MICHIGAN INSTITUTE
FOR DATA & AI IN SOCIETY
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

ANNUAL HIGHLIGHTS

YEAR IN REVIEW 2025

Table of Contents

Letter from the Director

Dear MIDAS Community,

As someone who stepped into the acting director role just a few months ago, I've had the rare privilege of arriving at MIDAS during a milestone year. Looking back at 2025, and a decade of remarkable growth and impact, I am inspired by the community that built this institute into what it is today. Our 10th anniversary is more than a celebration. It is a testament to ten years of visionary leadership, interdisciplinary collaboration and groundbreaking contributions to data science and AI.

A Decade of Discovery, Achievements, and Impact

Over the past 10 years, MIDAS has become one of the most prominent AI / data science institutes in the country. It has enabled hundreds of research projects, supported many campus research initiatives, and helped U-M become national leaders in new research fields such as single-cell biology. It has established itself as a leader in responsible research, built one of the largest postdoctoral programs in the world focusing on AI for science and engineering, and developed the only AI for drug discovery industry-university research consortium funded by the National Science Foundation. Through its industry, government and university partnerships both in the US and globally, MIDAS helps our research community maximize its impact on science and society. MIDAS is well poised to help the entire university stay at the forefront of research and innovation in the AI age.

Transforming Research with AI

AI is disrupting how academic research is done in unprecedented ways, and that requires unprecedented measures to help researchers adapt to a new research ecosystem in which AI is prominently featured. MIDAS has placed a major focus on enabling AI adoption through innovative approaches. This year, we started the AI Sandbox, and are in the early stage of offering AI project consultation. More support mechanisms, such as an AI technical guidebook, will be unveiled soon.

Intensifying Research Training

This summer, we offered for the first time a three-week "AI for Scientists and Engineers" summer academy, built on our summer training programs in the past five years. With this program as the foundation, we have also offered a remote short course for researchers in Africa. This year, we also welcomed the first cohort of our Postdoc Affiliates, and redesigned the Graduate Data Science Certificate Program to incorporate more AI content, all for the purpose of enhancing the research capabilities of our community.

Broadening Impact

In early 2025, leaders from multiple African research organizations convened on our campus during our AI Symposium, and this marked the beginning of our effort to support our African colleagues' AI adoption efforts. This effort expands the impact of the Eric and Wendy Schmidt AI in Science African Faculty Fellows Program, part of the postdoc programs at MIDAS. Our effort to connect rigorous research to direct societal impact is best exemplified this year by a research co-design project, together with the City of Detroit and Microsoft, that developed a structured model of building public-private partnerships.

As we celebrate 2025 and 10 years of accomplishments, we are equally excited about the future. The coming decade will bring unprecedented opportunities and challenges in AI, data science and their applications across disciplines, and we are here to support our research community to explore new frontiers of knowledge and address pressing societal issues.

On behalf of the entire MIDAS team, I thank our faculty, students, partners and supporters and wish you a wonderful 2026!

Warm regards,

Brad Orr

Brad Orr
Acting Director, Michigan Institute for Data and AI in Society

MIDAS AT A GLANCE

We are a university-wide organization that advances data science and artificial intelligence (AI) and enables their transformative use across a wide range of research domains for lasting scientific and societal impact. We support innovative research and collaboration and provide research resources, offer training for faculty and other researchers, host three postdoctoral training programs, and develop extensive research collaboration with academia, industry and government.

Mission

MIDAS promotes advancements in data science and artificial intelligence and enables their transformative use in a wide range of research disciplines to achieve lasting scientific and societal impact.

MIDAS by the Numbers

675+
Affiliate faculty

49
Current postdocs

$239M
External funding enabled

113
MIDAS funded research projects

Research

We enable research breakthroughs by supporting departmental AI strategies and faculty collaborations, launch strategic initiatives and serve as a research hub for AI policy, ethics, and societal impact. Through programs such as the Propelling Original Data Science pilot grants, the AI Sandbox, and expert consultations, MIDAS strengthens research capacity and promotes responsible, reproducible, and ethical research with data and AI.

Training

MIDAS equips researchers with the skills to apply data science and AI across disciplines. Year-round workshops and summer academies offer hands-on training in cutting-edge methods for the research community. Our postdoctoral programs, including the Eric and Wendy Schmidt AI in Science Fellowships, the Michigan Data Science Fellows Program, and the Postdoc Affiliate Program, foster a vibrant community of emerging leaders. MIDAS also oversees the Graduate Data Science Certificate and supports student-led research teams that emphasize real-world experience.

- Postdoctoral Programs
- Researcher Training Programs
- Student Programs

Impact

MIDAS partners with industry, academia, government, and communities to advance data science and AI for social good. Through the Eric and Wendy Schmidt AI for Science African Faculty Fellows Program, we develop global collaboration for AI's impact on science and engineering.

ALL IN ON AI

MIDAS continues to advance U-M's leadership in AI research and innovation across disciplines. From medicine to the humanities, MIDAS equips researchers with tools, training and expertise to accelerate discoveries, enhance learning and unlock new opportunities. MIDAS' contributions were highlighted in the Office of the Vice President for Research (OVPR) newsletter. Through these efforts, MIDAS demonstrates U-M's commitment to responsible, transformative AI.

Read the full newsletter spotlight

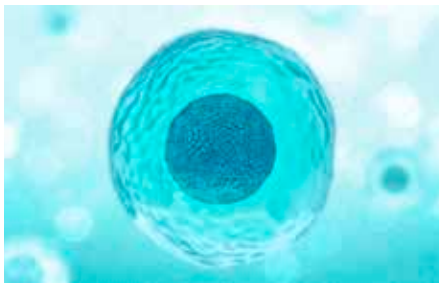
MIDAS Executive Director, Jing Liu, highlighted in an op-ed for OVPR's newsletter how U-M is "going all in on AI" to transform research across disciplines. In the piece, Liu highlights how AI is reshaping the research enterprise and why universities must take an intentional, future-oriented approach to its adoption. She notes that concerns about AI's risks and limitations are real and widespread underscore the need for strong ethical practices, transparency, and thoughtful institutional support. Liu argues that by building rigorous, responsible infrastructure and empowering researchers with the right tools and guidance, universities can harness AI to accelerate discovery and elevate the role of human scientists.

Featured Impact Stories

Strategic investment, interdisciplinary collaboration and data-driven innovation are at the heart of MIDAS-enabled research. The stories below highlight how these elements come together to accelerate discovery and translate bold ideas into meaningful impact, and explore how data science and AI are shaping scientific breakthroughs across the University of Michigan and society.

Comparative Literature: Translating with AI

AI isn't just reshaping science, it's redefining storytelling. At U-M, researchers are using large language models to bridge cultures, challenge linguistic hierarchies and reimagine how we learn languages.



Single Cells, Big Impact: How MIDAS Seed Funding Catalyzed a Research Revolution at U-M

From a single $1.25 million spark, a data-driven revolution was born. U-M's single-cell research didn't just grow—it exploded, transforming how we understand health, disease, and collaboration itself.

The As-If Machine: Walking in Someone Else's Shoes

You can only live one life, but what if AI could help you imagine others? U-M's "As-If Machine" uses co-written narratives to bridge social divides through empathy.

AI Journeys

AI for domain research is gaining momentum across disciplines, yet many researchers are still in the early stages of learning how AI can advance their work. As the community navigates this evolving landscape, it is important to consider how AI is shaping research practices and supporting more creative, meaningful discovery.

At the **2025 AI in Science and Engineering Symposium,** MIDAS featured a special collection of **"AI Journeys"** presentations. Domain researchers and AI experts shared their experiences using AI to advance scientific inquiry, including:

- Choosing significant research questions
- Deciding when AI tools would add value
- Integrating AI into projects
- Securing expertise, resources, and collaboration
- Key results and lessons learned

AI Journeys Speakers

Left to Right, Top to Bottom: Peter Adriaens, Harkirat Singh Arora, Barbara Glover, Dani Jones, Fraser King, Max Li, Abiodun Modupe, Grite Nelson Mwaijengo, Qing Qu, Geoffrey H. Siwo, Jon Zelner, Lubomir Hadjiyski

Not pictured: Xiaofan Liang

AI Sandbox

AI Sandbox Expands Hands-On Learning Across Campus

The AI Sandbox has quickly become a popular gateway for researchers looking to build confidence and capability with AI methods.

This year, MIDAS launched the **AI Sandbox,** a hands-on learning space that gives researchers the opportunity to explore curated AI tools in a supportive, experiment-focused environment. Each session introduces models used in research, from image segmentation to text classification, and guides participants to work through demos, test pre-trained models, and experiment with example datasets or their own research materials. No prior experience is required, which has made the program especially accessible to researchers in all fields.

AI Digest

Launched in March, the biweekly **AI Digest** reports on tools, techniques, and examples of research applications. This page includes the most recent issues and an archive of past entries.

Sign up to receive the AI Digest!

AI Consultation

Coming in 2026, AI consultation and AI technical guidebook.

TRAINING

Advancing AI and Data Science Through Postdoctoral Excellence

MIDAS supports a vibrant community of **49 postdoctoral researchers** who are advancing the frontiers of AI and data science across disciplines. As one of nine universities hosting the Eric and Wendy Schmidt AI in Science Postdoctoral Research Program, U-M empowers fellows to apply AI to accelerate scientific discovery.

In 2025, MIDAS launched two new programs within our postdoc community. In July 2025, we welcomed the first cohort of **7 African Faculty Fellows from institutions in Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda and Nigeria**. This fellowship supports African university faculty as they spend one year at U-M developing AI-enabled research and a second year at their home institutions advancing projects across biology, environmental science, engineering, mathematics and physical sciences in collaboration with U-M faculty hosts.

MIDAS also launched the **MIDAS Postdoc Affiliate Program**, which strengthens the use of AI and data science across U-M by engaging postdocs from across campus in disciplines as varied as Environment and Sustainability, Political Science, Math, Statistics, Comparative Literature, Business, Engineering, and others. This year, our **17 postdoctoral affiliates** have been taking part in the MIDAS community and events, networking and professional development opportunities offered to our early-career researchers and collaborating with new colleagues in the MIDAS community.

Eric and Wendy Schmidt AI in Science Postdoctoral Fellowship

The Eric and Wendy Schmidt AI in Science Postdoctoral Fellowship, funded by Schmidt Sciences, seeks to catalyze research through the application of AI to scientific research.

Eric and Wendy Schmidt AI in Science African Faculty Fellowship

The Eric and Wendy Schmidt AI in Science African Faculty Fellowship, funded by Schmidt Sciences, fosters the development of AI-enabled research among current faculty members at African universities.

Michigan Data Science Fellowship

The Michigan Data Science Fellowship is a core component of MIDAS' effort to catalyze the transformative use of Data Science in a wide range of disciplines to achieve lasting societal impact, through research, education, outreach, and partnership.

MIDAS Postdoctoral Affiliates Program

The MIDAS Postdoctoral Affiliates Program promotes the dissemination of AI and data science methodologies for scientific research throughout the University of Michigan's postdoctoral research community.

Postdoctoral Community Impact

Community Initiative Funds from Schmidt Sciences

The community initiative funds is a Schmidt funding mechanism that enables MIDAS postdocs to pursue project with meaningful community impact.

U-M Knowledge-Guided Machine Learning (KGML) Workshop

MIDAS celebrated the success of the four-day U-M Knowledge-Guided Machine Learning (KGML) Workshop, supported by Schmidt Sciences and organized by Schmidt Fellows.

AI Model Zoo

A group of MIDAS-affiliated Schmidt Fellows, led by MIDAS Schmidt AI in Science postdoctoral fellows Seth Temple and Jamila Taaki, along with Schmidt alum and MIDAS AI scientist Nathan Fox, received $100,000 from Schmidt Sciences to create an AI Model Zoo, a shared and well-documented repository of AI tools developed across Schmidt-hosting institutions.

Photos from the KGML Workshop

Looking ahead to 2026, MIDAS postdocs will continue to drive groundbreaking advances in data science and AI. From building new interdisciplinary collaborations to developing tools, methods, and public-impact projects, the coming year promises even more innovative research, community engagement, and real-world impact from our growing cohort of Fellows.

UQ Incubator

Supported by Schmidt Sciences, the UQ Incubator at the University of Michigan will convene researchers to advance uncertainty quantification in AI for science and engineering through talks, collaboration, and team-based projects, with grant support for promising ideas.

Commun-AI-ty Workshop

In 2026, MIDAS will launch the Commun-AI-ty workshop, a 3.5-day program that trains Fellows to turn AI-for-science research into interactive web tools for grades 6–12. Through hands-on design sessions and collaboration with teachers and students, participants build prototype educational interfaces and strengthen their science communication skills.

AI for Connecting and Transforming Africa: ACT-Africa 2026

Funded by Schmidt Sciences, ACT-Africa 2026 is a three-day hands-on workshop at Addis Ababa University offering practical AI training for Africa-specific challenges, with an emphasis on locally adapted tools, collaboration, and real-world solutions.

Research Training

MIDAS continues to strengthen the University of Michigan research community through robust, year-round training programs. These efforts include three signature Summer Academies that equip faculty and researchers with essential data science and AI skills, alongside a continually expanding Generative AI Tutorial series.

In 2025, MIDAS delivered the **AI for Scientists and Engineers Summer Academy**, a three-week immersive program designed to provide researchers across disciplines with both foundational and advanced skills in machine learning and AI for scientific discovery. Open to faculty and researchers in the biological sciences, engineering, environmental and earth sciences, physical sciences and social sciences, the academy emphasized practical approaches to integrating AI into active research programs.

The curriculum progressed from conceptual understanding to hands-on application, covering core machine learning principles, data evaluation and model validation, and advanced, domain-specific AI methods:

- **Week 1:** Conceptual understanding of AI and its applications in domain research
- **Week 2:** Implementing machine learning models in a Python environment
- **Week 3:** Advanced AI topics and domain-specific applications

Building on the success of the 2025 academy and growing support for African researchers, MIDAS launched a virtual version of the course, expanding access to researchers across biological, engineering, environmental, physical and social science fields.

Alongside these new offerings, MIDAS continues to provide its established catalog of research training opportunities, including:

The **Biomedical Summer Academy** introduces core concepts in data science and AI for biomedical researchers, with hands-on instruction in areas such as Python programming and machine learning.

The **Data and AI Intensive Research with Rigor and Reproducibility Academy (DAIR³)** prepares biomedical faculty and researchers to ensure that AI- and data-driven studies meet the highest standards of rigor, reproducibility and responsible practice.

MIDAS expanded its **Generative AI tutorial series** to help University of Michigan researchers better understand when, why and how generative AI tools can be integrated into scholarly work. Open to all U-M researchers, the 2025–26 series emphasizes practical, research-focused use of generative AI and responsible adoption across disciplines.

SUPPORTING RESEARCH

Propelling Original Data Science (PODS) Program

MIDAS announced the 2025 recipients of its Propelling Original Data Science (PODS) grants, awarding nearly $865,000 in direct funding to 14 U-M research teams. This year's program continues to reflect strong campus and industry partnerships, including support from Microsoft, the Institute for Healthcare Policy and Innovation (IHPI), and the Michigan Institute for Clinical & Health Research (MICHR). The PODS awards also received additional support from participating units and collaborators.

The 2025 PODS grants were organized into focused tracks:

- **Track 1:** Data Science and AI Methodology and Applications
- **Track 2:** Accelerating Responsible AI Research Ecosystems (Microsoft)
- **Track 3A:** AI Innovations in Clinical & Translational Sciences (CTS) (MIDAS + MICHR)
- **Track 3B:** AI Impact and Governance for Health Policy and Healthcare (MIDAS + IHPI)
- **Track 3C:** Data Science and AI for Health Science and Healthcare Research

Some examples of PODS-awarded projects include:

Facilitating Appropriate Reliance on Generative AI (GenAI) Tools by Investigating Reliance Decisions and Norms
Q. Vera Liao (College of Engineering)

Revolutionizing Disease Diagnostics Through the Integration of Physics-Informed Materials Science Methods with Sequence Models
Sharon Glotzer (College of Engineering)

Developing Best Practices for AI-assisted Mixed Methods Analysis
Timothy Guetterman (Michigan Medicine) and Melissa DeJonckheere (Michigan Medicine)

Harnessing AI for Advancing Data Collection and Population-Scale Causal Inference
William Axinn (Ford School of Public Policy), David Jurgens (School of Information), and James Wagner (Institute for Social Research)

Implementing AI into Anticoagulation Clinical Decision Support
Geoffrey Barnes (Michigan Medicine), Michael Sjoding (Michigan Medicine), and Michael Lanham (Michigan Medicine)

For a full list of PODS awardees, **visit the website**

Collaboration

Faculty Research Connections

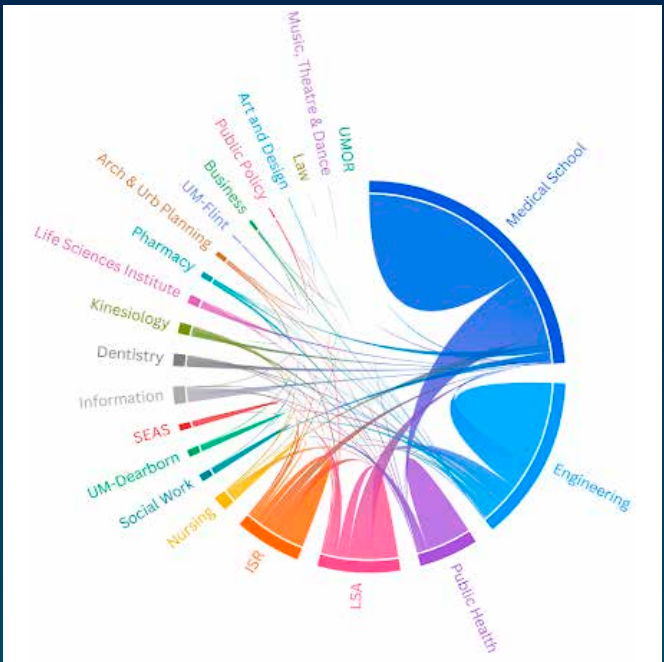
To help our nearly 700 MIDAS faculty affiliates connect, MIDAS hosts an informal monthly gathering around a specific domain or theme to encourage meaningful conversations, pursue funding opportunities and advance AI-driven research across a broad range of disciplines.

In 2025, these sessions covered a wide mix of topics, reflecting the diversity and impact of AI research at U-M. Highlights included discussions on:

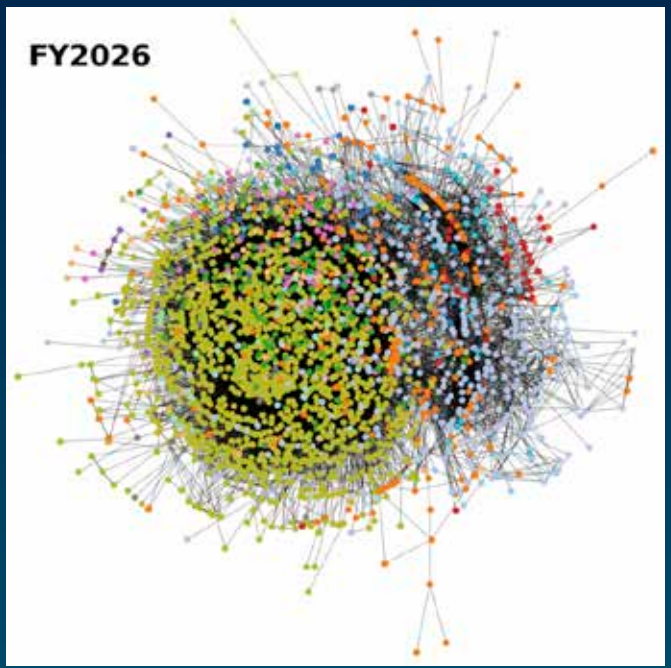
- AI in emergency medicine
- AI and energy systems
- AI and climate change
- AI and the humanities

Other sessions focused on preparing for external funding opportunities and exploring ideas for cross-disciplinary collaborations.

Extramural Funding Proposal Collaborations



Cross-Unit Collaborations Between MIDAS Faculty Affiliates



Individual MIDAS Faculty Affiliate Collaborations

Dots indicate the number of individual faculty/researchers

Lines represent number of collaborations/connections with MIDAS faculty

Colors show school/college/department of MIDAS faculty

Public-Private Partnerships

With funding from the National Science Foundation, the **Collaborative Design of Data and AI Systems for Science and Society** project advanced a yearlong effort to design a public-private collaboration model for developing data and AI systems that serve science and society.

Through a series of connected workshops, the project brought together AI developers, database researchers and developers, and data and AI end users from U-M, Detroit city government, and Microsoft to pilot a new model for intentional, structured collaboration. The participants laid the groundwork with shared visioning and problem framing to address challenges in cross-sector collaboration.

Based on new knowledge and shared mindset, they engaged in concrete project design, which resulted in three applied research concepts: chatbots to improve city services, a flood and erosion risk policy analysis tool, and computer vision for city planning. With a hackathon in Detroit that involved project participants, U-M students and reseachers, and observers from other government organizations and local companies, the project team pushed these concepts into early prototypes with real-time stakeholder input.

This project demonstrates how early alignment, iterative development, and trust-based partnerships can accelerate responsible and community-informed AI innovation. MIDAS will continue using this model to build public-private collaborations with many more organizations.

Photos from the Research and Development Strategic Visioning (RDSV) Workshop

> Detroit participants led the discussion to ensure that the intended research outcomes are meaningful. U-M researchers provided expertise to ensure the research rigor and feasibility. Microsoft engineers proposed an implementation plan that was astonishingly efficient. This is exactly why such collaboration can push research to the next level.
>
> —— ***Dr. Jing Liu**, the PI of the RDSV project MIDAS, Executive Director*

Impact

Data and AI in Society (DAS) Lecture Series

MIDAS launched the Data and AI in Society Lecture Series to make data and AI concepts accessible to the entire campus and broader community and to deepen the understanding of how these technologies are reshaping everyday life. The series is open to everyone—no AI experience needed.

This year's sessions examined topics that included:

Can AI Be Conscious, and Why Does It Matter?
Kentaro Toyama (School of Information)

Generative AI and Sexual Harms
Sarita Schoenebeck (School of Information)

AI Regulation: If, What, and How
Merve Hickok (School of Information)

AI's Role in Upskilling Medical Practice
Jason Corso (College of Engineering)

Translating AI Innovations into Solutions in the Global South
P. Anandan (AI Scientist)

Labor, Machines, and Economic Growth: Will Workers Be Needed in our AI Future
Betsey Stevenson (Ford School of Public Policy)

Industries of Ideas: Preparing People and Policy for Work in an AI Economy
Jason Owen-Smith (College of Literature, Science, and the Arts)

Deepfakes: How Artificial Intelligence is Powering a New Age of Disinformation
Barbara McQuade (Michigan Law School)

Energy-Optimal AI
Mosharaf Chowdhury (College of Engineering)

Check out page 15 to learn more about the Winter 2026 lineup of speakers. Don't miss this opportunity to engage, learn and be inspired!

AI and Policy: Strengthening Cross-Sector Collaboration

In 2025, MIDAS deepened its commitment to advancing responsible AI through an ongoing collaboration with Microsoft.

These resources are enabling U-M researchers to accelerate work at the intersection of AI, policy, and society, including efforts to strengthen regulatory compliance, assess societal impacts, and inform the development of effective AI governance.

Projects include:

Facilitating Appropriate Reliance on Generative AI (GenAI) Tools by Investigating Reliance Decisions and Norms
Q. Vera Liao (College of Engineering)

AI Systems to Combat Non-Consensual Intimate Media (NCIM)
Sarita Schoenebeck (School of Information) Eric Gilbert (School of Information)

Governing AI's Footprint: A Scalable Human-AI Workflow to Extract Zoning Codes for Data Centers and Renewable Energy Sitting
Xiaofan Liang (Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning), Sarah Mills (Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning)

2025 U-M DATA SCIENCE & AI SUMMIT

In November, MIDAS brought together hundreds of the University of Michigan's data science and AI community, along with partners from academia, industry, and government, for the annual U-M Data Science and AI Summit. As the largest event of its kind on campus, the Summit showcased the full spectrum of U-M's leadership in data and AI research, from theoretical advances to real-world applications that address scientific and societal challenges.

This year's program featured five distinguished keynote speakers whose work is shaping the future of science, technology, health, and policy. Andrew Connolly opened the Summit with insights on how AI is transforming astrophysics and large-scale scientific discovery. Betsey Stevenson explored how AI may reshape the future of work and human flourishing, and Ashley Llorens shared Microsoft's perspective on research frontiers in the AI era. Kyle Cranmer highlighted the emergence of new patterns in AI for science, and Brad Malin closed the event with a call for responsible, equitable, and trustworthy AI in health data and biomedical informatics.

A major highlight was the University Vision Panel, where U-M leaders Arthur Lupia, Karen Thole, and Ravi Pendse joined moderator Brad Orr to discuss the university's strategic direction in AI. Their conversation underscored U-M's commitment to building the talent, partnerships, and infrastructure needed to advance AI research and innovation across campus.

Throughout the two-day event, faculty, students, and research fellows presented cutting-edge work during the Research Vision Talk sessions. These talks spanned disciplines including medicine, physics, engineering, public policy, information science, and the humanities. Presenters shared new approaches to uncertainty quantification, biosonar-inspired AI, responsible AI frameworks, brain–computer interfaces, fusion device optimization, and global governance of AI capacity.

With rich discussion, new partnerships, and forward-looking research shared across disciplines, the 2025 U-M Data Science and AI Summit reaffirmed Michigan's role as a leader in shaping the future of data science and artificial intelligence. We look forward to welcoming the community back next year as we continue building a collaborative and visionary AI ecosystem at Michigan.

Click here for the event recordings.

Poster Awards Spotlight

The Summit also celebrated standout contributions from the research poster session. Awardees included:

Best Overall Poster: A Generalized Framework for Alchemical Machine-Learned Coarse-Grained Interaction Models in Polymer-Grafted Nanoparticle Self-Assembly — Melody Zhang

Outstanding Research Innovation: A Workflow for Predicting High Temporal and Spatial Resolution Rainfall Data Using Machine Learning Tools — Marwah Al Ismail

High-Impact Application: Leveraging Modern Machine Learning to Improve Early Warning Systems and Reduce Chronic Absenteeism in Early Childhood — Tiffany Wu

Excellence in Communication: Cultural Aspects of General Artificial Intelligence — Maria Fields

Best Reproducibility: Scalable Geometric Defect Detection in Manufacturing Using Synthetic 3D Point Cloud Data — Mei (Alice) Ruo-Syuan

Audience Favorite: Overcoming Moderation Barriers: Applying LLMs to Sensitive Narrative Datasets — Anay Halwasiya

UPCOMING EVENTS

Data and AI in Society (DAS) Lecture Series

MIDAS will host the Winter 2026 Data and AI in Society Lecture Series, a public program designed to help audiences explore how data science and artificial intelligence are reshaping daily life, social systems and the world around us. The series is open to all and no technical background is required, giving attendees the chance to engage with leading U-M researchers and gain fresh perspectives on the opportunities and challenges of an AI-driven era.

This winter's lineup includes four thought-provoking talks:

JANUARY 15, 2026

Combinatorial Explosion: From Atom-bond Arrangements to Exotic Diseases

Tim Cernak

FEBRUARY 12, 2026

AI, art, and the evolution of aesthetics

Sophia Brueckner

APRIL 2, 2026

AI to support civil discourse and shared perspectives

Ceren Budak

APRIL 16, 2026

AI and Detroit's Census Challenge

Derek Van Berkel & Jeffrey Morenoff

Together, these lectures highlight how AI is influencing fields from environmental stewardship and creative expression to democratic dialogue and urban policy.

Join us to learn, question and be inspired as we examine the role of data and AI in society's most pressing issues.

Generative AI Tutorial Series

MIDAS continued to equip U-M researchers with practical, responsible, and discipline-spanning skills through our Generative AI Tutorial series. Over the past year, participants explored topics such as coding with GenAI, critical evaluation of AI output, and AI-assisted literature discovery and synthesis. Looking ahead, the 2025–26 series will expand these foundations with hands-on sessions on AI-powered literature reviews, visualization, and emerging generative AI agents. Open to researchers across all fields and experience levels, the series provides actionable guidance on when, why, and how to integrate generative AI into research workflows—and supports continued learning with recorded sessions for later viewing.

JANUARY 19, 2026

Generative AI for Literature Reviews

James Boyko

FEBRUARY 23, 2026

Generative AI for Visualization

Eytan Adar

MARCH 19, 2026

Generative AI Agents

Joseph Osumeje and Nazreen Pallikkavaliyaveetil

Faculty Highlights

Faculty Achievements: Below is a small sample of our faculty affiliates' research achievements.

- Explainable AI: New framework increases transparency in decision-making systems (Salar Fattahi)
- Why AI leaderboards are inaccurate and how to fix them (Lingjia Tang)
- A common language to describe and assess human–agent teams (X. Jessie Yang)
- U-M analysis details the where, and who, of increased hurricane power outages in the future (Seth Guikema)
- University of Michigan research proves traffic light retiming reduces crashes (Henry Liu)
- History shows advanced nuclear likely to have predictable negative consequences (Shobita Parthasarathy)
- Pairing micro nuclear reactors with AI management (Majdi Radaideh)
- Power when parked: EVs could help save money, reduce emissions by providing energy to homes (Parth Vaishnav)
- High pollen counts linked to increased risk of suicide (Joelle Abramowitz)
- Predicting Depression with Wearable Technology (Amy Bohnert)
- Games for rehab: Fast communication for interactive VR and AR (Jiasi Chen)
- HIV's route to infection is more flexible than previously believed, U-M study finds (Michael Cianfrocco)
- Bridging gaps in rural health care with AI-powered mobile clinics (Jason Corso)
- COVID-19, 5 years on: Lingering impacts and pandemic preparedness (Nancy Fleischer)
- UM professor employs biostatistics to help solve medical mysteries (Jian Kang)
- Human-AI coaching models boost weight loss (Puneet Manchanda)
- AI model helps diagnose under-recognized heart condition (Venkatesh Murthy)
- AI analysis of colonoscopy improves assessment of Crohn's disease (Ryan Stidham)
- The fantasy of a nonprofit dating app (Elizabeth Bruch, Amie Gordon)
- How digital paywalls are quietly reshaping (and reducing) local news coverage (Paramveer Dhillon, Libby Hemphill)
- Election forensics expert finds vote manipulation concerns in Pennsylvania (Walter Mebane)
- AI that thinks like us? U-M researchers unveil new model to predict human behavior (Qiaozhu Mei)
- The AI-powered edge in education (Perry Samson)
- Fewer women amplify their scientific voices online (Misha Teplitskiy, Daniel Romero)
- Public comments let officials know what residents are thinking (Sabina Tomkins)
- XRISM satellite takes X-rays of Milky Way's sulfur (Lia Corrales)
- Twisting light: unveiling the helical path to ultrafast data transmission (Hui Deng)
- On a mission to heal Gila Monsters (Tim Cernak)
- Fossil from 310 million years ago rewrites the story of fish evolution (Matt Friedman)
- Updated sea ice forecast model on the way with huge leap in resolution (Ayumi Fujisaki-Manome)
- Biodiversity matters in every forest, but even more in wetter ones (Peter Reich)
- A University of Michigan 'dinosaur nut' is now in charge of 15M animal specimens (Alison Rabosky)
- Scientists discovered that evolution itself is evolving (Luis Zaman)

Research Grants: Our faculty members secure a large number of research grants each year. Below are just a few examples.

- DARPA provides $10M for project studying longevity of metal AM parts (PI: Veera Sundararaghavan)
- Building on MIDAS pilot funding, researchers secure $7M NOAA funding to support coastal communities (PI: Newell)
- Michigan Department of Education provides $5M for MSTAR automotive microelectronics research (PIs: Kim & Michielssen)
- $7M NIH grant to study behavioral health emergency and day services (PI: Taylor)
- $3.9M NIH grant to further the study of HIV functions and treatment (PI: Sherman)
- $3.8M NIH grant to promote decisional readiness and certainty about pregnancy (PI: Buis)
- Developing a microsurgery platform supported by $2.2M NIH grant (PI: Draelos)
- Using machine learning to identify cognitive impairment with $1.9M NIH grant (PI: Zhou)
- NSF grants $1.8M to transition older social science data to a new data ecosystem (PI: Levenstein)
- NSF grants $1.2M to expand the portal for access to restricted government data (PI: Alexander)

Faculty Awards and Leadership: Many MIDAS affiliate members receive awards, honors, and are appointed to national leadership positions. We highlight a small sample of these below.

- Pamela Davis-Kean elected as Psychological Society President (Pamela Davis-Kean)
- Multiple MIDAS faculty members named AAAS Fellows
- Necmiye Ozay named IEEE Fellow for contributions to cyber-physical and hybrid systems (Necmiye Ozay)
- Qing Qu receives 2025 Google Research Scholar Award for developing efficient generative AI models (Qing Qu)
- Siqian Shen selected as an IISE Fellow (Siqian Shen)
- Charles Brooks received Biophysical Society Award (Charles L Brooks)
- Nicholas Kotov elected into National Academy of Engineering (Nicholas Kotov)
- Many MIDAS faculty affiliates received U-M faculty awards
- Rao and Lu named U-M Innovation Champions (Arvind Rao, Wei Lu)

Our Core Team

Nikola Banovic
Associate Director

Elizabeth Bruch
Associate Director

Tim Cavnar
Postdoctoral Program Manager

Beatrice Hahn
Administrative Assistant

Shahana Chumki
Research Manager

Nathan Fox
AI Scientist

Janet Gribbons
Training Program Specialist

Xiaosu (Frank) Hu
Data Scientist

H.V. Jagadish
Director (on leave)

Jing Liu
Executive Director

Do-Hee Morsman
Assistant Director

Kayvan Najarian
Associate Director

Elle O'Brien
Graduate Data Science Certificate Program Director

Bradford Orr
Acting Director
AVP for Research, OVPR

Kelly Psilidis
Faculty Training Program Manager

Ben Surgalski
Project Manager

Justin Varney
Communications Manager

MICHIGAN INSTITUTE
FOR DATA & AI IN SOCIETY
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

Michigan Institute for Data & AI in Society

Weiser Hall, Suite 600
500 Church Street
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

midas.umich.edu