

Speakers' Biographies

Satyender Goel

Dr. Satyender Goel is a research faculty and Director of HealthLNK at Northwestern Medicine. He has more than 10 years of experience in scientific information technology including bioinformatics, large scale modeling in materials and physical chemistry, and healthcare informatics. He is an informatics specialist for the Chicago Area Patient Centered Outcome Research Network (CAPriCORN), and informatics lead for the Hep C Community Alliance to Test and Treat (HepCCATT). Dr. Goel has been instrumental in building the state level registries for Quality Improvement in IL hospitals. He leverages his technical knowledge and tech transfer experience in sourcing new avenues to build a strong and sustained HIT resource for Chicagoans. Satyender is the founder of postdoctoral forum 'NUPF' at Northwestern University and Chair of its advisory board. He also serves at the advisory board of two healthcare start-ups in Chicago. In his free time he can be found at '1871'/'MATTER Chicago', the co-working spaces for start-ups. Satyender has completed a certificate program "Business for Scientists" in Kellogg school of management; possess PhD in Chemistry from University of Central Florida, and received masters in chem-informatics from The University of Manchester, UK.

Kimberly Gray

Kimberly Gray joined the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering at Northwestern University in 1995. After receiving her Ph.D. from the Johns Hopkins University she worked as a research engineer for the Lyonnaise des Eaux in Paris, France for 2 years. Her areas of expertise are environmental catalysis and physicochemical processes in natural and engineered environmental systems with particular focus on energy and sustainability applications. She studies the synthesis, characterization and performance of photo-active materials, principally TiO₂-based nanocomposites for solar fuel production and water/air treatment. In addition, she is investigating biofuel production on marginal land. Work in her group also involves the investigation of chemical fate in natural systems. She probes the role of periphyton (algal biofilms) in contaminant accumulation in stream sediments and in denitrification in wetlands. She studies the ways in which detailed understanding of ecological relationships (periphyton structure, dynamic food web descriptions) improves our ability to predict chemical transfer (bioaccumulation) in aquatic systems and ultimately human health risks. Application of this research is important in efforts to restore critical ecosystems (Great Lakes), to make ecological forecasts in the face of climate change and to employ ecosystem function for environmental protection (treatment wetlands). She is also studying the ecotoxicological impacts of nanomaterials in aquatic systems. Recent work entails the adaptive design of urban systems to incorporate coupled ecological processes in response to climate change and demographic shifts. Gray was a recipient of the NSF Presidential Young Investigator Award. She was the Associate Director of the NSF Environmental Molecular Science Institute for Environmental Catalysis at NU from 1998–2005 and from 2003–2010 was the Director of the Environmental Science, Engineering and Policy Program. She was the 1998–99 president of the Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors and was a member of the Board of Directors from 1996–2000. She co-directed the Northwestern Institute for Sustainable Practices from 2008–2010. In 2007 she received the McCormick Excellence Award in Research, Teaching and Citizenship. She was selected as the 2008–2010 Sigma Xi Distinguished Lecturer for her work in the areas of sustainability, energy and ecological restoration. Gray was chosen one of the 2008 Aldo Leopold Leadership Fellows by the Woods Institute for the Environment at Stanford University. She works closely with the Chicago Legal Clinic to provide technical expertise to solve environmental problems for low-income urban communities. She was a Senior Science Fellow at the Environmental Law and Policy Center. She is the author of over 100 scientific papers and lectures widely on energy, climate and environmental issues.