



**Engineering to banking:  
Career stories and lessons from alumni in the financial sector**

Wednesday January 22, 2020

6:30 – 8:00 pm

WB116, Wallberg Building, 200 College St, M5S 3E4

**PANELISTS:**

**Babak Samareh** | Senior Manager, Data Science, RBC

**Dan Rosen** | Chief Executive Officer, d1g1t Inc.

**Imad Ferzli** | Senior Principal, Portfolio Manager, Quantitative Strategies and Research, Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan

**Sanaz Ghasemi** | Senior User Experience Design Researcher, TD

Moderator: **Doug Reeve** | Professor and Director Emeritus, Troost Institute for Leadership Education in Engineering

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**Babak Samareh**, Senior Manager, Data Science, RBC



Dr. Babak Samareh received his MSc in Mechanical Engineering from Concordia University and PhD from U of T where he focused on computational modelling of heat transfer in fluid systems. After graduation he pursued his interest in numerical physics as an engineering consultant for Simulent Inc. He has also been an adjunct professor at U of T for 4 years, teaching undergraduate and graduate engineering courses. During this time, he developed an interest in machine learning and AI and changed his field to cybersecurity. Currently, he is a senior manager and data scientist at RBC's Joint Security Operation Center (JSOC). His team is responsible for developing algorithms that can detect financial fraud, money laundry, and drugs and human trafficking.

**Dan Rosen**, Chief Executive Officer, d1g1t Inc.



Dan Rosen is CEO and co-founder of d1g1t Inc., a new wealth management platform powered by advanced analytics that provides transparent portfolio management services to financial advisers and their individual investors. Dr. Rosen is an internationally recognized Quant and FinTech Entrepreneur; he is also the inaugural Director of the Center for Financial Institutions at the Fields Institute for Research in Mathematical Sciences, as well as an Adjunct Professor of Mathematical Finance at U of T. Dr. Rosen was the co-founder and CEO of R2 Financial Technologies, acquired by S&P Capital IQ in 2012. Prior to this, he had a successful career over a decade at Algorithmics Inc. (acquired by IBM). In addition to working with numerous financial institutions around the world,

he lectures extensively on risk and portfolio management financial engineering, and Fintech innovation. Dan was inducted in 2010 a Fellow of the Fields Institute for his "outstanding contributions to the Fields Institute, its programs, and to the Canadian mathematical community". He holds an MASc and PhD in chemical engineering from U of T.

**Imad Ferzli**, Senior Principal, Portfolio Manager, Quantitative Strategies and Research, Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan



Imad Ferzli is a portfolio manager with Ontario Teachers' Quantitative Strategies and Research team, where he manages a multi-asset model-driven portfolio and builds new and innovative quantitative investment strategies in equities, fixed income, currencies, and commodities. Prior to this, he was with the Fixed Income group at Ontario Teachers', where he helped manage a portfolio of interest rates and credit strategies, and was involved in several new and strategic fixed income business initiatives. Prior to joining Ontario Teachers' in 2011, Ferzli spent two years at the Canada Pension Plan Investment Board. He holds a PhD in Electrical and Computer Engineering from U of T and is an advocate of a stronger role for technological innovation in the capital markets space.

**Sanaz Ghasemi**, Senior User Experience Design Researcher, TD



Sanaz Ghasemi is a Senior Design Researcher at TD, where she takes principles from engineering, psychology, and design and uses research methods to understand how users interact with physical and digital artifacts around them. After obtaining her undergraduate degree in aerospace engineering, Sanaz pursued her master's at U of T's Institute for Aerospace Studies (UTIAS) in the area of Combustion. Later on, finding her passion at the intersection of engineering and psychology, Sanaz obtained her PhD in Industrial Engineering – Human Factors, where she conducted research on improving depth perception with 3D Augmented Reality displays. Following a year of teaching at the Engineering Communication Program at U of T, Sanaz moved on to conducting research within

the banking sector. At TD, the research findings of Sanaz and her fellow researchers are used by designers and stakeholders to craft solutions that are better fitted to customers' needs.