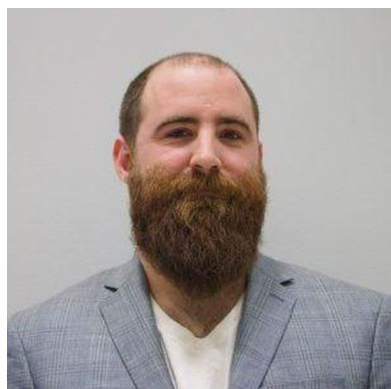


# Fermilab Innovation Discovery Event

May 25, 2023

## Panel Biographies



**Alex Gorsuch** is Co-founder and CTO at Ascent Integrated Tech. In his current venture, Ascent Integrated Tech, the team builds the Common Operational Picture (COP) dashboard for firefighters and warfighters by providing actionable insight on the health and location of the operator while mapping the battlespace. Alex has led the development of tools to measure and optimize both cognitive and physiological readiness of first responders and warfighters as well as leading development of ATAK (Android Tactical Assault Kit) integration.

Alex has served as Principal Investigator on an AFWERX D2P2 SBIR contract with 96th Civil Engineer Squad for firefighter localization and mapping (\$1,247,975), on an AFWERX D2P2 SBIR contract with 96th Test Wing for firefighter readiness and toxicity monitoring (\$1,249,521), and Team Lead on the FRST (First Responder Smart Tracking) Challenge (\$332,700).

Previously, Alex taught customer discovery, as well as, tech and venture development for 5+ years, including for the Army Research Lab, Department of Homeland Security, National Science Foundation, National Security Innovation Network, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and more. Alex is currently writing “Hyenas Eat Unicorns: A Carnivore's Workbook for Mission-Driven Tech Entrepreneurship”, makes good mead, can throw an axe pretty well, and enjoys wrestling with his direwolf.



**Anne Juggernaut, PhD** serves as a senior manager of business development and licensing at the University of Chicago's Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation. Anne works with faculty in quantum engineering, molecular engineering, and materials sciences to help transform their ideas and discoveries into patents, licenses, products, services, and startup ventures. She helps lead intellectual portfolio patenting, licensing, strategic partner development, and technology commercialization activities.

Prior to joining Polsky, Anne spent several years in the research in the materials industry where she worked with open innovation, technology scouting, and global platform technologies. She also spent time at the University of Michigan managing a diverse portfolio and leading the tech transfer fellows program to train graduate students and postdocs in conducting market and commercialization assessment reports on new inventions.

Anne earned a PhD and MS in macromolecular materials science and engineering from University of Michigan and BS from Michigan Tech University. In her spare time she enjoys traveling, visiting family all over the world, trying new cuisines, and yoga.

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**Deena Wright** joined the Chain Reaction Innovations (CRI) team as the Strategic Operations Lead in October 2018 after eight years at Argonne’s Advanced Photon Source (APS) as the Argonne User Agreement Specialist. In 2021, she was promoted to Fellowship & Program Manager for CRI. Deena draws on her knowledge of Argonne to assure the startups in the program are engaged and supported both within Argonne and in the broader entrepreneurial ecosystem.

Deena leads CRI’s diversity, equity and inclusion efforts as well, providing vision and leadership – and is also a member of the Science & Technology Partnerships and Outreach DEIA Council. Deena is also the Students for Energy & Entrepreneurial Development (SEED) internship program lead. The internship was created for undergraduate students of Chicago-area Minority Serving Institutions to introduce them to entrepreneurship in science.

In 2021, alongside the CRI team, Deena received an Argonne Board of Governor’s Award for Distinguished Performance, and in 2022 she received an Impact Argonne award for her efforts in creating and launching the SEED program. Deena holds a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration and an MBA from Lewis University. She is also a 2021 Chicago Clean Energy Leadership Institute Fellow.



**Gaurav Bansal, Ph.D.** is Senior Director of Engineering, Autonomy at Blue River Technology at Blue River Technology, a company of innovators focused on driving radical change in agriculture by creating intelligent machinery, to empower their customers – farmers – to implement more sustainable solutions, optimize chemical usage, re-imagine routine processes, and improve farming yields.

Prior to joining Blue River, Gaurav was Principal Deep Learning Engineer at the Airbus A<sup>3</sup> Labs, where he worked on creating autonomous flight and machine-learning solutions to enable self-piloted aircraft operations. Gaurav holds more than 50 patents in automated driving and is the co-author of around 100 publications and a book on vehicular communications. He has received numerous awards including an early career award from the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) Vehicular Technology and served on the editorial boards of IEEE Vehicular Technology Magazine and IEEE Connected Vehicles Initiative.

Gaurav earned a bachelor’s degree in electrical engineering from Indian Institutes of Technology, a Ph.D. degree in electrical and computer engineering from The University of British Columbia, and an Artificial Intelligence Graduate Certificate from Stanford University.

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**John Carlisle** is the former 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 was 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.



**Neil Kane**, a leading authority on technology commercialization, entrepreneurship and innovation, Kane is the Director of Curriculum and Capstone Advising in the [ESTEEM Program](#) at the University of Notre Dame. He was the co-Executive Director of the Illinois Technology Enterprise Center at Argonne National Laboratory and is the founding CEO of several venture- and angel-backed companies based on university research and has been an I-Corps mentor and NSF reviewer several times.

Named a 2007 Technology Pioneer by the World Economic Forum, he was recognized for Outstanding Entrepreneurship by the NSF and twice was an invited witness on technology transfer for the U.S. House of Representative's Subcommittee on Research & Science Education. He was appointed by U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo to a two-year term on the [National Advisory Council on Entrepreneurship & Innovation](#) (2022).