



Concordia University – Morocco academic and scientific dialogues

60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and Morocco

April 21, 2022

Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco
Ambassade du Royaume du Maroc
Ottawa



سفارة المملكة المغربية
أوتاوا



UNIVERSITÉ
Concordia
UNIVERSITY



Welcome

On behalf of Concordia University and the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco in Canada, we are pleased to welcome you to the *Concordia – Morocco academic and scientific dialogues*, a platform for discussion between the university community, industry, and agencies from Concordia and Morocco.

The event, framed under the celebrations of the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and Morocco, will provide participants with a unique networking and learning opportunity, as well as an occasion to explore new areas of collaboration, funding opportunities, and trends in key sectors.

We are delighted to have in attendance guests from academic institutions, government agencies, and industry from Morocco and Canada. We hope this forum serves to nourish our academic, research, and cultural ties and helps to spark further reflection and dialogue regarding our relationship. We wish you a pleasant and fruitful event.

Concordia University and the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco in Canada



Introduction

This year marks the 60th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Canada and Morocco. To celebrate this important occasion, Concordia University and the Embassy of the Kingdom of Morocco in Canada are launching the “Concordia – Morocco academic and scientific dialogues”, aimed at underscoring the diversity of the academic, research, and cultural ties between our communities, as well as to identify opportunities for future collaboration.

Located in Quebec, Concordia is a young, forward-looking, and multicultural university, where research, experimentation, innovation, and creativity are put into service to respond to the grand challenges faced by society. Similarly, Morocco has made strong commitments to education and translating new knowledge into social capital, reaffirming the country’s status as a pole of innovation and R&D in the region. Based on these shared values, Concordia University and Moroccan institutions have engaged in active collaborations to jointly advance different fields, ranging from energy, cybersecurity, health, AI, ICT, etc.

The bilateral relationship has been built on deep person-to-person connections including academics, exchange students, visiting professors, alumni, and the contribution of faculty members of Moroccan-heritage who have enriched Concordia’s multicultural experience. At an institutional level, Concordia has placed a strong commitment to partner with Moroccan organizations, signing institutional agreements such as the recently executed agreement with Université Mohamed VI Polytechnique, which promotes student and faculty mobility, research collaboration, online training, co-publication, etc.

The event “Concordia – Morocco academic and scientific dialogues” will bring together a group of researchers from Concordia University and Morocco to present their research, share their partnership experiences, and reflect on the future of the bilateral relations. This event will provide participants with a unique networking and learning opportunity, as well as an occasion to explore new areas of collaboration.



Logistics

Location	Part I (morning) - Concordia 4 th Space (1400 Maisonneuve Blvd W, Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8)
Virtual participation	By Zoom webinar (RSVP) By 4th Space's YouTube channel .
Date and time	Thursday April 21 st , 2022, 9am to 1pm EST
Official languages	The event will be conducted in English and French
Recording	The event will be videorecorded and available for future consultation
Contacts	Concordia University: Julio Sevilla, International Projects Manager (julio.sevilla@concordia.ca)



Agenda

Concordia 4th Space (1400 Maisonneuve Blvd W, Montreal, Quebec H3G 1M8)

MC: Mr. *William Cheaib*, Chief of Staff and Associate VP, International

9:00 – 9:25	Welcome remarks Prof. Graham Carr , President and Vice-Chancellor, Concordia University Her Excellency Souriya Otmani , Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to Canada Prof. Rémi Quirion , Chief Scientist of Quebec
9:25 – 9:45	Keynote remarks by Her Honorable Ms. Leila Benali , Minister of Energy Transition and Sustainable Development, Morocco (video message)
9:45 – 10:45	Presentations and panel discussion I <i>Energy and sustainability</i> Moderator: Dr. Alex De Visscher , Professor and Chair, Chemical and Materials Engineering, Concordia University <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Prof. Catherine Mulligan, Director of the Concordia Institute of Water, Energy and Sustainable Systems, Concordia University• M. Badr IKKEN, Directeur général, Institute Research Energy Solar and Energy Nouvelles (IRESEN), et Co-President du Green Energy Park, Maroc• Prof. Andreas Athienitis, Director, Concordia Centre for Zero Energy Building Studies, Concordia University• Prof. Tijani Bounahmidi, Vice-President, Research and Innovation, Euromed University of Fes Q&A period
10:45 – 10:55	Health break



10:55 – 11:55 Presentations and panel discussion 2
Funding and collaboration opportunities for bilateral cooperation (Quebec -Morocco)

Moderator: Mr. [Alain Olivier](#), Directeur, Bureau du Québec à Rabat

- Prof. [Rémi Quirion](#), Chief Scientist of Quebec
- Mme [Jamila El Alami](#), Centre National pour la Recherche Scientifique et Technique du Maroc (CNRST)
- Mr. [Naser Faruqi](#), Director of Education and Science, International Development Research Centre (IDRC)
- Mme [Nawal Chraïbi](#), Directrice General de la Fondation MASCIR (Moroccan Foundation for Advanced Science, Innovation and Research)
- Mr. [Charles Achampong](#), VP, International Partnerships, Mitacs

Q&A period

11:55 – 12:55 Presentations and panel discussion 3
Leveraging People, Technology, and Information for a Smart and Connected Society

Moderator: Dr. [Paula Wood-Adams](#), Interim Vice-President of Research and Graduate Studies, Concordia University

- Presentation: Prof. [Rachida Dssouli](#), Professor, Institute for Information Systems Engineering, Concordia University
- M. [Rafiq El Alami](#), Head of Digital 4 Research and Director of Digital learning Lab University Mohammed VI Polytechnique Morocco
- Prof. [Jamal Bentahar](#), Full Professor. Institute for Information Systems Engineering (CIISE), Concordia University
- Prof. [Ahmed Ratnani](#), Chercheur en Modeling simulation and data science, Université Mohammed VI Polytechnique

Q&A period

12:55 –13:00 Conclusion

Welcoming

PROF GRAHAM CARR

President and Vice-Chancellor of Concordia University



Prof. Graham Carr is President and Vice-Chancellor of Concordia University. Ranked as Canada's top university under 50 years old by QS, Concordia has two Montreal campuses that are home to more than 50,000 undergraduate and graduate students and 7,000 faculty and staff. Graham's previous leadership positions at Concordia include Provost and Vice-President, Academic Affairs; Vice-President, Research and Graduate Studies; and Dean of Graduate Studies.

Born in Quebec, Graham earned his PhD from the University of Maine and is a Professor in the Department of History. His research focuses on North American cultural history, in particular cultural diplomacy and the Cold War. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of Centraide (United Way) of Greater Montreal and as the Réseau du sport étudiant du Québec (RSEQ) representative on the Board of U SPORTS, the national brand for university sports in Canada.

Graham is also a member of the Research Committee of Universities Canada and sits on the Steering Committee of Montreal Climate Partnership (Partenariat Climat Montréal). He previously served on the Leadership Council for Digital Infrastructure, as President of the Canadian Federation for the Humanities and Social Sciences, as Chair of the Canada-US Fulbright selection committee, and for many years on the National Capital Commission's Advisory Committee for Communications, Marketing and Programming.

HER EXCELLENCY SOURIYA OTMANI

Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to Canada



Mrs. OTMANI, laureate of the Faculty of Law at Mohammed V University in Rabat, has more than 35 years of professional career within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Morocco. She has occupied several prestigious positions and responsibilities within Moroccan diplomacy. Before being appointed Ambassador of the Kingdom of Morocco to Canada in April 2018.

Mrs. OTMANI was Ambassador in Prague from 2011 to 2018. She served as Consul General in Montreal (2004 – 2011), Minister Counselor in Vienna, Austria (1995), and Deputy Head of Mission in Stockholm, Sweden (1998). From 1982, the date of her integration into the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of Morocco and until 1995, she held various positions of bilaterally and multilaterally responsibility, which enabled her to take part in several meetings of the UN General Assembly in New York and Vienna and also to represent her country in multiple regional and international forums and conferences in more than 40 countries.

She played an active role in advancing Morocco's position on important issues such as gender inclusion, sustainable development, environment protection, economic and industrial development, social affairs, space affairs and the fight against drug trafficking and organized crime. Ambassador OTMANI's favorite field remains cultural diplomacy.

She is very active in various groups of ambassadors accredited in Ottawa, such as the African Group, the Arab Council, the Francophone Group, the Association of African Women Diplomats, the Association of Women Diplomats Heads of Mission and the Association of Ottawa Diplomats. Ms. OTMANI has been awarded the International Prize for Culture by the City of Prague (2017), and the Silver Medal of Merit by the Czech Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She also was the recipient of the Best Ambassador Award for the North Africa region in Ottawa (2019) and the "Dynamic African Women Trophy" by the Embassy of Gabon in Ottawa on behalf of the Presidency of the Republic of Gabon (2019).

Welcoming

Prof. Rémi Quirion

Inaugural Chief Scientist of Quebec



On September 1, 2011, Rémi Quirion, OC, CQ, PhD, FRSC, became Québec's first chief scientist. As such, he chairs the boards of directors of the three Fonds de recherche du Québec and advises the Minister of Economy and Innovation on research and scientific development issues. He is the president of the International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA) as of September 2021.

Until his appointment as chief scientist, Rémi Quirion was the vice-dean for science and strategic initiatives in the faculty of medicine at McGill University and senior university advisor on health sciences research. He was the scientific director of the Douglas Mental Health University Institute Research Centre, a full professor in the department of psychiatry at McGill University and the executive director of the International Collaborative Research Strategy for Alzheimer's Disease of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Professor Quirion was the first scientific director of the Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction (INMHA), one of Canada's 13 health research institutes.

His work helped to elucidate the roles of the cholinergic system in Alzheimer's disease, of neuropeptide Y in depression and memory and of the calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) in pain and opiate tolerance. Rémi Quirion earned his PhD in pharmacology from Université de Sherbrooke in 1980 and carried out his postdoctoral training at the National Institute of Mental Health in the United States in 1983. He has over 750 publications in prominent scientific journals and is one of the most extensively cited neuroscientists in the world. He has received several awards and honours, including the Ordre national du Québec (Chevalier du Québec, CQ) in 2003, the Prix Wilder-Penfield (Prix du Québec) in 2004 and the Order of Canada (OC) in 2007. Mr. Quirion is a member of the Royal Society of Canada and was also inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame. In 2015, he was appointed Officer in the Order of Academic Palms of the French Republic, a distinction awarded by the French government that recognizes its contribution to the development of French-Québec relations in research.

MR. WILLIAM CHEAIB (MC)

Chief of Staff and Associate VP, International, Concordia University



William Cheaib is the chief of staff to the president and vice-chancellor of Concordia University. In this role, he provides advice to the president and assists him in developing and implementing strategy. In addition, William oversees Concordia's international relations as associate vice-president international.

He has a track record in pioneering successful international alliances and advising on government and institutional strategies in international and next-generation education. His past and present public service includes the Canadian Bureau for International Education (CBIE), Expo-Entrepreneurs, Engcomm, and the Montreal Science Centre Foundation.

In 2018, William launched an Africa Initiative that aims to empower African youth through education, entrepreneurship and technology. He is a regular speaker on intercultural communication and strategic planning for the education and public sectors. He holds a Bachelor and a Master's degree in Law. He has a broad administrative experience, a solid background in international relations and a passion for moving the education agenda forward.

Keynote speaker



L'honorable Leila Benali,

Ministre de la Transition Énergétique et du Développement Durable

Nommée par SM Le Roi Mohammed VI, que Dieu l'Assiste, Le Jeudi 7 octobre 2021, Ministre de la Transition Énergétique et du Développement Durable.

Madame Leila BENALI fut économiste en chef de l'International Energy Forum (IEF) depuis mars 2021. En décembre 2019, Madame Leila BENALI a été désignée membre de la Commission spéciale sur le modèle de développement (CSMD). Depuis septembre 2018, elle est membre du groupe d'experts en énergies fossiles auprès de l'ONU.

Madame Leila BENALI est diplômée de l'École Mohammadia d'ingénieurs (EMI) et de l'École centrale Paris, et est doctorante en réformes électriques de l'institut Science Po Paris. Elle est également titulaire d'un DEA en sciences politiques et docteur en économie de l'énergie Summa Cum Laude de sciences.

Au cours de son parcours, elle a travaillé avec de grandes entreprises internationales, notamment le saoudien Aramco, le World Economic Forum et la Société d'Investissement arabe en Pétrole (APICORP). Durant sa carrière, elle a dirigé plusieurs projets tels que la formulation de stratégies de politiques pour des gouvernements, les sociétés du secteur de l'énergie, les industriels et les investisseurs institutionnels.

Madame Leila BENALI a été également directrice pour le Moyen-Orient et l'Afrique chez IHS, cabinet international de recherche et conseil en sécurité et énergie, professeure à sciences Po, ainsi qu'ingénieure industrielle chez Schlumberger.

Madame Leila BENALI a contribué à la publication de nombreux articles et ouvrages sur l'énergie, les réformes et la richesse durable, comme elle a participé à la publication de « la pauvreté énergétique : défis mondiaux et solutions locales », publié en 2014 qui a été saluée comme « une lecture incontournable par quiconque souhaitait véritablement trouver des solutions significatives à la pauvreté énergétique », par l'ancien président des États-Unis, Bill Clinton.

Panel I

Energy and sustainability



Dr. Alex De Visscher (Moderator)
Concordia University

Presentations and panel discussion I

Energy and sustainability

9:45 am – 10:45 am

Join us by: [Zoom](#) (RSVP)

Or

Watch live on [4th Space's YouTube channel](#)



Prof. Catherine Mulligan
Concordia University

How can we create new systems, technologies and solutions for water, energy and resource conservation?



Prof. Tijani Bounahmidig
Euromed University of Fes

How to contribute to sustainable development by creating synergies between renewable energy and water production processes?

How to build bridges between universities and industry in the field of green technologies in Africa?



M. Badr Ikken
IRESEN, and Green Energy Park

How can we reduce the environmental impact of buildings while enhancing their safety and comfort?



Prof. Andreas Athienitis
Concordia University

Panelists will briefly present the research and innovation conducted in their respective research centers and will discuss how can multidisciplinary and international research, in particular in the context of the Concordia-Morocco cooperation, can help tackle some of the most pressing energy and sustainability challenges faced by our societies.

Key questions to discuss in this panel include:

- What the most critical challenges and opportunities faced by your sector/units are?
- How do you collaborate with industry and international partners to advance your research?
- How can governments and funding agencies support the development of new partnerships?

Panel I | Panelists

PROF. ALEX DE VISSCHER (*Moderator*)

Professor and Chair, Chemical and Materials Engineering, Concordia University



Alex De Visscher is Professor and founding Chair of the Department of Chemical and Materials Engineering at Concordia University. He has a broad range of research interests in chemical engineering fundamentals such as chemical thermodynamics and kinetics, transport phenomena, solubility phenomena, and molecular modeling, with applications in chemical engineering and sustainability.

He published over 60 articles in a wide range of scholarly journals and was editor and main author of the 95th volume of the IUPAC-NIST Solubility Data Series, on alkaline earth carbonates. His first book, *Air Dispersion Modeling: Foundations and Applications* was published in 2013 by J. Wiley & Sons, Hoboken, NJ.

Dr. De Visscher obtained his PhD at Ghent University, Belgium, in 2001. He moved to Canada in 2005, to take on a Canada Research Chair in Air Quality and Pollution Control Engineering at the University of Calgary. In 2017 he moved to Montreal to join Concordia University.

M. BADR IKKEN

Directeur général de l'Institut de Recherche en Energie Solaire et Energies Nouvelles (IRESEN) and Green Energy Park



M. Badr IKKEN a obtenu un diplôme d'ingénieur en mécanique, puis un diplôme d'ingénieur d'État en technologies de production industrielle et en technologies de l'énergie solaire à l'Institut de technologie de Berlin. Il a de nombreuses années d'expérience à l'Institut des machines-outils et de la gestion industrielle (IWF) de Berlin. Il a été chef de projet chez Fraunhofer IPK pour des entreprises telles que Siemens Power

Generation, INA Schaeffler, St.Gobain Diamantwerkzeuge, Audi AG et SGL Carbon. Entre 2008 et 2010, M. Badr IKKEN a occupé le poste de directeur technique de la société multinationale Lunos-Raumluftsysteme. Au cours de cette période, il a développé et lancé deux nouvelles lignes de production en Allemagne et en Chine. En septembre 2010, il a rejoint l'Agence Marocaine de l'Énergie Durable (MASEN) en tant que directeur du développement intégré, en charge de l'intégration industrielle et de la R&D.

Il a contribué à la création de l'Institut de recherche en énergie solaire et énergies nouvelles (IRESEN) dont il est le directeur général depuis juillet 2011 et a contribué à la création en 2016 de la première plateforme d'essai, de recherche et de formation sur l'énergie solaire en Afrique, le Green Energy Park de la ville verte de BenGuerir.

Il a également supervisé la mise en place de la nouvelle plateforme de recherche dédiée aux bâtiments verts, à l'efficacité énergétique, aux réseaux intelligents et à la mobilité électrique, le "Green & Smart Building Park", qui devrait être opérationnelle en 2021 à BenGuerir. Également ouvert sur l'Afrique, il installe actuellement une plateforme équivalente au Green Energy Park, cette fois-ci sur la Côte d'Ivoire, plus précisément à Yamoussoukro, en partenariat avec l'Institut polytechnique ivoirien Houphouët-Boigny (INP-HB) dans le but de développer et de valider les technologies solaires en milieu tropical pour la production d'électricité, le traitement de l'eau et l'utilisation dans le secteur agricole.

PROF. CATHERINE N. MULLIGAN, Ph.D, Eng., FCSCE, FEIC, FCAE

Director of the Concordia Institute of Water, Energy and Sustainable Systems, Concordia University



Dr. Mulligan obtained her B.Eng. and M. Eng. in chemical engineering and PhD in geoenvironmental engineering from McGill University. She worked for the Biotechnology Research Institute of the National Research Council of Canada and SNC Research Corp. Of SNC Lavalin before joining Concordia University in 1999.

She held a Concordia Research Chair in Geoenvironmental Sustainability (Tier I) until 2021 and is a full professor in the Dept. of Bldg., Civil and Environmental Engineering. She has authored more than 120 refereed papers in various journals, co-authored or edited 8 books (mainly geoenvironmental engineering), holds 3 patents and has supervised to completion more than 69 graduate students. She is the founder and director of the Concordia Institute of Water, Energy and Sustainable Systems.

She performs research and teaches in the areas of soil, sediment and surface water remediation and energy production via biological and membrane processes. She is a Fellow of the Canadian Society for Civil Engineering (CSCE) and its current Past-President. She is also a Fellow of the Engineering Institute of Canada (EIC) and the Canadian Academy of Engineering and was a winner of the John B. Sterling Medal of the EIC.

PROF. TIJANI BOUNAHMIDIG

Vice-President in charge of research and Innovation, Euromed University of Fes



Tijani BOUNAHMIDI est ingénieur des procédés, en 1977, de l'École Mohammadia d'ingénieurs de Rabat. Il a obtenu en 1983 le doctorat en sciences appliquées de l'Université de Liège, en génie des procédés, spécialité « Ingénierie des procédés assistée par ordinateur en ligne ». Depuis juin 2013, il exerce à l'Université Euro-méditerranéenne de Fès en tant que professeur et vice-président. Il y développe notamment un programme de recherche sur les énergies renouvelables, l'efficacité énergétique, et le dessalement, et Il y est actuellement coordonnateur du projet Fez Smart Factory visant la création d'un écosystème pour le développement de l'Industrie 4.0 au Maroc.

De 1983 à 2019, il a enseigné et mené des recherches à l'Ecole Mohammadia d'Ingénieurs en « Process Systems Engineering » traitant de la modélisation, la simulation, le contrôle, l'optimisation et l'intégration des procédés industriels. Il est auteur ou co-auteur de plusieurs dizaines de publications dans des revues internationales indexées et il est titulaire d'un brevet. Le professeur Bounahmidig est membre résident de l'Académie Hassan II des Sciences et Techniques depuis 2014, après en avoir été membre correspondant depuis 2006.

En 2006, il a reçu le 1^{er} prix de l'innovation du Réseau marocain de diffusion technologique. Il a été vice-président de l'Université Mohammed V-Agdal-Rabat de 2005 à 2010. Il a été fondateur et directeur du Centre d'innovation technologique de 2000 à 2006.

Il a été membre de la commission nationale qui a élaboré la stratégie nationale en matière de recherche et d'innovation à l'horizon 2025 et le plan d'action 2006-2010 du système national de recherche et d'innovation.

DR. ANDREAS K. ATHIENITIS

Director, Concordia Centre for Zero Energy Building Studies, Concordia University



Dr. Andreas K. Athienitis is a Professor of Building Engineering and Director of the Centre for Zero Energy Building Studies that he founded at Concordia University. He obtained a PhD in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Waterloo (1985). He holds the NSERC/Hydro Québec Industrial Research Chair "Optimized Operation and Energy Efficiency: Towards High Performance Buildings" and a Concordia University Research Chair in Solar Energy. He is internationally recognized and a leader in smart net-zero energy solar buildings - a Fellow of the Canadian Academy of Engineering, Fellow of IBPSA and Fellow of ASHRAE. He led as Principal Investigator the NSERC Smart Net-zero Energy Buildings Strategic Research Network and the NSERC Solar Buildings Research Network. He was profiled as one of 25 top innovators in Québec by Actualité Magazine. He has published over 300 refereed papers, including eight that received best paper awards, and several books. He played a leading role in the conception and realization of several award-winning innovative buildings such as the Varennes net-zero energy Library, EcoTerra House and his own award-winning solar home. He currently chairs the Canadian Academy of Engineering Roadmap to Resilient, Ultra-Low Energy Built Environment with Deep Integration of Renewables.

Panel II |

Funding and collaboration opportunities for bilateral cooperation (Quebec - Morocco)



M. Alain Olivier (Moderator)
Bureau du Québec à Rabat

Presentations and panel discussion II
Funding and collaboration opportunities for bilateral cooperation (Quebec -Morocco)

10:55 am – 11:55 am

Join us by: **Zoom** (RSVP)

Or

Watch live on [4th Space's YouTube channel](#)



M. Charles Achampong
Mitacs

Helping build partnerships between academia, industry, and the world



Mme. Jamila El Alami
CNRST

Enhancing and fostering scientific research and technology transfer

Support and promote research and its next generation in their excellence, diversity and openness, in order to stimulate discovery and innovation



Prof. Rémi Quirion
Chief Scientist of Quebec

Promoting scientific research and technological development



Mme. Nawal Chraïbi
MASCIR



Mr. Naser Faruqi
IDRC

Supporting research and innovations to address major challenges in Developing Countries

In this session, panelists will provide an overview of existing and upcoming funding and resources to support collaboration between Concordia/Quebec and Morocco. Panelist will share their recommendations on how to develop sustainable and substantial relationships of mutual benefits.

Questions to be discussed by the panelist include:

- What are the research priorities in Québec/ Morocco at this time?
- Which programs help support student/faculty mobility between Concordia and Morocco?
- How can I find a partner in Morocco/Concordia?
- What will international collaboration (Quebec/Morocco) look like after Covid-19 times?
- Is there any funding coordination between Quebec and Morocco that can be used by faculty members from Concordia and Morocco to collaborate?
- Are there any programs offering support to develop collaborations between industry and academy of Quebec and Morocco?
- What role does the private sector play in funding research in Québec/ Morocco?

Panel II | Panelists

Prof. Rémi Quirion

Chief Scientist of Quebec



On September 1, 2011, Rémi Quirion, OC, CQ, PhD, FRSC, became Québec's first chief scientist. As such, he chairs the boards of directors of the three Fonds de recherche du Québec and advises the Minister of Economy and Innovation on research and scientific development issues. He is the president of the International Network for Government Science Advice (INGSA) as of September 2021.

Until his appointment as chief scientist, Rémi Quirion was the vice-dean for science and strategic initiatives in the faculty of medicine at McGill University and senior university advisor on health sciences research. He was the scientific director of the Douglas Mental Health University Institute Research Centre, a full professor in the department of psychiatry at McGill University and the executive director of the International Collaborative Research Strategy for Alzheimer's Disease of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research. Professor Quirion was the first scientific director of the Institute of Neurosciences, Mental Health and Addiction (INMHA), one of Canada's 13 health research institutes.

His work helped to elucidate the roles of the cholinergic system in Alzheimer's disease, of neuropeptide Y in depression and memory and of the calcitonin gene-related peptide (CGRP) in pain and opiate tolerance. Rémi Quirion earned his PhD in pharmacology from Université de Sherbrooke in 1980 and carried out his postdoctoral training at the National Institute of Mental Health in the United States in 1983. He has over 750 publications in prominent scientific journals and is one of the most extensively cited neuroscientists in the world. He has received several awards and honours, including the Ordre national du Québec (Chevalier du Québec, CQ) in 2003, the Prix Wilder-Penfield (Prix du Québec) in 2004 and the Order of Canada (OC) in 2007. Mr. Quirion is a member of the Royal Society of Canada and was also inducted into the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame. In 2015, he was appointed Officer in the Order of Academic Palms of the French Republic, a distinction awarded by the French government that recognizes its contribution to the development of French-Québec relations in research.

MS. NAWAL CHRAIBI

Directrice Générale de la Fondation MAScIR



Diplômée d'une maîtrise en Sciences de Gestion de l'Université Paris Dauphine, Nawal CHRAIBI, a très tôt assumé les responsabilités de Consultante Sénior en Accompagnement d'entreprises au sein du pôle Consolidation puis de responsable de missions pour de prestigieux cabinets de conseils tels que ARTHUR ANDERSEN, ERNST & YOUNG et MAZARS et GUERARD à Paris entre 2000 et 2007.

Elle décide de revenir au Maroc en 2007 et intègre en tant que Deputy CFO (DAF Adjointe) et Project Financial Controller la filiale d'Alcatel Lucent à Rabat avant de rejoindre la Fondation MAScIR en tant que directrice Support en charge de la direction financière et administrative, ressources humaines et systèmes d'informations en décembre 2009. Entre décembre 2016 et décembre 2018, Nawal CHRAIBI est en charge de la direction générale par interim.

Depuis décembre 2018, elle occupe le poste de directrice générale de MAScIR. Ainsi, du haut de ses 22 ans de métier dans les domaines financier et administratif, elle a acquis une expérience significative en matière d'analyse financière, de gestion de projets et de management.

PROF. JAMILA EI ALAMI

Directrice du Centre National pour la Recherche Scientifique et Technique (CNRST)



Professeure Jamila El Alami est titulaire d'un Doctorat d'Etat -Es- Sciences Appliquées en Automatique et Informatique Industriel, ainsi que du Certificat Préparatoire à la Recherche et du diplôme d'Ingénieur d'Etat de l'Ecole Mohammadia d'Ingénieurs, à Rabat. Elle compte à son actif plus de 35 années d'expérience aussi bien dans le domaine de l'Enseignement Supérieur, de la gestion administrative que de la Recherche Scientifique.

Elle a commencé sa carrière en tant que Maître-Assistant au Centre National pour la Recherche Scientifique et Technique (anciennement CNCPRST) où elle a dirigé des équipes pluridisciplinaires afin de produire le premier annuaire des unités de recherche Marocaines et le premier annuaire des chercheurs Marocains.

Elle a rejoint par la suite, en 1997, l'Ecole Supérieure de Technologie de Salé (Université Mohammed V de Rabat) en tant que Professeur de l'Enseignement Supérieur Assistant, puis Professeur de l'Enseignement Supérieur en 2002.

Professeure El ALAMI a acquis une riche expérience dans des domaines variés, touchant tant à la pédagogie qu'à la gestion administrative et à la structuration de la recherche scientifique au sein de l'Ecole Supérieure de Technologie de Salé (ESTS), notamment à travers le montage et la direction du laboratoire de recherche multidisciplinaire «Laboratoire d'Analyse des Systèmes, de Traitement de l'Information et du Management Industriel (LASTIMI)».

Plus de 60 publications scientifiques indexées dans des bases de données internationales ainsi que de nombreuses communications dans des congrès nationaux et internationaux sont à son actif. Elle était également chef de département des Affaires Scientifiques et Techniques au CNRST, Directrice par intérim, et Directrice du CNRST depuis août 2020. Professeure El ALAMI a participé, durant son parcours professionnel, à plusieurs activités d'expertise et d'évaluation scientifique nationale et internationale. Elle siège en tant que Co-Présidente du comité du Programme PHC Toubkal depuis 2020 et membre du comité du Programme PHC Maghreb depuis 2019.

MR. CHARLES ACHAMPONG

VP, International Partnerships, Mitacs



Charles is a partner relations professional with extensive experience creating and managing partnerships across private, public, non-profit and philanthropic sectors in Canada and around the world.

He is currently the Vice-President, International Partnerships at Mitacs where he is leading the organization's International Strategy to advance Canada's research profile on a global stage. Prior to joining Mitacs, Charles was Director, Community Partnerships and Director, Academic Partnerships at Scotiabank where he was responsible for leading the Bank's community investment strategy towards academic institutions, arts organizations and sustainability and sport partners.

Charles also led the Ontario Trillium Foundation's partnership development strategy as its Executive Lead for Social Investment Partnerships. Charles is a Director on the Board of the Loran Scholars Foundation - an organization which offers the country's largest and most comprehensive four-year undergraduate award (valued at \$100,000) to young Canadians on the basis of character, service and the promise of leadership.

M. ALAIN OLIVIER (Moderator)

Directeur, Bureau du Québec à Rabat



Alain Olivier est le directeur du Bureau du gouvernement du Québec à Rabat depuis 2018, avec une responsabilité régionale à l'égard du Maroc, de la Tunisie et de l'Algérie. L'éducation, l'enseignement supérieur, la recherche ainsi que la mobilité étudiante et professorale sont des priorités du Bureau du Québec et animent son activité au Maghreb.

Avant son affectation à Rabat, M. Olivier avait évolué au sein des représentations du gouvernement du Québec à Mumbai, Washington, New York et Atlanta.

MR. NASER FARUQUI

Director of Education and Science, International Development Research Centre (IDRC)



Naser Faruqui is the Director of Education and Science at IDRC where he leads a global team that helps vulnerable children and adults benefit from high-quality education and strong science systems in which women emerge as leaders, producing essential knowledge and innovations. Naser holds an Executive MBA from Queen's University, a Master's degree in environmental engineering from the University of Ottawa, and a bachelor's degree in civil engineering.

His areas of expertise include education, water management, urban development and climate change, science and innovation systems in developing countries, science diplomacy, open science, and digital innovations for improving education, entrepreneurship, and governance. Naser oversees programs such as the Science Granting Council Initiative (SGCI), Artificial Intelligence for Development in Africa (AI4D), and the Knowledge and Innovation Exchange (KIX) program in collaboration with the Global Partnership for Education.

He is the chief architect of IDRC's Open Access to Research Outputs Policy and Chairs IDRC's Open Data Working Group. He has published widely, most recently on science, innovation, and AI.

Panel III | Leveraging People, Technology, and Information for a Smart and Connected Society



Dr. Paula Wood-Adams (Moderator)
Concordia University

Presentations and panel discussion III *Leveraging People, Technology, and Information for a Smart and Connected Society*

11:55 am – 12:55 pm

Join us by: **Zoom** (RSVP)

Or

Watch live on **4th Space's YouTube channel**



Prof. Rachida Dssouli
Concordia University

How to ensure the quality of an integrated system?



Prof. Rafiq El Alami
UM6P

How can digital innovation bridge the development gap in Africa?



Prof. Ahmed Ratnani
UM6P

Developing High Performance Computing in Morocco & Africa



Prof. Jamal Bentahar
Concordia University

How can we make distributed computing more intelligent, secure and trustworthy?

Today knowledge and information run freely across borders. International collaboration in the field of ICT is therefore fundamental in tackling the global challenges of our times. International collaboration in ICT is vital not only to generate leverage between research teams but also to produce tangible solutions to be transferred to society at a large. Panelist will present the research conducted by their centers and will discuss the role of international collaboration to leverage and help advance research and innovation in the field. In particular, panelists will address the following questions:

1. How can ICT help build a connected and smart society?
2. What are the main challenges facing the creation of a smart society?
3. How a collaborative approach would help address some of those challenges?
4. How quality assurance is still a current research domain?
5. How potential collaboration with Moroccan universities can impact research development?

Panel III | Panelists

DR. PAULA WOOD-ADAMS (moderator)

Interim Vice-President of Research and Graduate Studies



Dr. Paula Wood-Adams is the Interim Vice-President of Research and Graduate Studies at Concordia University. She is a professor of Chemical and Materials Engineering and was formerly the Dean of Graduate Studies. While widely recognized for her academic achievements, she is also known as a strong leader, having supervised over 30 graduate students and postdoctoral researchers. As an administrator, she has provided strategic and operational direction to various functions of research and graduate studies at Concordia, focusing her attention mainly on leveraging external funding opportunities, development of new research institutes, expanding partnerships and supporting researchers in their activities as well as redesigning multiple internal research funding programs.

She has been an active member of provincial and federal funding agency peer-review committees including, the New Frontiers Research Fund of the Tri-agency Institutional Programs Secretariat, the National Sciences and Engineering Council of Canada (NSERC) and the Fonds de recherche du Québec (FRQ). She has also contributed numerous articles to scientific journals on her research focus: polymer science, polymer processing and rheology, and has received over \$3.4M in grants to support her research. Dr. Wood-Adams is the vice-chair of the board of governors for John Abbott College and is a former President of ADÉSAQ, the Quebec association of deans of graduate studies.

PROF. RACHIDA DSSOULI

Prof. Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering



Rachida Dssouli is a Full Professor and Founding Director of Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering (CIISE), Gina Cody School of Engineering and Computer Science, Concordia University.

She received her Master's degree (1978), Diplôme d'Études Approfondies (1979) and Doctorat de 3eme Cycle in Networking from Université Paul Sabatier (1981), Toulouse, France. She earned her PhD degree in Computer Science (1983-1986), from Université de Montréal, PQ, Canada. Before joining Concordia University, she was assistant professor and Maître de Conference at Université Mohammed premier Oujda (1981- 1989). She moved to Canada and was Assistant Professor at Université de Sherbrook (1989-1991) and Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Full Professor at Université de Montréal (1991-2002). She also was appointed as Research Cluster Hire at United Arab Emirates when she was on leave from Concordia University.

Her research interests are in Software Engineering and communication networks. Her contributions are in requirements engineering, systems engineering, service engineering, quality of service, formal methods, quality assurance. She applied her research to telecommunication, eHealth and avionics software. She published more than 230-refereed papers in journals and conferences in her area of research and she has few granted patents. She supervised/ co-supervised more than 70 graduate students among them 23 PhD students. Most of her PhD graduates are now faculty members. She served on federal and provincial award committees. She is often a reviewer for funding grants agencies. She is member of several technical committee program of conferences and workshops. She also organized or co-organized several international conferences and workshops.

In 2002, she was appointed as the first Director of Concordia Institute of Information systems Engineering (CIISE) a newly created academic unit. Her mandate was to develop the institute as a leader in new areas of research and training of graduate students. Under her leadership and in strong collaboration with Dr. Mourad Debbabi (the actual dean of Gina Cody Scholl of Engineering and Computer Science, the CIISE was the host of two twin master's degree programs, master's degree in information systems security (ISS) and Quality Systems Engineering (QSE). ISS was the first program offered by a university in Canada and Quebec and was among the first ones in the world in 2003. The ISS and QSE programs are offered as research based and course-based degrees. CIISE is also a host of a PhD program in Information Systems Engineering (ISE) that is an umbrella for all research activities in CIISE. CIISE is an intensive research Institute that is a home for 25 faculty members. In addition, the CIISE has the largest research group in Canada working on several aspects of systems security. CIISE has also University level research center named Security Research Center (SRC) that was created and lead by Dr. Mourad Debbabi.

M. RAFIQ EL ALAMI

Director of the Digital Learning (DLL) and the Digital for Research (D4R) Labs, Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P).



Rafiq El Alami is the Director of the Digital Learning (DLL) and the Digital For Research (D4R) Labs at Mohammed VI Polytechnic University (UM6P).

DLL works with many universities in Morocco and other African countries to build their capacity in producing digital content and adopting digital technologies to improve the students' learning experiences. DLL launched PrepaDigitale.com a video learning platform with more than 11000 students, and has worked with the Moroccan Ministry of Education to contribute to creation of content, building and hosting TilmidTice , a zero-rating platform used by 8 million K-12 students in Morocco.

D4R collaborates with UM6P departments to apply digital technologies (Big Data, AI, Crowd Sourcing, mobility ...) to accelerate research and innovation. D4R worked also with international partners to launch fertitogo.tg a smart farming. Platform in Togo, AgroPlus in Nigeria and is working on a National Labor Market Information System that leverages Big-Data and AI to provide real time insights for all labor market stakeholders in Morocco.

Before joining UM6P Rafiq has spent nearly two decades in different management positions at Microsoft. Rafiq holds an Engineering degree from Ecole Mohammadia d'Ingénieurs and a joint MBA from UM6P/Columbia University

PROF. JAMAL BENTAHAR

Professor, Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering



Jamal Bentahar received the Ph.D. degree in computer science and software engineering from Laval University, Canada, in 2005. He is currently a Professor with Concordia Institute for Information Systems Engineering at Concordia University, Canada and Vice-Director of the institute since June 2019. From 2005 to 2006, he was a Postdoctoral Fellow with Laval University, and then obtained the prestigious NSERC Postdoctoral Fellow at Simon Fraser University, Canada. His research interests include artificial intelligence, multi-agent systems, deep learning, reinforcement learning, security, cloud/edge computing, computational logics, model checking, and game theory.

Jamal Bentahar has supervised to completion 20 Ph.D. students and 27 master students. He attracted many external competitive funds such as NSERC, FQRNT individual, FQRNT team, FQRSC team, SSHRC, and NSERC-CRD. He has published more than 240 papers in highly competitive venues in his area including top conferences such as AAMAS, IJCAI, AAAI, ICSOC, SCC, and ICWS and top journals such as IEEE Transactions on Services Computing, ACM Transactions on Intelligent Systems and Technology, Journal of Autonomous Agents and Multi-Agent Systems, Future Generation Computer Systems, Decision Support Systems, ACM Transactions on Software Engineering and Methodology, etc. His paper in IJCAI 2020 (acceptance rate 12%) was awarded one of the best papers in the multi-agent systems section and invited to be featured in the Journal of Autonomous Agents and Multi-Agent Systems. His ICSOC 2020 paper was selected in the category of best papers. He also obtained the best paper award at ICWS 2014.

Jamal Bentahar was the local chair of the prestigious AAMAS 2019 in Montreal, one of the 5 top conferences in AI. He was invited speaker in 5 conferences, including the prestigious EMAS@AAMAS 2019 and one of 4 panelist at the specialized 21st International Workshop on Trust in Agent Societies Trust@AAMAS. He also served as Program Co-Chair of 6 leading conferences and Senior Program Committee (SPC) of AAMAS and PRIMA, another premium conference in multi-agent systems. Moreover, he has served as NSERC Evaluation Group Co-Chair between 2016 and 2018.

PROF. AHMED RATNANI

Director of AI- Khwarizmi department, Université Mohammed VI Polytechnique



Prof. Ahmed RATNANI is the Director of AI- Khwarizmi department at UM6P, dedicated to Applied Mathematics & Data Science. He holds currently the HPC-Multiphysics Chair, leads the HPC and Linear Algebra research groups and is the principal investigator in the CERN-UM6P collaboration.

Before joining UM6P, he was the MagnetoHydroDynamics (MHD) leader Team within the NMPP department at Max-Planck Institut für PlasmaPhysiks in Munich, at the prestigious Max-Planck Society. He also worked at the Commissariat à l'énergie atomique et aux énergies alternatives (CEA) and Institut national de recherche en sciences et technologies du numérique (INRIA) in France.

Prof. RATNANI is an Engineer in Mathematical Finance and holds a Research Master from Paris VI in Numerical Analysis and Partial Differential Equations. After working at Fermats SAS (now Moody's Analytics), he defended his Phd in Strasbourg University and INRIA, on Isogeometric Analysis in Plasma Physics and Electromagnetism.

His research interests cover numerical simulation, numerical linear algebra, distributed computing and High Performance Computing, in addition to the development of novel numerical methods (Finite Elements, Particle In Cell, Exterior Calculus methods) and scientific software. He is the creator of the static Python compiler Pycce1, for Scientific High Performance Computing and Psydac, an automated symbolic and HPC Isogeometric Analysis library.