



**New England Regional Meeting of the
National Academy of Engineering**

Think Differently: **Understanding and Leveraging Creativity in an AI-Enabled World**



May 1, 2026



Agenda

9:00– 10:30 am	National Academy of Engineering Members-Only Meeting
10:45– 11:00 am	Opening Remarks Markus J. Buehler , Meeting Co-Chair; Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Department of Mechanical Engineering, MIT Paula T. Hammond , Host and Meeting Co-Chair; Dean, MIT School of Engineering Tsu-Jae Liu , President, National Academy of Engineering
11:00– 11:30 am	Lead Keynote: World Models Yann LeCun , Advanced Machine Intelligence, New York University
11:30 am –12:30 pm	Session 1 How the Brain Creates: Understanding and Modeling Creativity Arvind Satyanarayan , Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, MIT Anna Huang , Music & Theater Arts Section and Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, MIT Pattie Maes , MIT Media Lab Connor W. Coley , Department of Chemical Engineering, MIT
12:30– 1:30 pm	Lunch Break
1:30– 3:30 pm	Session 2 Interdisciplinarity in Creative Problem Solving Keynote: Angela Belcher , Department of Biological Engineering and Department of Materials Science and Engineering, MIT Speakers: Polina Anikeeva , Department of Materials Science and Engineering, MIT Yet-Ming Chiang , Department of Materials Science and Engineering, MIT A. John Hart , Department of Mechanical Engineering, MIT Tomás Lozano-Pérez , Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, MIT Desirée Plata , Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, MIT Loza Tadesse , Department of Mechanical Engineering, MIT

3:30– 3:45 pm	Break
3:45– 5:15 pm	Session 3 Educating for Outside-the-Box Problem Solving Moderator: Megan J. Smith Panelists: Dimitris Bertsimas , MIT Sloan School of Management; MIT Open Learning Caitlin Mueller , Department of Architecture and Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, MIT; Morningside Academy for Design Asu Ozdaglar , Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, MIT; MIT Schwarzman College of Computing; Blended Computing Majors and Common Ground for Computing Education Sanjay E. Sarma , Department of Mechanical Engineering, MIT; New Education Initiative Lily L. Tsai , Department of Political Science, MIT; COMPASS
5:15– 5:20 pm	Closing Remarks Anantha P. Chandrakasan , Provost, MIT Paula T. Hammond , Host and Meeting Co-Chair; Dean, MIT School of Engineering
5:30– 6:30 pm	Reception

Opening Remarks



Markus J. Buehler

Meeting Co-Chair; Jerry McAfee (1940) Professor in Engineering, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and Department of Mechanical Engineering, MIT



Paula T. Hammond

Host and Meeting Co-Chair; Dean, MIT School of Engineering; Institute Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering and Koch Institute for Integrative Cancer Research



Tsu-Jae Liu

President, National Academy of Engineering; Professor Emerita, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Sciences, University of California, Berkeley

Session 1: How the Brain Creates: Understanding and Modeling Creativity

KEYNOTE



Yann LeCun

Keynote Speaker
Executive Chairman, Advanced Machine Intelligence (AMI Labs)
Jacob T. Schwartz Professor of Computer Science, New York University
“World Models”

SPEAKERS



Arvind Satyanarayan

Associate Professor of Computer Science, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, MIT
“Intelligence as Agency”



Anna Huang

Robert N. Noyce Career Development Professor, Music & Theater Arts Section and Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, MIT
“In Search of Human-AI Resonance”



Pattie Maes

Germeshausen Professor, MIT Media Lab
“Will AI Make People Smarter and More Creative?”



Connor W. Coley

Class of 1957 Career Development Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering and Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, MIT
“AI & Scientific Discovery (in the Physical and Life Sciences) and Medicine”

Session 2: Interdisciplinarity in Creative Problem Solving

KEYNOTE



Angela Belcher

James Mason Crafts Professor, Department of Biological Engineering and Department of Materials Science and Engineering, MIT
“Evolving Biology to Make New Materials for Energy, the Environment, and Medicine”

SPEAKERS



Polina Anikeeva

Head, Department of Materials Science and Engineering; Matoula S. Salapatias Professor, Department of Materials Science and Engineering; Department of Brain and Cognitive Sciences, MIT
“Bioelectronics for Brain and Body”



Yet-Ming Chiang

Kyocera Professor, Department of Materials Science and Engineering, MIT
“So Many Opportunities to Innovate in Energy and Climate”



A. John Hart

Head and Class of 1922 Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, MIT
“Scaling Digital Manufacturing”

Session 2 (continued)



Tomás Lozano-Pérez

School of Engineering Professor of Teaching Excellence, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, MIT
“To Reason or Not to Reason: Engineering Intelligent Robots”



Desirée Plata

School of Engineering Distinguished Climate and Energy Professor, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, MIT
“How We Invent Things: Sustainable Design through Disciplinary Integration”



Loza Tadesse

Assistant Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, MIT
“Illuminating Global Health: Interdisciplinary Innovation from Medicine to Engineering Using Light and Algorithms”



Asu Ozdaglar

Deputy Dean of Academics, Schwarzman College of Computing; Head, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science; MathWorks Professor, MIT



Sanjay E. Sarma

Fred Fort Flowers (1941) and Daniel Fort Flowers (1941) Professor, Department of Mechanical Engineering, MIT



Lily L. Tsai

Ford Professor of Political Science; Class of 1960 Innovation in Education Fellow, Department of Political Science, MIT

Session 3: Educating for Outside-the-Box Problem Solving

MODERATOR



Megan J. Smith '86

Founder and CEO, shift7; 3rd U.S. CTO and Assistant to the President, Office of Science and Technology Policy (2014-2017)

SPEAKERS



Dimitris Bertsimas

Vice Provost for Open Learning; Associate Dean, Online Education & Artificial Intelligence; Boeing Leaders for Global Operations Professor of Management, MIT Sloan School of Management



Caitlin Mueller

Director of Building Technology Program; Associate Professor, Department of Architecture and Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, MIT

Closing Remarks



Anantha P. Chandrakasan

Provost; Vannevar Bush Professor of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, MIT

