

## 2022 Executive Summary

During the 2022/23 year, we at iBEST have been hard at work after the disruptions and challenges around COVID-19. In addition to our commitment to promote collaboration between Toronto Metropolitan University and Unity Health Toronto, we have been hard at work testing different strategies to engage our membership and trainees after two years of pandemic restrictions.

Like most organizations, we are still striving to 'return to normal' but are happy to celebrate the progress to date, including the delivery of over 10 in-person lectures attracting over 230 people in total (average of 20 people per lecture, plus online participants), our first in-person symposium post-COVID that saw over 100 people throughout the day, and a well-attended in-person AI and data science trainee workshop.

Complementing the training capabilities of the iBEST membership once again, we secured, for the second year in a row, a \$100K partnership with the Leacross Foundation to fund four female-identifying summer research assistants. As we continue to make strides towards an equitable, diverse and inclusive environment in STEM, we are proud to say that we also launched the Peter and Judith Bowie Advancing Women in STEM opportunity through a private donation.

As encouraged by our Executive Committee, iBEST coordinated a collaborative CFI application that received support from both institutions and included eight iBEST members collaborating on a project addressing fibrosis. Other inter-institutional collaborations and details on our first iBEST collaborative grant to promote membership engagement are also highlighted in this report.

We wrap up the 2022/23 year thanking our staff, Theme Leads and trainees for their efforts to rebuild an engaged research community and look forward to the year ahead, which will bring more collaborative opportunities to the iBEST community.