Panel: Trends in AI & Robotics in Agri-food
November 6, 9:15am - 10:30am

James Benkie, Dean, Program Development, Agriculture Technology, Olds College
Before joining the Olds College Team in 2018, James spent 3 years in the technology sector with global tech company Fujitsu as well as 8 years with Agriculture Financial Services Corporation where he led, developed, and supported several different business areas.

Olds College Smart Farm – Transformer… not Soup
Olds College began its Smart Farm journey in 2018. Owning 2,300 acres of agricultural land and having the guiding principles of being agnostic to source technologies, the Olds College Smart Farm can generate all necessary data, use expertise of qualified personnel and partners, and disseminate results through academic processes and demonstration capabilities. Olds College will also leverage digital agriculture technologies to connect Smart Farm Operations, Applied Research, and current and future Academic programs. Next generation digital farming technologies based on machine learning (ML) and artificial intelligence (AI) will also be a priority, however the Olds College team needs to identify current and future obstacles in on-farm data collection to ensure we transition our current practices from fragmented datasets to comprehensive training datasets for future ML and AI integration.

Michael Gibbons, Co-Founder, VP Products, Provision Analytics Inc.
Michael is one of the Co-founders and VP Product for Provision Analytics. As the leader for product strategy, Michael has focused on understanding the complex network that comprises the Canadian Food supply chain. Previously, he developed and oversaw the technical program for accounting and financial draw reporting process of the Telus Sky Project in Calgary, AB; a $250+ million dollar construction project.

Leveraging Machine Learning Algorithms and Advanced Traceability to Build Greater Value in the Food Supply Chain
Provision Analytics panel discussion on Trends in AI and Robotics in Agrifood will focus on using AI to bring Agrifood specific information to the end user. With the upcoming 5G rollout and phones and tablets with AI enable chipsets, the stage is set to use AI to give the customer a holistic view of the food they consume. Utilizing Artificial Neural Networks for video and image recognition, NPL deep learning and probability determination, we will give the consumers real insight into such items as food traceability, product information and Health and Safety recall information - all in near realtime and on their handheld device.

Jason White, Director of Operations, Sightline Innovation Inc.
Jason is the Director of Operations at Sightline Innovation, an industry leader in Data Trust and applied AI. He is happiest when working in the intersections of technology–acting as a bridge between innovation and implementation. Career highlights include launching a new department at one of the largest logistics/supply chain companies in Canada and developing a groundbreaking social media series that premiered at TIFF. Jason has a master's degree in communications from Concordia University and is trained in Lean project management.

Collaborating on Data-Driven Projects

The ability for multiple organizations to collaborate on a data-driven R&D project will determine the business winners and losers in the coming years. Data is a valuable asset that is often proprietary, competitively sensitive, and can represent millions of dollars in R&D investment. Allowing unfettered access is simply not an option for most companies. However, data is the lifeblood of artificial intelligence and machine learning - the technologies that will drive innovation, product development, and efficiencies across all economic sectors.