M.S. in Business Analytics Board Members

Ramsis Adam
Director of Analytics and Simulation Technology, Boeing Research and Technology

Ramsis Adam is director, analytics and simulation technology in Boeing Research and Technology. Prior to joining Boeing, Ramsis started his engineering career at Orbital Sciences Corporation where he was engaged in a number of development programs on launch vehicles and scientific satellites.

Ramsis joined Boeing in 1997 as a mission manager on the Sea Launch development program. He has subsequently held senior management positions, leading the transponder and ground station team on Connexion by Boeing; systems analysis and integration team on the high frequency modernization program at Boeing Defense Australia; and as a systems engineering manager on the AEW&C wedgetail program. He joined Boeing Research & Technology (BR&T) in 2008 as an advanced information technologist senior manager, leading the autonomous and net-enabled technology integration team researching autonomous systems, data analytics, embedded systems, and advanced decision systems.

Currently leading the analytics and simulation team for BR&T, Ramsis is focused on applying and researching advanced data analytics capabilities including predictive analytics, machine learning, data and text mining, natural language processing, and model-based engineering methods to many Boeing technical challenges. He holds a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering and computer science from Marquette University.

Azmat Ahmad
Assistant Vice President, Albany Medical Center

Drew Conway
CEO and Founder, Alluvium

Drew Conway is the CEO and founder of Alluvium, a leading expert in the application of computational methods to social and behavioral problems at large scale. He has been writing and speaking about the role of data — and the discipline of data science — in industry, government, and academia for several years.

Drew has advised and consulted companies across many industries; ranging from fledgling start-ups to Fortune 100 companies, as well as academic institutions and government agencies at all levels. He started his career in counterterrorism as a computational social scientist in the U.S. intelligence community.

Nava Cretu
Manager of Business Analytics, TripAdvisor

Barbara A. Downs '12
Senior Vice President of Corporate Administration and Chief Operating Officer, CDPHP

With more than 25 years of experience in the health care industry, Barbara Downs serves as senior vice president of corporate administration and chief operating officer at CDPHP. In this role, she is in charge of the day-to-day operational oversight of the organization.

Downs joined CDPHP in 1999. She has held several high-level positions, including senior vice president of corporate administration, and chief of staff; vice president of corporate administration; and vice president of resource coordination. She was appointed to her current position in December 2006.

Prior to joining CDPHP, Downs was senior director of clinical affairs and operations for Kaiser Permanente. In addition, she was director of medical management for Community Health Plan (CHP), and has practiced as a registered nurse in the ICU/CCU, specializing in orthopedic and medical surgery at St. Clare's Hospital in Schenectady.

Downs holds a Master of Business Administration with a concentration in management from Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in Troy, N.Y. She received her nursing degree from Fulton Montgomery Community College in Johnstown, N.Y. Downs was selected by the Albany Business Review as one of the 2014 Women Who Mean Business honorees.

Afshin Goodarzi
Chief Analyst, 1010data

A recognized leader in the field of Big Data analytics, Afshin has led several teams in designing, building, and delivering predictive models and analytical products to a diverse set of industries. Prior to joining 1010data, Afshin was a managing director of mortgage analytics at Equifax, where he was responsible for the creation of new data products and the supporting analytics to the financial services industry.

Previously, he led the development of various classes of predictive models aimed at the mortgage industry during his tenure at Loan Performance (Corelogic). Prior to that he worked at BlackRock, the research center for NYNEX (present day Verizon), and Norkom Technologies. Afshin's publications span the fields of data mining, data visualization, optimization, and artificial intelligence.

Patrick Howard
Senior Information Technology Executive

Chris Kelly
Chief Executive Officer, POMCO

Patricia Kovatch
Founding Associate Dean for Scientific Computing, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai; Co-Director for the Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics

Patricia Kovatch is the founding associate dean for scientific computing at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai and the co-director for the Master of Science in Biomedical Informatics.

She is funded by NIH to lead multiple projects including the creation of a Big Omics Data Engine, a national data repository for the Children's Health Exposure Analysis Resource and a de-identified image data warehouse for the Clinical and Translational Science Award. She also leads the Community Research Education and Engagement for Data Science project for NIH. Prior to joining Mount Sinai, she was director of an NSF supercomputer center.

Peter Memon '89
Executive Director, JP Morgan Investment Bank

Peter Memon has more than 27 years of experience in technology as a developer, architect, technology strategist, entrepreneur, and manager of complex implementations. He has worked at many financial firms, including Deutsche Bank, Goldman Sachs, HSBC, Lehman Brothers, Barclays Capital, and two of his own tech startups. During his career, Peter has won numerous awards for innovation. He has developed several front-office trading systems, including HSBC's global bond trading platform, which was recognized in its annual report.

Peter's energy is currently focused on big data, data analytics, and data virtualization. He is currently an executive director of an R&D team focusing on analytics and "Big Data" at JP Morgan Investment Bank. Peter is also a board member at the Monmouth County chapter of CASA. He graduated Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute in 1989 with a degree in mathematics.

Robert Moel '81
Principal, RVM Consulting

Robert Moel is a principal at RVM Consulting where he provides expertise in data analytics in the telecommunications space. In his role he helps companies find hidden value in their ordinary records using predictive, descriptive, and other analytic and mathematical tools to model system, customer, or technician behavior. Prior to this role, Moel was a senior executive tasked with managing cable and telephone systems for Time Warner Cable.

Edward See
Principal, Customer Transformation Offering, Deloitte

Ed is a principal in the technology service area and the information management service line specializing in the consumer products sector. He has market eminence as a thought leader in marketing strategy, marketing, and business analytics, digital marketing, demand-side analytics, shopper marketing, and usability. Ed has presented at many Association of National Advertisers conferences and has been quoted and published in *AdAge*, *The New York Times*, *US Banker,* and other publications.

Inder Thukral '95
CEO at Boston Analytics

Dr. Thukral is a graduate of the DSES doctoral program at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He spent 16 years in IBM in various capacities including management consulting, new business development, emerging markets. Since 2011 he has been the CEO of Boston Analytics, a small but rapidly growing global analytics firm with operations in US, Middle East, and Asia.

Steve Wrenn
Vice President and Chief Applications Officer, Johnson & Johnson

Steve Wrenn is currently vice president and chief applications officer at Johnson & Johnson where he is responsible for global application development and support-maintenance, software engineering processes-quality, and continuous process excellence in IT. Steve and his team enable Johnson & Johnson IT by driving increased service delivery performance and productivity, reduced time to market, and higher quality of deliverables by using standard and leading-edge ITSM frameworks, methodologies and tools, such as Scrum, Kanban, CoBIT, CMMI, ITIL, Lean and Six Sigma.

Before joining Johnson & Johnson, Steve served as senior vice president and chief technology officer of CVS Caremark, where he led over 1,200 IT professionals in the support of 7,200 stores and $120B in revenue. Prior to CVS, Steve held leadership positions of increasing operational P&L responsibility at Liberty Mutual Group, Cisco Systems, and Hewlett-Packard.

Steve holds a Bachelor of Science in electrical engineering from the University of Massachusetts and earned an MBA from the Whittemore School of Business at the University of New Hampshire, where he has been an adjunct professor of operations and global information technology in the Executive MBA program for the past 13 years.