



Montreal, December 3rd, 2018

29 researchers named to first cohort of Canada CIFAR Artificial Intelligence Chairs



\$30 Million in funding announced today intended to keep Canada at forefront of cutting edge AI research

CIFAR today announced the inaugural cohort of Canada CIFAR AI (CCAI) Chairs at AICan, the first annual meeting of the [Pan-Canadian AI Strategy](#). These top academic researchers are named as part of the \$125 million Pan-Canadian AI Strategy, and will help maintain Canada's leadership in artificial intelligence research.

An important pillar of the Pan-Canadian AI Strategy, the Canada CIFAR AI Chairs program is designed to attract and retain more than 50 leading AI researchers. The Chairs are nominated by and will be affiliated with one of our three national AI Institutes: [Amii](#) (Edmonton), [Mila](#) (Montreal) and the [Vector Institute](#) (Toronto).

The first cohort of 29 chairs named below includes established experts as well as promising early-career researchers. The CCAI Chairs will form the research backbone of a robust and sustainable AI ecosystem that will help maintain Canada's leadership role in the development and application of machine learning.

In 2017 CIFAR was chosen by the federal government to lead the \$125 million Pan-Canadian Artificial Intelligence Strategy in collaboration with artificial intelligence research centres in Edmonton, Montreal and Toronto. Support for the CCAI Chairs is one part of a larger strategy that includes training opportunities, research funding, and

workshops on the societal implications of AI designed to build on Canadian leadership in artificial intelligence.

The CCAI Chairs were reviewed by an International Scientific Advisory Committee made up of scientific leaders from major institutions and companies around the world, including Google, DeepMind, Microsoft, Facebook, Stanford, Princeton, and the French National Center for Scientific Research.

About half of the chairs are taking up their first faculty positions in Canada, and received training all over the world, including in the US, China, Iran and France. They work on a wide variety of applied and theoretical topics, including natural language processing, image recognition, reinforcement learning, cryptography, convolutional networks and medical diagnosis.

Canada CIFAR AI Chairs



Jimmy Ba
Chaire en IA CIFAR-Canada
VECTOR INSTITUTE



Marc G. Bellemare
Chaire en IA CIFAR-Canada
MILA



Yoshua Bengio
Chaire en IA CIFAR-Canada
MILA



Juan Felipe Carrasquilla
Chaire en IA CIFAR-Canada
VECTOR INSTITUTE



Angel Chang
Chaire en IA CIFAR-Canada
AMII



Jackie Cheung
Chaire en IA CIFAR-Canada
MILA



Aaron Courville
Chaire en IA CIFAR-Canada
MILA



Sanja Fidler
Chaire en IA CIFAR-Canada
VECTOR INSTITUTE



Alona Fyshe
Chaire en IA CIFAR-Canada
AMII



Marzyeh Ghassemi
Chaire en IA CIFAR-Canada
VECTOR INSTITUTE



Roger Grosse
Chaire en IA CIFAR-Canada
VECTOR INSTITUTE



Simon Lacoste-Julien
Chaire en IA CIFAR-Canada
MILA



Hugo Larochelle
Chaire en IA CIFAR-Canada
MILA



Alireza Makhzani
Chaire en IA CIFAR-Canada
VECTOR INSTITUTE



Ioannis Mitliagkis
Chaire en IA CIFAR-Canada
MILA



Quaid Morris
Chaire en IA CIFAR-Canada
VECTOR INSTITUTE



Sara Mostafavi
Chaire en IA CIFAR-Canada
VECTOR INSTITUTE



Christopher Pal
Chaire en IA CIFAR-Canada
MILA



Nicolas Papernot
Chaire en IA CIFAR-Canada
VECTOR INSTITUTE



Joelle Pineau
Chaire en IA CIFAR-Canada
MILA



Doina Precup
Chaire en IA CIFAR-Canada
MILA



Reihaneh Rabbany
Chaire en IA CIFAR-Canada
MILA



Blake Richards
Chaire en IA CIFAR-Canada
MILA



Frank Rudzicz
Chaire en IA CIFAR-Canada
VECTOR INSTITUTE



Jian Tang
Chaire en IA CIFAR-Canada
MILA



Pascal Vincent
Chaire en IA CIFAR-Canada
MILA



Martha White
Chaire en IA CIFAR-Canada
AMII



James Wright
Chaire en IA CIFAR-Canada
AMII