



Scientists in School Board of Directors 2016

Dan Adirim

Dan Adirim is Vice President, Program Management at Cirba. Previously he was Associate Vice President, Enterprise IT Operations at TD Bank Group. He was also Vice President of IT Strategy and Architecture at Loblaw Companies Limited and spent 10 years as a Management Consultant at Accenture.

Dan holds a Bachelor of Science, Engineering Chemistry from Queen's University and is a Professional Engineer. He looks forward to the day his daughter is old enough to participate in a Scientists in School program.

Richard Barber

Richard Barber is Senior Vice President, Sales and Marketing at Computershare. He was previously Senior Director of Pricing and Bid Strategy in the Wireless Business Segment at Rogers Communications. Prior to that he held a number of positions at Celestica including the role of Senior Director, Global Sales Operations. His formal education includes an MBA from Queens University and a B.Sc. in Honours Physics from the University of Western Ontario. Richard also holds the Professional Physicists (P.Phys.) license/designation (analogous to P.Eng.).

Richard is keenly interested in youth education and plays an active role on parent committees at his children's elementary school. As of this month, Richard is also serving on the Board of Directors at the East Scarborough Boys and Girls Club which is partially funded by the Rogers Youth Fund and The United Way. The science bug is alive and well in their busy household with four junior scientists.

Greg Chownyk (Vice Chair)

Greg Chownyk is General Manager, Canada Commercial & Industrial Marketing for Shell Energy North America- a subsidiary of the Royal Dutch Shell group and leading marketer of natural gas and power. He has worked in the energy industry across Canada for 11 years and has held leadership positions in sales, marketing and strategy development. Greg holds an honours degree in Business Administration from Wilfred Laurier University.

Greg is keen to help Scientists in School achieve its mission in fostering excitement for science and technology in children of all ages. He believes the future leaders of our country will need to possess curiosity and innovation in these areas to ensure Canada remains a leader on the world stage.

Diane Davy

Diane Davy is President and owner of Castledale Inc., a consulting company that specializes in business and marketing strategies for the cultural industries and marketers of quality children's products. Diane has held President and Publisher positions in several of Canada's most prestigious book and magazine companies, including Key Porter Books and OWL Magazines.

Throughout her career she has been an active participant in the various industries in which she has been involved, serving on the boards of the Association of Canadian Publishers, the Organization of Book Publishers of Ontario, and the Association for the Export of Canadian Books and the Canadian Magazine Publishers Association. She also serves on the board of PEN Canada.

Cyril Dimitris

Cyril Dimitris is Vice President, Sales and Marketing at Toyota Canada Inc., the sales and distribution arm for Toyota and Lexus vehicles and parts in Canada. During his 28 year tenure with Toyota, Cyril has held several senior level positions, leading key areas including Finance, Human Resources, Information Services and Lexus. He holds an Honour Bachelor degree in Commerce and Economics from the University of Toronto and a CPA, CMA designation.

Cyril has engaged himself in volunteer activities throughout his career, many of those supporting children in some capacity. He has seen the positive impact Scientists in School have had on his own children and is excited about helping SiS bring the program to ever more young students, thereby building the enthusiasm towards science amongst our future leaders.

Beverley Freedman

Bev Freedman is the Program Manager on Canada's Outstanding Principals' Award project in collaboration with The Learning Partnership. She was the former Barrie team leader and Executive Officer for the Ontario Ministry of Education's Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat (LNS). Previously she was the Leadership Coordinator for the Faculty of Education, York University. She is an adjunct professor for the University of Ontario's Institute of Technology and the former Superintendent of Programs with the Durham District School Board (DDSB).

In 2004, she was awarded a research grant from the Ontario Principals' Council for a study on instructional leadership. She has worked in a consultative capacity for several branches of the Ministry on a variety of initiatives including special education and curriculum development. Ms Freedman was on the executive of Ontario's provincial superintendents' organization (OPSOA), and in 2001, was named Ontario's Distinguished Leader by OPSOA. Additionally, she serves as part of the research team of the Think First Foundation. She recently completed her doctorate in instructional leadership and walkthroughs.

Cheryl Johnson

Cheryl Johnston is Senior Communications Advisor for Ontario Power Generation. She has successfully led innovative education and partnership programs in the nuclear energy industry for more than 30 years. These programs, based out of the Pickering Nuclear Information Centre, have helped significantly grow community understanding and support for Pickering Nuclear's operation.

Cheryl also spent a rewarding seven years as a Scientists in School presenter inspiring young students to be inquisitive, innovative, and to have fun doing so. Her focus was on energy workshops and as a mentor, Cheryl helped train and support new presenters.

Cheryl is a proud parent of a Scientists in School workshop graduate who is now studying Environmental Physics at university.

Marc Nantel (Chair)

Marc Nantel is Associate Vice-President, Research and Innovation at Niagara College Canada. Previously he held the position of Director of Research, Commercialization and Talent Programs at the Ontario Centres of Excellence (OCE), where he is also oversaw OCE's nanotechnology interests.

After obtaining his B.Sc. and M.Sc. (Physics) from McGill University, and his Ph.D. from INRS-Energie et Matériaux (Université du Québec), Marc Nantel spent 4 postdoc years in France and at the University of Michigan, pursuing ever shorter laser-produced visible and x-ray pulses and their applications. He then took the position of Senior Staff Scientist at Photonics Research Ontario (PRO) – eventually OCE's Centre for Photonics – in March 1998 and established the Laser Micromachining Facility, now part of the University of Toronto's Institute for Optical Sciences. He was an Adjunct Professor of Physics at the University of Toronto from 1998 to 2008, where he continued to pursue his research in laser-matter interactions.

Since 2000, Marc Nantel has worked with Ontario colleges and universities to establish new education and training programs in photonics. He founded several organizations, from the On The Spot Improv troupe in 1990, to the Science and Technology Awareness Network (STAN) in 2002, to NanoOntario in 2010.

Herman Ng

Herman is an Associate Director, Value Creation at Bell responsible for major productivity initiatives and cross-company program management. He also worked at OLG, TELUS and Honeywell in strategy, business transformation and operations planning, as well as pre-sales during his postings in Vancouver

and Toronto.

A Professional Engineer of Ontario, Herman holds a BAsC in Engineering Science from the University of Toronto, a MEng from Simon Fraser University, and a MBA from the Rotman School of Management. Herman also volunteers as a mentor for engineering students at the University of Toronto and serves as a board member with Adventure Place.

Tony Redpath

Tony Redpath holds a Ph.D in Physical Chemistry (molecular dynamics), with post doctoral fellowships in West Berlin (ion – molecule reactions) and Toronto (polymer dynamics).

He moved to industry as a research scientist at EcoPlastics, a small technology based company developing photo-degradable plastic and other environmental technologies, and ultimately became President of the company. Following his departure from EcoPlastics he worked for the Ontario Centre of Excellence in the materials and manufacturing area. He played a number of roles there from managing corporate communications, to research project management and the commercialization of research results. He left the Centre of Excellence to join Primaxis where he has had the responsibility of evaluating investment opportunities, negotiating investments and managing the relationships with invested companies. While still acting as a Managing Partner at Primaxis, he has taken on the additional role of Business Advisor to MaRS Inc., an Ontario based convergence centre active in the medical sciences and related technology areas.

Tony is an avid amateur naturalist and spends as much leisure time as possible at the family hobby farm raising bees, building bird houses, cutting cross country ski trails and making maple syrup with his two children.

Stephen Strauss

Stephen Strauss was a writer and columnist with the Globe and Mail for more than 20 years. In that time he has won numerous science writing awards and published three books and a book chapter. He has served as a member of Health Canada's Science Advisory Council, and has been part of a group helping the OECD set chemical standards. He is also included in the Canadian Who's Who.

He presently writes a regular column on science for CBC.ca and is on the selection committee for the Canadian Science and Technology Hall of Fame. Both his wife and his daughter are teachers and have shown him in a variety of ways how fun and important that is.

Rumina Velshi (Vice Chair)

Rumina Velshi recently retired from Ontario Power Generation after a 32-year career with the company. Her last role was that of Director, Planning and Control, Darlington New Nuclear Project. In that role, she was the commercial lead from OPG for the procurement of nuclear reactors for the Darlington site as well as responsible for developing and implementing the project management infrastructure for one of the largest mega capital projects in Canada.

Rumina holds a B.A.Sc (Civil Engineering), M.Eng (Chemical Engineering) and an MBA - all from the University of Toronto. Throughout her career, Rumina has worked relentlessly on promoting careers in science and engineering - especially for women. She is the founding member of Women in Science and Engineering (Canada), currently a member of the Board of Directors of Women in Nuclear (Canada), a regular judge at science fairs and a long-standing speaker and panelist at career symposiums and conferences.

Lisa Watson

Lisa Watson is the Principal of Strategies for Social Impact, and a Faculty Member with the Canadian Organizational Development Institute. Lisa is a skilled strategist with nearly 20 years of experience designing and delivering high impact initiatives in the health, social and community services domains. As a consultant, public speaker, coach and volunteer mentor, she advises on strategy, systems change, strategic evaluation and learning, collaboration and organizational development.

Lisa has held senior positions leading policy and strategy development in the Ontario provincial government and the charitable nonprofit sector. She has extensive experience developing successful partnerships across community, government and private sectors to address complex problems and systems change. She works with funders, foundations and organizations to track and measure their impact, and develop cultures of learning and evaluations that enable adaptations, innovation and increased effectiveness. She is a highly skilled listener, communicator and writer who takes a consultative approach that is based in evidence and best practice, and that builds positive and trusting relationships among all stakeholders.

Lisa is a graduate of the University of Waterloo-McConnell Foundation Graduate Diploma in Social Innovation and also holds degree from Dalhousie University in Psychology and Social Work. She has received extensive training in complexity science, systems analysis, polarity and integrative thinking, design thinking and leadership.

Michael Wosnick

Michael Wosnick recently retired from the Canadian Cancer Society where, as Vice-President of Research and Scientific Director of the Canadian Cancer Society Research Institute, he oversaw the Society's national research programs and played an important leadership role in engaging the public to build understanding of, and commitment to, cancer research. He became a much sought-after public speaker, logging nearly 100 talks about research across the country. Prior to joining the Canadian Cancer Society, he served as the Executive Director of the National Cancer Institute of Canada. Michael brings 35 years of experience encompassing the academic, biotechnology and not-for-profit sectors to Scientists in School. He has been a member of eight Boards of Directors and has held dozens of leadership and management roles in not-for-profit organizations.

He holds a B.Sc. degree from the University of Toronto and a Ph.D. degree in molecular biology from Queen's University in Kingston, and did further training as a Post-Doctoral Fellow of the Medical Research Council of Canada, conducting research in the fields of molecular biology and gene expression at the University of Calgary Medical School.