



(R) TECH

center for innovation

Speakers

VISION

RILA, together with Accenture, has launched the (R)Tech Center for Innovation, and an accompanying “(R)Tech” brand for the retail, innovation, and policymaking arenas. The (R)Tech Center for Innovation’s mission is to help retailers navigate the industry transformation, and to spur the adoption of the “(R)Tech” term within the retail innovation ecosystem.

(R)Tech is a new term that describes the confluence of retail and technology. An (R)Tech company embodies the strongest values of both industries – global and local, nimble and entrepreneurial – to delight profoundly empowered consumers. The term is meant to accelerate retail innovation and to invigorate retail’s reputation with innovators, the next generation of retail talent, policymakers, and the public.

This Speaker Book identifies individuals that have strong knowledge of the industry and the pressures affecting this period of disruptive transformation. We recommend anyone in it.



**“Every act of creation is first of all
an act of destruction.”**

- Pablo Picasso

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RILA



Adam Siegel
RILA

Adam Siegel is SVP of Innovation, Research, and Sustainability. He leads RILA's (R)Tech Center, research program, and sustainability offerings. Adam can speak on the subjects of retail innovation, the industry's future, and the challenges facing its transformation. Prior to RILA, Siegel consulted for numerous companies, and with Environmental Defense Fund's Corporate Partnerships Program. He is an engineer with an MBA from MIT Sloan School of Management.



Nicholas Ahrens
RILA

Nicholas Ahrens, VP of Privacy and Cybersecurity, is RILA's lead advocate on technology policy including cybersecurity, privacy, and innovation. Ahrens leads RILA's Privacy Leaders Council, Cybersecurity Leaders Council, and the development of RILA's (R)Tech Center for Innovation. Prior to RILA, Ahrens served at the U.S. Department of Commerce as the Counsel to the General Counsel, providing strategic legal and policy advice on a variety of issues including data privacy and cybersecurity, and managing a legal office with more than 325 lawyers across all Bureaus of the Department of Commerce.



Jenny Keehan
RILA

Jenny Keehan is RILA's Senior EVP of Retail Operations & Education. She is an experienced RILA executive, having been with the association since 1988, and has been instrumental in RILA's growth and transformation. During her tenure at RILA, Keehan has held positions in government affairs, conferences, communications, marketing and member services. Today, she is a member of RILA's senior team and is responsible for RILA's retail operations programs and the revenue-generating businesses connected with these activities.

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Jill Standish
Accenture

Jill Standish is the Senior Managing Director for Accenture's Global Retail Consulting Practice. As the head of Accenture's Retail practice, Jill is responsible for the business strategy and ongoing development and execution of strategy for clients. She also oversees Accenture's offerings and assets, guides growth and capability development and manages the retail industry client portfolio. She holds a bachelor's in Marketing from the University of Massachusetts, graduating Suma Cum Laude. *(R)Tech Founding Partner.*



Jitendra Kavathekar
Accenture

Jitendra Kavathekar leads Accenture Ventures—Open Innovation globally, helping clients explore and engage vibrant innovation ecosystems—comprising of startups, universities and corporate labs around the globe—to achieve transformative business results. Jitendra holds an MS in Computer Science from the University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, and was presented with an honorary Ph.D. from the International Technology University. Jitendra is on the board of Silicon Valley Forum. *(R)Tech Founding Partner.*



Karen Voelker
Accenture

Karen is the global retail lead for Accenture Customer Innovation Network. Karen has spent 15 years in retail industry focused on innovation, merchandising, inventory optimization, and store operations. Her focus is on client workshop designer and facilitation. Karen supports clients in the development of their innovation practices, processes, organization and showcases. *(R)Tech Founding Partner.*

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Al Sambar
Accenture

Al leads Innovation and Digital Strategy for Accenture Strategy's Retail practice. Prior to that he led Kurt Salmon's Retail & Consumer Practice for North America. Broadly recognized for Innovation leadership: Consulting Magazine Top 25, NRF's "The List" top 5 Industry Influencers. He has spent his professional career serving retail clients' assistance with business transformation. *(R)Tech Founding Partner.*



Chris Donnelly
Accenture

Chris Donnelly a Senior Managing Director and leads Accenture's Global Retail Strategy Practice. He has over 27 years of retail experience and works with many of the world's leading retailers on the critical issues facing their business. Chris is based in Chicago and is a member of Accenture's Global Leadership Council. *(R)Tech Founding Partner.*



Lauren Berson
**Andreessen
Horowitz**

Lauren is a Partner on the Market Development team at Andreessen Horowitz (a16z). Lauren helps a16z's portfolio companies accelerate time to market, and connects them with Fortune 500 executives for partnerships. Lauren leads the retail vertical.

Prior to a16z, Lauren worked at Google in Partnerships, helping developers drive engagement on Google Play and make sense of Android, Google+ and search APIs. She worked on the launch of Google Sign In, app indexing, Android Wear, Auto and TV. Prior to Google, Lauren worked at Meebo (acquired by Google), helping publishers make money and drive engagement on web. Before moving into tech, she spent 7 years at Citigroup, in a variety of roles spanning marketing, product development and business development. *(R)Tech Innovation Network member.*

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Todd Lutwak
**Andreessen
Horowitz**

Todd leads the consumer business development team for market development at Andreessen Horowitz. He advises the a16z portfolio on go-to-market strategy and implementation, particularly as it relates to marketplaces and platforms.

Prior to a16z, Todd worked as VP of selling at eBay, where he was responsible for seller acquisition, development, and monetization. While at eBay, he helped turn around the platform by introducing penalties and incentives to the selling base. Previously, Todd worked as a management consultant at Arthur D. Little and held various sales and sales management positions at AT&T and Ameritech. *(R)Tech Innovation Network member.*



Kiran Mani
Google

Kiran is the Managing Director for Google's Retail business, overseeing key segments like department stores, apparel, sporting goods, footwear, grocery, furniture, beauty, pharma and healthcare. Prior to this, Kiran oversaw Google's partnership with its top 30 global clients; i.e., Ford, GM, Samsung, Apple, Kraft, J&J. He is an active investor and advisor to startups focused on technology, emerging markets, and the non-profit space. His expertise is in Omni-channel, Marketing, Digital, Technology (Ad/marketing/enterprise) and scaling global operations. *(R)Tech Innovation Network member.*



Jennifer Smith
**Greylock
Partners**

Prior to her role with Greylock, Jennifer worked for McKinsey & Company as a business analyst, chief of staff of the Social Sector Office, and a senior associate. In addition, she received her MBA from Harvard Business School. *(R)Tech Innovation Network member.*

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**Tara
Lookabaugh**
GSVlabs

Tara Lookabaugh is the Director of Startup Development at GSVlabs and manages the startup community, providing professional development resources and coaching for the entrepreneurs. Prior to joining GSVlabs, Tara earned a dual BA in Molecular and Cell Biology and English from the University of California, Berkeley, where she competed as a Division I athlete and served as an ambassador for the University's Institute of European Studies.

(R)Tech Innovation Network member.



Boris Pluskowski
RocketSpace

Boris is SVP of Growth at RocketSpace. For nearly 20 years, Boris has worked with some of the world's largest companies to help them plan, build, and execute robust innovation programs that support the creation of an Innovation Culture, and provide a sustainable and repeatable source of new value-creating ideas, processes, products, and business practices. He has worked with companies like Citi, MetLife, Fidelity, JP Morgan Chase, Coca-Cola, Estee Lauder, Pfizer, Amway, and more. *(R)Tech Innovation Network member.*



Ben Dwyer
RocketSpace

Ben Dwyer is Head of Partnerships at RocketSpace. Ben primarily works to connect startups to large, innovative corporations. Working with some of the world's leading companies including GE, Johnson & Johnson, Pfizer, Nike, PepsiCo, Intel, Bayer, etc., he has helped drive key pieces of their innovation needs to remain one step ahead of their competition. Prior to entering the startup world, Ben worked at Morgan Stanley, Deutsche Bank, and Wedbush, both in LA and in London, where he had various roles within Investment Banking, Capital Markets, and Sales & Trading. *(R)Tech Innovation Network member.*

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Anil Aggarwal
Shoptalk

Anil is the Founder and CEO of Shoptalk. He has been a venture-backed tech entrepreneur for 15+ years with 5 successful exits, including 2012's \$220 million sale of TxVia to Google. He is a former Google Wallet executive and currently a Venture Partner at Oak HC/FT, a \$1.1 billion venture capital fund. He previously founded the world's largest consumer payments event, Money20/20. Anil is a Board member of Blackhawk Network (Nasdaq: HAWK). *(R)Tech Innovation Network member.*



Zia Wigder
Shoptalk

Zia is the Chief Global Content Officer at Shoptalk, a new conference that focuses on innovation in retail and ecommerce. She oversees the agenda for Shoptalk in US and Europe as well identifying disruptive startups and traditional retail brands to recruit as speakers.

Prior to Shoptalk, Zia spent over seven years as Vice President and Research Director at Forrester, overseeing digital store and omnichannel commerce research, and leading Forrester's global ecommerce coverage with a focus on markets like Brazil and China. *(R)Tech Innovation Network member.*

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Nick Davis
Singularity
University

Nick is the Vice President, Enterprise Solutions at Singularity University where he is directing the strategy, development and delivery of the corporate innovation products and solutions.

For the past 15 years Nick has worked in a combination of Executive Education, Corporate Innovation, and building and leading multiple high growth Startups. Nick is a recognized thought leader in corporate innovation management and strategy, civic and social innovation, as well as entrepreneurship. *(R)Tech Innovation Network member.*



Carin Watson
Singularity
University

Carin is responsible for the execution of Singularity University's global product strategy. She oversees most of SU's Learning and Innovation businesses, including Executive Programs, Custom Programs, the Innovation Partnership Program (IPP), Conferences, Summits and SU Labs. Prior to this role, Carin led the development of a corporate innovation partnership program at SU Labs, where she helped small entrepreneurial teams from large organizations leverage SU's unique global community to incubate new ideas and drive transformational innovation. *(R)Tech Innovation Network member.*



Ryan Broshar
Techstars

Ryan is the Managing Director at Techstars running the Retail Accelerator in partnership with Target. He is also the Founder and Managing Director for Matchstick Ventures and Co-Founder of Beta.MN and Twin Cities Startup Week.

He is an entrepreneur at heart who has been working in and with startups for my entire career. I'm interested in turning huge ideas into reality. *(R)Tech Innovation Network member.*

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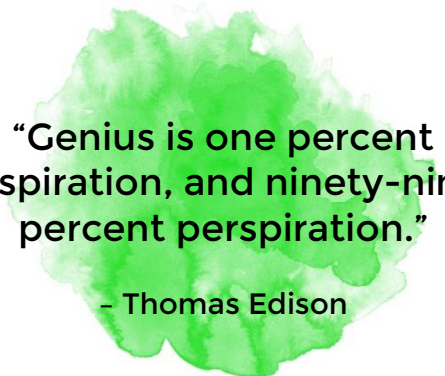
Lauren Steingold
Uber

Lauren Steingold is a Strategic Partner Manager at Uber and currently drives Uber's global efforts in healthcare. Lauren works with health care partners to leverage Uber's technology platform and vast driver-partner network to improve access to care. Prior to her role at Uber's San Francisco Headquarters, Lauren helped launch Uber in Miami, Boston, and Rhode Island. There, she led rider operations and marketing, scaling the popular consumer ridesharing app with campaigns like UberBOAT and UberYACHT.



Pano Anthos
XRC Labs

Pano leads XRC Labs as its Founder and Managing Director. Having founded 4 startups around key platform shifts, he saw the seismic shift coming to retail and with the right vision and timing recruited Parsons School of Design and Kurt Salmon to be founding sponsors. Now with 18 accelerated startups, 10 active world class retail sponsors, 60+ business mentors, Pano has built a world-class ecosystem for retail and consumer goods innovation at XRC Labs. He can speak about: "a tale of two cultures: Retail vs Tech", the 5 Trends that will change the face of retail, and "Retail As a Game." *(R)Tech Innovation Network member.*



“Genius is one percent
inspiration, and ninety-nine
percent perspiration.”

– Thomas Edison