

Fermilab Innovation Discovery Event

March 25, 2021

Panel Biographies

	<p>Armando Pauker is the Managing Director and Co-Founder of Tensility Venture Partners. Tensility Venture Partners is a seed-stage venture capital firm that partners with mission-driven founders of early-stage enterprise AI startups, with a focus on software for cyber security and digital health, as well as novel, vertical-focused applications for artificial intelligence. Armando was also a General Partner at another firm and prior to that held senior operating roles at several companies. Armando has an MBA from the University of Michigan and a BSEE from the California Institute of Technology.</p>
	<p>Britta Wilk McKenna is the CEO and Chief Innovation Officer at Four Hawks, LLC. Britta applies her Master of Public Administration in organizational leadership degree and experience as a Chief Innovation Officer, entrepreneur and award-winning community builder to help changemakers make change. Using human-centered design principles (design thinking), Britta guides teams in solving problems and creating new opportunities. Prior to starting her own consultancy, Britta served as the Chief Innovation Officer at the Illinois Mathematics and Science Academy. Britta is also a member of the Fermilab Community Advisory Board. Britta received her BA from the University of Minnesota and her MPA from NIU.</p>
	<p>John Carlisle is the Director of Chain Reaction Innovations, an entrepreneurship center located at the Argonne National Laboratory. John is a physicist and entrepreneur with a strong passion for translating fundamental discoveries into disruptive products. As Director of Chain Reaction Innovations, John's focus is on supporting the next generation of innovators to move hardware-based energy technologies into applications with high societal and economic impact. John re-joined Argonne in 2016 after working for more than 15 years as Co-Founder and CTO of Advanced Diamond Technologies, which spun out of Argonne in late 2003. John holds a Ph.D. in Physics from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.</p>
	<p>Bill Payne is the executive director of science and technology at the Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the University of Chicago. In this role, he leads the technology commercialization, Polsky Science Ventures, and industry relations teams working to bring groundbreaking faculty research to the market. Bill previously served as vice president and chief operating officer of Roberson and Associates' consulting and has held leadership roles in product and technology development at Nokia, Motorola, and AT&T. Bill is also a startup veteran—having founded and built a company that developed a mobile advertising and sponsorship service that was integrated into AT&T's and Verizon's networks and approved for use. Bill received his BSEE from Purdue University, his MSEE from Georgia Tech, and his PhD in Electrical Engineering from the Illinois Institute of Technology.</p>



Michelle Hoffman is P33's Senior VP of Deep Tech. Michelle brings extensive experience in the life science and healthcare industry most recently as senior V.P. for Back Bay Life Science Advisors. At Back Bay, she used knowledge and understanding of innovation within pharma, biotech, and medtech/diagnostics combined with operational and transactional expertise to help her clients to make critical, strategic decisions. She brings that deep understanding and experience of the health and life sciences industries to Chicago and will work closely with the local community to facilitate planning and growth of these industries. Michelle has a PhD in Molecular Neuroscience from the University of California, Berkeley and a B.A. from Cornell University.



Steve Waszkowiak was working as a project engineer with Johnson & Johnson in 1990 when he first met Dan Casey, the founder of Sterling Engineering. In 1999, Dan invited Steve to join his in-house engineering team and promoted him to the role of engineering manager. Shortly thereafter Steve earned his professional engineering license and became the licensed PE for the firm. With over 30 years of engineering experience, Steve oversees Sterling's in-house engineering design team, supporting projects throughout the entire project life cycle and leads the company's continuous improvement initiatives to strengthen its engineering service offerings. Steve earned a Bachelor's of Mechanical Engineering from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is a licensed PE (professional engineer) and a member of the Illinois Society of Professional Engineers.