



University of South Florida I-CORPS Overview: Catalyzing Research Translation

Moderator: Sudeep Sarkar, Ph.D., Associate Vice President for Research & Innovation

Speakers: Jose Zayas-Castro, Ph.D., Sanjukta Bhanja, Ph.D., and Ismet Handzic, Ph.D.

When: Tuesday, February 9, 2016 at 11:00 AM

Where: Engineering Building II Room 109 (ENB 109)

The University of South Florida (USF) has been named an I-Corps™ Site by the National Science Foundation (NSF), becoming the second site in Florida and one of only three dozen institutions around the country to earn the designation.

As an I-Corps site, USF will provide training to teams with technology concepts that are potential candidates for commercialization. This innovative program offers participants valuable, real-world tools to help transform their technology into commercial opportunity that can generate revenue and benefit society. The goal of the program is to launch multiple successful start-up companies at the end of the three-year grant.

Selected teams for the I-Corps program will:

- *Identify a real-world application and market for their technology*
- *Receive beneficial curriculum and instruction*
- *Create connections to investors, mentors, and industry experts*
- *Test their business model and products in USF's business incubator*

Please join us to learn more about this exciting opportunity from our panel of experts who were previously selected and completed the I-Corps program. Our speakers will provide detailed insight into the program and the many benefits of participation.

Please RSVP to jmendezh@usf.edu or 813-974-6650. Reservations not required, but space is limited. Open to the USF Community.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Americans with Disabilities Act, any person requiring special accommodation to participate in this event is asked to advise Lauren Golin at least 48 hours in advance. For further information or to request accommodation, call 813-974-0102 or email lgolin@usf.edu



Moderator

Dr. Sudeep Sarkar is a professor of Computer Science and Engineering and Associate Vice President for Research & Innovation at the University of South Florida in Tampa. He received his M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in Electrical Engineering, on a University Presidential Fellowship, from The Ohio State University. He is the recipient of the National Science Foundation CAREER award in 1994, the USF Teaching Incentive Program Award for Undergraduate Teaching Excellence in 1997, the Outstanding Undergraduate Teaching Award in 1998, and the Theodore and Venette Askounes-Ashford Distinguished Scholar Award in 2004. He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) and International Association for Pattern Recognition (IAPR), and a charter member and member of the Board of Directors of the National Academy of Inventors (NAI). He has 25 year expertise in computer vision and pattern recognition algorithms and systems, holds three U.S. patents and has published high-impact journal and conference papers.



I-Corps Mentor

Jose Zayas-Castro, Ph.D., is the Executive Associate Dean for the College of Engineering at the University of South Florida. He is also a professor in the Department of Industrial & Management Systems Engineering. His research interests include healthcare systems engineering, economic and cost systems, and manufacturing and R&D strategy.

Dr. Zayas-Castro served as an I-Corps mentor for the "Pathways to Market for ICARUS Algae Cultivation and Harvesting Technology" team that was awarded an NSF I-Corps grant July 1, 2015. As a mentor, Dr. Zayas-Castro provided entrepreneurial expertise and served as the principal guide in determining the technology disposition.



I-Corps Faculty PI

Sanjukta Bhanja, Ph.D., is an Associate Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering at the University of South Florida. She has published more than ninety publications in top-tier peer-reviewed journals and conferences in the VLSI and nanoelectronics areas. Dr. Bhanja received her PhD degree in Computer Science and Engineering in 2002 from the University of South Florida, Tampa.

Dr. Bhanja served as the Faculty Principal Investigator for the "Software Suite for Quality-Control of Patterned Nanostructures" team that was awarded an NSF I-Corps grant in the Fall of 2014. As the team's principal investigator, Dr. Bhanja served as the technical lead and project manager.



I-Corps Entrepreneurial Lead

Ismet Handzic received his Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering at the University of South Florida under Dr. Kyle B. Reed in 2014. He is currently working at Moterum, LLC and collaborating with the REED Lab on several projects. His current research focuses on kinetic shapes and related innovations, a variable radius foot asymmetric passive dynamic walking computer model, and dynamic synchronization of dissimilar rotating systems.

Dr. Handzic served as the entrepreneurial lead for the "Walking Crutch/Cane for Enhanced Assistance, Balance, and Control of Walking Dynamics" team that was awarded an NSF I-Corps grant July 1, 2014. The NSF I-Corps program allowed Dr. Handzic to merge his technical knowledge with commercialization techniques in order to effectively transition the technology from an academic research setting to the market.