

pandemic response catalyst conversations: Validating and Sharing Scientific Information

Speaker Bios



Vin Gupta, M.D., M.P.A., is an Affiliate Assistant Professor of Health Metrics Sciences at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, part of the University of Washington. A pulmonary and critical care medicine physician by training, Dr. Gupta has been caring for critically COVID-19 patients since the early days of the outbreak in Seattle. He helped a cross-sectoral team stand up the Seattle Coronavirus Assessment Network, the nation's first effort to scale home-testing for COVID-19. His background in public health has focused on epidemic preparedness, with relevant roles at the US CDC's Emerging Infections Program, the World Bank's Pandemic Emergency Financing Facility, the China CDC, and the Pentagon's Center for Global Health Engagement. Finally, Dr. Gupta is a deployable critical care physician for the US Air Force Medical Corps Reserves, medical contributor for MSNBC and NBC News, and term member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Twitter: [@VinGuptaMD](#) Website: [vinguptamd.com](#)



Nick Lindsay has been the head of MIT Press' journals division since 2009. He oversees the day-to-day and strategic operations of a group that produces 40 journals for a variety of clients such as Harvard, New York University, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, among others. In his role as director, Lindsay has pursued new business models and implemented several technological changes for the Press' list. In 2017, Lindsay's title was changed to include responsibility for open access activities at MIT Press across the journals and books divisions and he now sits on the MIT-wide task force on open access. Previous to MIT Press, Lindsay was the Journals Marketing and Circulation Manager for the University of California Press. He has served on several committees with the Society for Scholarly Publishing and the Association of University Presses and is currently a board alternate with CrossRef and a member of the publishing committee for the Association for the Sciences of Limnology and Oceanography.



David Sun Kong, Ph.D., is a synthetic biologist, community organizer, musician, and photographer based in Lexington, MA. He is the director of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology Media Lab's new [Community Biotechnology Initiative](#). Their mission: empowering communities through biotechnology. David conducted his graduate studies at MIT's Media Lab, receiving a master's degree for developing technology for printing nanostructures with energetic beams and a Ph.D. for demonstrating the first gene synthesis in a microfluidic ("lab-on-a-chip") system. He was recognized as an emerging leader in synthetic biology as a "LEAP" fellow, served as a guest faculty member at the Marine Biology Lab in Woods Hole, MA, and is co-founder and

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managing faculty of "[How To Grow \(Almost\) Anything](#)," an international course on synthetic biology. He founded and chaired new Microfluidic and Hardware Tracks for the [International Genetically Engineered Machines Competition \(iGEM\)](#) and is the official iGEM DJ. He was technical staff in the Bioengineering Systems & Technologies group at MIT's Lincoln Laboratory and a founding member of the synthetic biology team.



Renee Connolly is the global head of Communications and Business Markets / Services at MilliporeSigma, where she leverages the power of education, community and responsibility to motivate the many people the company impacts to achieve greatness. In this role since 2013, Connolly leads the company's internal communications for 22,000 employees, as well as its external communication, corporate brand strategy, community affairs and corporate responsibility programs. She also oversees events and programs for the business worldwide.

In 2015, Connolly spearheaded the communication strategy for the \$17 billion acquisition of chemical giant Sigma-Aldrich — marking the largest acquisition in the company's history and one of the largest in the Life Science industry. During this time, she also launched MilliporeSigma's SPARK™ global volunteer program and signature Curiosity Labs™ program, which inspires students to explore STEM careers through hands-on education. Since SPARK's inception in early 2016, more than 9,700 MilliporeSigma employees have volunteered more than 89,400 hours across 36 countries, engaging more than 234,000 children.

Prior to joining MilliporeSigma, Connolly served as vice president of U.S. Communications for EMD Serono. Before moving to Massachusetts, she spent nine years in New York City, working in public and investor relations in the biotechnology, pharmaceuticals and life sciences industries.

Connolly enjoys contributing to organizations focused on building better communities, supporting young women professionals and encouraging future scientists and engineers. She is a board member of the Massachusetts Conference for Women, the Home for Little Wanderers and the Mass Women's Forum. Connolly has been involved in the American Cancer Society, Hope Lodge and the American Diabetes Association. She was a member of the MassBioEd Foundation for nearly 10 years — three of which she served as chairwoman. She is a past recipient of the Working Mother of the Year award from Working Mother Magazine.

Connolly earned a bachelor's degree in journalism from Ithaca College. She and her husband, Scott, are parents to four children and live in the Boston suburbs.