement	**Homer Quintana, MCTM** *Program Director, CRDT Houston Methodist*	The Bookout Center, RI 5th Floor
2:00-3:30 p.m.	**STaRS LIVE — The Future of Embodied Surgical Intelligence** *40 min discussion*	**Alan Lumsden (moderator) · Mathias Unberath · Sean Huver · Farshid Alambeigi**	RI 2nd Floor Boardroom

TUESDAY | OCTOBER 27

Reimagining Minimally Invasive Surgery

Robotics · Micro robotics · Immersive Technology

CLINICAL FOCUS: OB/GYN

TIME	PROGRAM	PARTICIPANT(S)	LOCATION
7:00-7:30 a.m.	Breakfast & Arrival		RI 2nd Floor Auditorium
7:30-8:30 a.m.	**CLINICAL SPECIALTY PROGRAM — SESSION 1** *Welcome Remarks, Innovations in Benign Gynecology & Urogynecology* 7:30-7:45 Use of Imaging to Optimize Surgical Management of Fibroids 7:45-8:00 V-NOTES: Incisionless Gynecologic Surgery 8:00-8:15 Preparing for Success: Preoperative Assessment and Planning in Endometriosis Surgery 8:15-8:30 Q&A	**Anuj Suri, MD** **Julie Gutierrez, MD** **Sarah Rozycki, MD** **Olivia Dziadek, MD** All presenters	RI 2nd Floor Auditorium
8:30-9:30 a.m.	**SESSION 2 — Robotic Videos of Interesting/Challenging Cases** 8:30-8:50 Video Pt. 1 8:50-9:10 Video Pt. 2 9:10-9:30 Video Pt. 3	**Julie Gutierrez, MD** **Sarah Rozycki, MD** **Olivia Dziadek, MD**	RI 2nd Floor Auditorium
9:30-10:45 a.m.	**SESSION 3 — Future Innovations & Directions of Robotic Surgery** 9:30-9:50 AI in Robotic Gynecology Surgery: What's Here & What's Next 9:50-10:10 Future of Tele-Surgery: Advantages & Pitfalls 10:10-10:30 Overview of Newer Robotic Platforms 10:30-10:45 Q&A	**Behrouz Zand, MD** **Anuj Suri, MD** **Alwyn Mathew, MD** **Abigail Bagdasaryants, MD** All presenters	RI 2nd Floor Auditorium
10:45-11:00 a.m.	Lunch Pickup / Transition		RI 2nd Floor Auditorium
11:00 a.m.-Noon	**RESEARCH & ENGINEERING TRACK — Featured Keynote** Future Directions of Robotic Surgery: Interventional, Ingestible, Injectable, Implanted Robotic Devices (I^4RoD) *45 min presentation + 15 min Q&A*	**Arianna Menciassi, PhD** *Professor,* *BioRobotics Institute,* *Scuola Superiore Sant'Anna*	RI 2nd Floor Auditorium
Noon-3:00 p.m.	**HANDS-ON ROBOTIC WORKSHOP — INVITE ONLY** *OB/GYN robotic surgery featuring da Vinci 5, CMR Versius & V-NOTES simulation* *STaRS ENGINEER TRACK — INVITE ONLY: Select cohort of up to 15 engineers observing hands-on workshop activities.*	**Anuj Suri · Jessica Floyd · Behrouz Zand · Sara Rozycki · Olivia Dziadek**	MITIE @ The Bookout Center, RI 5th Floor
Noon –12:55 pm	Lunch (Continued) & Networking		RI 5th Floor & RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
12:55-1:00 pm	**Introduction**	**Stuart Corr, PhD** *Director, Innovation Engineering, The Bookout Center, Houston Methodist*	RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
1:00-1:30 p.m.	**IMMERSIVE TECHNOLOGIES IN HEALTH — Featured Talk** Spatial Computing in the OR: Use of the Apple Vision Pro as a Head-Mounted Virtual Monitor *25 min presentation + 5 min Q&A*	**Patrick Reardon, MD** *Chief, Div. of Minimally Invasive Surgery,* *Houston Methodist*	RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
1:30-2:00 p.m.	**IMMERSIVE TECHNOLOGIES IN HEALTH — Featured Talk** Beyond the Headset: From Clinical Need to Immersive Care *25 min presentation + 5 min Q&A*	**Hina Faisal, MD** *Associate Prof. of Surgery, Anesthesiologist and Critical Care Physician,* *Houston Methodist*	RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
2:00-2:15 p.m.	Break		
2:15-2:45 p.m.	**IMMERSIVE TECHNOLOGIES IN HEALTH — Featured Talk** Spatializing Healthcare through Volumetric Media Pipelines: 3D Sensing, Streaming, and Replay *25 min presentation + 5 min Q&A*	**Robert LiKamwa, PhD** *Associate Professor,* *Director Spatial Computing Systems,* *The Bookout Center,* *Houston Methodist, Rice University*	RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
2:45-3:15 p.m.	**IMMERSIVE TECHNOLOGIES IN HEALTH — Featured Talk** In-House XR Applications & Capabilities at the Bookout Center *25 min presentation + 5 min Q&A*	**Austin Shelton, MBE** *Research Engineer,* *The Bookout Center,* *Houston Methodist*	RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
3:15-3:30 p.m.	Break / Transition to Studio		
3:45-4:45 p.m.	**STaRS LIVE — Immersive Technology in Health: From Innovation to Implementation** *40 min discussion*	**Moderator: Floris van der Breggen, Patrick Reardon · Dave Aten· Martin McMahon**	RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
5:00-6:00 p.m.	**STaRS ROUND TABLE— The Future of Robotic Gynecologic Surgery: From New Platforms to New Possibilities** *40 min discussion*	**Anuj Suri + invited OB/GYN faculty**	RI 2nd Floor Boardroom

WEDNESDAY | OCTOBER 28

Engineering the Intelligent Surgical Environment

Medical Imaging · Computer-Assisted Intervention · Augmented Reality · Surgical Robotics

CLINICAL FOCUS: GENERAL SURGERY

TIME	PROGRAM	PARTICIPANT(S)	LOCATION
8:00-8:50 a.m.	**FEATURED GRAND ROUNDS** Dyadic Partnership: A Missing Link Towards Autonomy in Medical Robotics *40 min presentation + 10 min Q&A*	**Nassir Navab, PhD** *Professor & Chair,* *Computer Aided Medical Procedures & Augmented Reality,* *Technical University of Munich*	RI 2nd Floor Auditorium
8:50-9:00 a.m.	Room Transition / Coffee		RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	**HANDS-ON ROBOTIC WORKSHOP — INVITE ONLY** General Surgery Robotic Workshop featuring da Vinci 5 & CMR Versius *STaRS ENGINEER TRACK — INVITE ONLY: Select cohort of up to 15 engineers observing hands-on workshop activities.*	General Surgery faculty & residents	MITIE @ The Bookout Center, RI 5th Floor
9:00-9:05 a.m.	**Introduction**	**Farshid Alambeigi, PhD** *Associate Professor,* *Director Robotics, Imaging & Autonomous Surgery,* *The Bookout Center,* *Houston Methodist, Rice University*	RI 2nd Floor Auditorium
9:05-9:40 a.m.	**RESEARCH & ENGINEERING TRACK — Featured Keynote** Spatial computing for orthopedic surgery *30 min presentation + 5 min Q&A*	**Siddarth Satish, PhD** *Vice President, AI,* *Stryker*	RI 2nd Floor Auditorium
9:40-10:15 a.m.	**RESEARCH & ENGINEERING TRACK — Featured Talk** Perioperative Data Science: Models, Implementation, & Impact *30 min presentation + 5 min Q&A*	**Jeffrey Siewerdsen, PhD** *Professor, Department of Imaging Physics, UT MD Anderson Cancer Center*	RI 2nd Floor Auditorium
10:15-10:20 a.m.	Break		
10:20-10:55 a.m.	**RESEARCH & ENGINEERING TRACK — Featured Talk** Guiding with touch: Assessing and Assisting Surgical Performance *30 min presentation + 5 min Q&A*	**Marcia O'Malley, PhD** *Professor & Chair, Department of Mechanical Engineering,* *Rice University*	RI 2nd Floor Auditorium
10:55-11:05 a.m.	Break		
11:05 a.m. -Noon	**RESEARCH & ENGINEERING TRACK — Featured Keynote** Concentric Tube Robots: From Invention to Human Use *45 min presentation + 10 min Q&A*	**Robert J. Webster, III, PhD** *Senior Associate Provost for Commercialization & Technology Transfer, Professor of Mechanical Engineering,* *Vanderbilt University*	RI 2nd Floor Auditorium
Noon-2:00 p.m.	Lunch & Networking		RI 5th Floor & RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
12:45–1:45 p.m.	**STaRS Round Table — Translational Innovation** **From Clinical Need to Company: How Surgical Innovation Reaches the Patient** *30 min discussion*	**Chris Lincoln (Moderator) · Robert Webster**	RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
1:00-2:30 p.m.	Tours / Research Collaboration / Technology Engagement	**Homer Quintana, MCTM** *Program Director, CRDT* *Houston Methodist*	The Bookout Center, RI 5th Floor
1:45-2:45 p.m.	**STaRS LIVE — Engineering the Future of Embodied Surgical Intelligence** *40 min discussion*	**Farshid Alambeigi (Moderator) Nassir Navab · Jeffrey Siewerdsen · Arianna Menciassi· Robert Webster**	RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
3:00-4:00 p.m.	**STaRS Round Table — General Surgery** **Beyond the Learning Curve: The Evolution of Robotic Surgery Training** *40 min discussion*	**Dr. Aman Ali · Dr. Martinez · Senior Resident · Junior Resident**	RI 2nd Floor Boardroom

THURSDAY | OCTOBER 29

Expanding the Frontiers of Robotic Intervention

Medical Robotics · Image Guidance · Endovascular & Endoluminal Intervention · Surgical Innovation

CLINICAL FOCUS: PLASTIC & RECONSTRUCTIVE SURGERY | ROBOTIC LUNG TRANSPLANTATION

TIME	PROGRAM	PARTICIPANT(S)	LOCATION
8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.	**HANDS-ON ROBOTIC WORKSHOP — INVITE ONLY** Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Robotics Workshop *STaRS ENGINEER TRACK — INVITE ONLY: Select cohort of up to 15 engineers observing hands-on workshop activities.*	**Matthew Kaufman, MD + participants**	MITIE @ The Bookout Center, RI 5th Floor
8:00-9:00 a.m.	Breakfast & Arrival		RI 5th Floor & RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
9:10-9:15 a.m.	**Introduction**	**Farshid Alambeigi, PhD**	RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
9:15-10:00 a.m.	**RESEARCH & ENGINEERING TRACK — Featured Talk** Endovascular Robotics in the Era of Intelligent Surgery *35 min presentation + 10 min Q&A*	**Alan Lumsden, MD** *Chair, Dept CV Surgery* *Director, DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center,* *Houston Methodist*	RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
10:00-10:10 a.m.	Break		RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
10:10-10:55 a.m.	**RESEARCH & ENGINEERING TRACK — Featured Talk** Surgical Robotics, Autonomy & the Future of Robotic Intervention *35 min presentation + 10 min Q&A*	**Farshid Alambeigi, PhD** *Associate Professor, Director Robotics, Imaging & Autonomous Surgery, The Bookout Center,* *Houston Methodist* *Rice University*	RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
10:55-11:00 a.m.	Break		RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
11:00 a.m.-Noon	**RESEARCH & ENGINEERING TRACK — Featured Keynote** Physical AI: The Next Frontier in Autonomous Endovascular Interventions *45 min presentation + 15 min Q&A*	**Jaydev Desai, PhD** *Professor & Director* *Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering, Georgia Center for Medical Robotics,* *Georgia Institute of Technology*	RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
12:00-1:00 p.m.	Lunch & Networking		RI 5th Floor & RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
1:00-2:30 p.m.	Tours / Research Collaboration / Technology Engagement	**Homer Quintana, MCTM** *Program Director, CRDT* *Houston Methodist*	The Bookout Center, RI 5th Floor
3:00 – 4:00 pm	**PANEL DISCUSSION –** Introduction to Robotic Lung Transplantation *45 min discussion & 15 min Q&A*	**Ray Chihara, MD, PhD** *Thoracic Surgeon, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Lung Transplant Surgery, Thoracic Surgery* *Houston Methodist* **Warren Naselsky, MD** *Lung Transplant Surgery, Thoracic Surgery, Thoracic Surgical Oncology* *Houston Methodist*	RI 2nd Floor Boardroom

FRIDAY | OCTOBER 30

Building the Future of Healthcare Technology

Multidisciplinary Innovation · Engineering Medicine · Translation · Collaboration

CLINICAL FOCUS: INTERVENTIONAL PULMONOLOGY | ROBOTIC LUNG TRANSPLANTATION

TIME	PROGRAM	PARTICIPANT(S)	LOCATION
7:30-8:00 a.m.	Breakfast & Arrival		RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
8:00-9:00 a.m.	**CLINICAL SPECIALITY PROGRAM - Robotics Across the Lung Care Continuum | From Interventional Pulmonology to Lung Transplantation** *45 min panel discussion + 15 min Q&A*	**Alan Lumsden, MD** (moderator), *Chair, Dept CV Surgery* *Director, DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center, Houston Methodist* **Ray Chihara, MD, PhD** *Thoracic Surgeon, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Lung Transplant Surgery, Thoracic Surgery* *Houston Methodist* **Dominic Emmerson, MD** *Thoracic Surgeon, Cardiothoracic Surgery, Lung Transplant Surgery, Cardiac Surgery* *Cedars-Sinai Medical Center* **Tarek Dammad, MD** *Interventional Pulmonology, Pulmonology, Director, Academic Interventional Pulmonology, Houston Methodist*	RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.	**HANDS-ON ROBOTIC WORKSHOP — INVITE ONLY** Robotic Lung Transplant Workshop — Intuitive da Vinci Xi Interventional Pulmonology Workshop – J&J Monarch System *STaRS ENGINEER TRACK — INVITE ONLY: Select cohort of up to 15 engineers observing hands-on workshop activities.*	**Ray Chihara + Participants** **Tarek Dammad + Participants**	MITIE @ The Bookout Center, RI 5th Floor
9:00-9:05 a.m.	Break		RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
9:05-9:10 a.m.	**Introduction**	**Stuart Corr, PhD** *Director, Innovation Engineering,* *The Bookout Center,* *Houston Methodist*	RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
9:35-10:00 a.m.	**RESEARCH & ENGINEERING TRACK — Featured Talk** Digital Health Institute: Research & Technology in Action *20 min presentation + 5 min Q&A*	**Ashok Veeraraghavan, PhD** *Professor & Chair,* *Dept of Electrical & Computer Engineering,* *Rice University*	RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
10:40-11:05 a.m.	**RESEARCH & ENGINEERING TRACK — Featured Talk** Engineering Medicine: Research & Translation in Action *20 min presentation + 5 min Q&A*	**Maham Rahimi, MD, PhD** *Associate Professor of Vascular Surgery,* *Dept. of CV Surgery, Houston Methodist* *Director of Research, Texas A&M Engineering Medicine (EnMED*	RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
10:00-10:15 a.m.	Break		RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
10:15-10:40 a.m.	**RESEARCH & ENGINEERING TRACK — Featured Talk** Engineering Medicine: Building the Next Generation of Healthcare Innovators *20 min presentation + 5 min Q&A*	**Lance Black, MD, MBID** *Senior Associate Dean of Innovation & Strategic Projects, Texas A&M Engineering Medicine (EnMED)*	RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
11:05-11:30 a.m.	**RESEARCH & ENGINEERING TRACK — Featured Talk** The Ken Kennedy Institute: AI and Computing Research for Global Impact *20 min presentation + 5 min Q&A*	**David Pynadath, PhD** *Executive Director for Research Initiatives at the Ken Kennedy Institute,* *Rice University*	RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
11:30-1:00 p.m.	Lunch & Networking		RI 5th Floor & RI 2nd Floor Boardroom
1:00-2:30 p.m.	Tours / Research Collaboration / Technology Engagement	**Homer Quintana, MCTM** *Program Director, CRDT* *Houston Methodist*	The Bookout Center, RI 5th Floor
3:00 p.m.	Conclusion of Programming & STaRS 2026		

Course Directors

The experts advancing surgical technology, robotics, and embodied surgical intelligence.



Stuart Corr, PhD

Director, Innovation Engineering | The Bookout Center
Associate Research Professor | Department of CV Surgery
Weill Cornell Medical College | Cornell University

Dr. Stuart Corr serves as Director of Innovation Engineering at The Bookout Center, Houston Methodist, where he leads the development of multidisciplinary innovation programs, engineering capabilities, and collaborative ecosystems that accelerate the translation of emerging technologies into clinical practice. His work focuses on building infrastructure, strategic partnerships, and interdisciplinary teams to advance surgical innovation, medical robotics, intelligent systems, and next-generation healthcare technologies. With over 20 years of experience spanning academic research, technology development, and innovation leadership, Dr. Corr has established initiatives connecting clinicians, engineers, researchers, and industry partners to drive innovation from concept through clinical evaluation. He has authored over 45 peer-reviewed publications and secured research funding from multiple sources, including the NIH and NSF.



Farshid Alambeigi, PhD

Director of Surgical Robotics and Imaging | The Bookout Center at Houston Methodist

Dr. Farshid Alambeigi is Director of Robotics, Imaging, and Autonomous Surgery at the Bookout Center at Houston Methodist Research Institute and an Associate Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Rice University. He leads the Advanced Robotic Technologies for Surgery (ARTS) Laboratory, developing innovative robotic systems that integrate artificial intelligence, medical imaging, and minimally invasive surgical technologies. An award-winning researcher and recipient of the NIH Director's New Innovator Award, his work focuses on autonomous surgical systems, soft robotics, and intelligent medical devices to advance precision surgery and translate engineering innovations into clinical care.

Meet Our Faculty & Special Guests

The experts advancing surgical technology, robotics, and embodied surgical intelligence.



Estela Abich, MD

General Surgeon | Orlando Health

Dr. Abich is board certified in general surgery by the American Board of Surgery. Her professional memberships include the Obesity Medical Association, American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, American Venous Forum, Florida Vascular Society and Society for Clinical Vascular Surgery.
She has presented her research at national conferences, and her work has been published in peer-reviewed medical journals.



Aman Ali, MD

Bariatric Surgery, General Surgery, Minimally Invasive General Surgery | Houston Methodist

Dr. Aman Ali is a bariatric and minimally invasive surgeon at Houston Methodist Surgical Associates at Sugar Land, specializing in weight loss surgery, gastric bypass, foregut and reflux procedures, hernia repair, and abdominal wall reconstruction. He completed his medical training and surgical residency at Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center and Houston Methodist, followed by advanced fellowship training at Harvard Medical School's Massachusetts General Hospital, and is fluent in Urdu, Hindi, and Gujarati.



Dave Aten, MA, CMI

3D Anatomic Specialist | University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

David Aten is a Certified Medical Illustrator and 3D Anatomic Specialist at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, where he creates patient-specific anatomical models to support surgical planning and education. With 21 years of professional experience, he also collaborates on research exploring virtual reality applications for adolescent and young adult cancer survivors.



Abigail Bagdasaryants, MD

PGY-1 Obstetrics & Gynecology Resident Physician | Houston Methodist Hospital

Dr. Abigail Bagdasaryants has 2 years of experience in obstetrics and gynecology, caring for patients in Houston, Texas. She earned her medical degree from Texas A&M University System Health Science Center College of Medicine and sees patients at Saint Joseph Medical Center and Houston Methodist Hospital.



Charu Bavare, MD

Director of CV Robotics | Houston Methodist

Dr. Charu Bavare is a vascular surgeon at Houston Methodist's DeBakey Heart and Vascular Center, specializing in complex aortic repair, open vascular surgery, thoracic outlet syndrome, and other advanced vascular procedures. He is actively involved in vascular surgery education, clinical trials, and advancing robotic vascular surgery using the da Vinci Xi platform for thoracic and intra-abdominal procedures.



Lance Black, MD, MBID

Senior Associate Dean of Innovation & Strategic Projects | Texas A&M Engineering Medicine (EnMED)

Dr. Lance Black is a physician-innovator and healthcare executive serving as Senior Associate Dean of Innovation and Strategic Projects at the Texas A&M School of Engineering Medicine, where he advances engineering-driven healthcare solutions. With experience spanning clinical medicine, medical device development, and entrepreneurship, he holds more than 70 international patents, co-founded XN Health, and serves as Chairman of the Board of LifeGift.



Floris van der Breggen, CEO

Founder | SyncVR

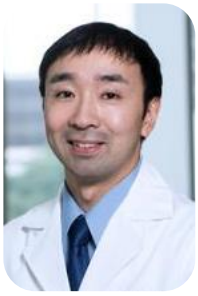
Floris van der Breggen is founder and CEO of SyncVR Medical, the largest Virtual/Augmented Reality (XR) platform of healthcare in Europe. He has a background in psychology and computer science. From his first-ever side job in dementia care when he was 15 years old, he is endlessly motivated to improve healthcare internationally day by day, which led to founding SyncVR Medical in 2019, now becoming the de-facto standard platform for XR in healthcare.



Pothik Chatterjee, MBA

Executive Director | Rice-Methodist Digital Health Institute

Pothik Chatterjee serves as the Executive Director of the Houston Methodist-Rice Digital Health Institute (HMRDHI), where he plays a pivotal role in advancing the institute's mission to revolutionize health care through cutting-edge technology and interdisciplinary collaboration. In this capacity, he guides the strategic growth of the institute, ensuring its vision remains deeply aligned with the broader institutional goals of Rice University and Houston Methodist in the realms of digital health, precision medicine, and data science.



Ray Chihara, MD, PhD

Thoracic Surgeon; Cardiothoracic Surgery, Lung Transplant Surgery, Thoracic Surgery | Houston Methodist

Dr. Ray Chihara, MD, PhD, serves as Surgical Director of Lung Transplantation and Assistant Professor of Surgery, with training in general and cardiothoracic surgery and research in xenotransplantation. His clinical expertise includes robotic surgery, lung and esophageal cancers, mediastinal tumors, and benign thoracic conditions such as chronic respiratory failure, esophageal motility disorders, and diaphragm dysfunction.



Tarek Dammad, MD

Director, Academic Interventional Pulmonology | Houston Methodist

Dr. Tarek Dammad is a board-certified interventional pulmonologist who completed his medical training at the University of Aleppo, Saint Louis University, and the University of Louisville. He has established interventional pulmonology programs in New Mexico and Orlando, with a focus on advancing collaborative, patient-centered care and educating the next generation of specialists.



Jaydev Desai, PhD

Professor & Director, Wallace H. Coulter Department of Biomedical Engineering; Georgia Center for Medical Robotics | Georgia Institute of Technology

Dr. Jaydev P. Desai is a distinguished professor of biomedical engineering at Georgia Tech and founding director of the Georgia Center for Medical Robotics, specializing in surgical robotics, endovascular interventions, and image-guided procedures. An award-winning researcher and fellow of IEEE, ASME, and AIMBE, he has authored over 230 peer-reviewed publications and advanced innovations in medical, pediatric, and rehabilitation robotics.



Olivia Dziadek, MD

Gynecology | Houston Methodist

Dr. Olivia Lisa Dziadek is a fellowship-trained minimally invasive gynecologic surgeon with an American Board of Obstetrics and Gynecology focused-practice designation in Minimally Invasive Gynecologic Surgery (MIGS). An experienced, high-volume surgeon, she is dedicated to advancing women's health through evidence-based, personalized care and excellence in minimally invasive surgical techniques.



Dominic Emerson, MD

Associate Professor Cardiac Surgery | Cedars-Sinai

Dr. Dominic Emerson is an Associate Professor of Cardiac Surgery at Cedars-Sinai's Smidt Heart Institute and Associate Director of the Comprehensive Transplant Center, specializing in heart and lung transplantation and robotic surgery. He helped lead the world's first robotic lung transplant in 2021 and now oversees thoracic surgery residency and fellowship training, advancing surgical innovation and the education of future surgeons.



Hina Faisal, MD

Associate Professor of Surgery; Anesthesiologist and Critical Care Physician | Houston Methodist

Dr. Hina Faisal is a board-certified anesthesiologist and critical care physician who serves as Director of Critical Care Surgery Research, leading initiatives in delirium prevention, perioperative brain health, and recovery after complex surgery. She completed her medical education in Pakistan and advanced training in Ireland and the United States, including an anesthesiology residency at Case Western Reserve University and a fellowship in Anesthesia Critical Care Medicine at UTHealth Houston.



Julie Gutierrez, MD

Gynecology, Division Director of General Gynecology | Houston Methodist

Dr. Julie Gutierrez is a board-certified OB/GYN and high-volume minimally invasive gynecologic surgeon specializing in vaginal, laparoscopic, and robotic procedures, with expertise in complex family planning and comprehensive women's health. A Menopause Society Certified Practitioner and oral board examiner, she is dedicated to surgical education and advancing care in menopause management and gynecologic treatment for women with spinal cord injuries.



Sean Huver, PhD

Principal Engineer & Senior Manager | NVIDIA

Sean Huver, PhD, is a Principal Engineer and Senior Manager at NVIDIA, where he leads the Holoscan Advanced Workflow team. His team builds collaborations to create permissively licensed foundational datasets and advance AI models across healthcare and life sciences. He led the conception of Open-H-Embodiment and oversees a growing portfolio of related initiatives spanning multiple modalities. Before joining NVIDIA, Sean was a startup founder and research physicist working on quantum information projects.



Matthew Kaufman, MD

Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery Workshop Faculty | Houston Methodist

Dr. Matthew Kaufman is a board-certified, fellowship-trained plastic and reconstructive surgeon specializing in complex reconstructive microsurgery, breast reconstruction, lymphatic surgery, and lymphedema treatment. With advanced training from Baylor College of Medicine and the Buncke Clinic, his clinical interests also include robotic surgery, cancer and trauma reconstruction, upper extremity surgery, and peripheral nerve surgery.



Chris Lincoln, PhD

Senior Director of Translational Development & Quality | Houston Methodist

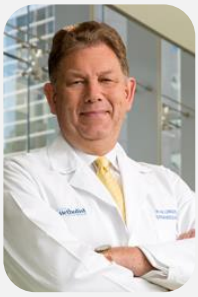
Christopher Lincoln serves as Senior Director of Translation & Quality at the Houston Methodist Academic Institute, overseeing translational development, production and quality, imaging, cellular therapeutics, and product development funding. He leads the translational pipeline from early-stage development through clinical trials while building strategic partnerships to accelerate innovation and advance patient-centered solutions.



Robert LiKamwa, PhD

Director, Spatial Computing Systems | The Bookout Center, Houston Methodist

LiKamWa explores the research and design of software and hardware for mobile Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality, Mixed Reality, and visual computing systems, and their ability to help people tell their stories. To this end, his research and design projects span three arcs: (i) advanced visual capture and processing systems, (ii) systems for hybrid virtual-physical immersion through augmentation of senses, and (iii) design frameworks for data-driven augmented reality and virtual reality storytelling and sensemaking.



Alan Lumsden, MD

Chair, Department of Cardiovascular Surgery; Director, DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center | Houston Methodist

Alan Lumsden, the Walter W. Fondren III Distinguished Endowed Chair, DeBakey Heart & Vascular Center and chair of the Department of Cardiovascular Surgery at Houston Methodist, is a leader in the field of endovascular surgery. He has clinical and research expertise in stent graft treatment of thoracic and abdominal aortic aneurysms, stenting and endarterectomy in carotid arterial disease, renovascular hypertension, aortoiliac occlusive disease, mesenteric vascular and minimally invasive therapy in venous disease.



Alwyn Mathew, MD

Second-year medical student | Houston Methodist

Alwyn is a second-year medical student at Sam Houston State University College of Osteopathic Medicine (SHSU-COM) with a strong interest in public health and healthcare policy, particularly initiatives focused on children and youth. Alwyn is committed to advancing patient education, health advocacy, and community-based public health initiatives that empower individuals to make informed healthcare decisions and improve health outcomes.



Martin McMahon, BS

Patient Technology Coordinator at Texas Children's Hospital and Donor Outreach Liaison at MakeGood INC

Martin "Marty" McMahon is the Patient Technology Coordinator at Texas Children’s Hospital, where he specializes in using interactive technology to improve the hospital experience for pediatric patients. He integrates video games, virtual and augmented reality, and robotics into therapeutic play, even developing programs like the 2nd Player Gaming Volunteer Program to keep isolated children connected and engaged. Recognized globally as a member of *The Game Awards* "Future Class," McMahon is a leading advocate for accessible, inclusive gaming and technology in healthcare, focusing on bringing normalcy and joy to children undergoing medical treatment.



Arianna Menciassi, PhD

Professor, BioRobotics Institute | Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna

Professor Arianna Menciassi is a Professor of Bioengineering and Biomedical Robotics at Scuola Superiore Sant’Anna in Pisa, Italy, where she leads the Surgical Robotics & Allied Technologies team at The BioRobotics Institute. Her research focuses on surgical robotics, microrobotics, biomedical devices, and targeted therapeutic technologies, and she has received international recognition for her innovations, including the KUKA Innovation Award for robotic-assisted focused ultrasound.



Marcia O'Malley, PhD

Professor & Chair, Department of Mechanical Engineering | Rice University

Dr. Marcia O'Malley is the Thomas Michael Panos Family Professor at Rice University, with appointments in mechanical engineering, computer science, electrical and computer engineering, and bioengineering. Her research focuses on haptics, robotic rehabilitation, and wearable robotic devices for training and recovery, and she is an accomplished educator and award-winning researcher recognized as a Fellow of several leading engineering and biomedical organizations.



Nassir Navab, PhD

Professor & Chair, Computer Aided Medical Procedures & Augmented Reality | Technical University of Munich

Professor Nassir is a full professor and Director of the Laboratories for Computer Aided Medical Procedures (CAMP) at the Technical University of Munich, internationally recognized for pioneering work in medical augmented reality, surgical data science, and robotic imaging. An elected member of Academia Europaea and Fellow of several leading scientific organizations, he has received numerous prestigious honors, including the 2025 IEEE Technical Achievement Award, and holds more than 100 granted patents alongside an extensive body of highly cited research.



David Pynadath, PhD

Executive Director for Research Initiatives, Ken Kennedy Institute | Rice University

Dr. David Pynadath is the Executive Director for Research Initiatives at Rice University's Ken Kennedy Institute, where he supports responsible AI and computing research through funding development and strategic partnerships. With extensive experience in artificial intelligence, human-machine teaming, and social simulation from his previous leadership role at the University of Southern California's Institute for Creative Technologies, he works to advance interdisciplinary research and collaboration across academia, industry, government, and the Texas Medical Center.



Homer Quintana, MCTM

Program Director, CRDT | Houston Methodist

Homer Quintana, MCTM, specializes in biotechnology and life sciences product development, translational research, and commercialization, helping clients advance drug and medical device candidates toward regulatory review and market readiness. His expertise includes intellectual property evaluation, clinical translation, regulatory strategy, product and market valuation, venture and non-dilutive funding, and tailored startup consulting.



Maham Rahimi, MD, PhD

Associate Professor of Vascular Surgery, Department of Cardiovascular Surgery; Director of Research, EnMED | Houston Methodist; Texas A&M Engineering Medicine

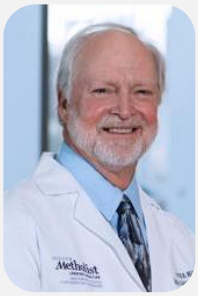
Dr. Rahimi is a vascular surgeon at Houston Methodist Hospital, where he joined the Department of Cardiovascular Surgery in 2017, with clinical expertise in aortic aneurysms, aortic dissection, vascular graft infections, and peripheral artery disease. With advanced training in biomedical engineering, nanotechnology, and vascular surgery, he has authored more than 30 publications, presented over 50 abstracts, and continues to advance research and innovation in vascular care and medical device design.



Pedro Ramirez, MD

Gynecologic Oncology, Gynecologic Surgical Oncology; Chair, Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology | Houston Methodist

Dr. Pedro T. Ramirez is Chair of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Houston Methodist Hospital and a Professor of Gynecologic Oncology, with extensive experience in gynecologic cancer research, surgical innovation, and clinical care. A former MD Anderson faculty member and Editor-in-Chief of the International Journal of Gynecological Cancer, he led the landmark LACC trial that transformed surgical standards for early-stage cervical cancer and continues to advance evidence-based surgical innovation through his work with Oxford University's IDEAL Council.



Patrick Reardon, MD

Chief, Division of Minimally Invasive Surgery | Houston Methodist

Patrick R. Reardon, MD, FACS, is a board-certified surgeon with expertise in several areas, including bariatric surgery, gastrointestinal surgery, hepatopancreatobiliary surgery, endocrine surgery, and minimally invasive surgery. He attended medical school and completed his residency and fellowship at Baylor College of Medicine. He is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons (FACS) and a member of the Academy of Master Surgical Educators. Dr. Reardon is a highly experienced doctor, with 32 years of practice, and is known in the community for his research studies.



Sarah Rozycki, MD

Urogynecology | Houston Methodist

Dr. Sarah Rozycki is a urogynecologist specializing in pelvic floor disorders, including pelvic organ prolapse, urinary incontinence, and bladder conditions, with expertise in minimally invasive, robotic, and VNOTES surgical techniques. She is committed to compassionate, evidence-based women's healthcare and actively contributes to multi-institutional research investigating the microbiome and surgical outcomes.



Siddarth Satish, PhD

Vice President, AI | Stryker

Siddarth Satish serves as Vice President of AI at Stryker, where he leads enterprise initiatives in artificial intelligence, spatial computing, and mixed reality while advancing innovation in surgical and orthopedic technologies. As the founder and former CEO of Gauss Surgical, he pioneered AI-driven surgical blood-loss measurement technology, guided the company through multiple regulatory approvals and its acquisition by Stryker, and holds more than 50 patents in surgery, diagnostics, and computer vision.



Austin Shelton, MBE

Research Engineer | The Bookout Center, Houston Methodist

Austin is a Research Engineer and full-stack software developer at the Bookout Center with a focus on creating custom XR applications. He graduated from Rice University with a Master of Bioengineering in 2023, after which he joined the Bookout Center at its inception. Since then, he's developed a variety of XR products and platforms for patients, physicians, and trainees alike.



Jeffrey Siewerdsen, PhD

Professor, Department of Imaging Physics | UT MD Anderson Cancer Center

Dr. Siewerdsen leads the Surgineering Lab and Surgical Data Science Program at The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center, advancing image-guided surgery through innovations in surgical navigation, robotics, intraoperative imaging, and predictive analytics. His research integrates engineering, medical imaging, and artificial intelligence to improve surgical precision and outcomes, with projects spanning robotic brain surgery, orthopedic robotics, and deep-learning applications in intraoperative imaging.



Anuj Suri, MD

OB/GYN Clinical Program and Workshop Faculty | Houston Methodist

Dr. Suri is a gynecologic oncologist in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at Houston Methodist Hospital, specializing in the care of patients with gynecologic cancers. He earned his medical degree from the University of Tennessee, completed his residency at the University of Texas Medical School at Houston, and pursued fellowship training in gynecologic oncology at the University of North Carolina Hospitals.



Mathias Unberath, PhD

Associate Professor | Johns Hopkins University

Mathias Unberath builds the future of physical AI for healthcare. As the John C. Malone Associate Professor of Computer Science at Johns Hopkins University and co-founder and CTO of venture-backed Inner Logic, he leads programs in both academia and industry. At Hopkins, he holds appointments across Engineering, Medicine, and Nursing. With more than 250 publications, over 20 international best-paper awards, and recognition including the NSF CAREER Award, NIH Trailblazer Award, and Google Research Scholar Award, Mathias is among the leading voices shaping AI-driven healthcare.



Ashok Veeraraghavan, PhD

Professor & Chair, Department of Electrical & Computer Engineering | Rice University

Dr. Ashok Veeraraghavan is a Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Rice University, specializing in computational imaging and advanced optical technologies. He co-developed FlatCam, a lensless imaging system, and FlatScope, a miniature microscope designed for neural imaging, advancing innovations in imaging, neuroscience, and brain–computer interfaces.



Robert J. Webster, III, PhD

Senior Associate Provost for Commercialization & Technology Transfer; Professor of Mechanical Engineering | Vanderbilt University

Dr. Robert Webster is the Richard A. Schroeder Professor of Mechanical Engineering at Vanderbilt University, specializing in surgical robotics, medical device innovation, and interdisciplinary collaboration between engineering and medicine. An IEEE Fellow and National Academy of Inventors Fellow, he has co-founded several medical technology companies focused on translating advanced surgical innovations into clinical practice.



Elise Yates, MD

Medical Resident | Houston Methodist

Elise Yates, MD, is a third-year resident at Houston Methodist Hospital in Houston, Texas, pursuing a career in gynecologic oncology. She plans to apply for a gynecologic oncology fellowship and is actively involved in multiple research projects under the mentorship of Dr. Pedro Ramirez, Dr. Aparna Kamat, and Dr. Behrouz Zand. She believes research is essential for professional development and fostering collaboration through the exchange of ideas and findings.



Behrouz Zand, MD

Gynecologic Oncology, Gynecologic Surgical Oncology | Houston Methodist

Dr. Behrouz Zand currently works at Houston Methodist, bringing expertise in gynecologic oncology, robotic and laparoscopic surgery, chemotherapy, and clinical research. He holds a Master of Science in Biomedical Sciences from The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston (UTHealth) and has experience in academic and newspaper publishing.



Dora Zatyko, MD

Postdoctoral Fellow | Houston Methodist

Dr. Zatyko is a globally trained physician-scientist and vascular surgery trainee at Semmelweis University in Budapest, Hungary, currently conducting advanced research at Houston Methodist under the mentorship of Dr. Alan Lumsden. Her research focuses on aortic dissection, advanced imaging techniques such as 4D flow MRI, robotic-assisted vascular surgery, and digital surgical analytics to advance precision vascular care.

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