

Stanford Medicine & Meaningful Work

July 20, 2018
SMASH Rising

Meet the Speakers



Ahmad Wright, MA Ed.

Ahmad is an Assistant Dean and Associate Director with BEAM, Stanford Career Education. In his role with Career Catalyst, a team focused on a two-pronged approach of increasing Equity and Inclusion, and building Community and Belonging around the intersection of career and identity, Ahmad is responsible for the development and implementation of the broader diversity strategy for his team and BEAM. Ahmad's professional experience includes a combined 12 years of work in higher education and the recruiting industry. Prior to his time at Stanford, Ahmad spent 6 years in academic advising at his alma mater UC Berkeley, where he earned his M.A. in Education and B.A. in Sociology.



Gordon Saul, MBA

Gordon is the Executive Director of the Byers Center for Biodesign at Stanford University, and an Adjunct Professor of Bioengineering. He has over 25 years of startup and business development experience in the medical device and pharmaceutical industries. Prior to joining Biodesign, Gordon was an executive-in-residence at InterWest Partners, a leading Silicon Valley venture capital firm, where he served as a founding or interim executive in over a dozen portfolio companies. Prior to joining InterWest, he was a co-founder, board member and senior vice president of business development for PowderJect Pharmaceuticals, a publicly-traded drug delivery company acquired by Chiron Corporation in 2003 for \$870M. He also held business development roles at ALZA Corporation and Advanced Cardiovascular Systems, a division of Guidant Corp. Gordon has worked in Japan in the financial services industry and in management consulting for The Boston Consulting Group. Gordon received an AB in engineering sciences from Dartmouth College and an MBA from Stanford.

Meet the Speakers



Dan Azagury, MD

Dan Azagury is a minimally invasive surgeon specializing in digestive surgery, bariatric surgery and general surgery. Dr. Azagury trained both in Europe and the United States and is board certified in surgery in Switzerland, his home country. After completing his residency in Switzerland, he undertook a research fellowship at Brigham and Women's Hospital and Harvard Medical School in Boston. Alongside his clinical practice, Dr. Azagury is a faculty member at the Stanford Center for Biodesign. He is the assistant director of specialty fellowship program and co-directs the Japan Biodesign partnership program. He is also a faculty member and teaches in multiple medical innovation programs across Europe. Dr. Azagury holds multiple patent applications and co-founded two medical device companies including Ciel Medical. Ciel focuses on novel approaches to reducing Ventilator Associated Pneumonia and was acquired by Vyair medical in 2017. He is the father of three and is fluent in French and Spanish.



James Wall, MD

Dr. James Wall is Pediatric Surgeon at Stanford who focuses on minimally invasive approaches to children's surgery. He is an alumnus of the Stanford Biodesign program and holds a Masters degree in Bioengineering. He has a research focus on how we educate others to design and develop health technology as well as the emerging field of surgical endoscopy. He has developed multiple health technologies including a novel epidural needle, a protection device for umbilical catheters and a wearable leg compression system. James currently leads the perioperative Value Analysis Committee and surgical endoscopy program Lucile Packard Children's Hospital and is the Assistant Director of the Byers Center for Biodesign Innovation Fellowship at Stanford.



Thomas Caruso, MD, MA Ed.

Dr. Caruso is a Clinical Associate Professor of Pediatric Anesthesia at Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford. He is the co-director of the CHARIOT (Childhood Anxiety and pain Reduction through Innovation and Technology) Program, which aims to reduce pediatric patients' anxiety and pain by utilizing immersive technologies, including augmented and virtual reality. He has helped lead the CHARIOT Program's implementation throughout multiple areas and departments within the hospital and is now spreading the program regionally and nationally. Dr. Caruso is also the Director of Perioperative Quality Improvement and an advisor to the Department of Graduate Medical Education at Stanford's School of Medicine. He holds a Bachelor of Science with High Distinction in biochemistry from the University of Virginia, a Master's Degree in medical education from Johns Hopkins University and a Medical Degree from Stanford University.



Nadia Gathers, BA

Nadia Gathers manages Internal Communications at Github and teaches intersectional design thinking at the Stanford University d.school and beyond. In their spare time, they are a mental health advocate, occasional stage-talker, and aspiring novelist. TL;DR - Nadia helps people talk to each other.