Bright Lights - Women in STEM

A snapshot of a few of the many Calgary-based women who are inspiring others in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Dr. Gina Cherkowski
Founder, STEM Learning Lab

Offering youth programming and professional development for educators, STEM Learning Lab promotes student engagement in the STEM fields. STEM Learning Lab operates under the belief it is critically important for kids to explore, create and play in order to learn about the world around them. Dr. Cherkowski understands children learn best when they are engaged in fun, challenge-based, hands-on learning experiences linking school curriculum to the real world in tangible and meaningful ways. STEM Learning Lab offers before-and-after-school programming as well as summer camps.

For more information, visit http://stemlearninglab.com.

Kelcie Miller-Anderson
Technical Co-founder, MycoRemedy

Miller-Anderson has been interested in the development of fungi-based remediation as a possible solution for contaminated soil since the age of 15. Her award-winning company, MycoRemedy, produces MycoMats, which resemble a piece of sod but are infused with natural enzymes. The fungi-laden mats are rolled out onto contaminated sites and the enzymes break down unwanted contaminants like hydrocarbons. While more field trials are planned, MycoRemedy's technology has caught the attention of the energy industry for its cost effectiveness and efficiency.

For more information, visit https://www.mycoremedy.com/.

Dr. Nancy Markley
CEO & Founder, MPowRx Health and Wellness Products

Dr. Markley has developed a unique device, called the Good Morning Snore Solution, for those affected by sleep apnea (sleep disruption that can be a potentially severe condition). This affordable device is a mouthpiece designed to avoid sometimes onerous custom fittings with a simpler clinically-proven solution. Dr. Markley assembled a small team who shared her passion for innovative sleep solutions worldwide, and has taken this homegrown product internationally, with sales and distribution in over 85 countries.

For more information, visit http://www.mpowrx.com/.

Kylie Toh
Founder & Executive Director, Chic Geek

Toh founded Chic Geek with the desire to build a welcoming, supportive community for women in technology and entrepreneurship. Through events and programs, Chic Geek encourages women to build their confidence learning new technologies, transition into a technical career and be inspired by other women who are leaders and role-models in the space.

For more information, visit https://www.thechicgeek.ca/.

Dr. Orly Yadid-Pecht
iCORE Professor and Fellow of the IEEE, SPIE, AIMBE, University of Calgary
Founder, I2Sense (Integrated Intelligent Sensors) Laboratory

Holding over 30 patents, Dr. Yadid-Pecht's research focus is CMOS (complementary metal oxide semiconductor) sensors, mainly on image sensors commonly used in cellphones and found in most digital single-lens reflex (DSLR) cameras. Founded by Dr. Yadid-Pecht, the I2Sense Laboratory at the University of Calgary focuses on advanced image sensor research, development and training in Alberta, and is an international leader in sensor design and integration. The lab has brought together world-class experts in image/sensor design, low-power design, systems integration and information processing. It builds on Alberta's existing imaging and micro-systems research and infrastructure investments to establish end-to-end image and sensor design and integration capability. This technology is now finding applications in fields including biomedical, security and machine vision. Dr. Yadid-Pecht is also a co-founder of two active companies in Calgary (Eat-Little and Luxmux) and is a certified coach.

For more information, visit http://www.ucalgary.ca/i2sense/.