ITNAC 2020 Women in Technology Workshop

WIT Workshop Chair: Dr Jahan Hassan

Keynote and Panellists

Keynote: *Challenges and opportunities for female professionals in technology careers*

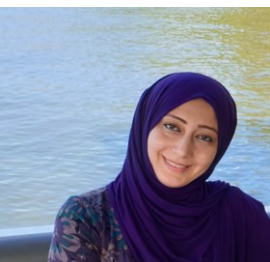### Keynote Speaker: Professor Arcot Sowmya, University of New South Wales, Sydney, Australia

Keynote: Prof. Arcot Sowmya

Bio: ARCOT Sowmya is Professor in the School of Computer Science and Engineering at the University of New South Wales. She obtained her PhD in Computer Science and Engineering from Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay and an expert in machine learning and computer vision for biomedical and health informatics. She has led many research projects to develop machine learning solutions for biomedical imaging and informatics problems, ranging from medical image computing and computer-aided diagnosis for various diseases and data modalities, to data analytics for multimodal, high dimensionality low data size datasets and class imbalanced and sparse sample size datasets. Her international research collaborations include industry, hospital and university-based researchers.

In this talk, Prof. Sowmya will share her insights on challenges and opportunities for female technology professionals, drawing from her own experience on mentoring such professionals as well as her own career journey.

Women in Technology Panel Members:
- Dr Sara Khalifa, CSIRO, Australia
- Dr Linda McIver, Australian Data Science Education Institute (ADSEI)
- Dr Azade Fotouhi, Altran Technologies, France
- Dr Lincy Jim, IT Academic and Researcher, Melbourne

Dr Sara Khalifa

Bio: Dr Sara Khalifa is a research scientist at CSIRO's Data61. Her research interests rotate around the broad aspects of mobile and ubiquitous computing, mobile sensing and Internet of Things (IoT). Especially, she is interested in improving the energy-efficiency of mobile sensing systems, and in the design of self-powered wearable devices and systems. Sara is an honorary adjunct lecturer at University of Queensland and conjoint lecturer at University of New South Wales. Her research has been recognised with multiple iAwards NSW Mobility Innovation of the year, NSW R&D Innovation of the year, National Merit R&D Innovation of the year, and the Merit R&D award at the Asia Pacific ICT Alliance (APICTA) Awards, commonly known as the "Oscar" of the ICT industry in the Asia Pacific.

Sara is enthusiastically engaging and contributing to the broader community. She is a member of CSIRO's STEM Professionals in Schools program which partners teachers with STEM professionals to enhance STEM teaching

practices and deliver engaging STEM education in Australian schools. She is also a frequent Invited Speaker at several events including the National Youth Science Forum (NYSF) and 'BiG Day In' as part of showcasing Digital Careers to inspire and motivate high-achieving school students, especially girls, to consider computer science and engineering as a career option. Sara is passionate about gender equality and believe that it is better for men before women as it brings balanced society to everyone.

Dr Lind McIver

Bio: Dr Linda McIver is the Founder and Executive Director of the Australian Data Science Education Institute (ADSEI), a registered charity dedicated to ensuring that all Australian students have the chance to learn Data Science and Data Literacy skills in the context of authentic projects with real impact.

Linda has a PhD in Computer Science Education, and extensive experience teaching at both tertiary and secondary levels. Through ADSEI, Linda now trains teachers, and creates engaging Data Science Projects to empower students to use tech & data science skills to make positive change in their own communities.

Linda gets really intense about using authentic Data Science projects in schools to teach students the value of STEM, and persuade underrepresented groups, especially girls, that STEM skills are worth acquiring. To achieve diversity in STEM professions, Linda believes that it is vital that we show our children that they can use STEM to change the world.

Dr Azade Fotouhi

Bio: Dr Azade Fotouhi received her B.S. and M.S. degrees in computer science and engineering in Iran, from Isfahan University of Technology and Tehran Polytechnic, respectively. In 2017, she has earned a PhD from University of New South Wales (UNSW), Australia in the school of computer science and engineering. She was a recipient of the International Postgraduate Research Scholarships (IPRS), and Data61|CSIRO Research Project Award. Following a postdoctoral fellowship at Data61|CSIRO, she joined Altran Research and Innovation, France where she is working as a Research engineer in the Machine learning and Telecom. She has authored several papers in IEEE journals and conferences, all in recognized venues, and was the recipient of the NASSCOM Student Business Innovation Awards, Australia, in 2016. Her research interests include UAV Communication, Machine Learning, IoT, and Mobile Networks. Azade brings to the ITNAC WIT panel her diverse experiences to share from her study and work internationally as a female technology professional.

Dr Lincy Jim

Bio: Lincy Elizebeth Jim obtained her PhD in Electrical and Electronics Engineering from RMIT University, Melbourne, Australia. Lincy is a passionate networking researcher and educator, and a firm believer in equal opportunity and strength of inclusiveness. She has taken a leading role in proposing a special session at IEEE TENCON 2019 where she served as a distinguished chair for the same. Lincy has industry experience as an Oracle Technical Analyst and a Juniper Networks Certified Associate as well as tertiary teaching experience form Australian universities. She loves to work with tomorrow's technology professionals through her role as a student advisor. In the WIT workshop, Lincy will represent young technology professionals with queries, issues and discussion on what lies ahead for female technology professionals of tomorrow.