



ASQ **SYNERGY**
FOR SUCCESS **2026**

DRIVING QUALITY AND EXCELLENCE ACROSS BORDERS



OCTOBER
7 & 8, 2026



10:00 AM -
5:00 PM ET
(BOTH DAYS)



ALL VIRTUAL
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REGISTRATION

THE **PREMIER** VIRTUAL EVENT FOR QUALITY PROFESSIONALS WORLDWIDE

40 EXCITING SESSIONS | 2 PANEL DISCUSSIONS



WEDNESDAY
OCTOBER 7
10:00 AM ET

FROM AUTOMATION
TO AUGMENTATION:
LEADING THE
HUMAN-AI
REVOLUTION

PRESENTED BY
DR. ADIL DALAL

THURSDAY
OCTOBER 8
10:00 AM ET

DEFINING WHAT'S NEXT:
THE EXECUTIVE **EDGE**
TURNING PROVEN
PRACTICES INTO
FUTURE ADVANTAGE

PRESENTED BY
DR. RHONDA FARRELL



**8 ASQ
GLOBAL &
TECHNICAL
COMMUNITIES**

Collaborating across
divisions, sections, and
global communities
to advance quality
worldwide.



**5 CONCURRENT
LEARNING TRACKS**

- ✓ Cutting EDGe Practices
- ✓ Process Excellence
- ✓ Leadership Skills in the Age of AI
- ✓ AI and Lean Practices
- ✓ The Future of Quality: AI, Analytics, and Operational Excellence



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OCTOBER 7 & 8, 2026



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JOIN US OCTOBER 7 & 8, 2026

LET'S CREATE SYNERGY FOR SUCCESS!

DRIVING QUALITY AND EXCELLENCE ACROSS BORDERS



ASQ 10-10-2026-128

Instructions for Joining the Webex Webinars

Below, there is a full program of the conference and the five concurrent tracks that are taking place during the ASQ Synergy for Success 2026 conference. Each session is a separate Webex Webinar and has its own unique meeting link. You will need to click on the button below each session, in order to join it. As well, there is an [ASQ website](#) where you will find all of the same links.

The buttons have unique session IDs as their labels. Here is how to decipher their meaning:

Join WT1a

- **W:** The first letter of the day of the week. W = Wednesday; T = Thursday
- **T:** T stands for Track and it does not change.
- **1:** Represents the concurrent tracks that are taking place. Range is 1 through 5.
- **a:** Represents the time slot for each day. Range is a through d.

The keynotes and the panel discussions lead and follow, respectively, the presentations delivered by the speakers on each day.

Since every Webex Webinar is a stand-alone session, you will be joining and leaving multiple sessions each day. There is a 15-minute break between the end and the beginning of sessions. These breaks allow the different hosts and moderators to set up the speakers and to allow the attendees to join. Please be patient. There is a lot of stuff to manage behind the scenes.

Download Webex

To improve your experience, you are strongly encouraged to download Webex. You want to do this a few days before the conference begins. You want to avoid the struggle of trying to join the Webex Webinar, while, at the same time, installing the application.

Here is the link to download Webex: <https://www.webex.com/downloads.html>

No Webcam and No Microphones for Attendees

Attendees will not be able to turn on their webcams or their microphones. These privileges are disabled. You will still be able to listen to and to watch the presentations. Questions for the speakers will be managed through chat. They will be read aloud by the host and/or the moderator, as long as time permits some Q&A.

Surveys

There is a short, three-question survey at the end of each presentation. Please take the time to respond.

Requesting Assistance during the Presentations

The hosts and/or the moderators are responsible for the smooth flow of their track's sessions. They will be splitting their attention between the speakers and the attendees. They will do their best to provide assistance to attendees that are experiencing technical issues, but there might be some problems that they cannot resolve remotely through chat.

The hosts and/or the moderators are volunteers. They might not know the answer to the problem and there is a limit to the time that they can spend on it. Searching the internet for solutions might be the only option.

Decide which Sessions You Want to Attend

If you know which sessions interest you the most and you want to avoid jumping back and forth of selecting them, then open up a browser window with all of the tabs that you will need. In each tab, paste the unique meeting link of each session. You cannot join before the host, so you will need to refresh the browser's tab.

When you are ready to join the next session, change to the next tab, refresh its link, and join the Webex Webinar. This should simplify the process a little bit.

All Times ET From To		October 7, 2026				
10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Opening remarks and introduction delivered by Dr. Mary Kay Taylor ; Keynote: From Automation to Augmentation: Leading the Human-AI Revolution, presented by Dr. Adil Dalal				Join WKN1
Track		AI and Lean Practices	Cutting EDGE Practices	Leadership in the Age of AI	Process Excellence	The Future of Quality: AI, Analytics, and Operational Excellence
11:00 AM	11:15 AM	BREAK				
11:15 AM	12:00 PM	Options Profiling for Innovative Future State Designs, Frank Murdock	The Quality Manager as Change Manager: Effectively Leading Change Across Organizations, Zac Jarrard	The Human Edge: Leadership in the Age of AI, Eileen Serrano	Process Excellence by Design: Integrating Lean Six Sigma, AI, and Business Strategy, Seetharam Kandarpa	AI Governance in Medical Device Organizations: What Quality Engineers Need to Know, Sai Ranjith Ramakrishnan Kumar
Webex Webinar Links		Join WT1a	Join WT2a	Join WT3a	Join WT4a	Join WT5a
12:00 PM	12:15 PM	BREAK				
12:15 PM	1:00 PM	Lean Thinking Is the Missing Discipline in AI and the Key to Sustainable AI, Priyank Patel and Manny Veloso	Building AI Together: The Collaboration Advantage, Shruti Patil	Leading with AI: What Makes Responsible Adoption Possible? Natella Isazada	Process Excellence in an AI-Driven World: Redefining the Role of Quality Professionals, Abbigail Meah-Ali	Modernizing U.S. Industry Through Structured, AI-Ready, Kate Molina
Webex Webinar Links		Join WT1b	Join WT2b	Join WT3b	Join WT4b	Join WT5b
1:00 PM	1:15 PM	BREAK				
1:15 PM	2:00 PM	The Data-Driven Path to Process Excellence: AI as the Quality Professional's New Enabler, James Henderson	A 10-Year Quality Program Journey in Environmental Consulting, Rich Evans	Critical Thinking in the Age of AI, Jamie Giani	Applying Statistical Techniques Effectively to Enhance Supply Chain Performance, Dr. Milt Krivokuca	AI Agents and Design of Experiments: Changing the gameplan for training and application, Robert Launsby
Webex Webinar Links		Join WT1c	Join WT2c	Join WT3c	Join WT4c	Join WT5c
2:00 PM	2:15 PM	BREAK				
2:15 PM	3:00 PM	Quality by Design in Shared Services: A Stage-Gate Process Framework, Dr. Nauzad Tantra	Human + AI Innovation: Leveraging Generative AI for Better Ideas and Better Decisions, Dr. Fuat Ramazanov	The RAISE Framework: A Governance Model for AI Risk in Financial Reporting and Audit, Dr. Tulay Guneyssel	Making your processes work: Managing risk and continual improvement, Mark Swanson	Leading Quality Forward: AI, Analytics, and Executive Decision Excellence, Shireen Yalda
Webex Webinar Links		Join WT1d	Join WT2d	Join WT3d	Join WT4d	Join WT5d
3:00 PM	3:15 PM	BREAK				
3:15 PM	5:00 PM	Panel Discussion - moderated by Dr. Adil Dalal . Synergy for Success Across Industry, Education & Government (Panelists include: Dr. Aniruddha Bora , Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Texas State University and director of the SPARKS Lab; Shweta Padmanabha , Cedar Park City Council Member; Jim Penniman-Morin , Mayor Cedar Park, Texas; William W. Scherkenbach , one of the world's foremost authorities on the subject of Quality and its implementation; Dr. Jennifer Speed , Assistant Vice President for Research Development at Texas State University; Ken Synder , Executive Director Emeritus and Faculty Fellow at the Shingo Institute).				Join WPD1

All Times ET From To		October 8, 2026				
10:00 AM	11:00 AM	Welcome to Day 2, Defining What's Next: The Executive EDGe Turning Proven Practices Into Future Advantage presented by Dr. Rhonda Farrell				Join TKN2
Track		AI and Lean Practices	Cutting EDGe Practices	Leadership in the Age of AI	Process Excellence	The Future of Quality: AI, Analytics, and Operational Excellence
11:00 AM	11:15 AM	BREAK				
11:15 AM	12:00 PM	From Intelligence to Impact: Engineering Human-AI Execution for Operational Excellence, Eleke Ukpabi	Using FDA Enforcement Intelligence to Identify Emerging Quality-System Risk, Michael Kuehne	Before the Algorithm, Come the People, Michael Guirguis	Embracing & Leading Change Across Diverse Organizations; Lessons Learned, Dr. Luis Morales	Measurements of Data Quality: ISO 25014 and ISO 14224 applied to Asset Management Data, Daniel Zrymiak
Webex Webinar Links		Join TT1a	Join TT2a	Join TT3a	Join TT4a	Join TT5a
12:00 PM	12:15 PM	BREAK				
12:15 PM	1:00 PM	Developing AI Guidelines: From First Experiments to Organizational Governance, Dr. Núria Negrão	AI Innovation & Humanity-Future of Leadership in the AI era, Jay Patel	Taming the Dragon: How Human Leadership Masters the Power of AI, Pedro García Millán	Write Better Findings That Improve Performance Using AI and the RACE™ Approach, Rob De La Espriella	Beyond Descriptive SPC: Predictive Analytics for Early Defect Detection, Binitkumar M. Vaghani
Webex Webinar Links		Join TT1b	Join TT2b	Join TT3b	Join TT4b	Join TT5b
1:00 PM	1:15 PM	BREAK				
1:15 PM	2:00 PM	Beyond Check-the-Box: Deploying FMEA for Real Risk Reduction, Gurdip Panesar	AgeWise Innovation: Advancing Quality Through Smarter Processes and Responsible Technology, Dr. Marcela Campoli	AIMRI: The New Global Standard for Industrial AI Transformation, Nital Zaveri	Demonstrating your Relevance with Effective Strategic Planning and Execution, Jd Marhevko	From Quality Assurance to Intelligent Quality: AI, Analytics & Operational Excellence, Sravan Kumar Nidiganti
Webex Webinar Links		Join TT1c	Join TT2c	Join TT3c	Join TT4c	Join TT5c
2:00 PM	2:15 PM	BREAK				
2:15 PM	3:00 PM	Leading Through the Knowledge Cliff: Lean Quality Systems in the Age of AI, Sainyam Arora	How Digital QA and AI are transforming construction verification in BIM, Akwasi Kwakye-Ampem	Why Quality is the Operating System for AI Transformation, Dr. Nicole Radziwill	Prompt, Do, Check, Act: A New Generation's Take on AI-Powered Improvement, Sanket Kolhe	From Data Quality to Digital Trust: Rethinking Quality in the Age of AI, Alina Codreanu
Webex Webinar Links		Join TT1d	Join TT2d	Join TT3d	Join TT4d	Join TT5d
3:00 PM	3:15 PM	BREAK				
3:15 PM	5:00 PM	Panel Discussion - moderated by Natella Isazada , The Pearls of Wisdom from Our Speakers – Delivering True Member Value Now and in the Future. Panelists include members of the Conference Committee .				Join TPD2

From Automation to Augmentation: Leading the Human-AI Revolution

Opening remarks and introduction delivered by Dr. Mary Kay Taylor

Keynote presented by Dr. Adil Dalal

10:00 AM – 11:00 AM



Dr. Adil Dalal

This inspirational and practical opening keynote presents a unified framework for building organizations of excellence in the age of artificial intelligence, delivered across the operational realities of manufacturing, service industries, and healthcare. As AI agents, humanoid robots, and digital twins reshape how work is designed, executed, and led, most organizations find themselves rich in technology yet starved of the leadership, mindset, and cultural infrastructure required to convert that technology into sustainable advantage. Dr. Adil Dalal addresses this gap directly, drawing on 30 years of transforming operations across 25 industries and 23 countries.

The session integrates three of Dr. Dalal's most widely recognized bodies of work: his Forbes Coaches Council Editor's Choice framework, The 7 Levels of Leadership, which reveals leadership as a spectrum ranging from the non-leader to the Superconscious Leader; his widely cited Forbes research on the Mindset of Excellence, which establishes excellence as a permanent mindset embedded at the design stage rather than a retrofitted skill set; and the methodologies from his Shingo Award-winning book Lean-AI: A Humanistic Approach to Integrating Lean and AI (CRC Press, 2025), which provides the operating model for human-centric AI adoption across all three sectors.

The keynote is deliberate, inspirational, immersive and experiential. Attendees will participate in three guided exercises designed to translate framework into personal action before they leave the room:

- Exercise 1: The Leadership Mirror, a personal 7 Levels self-assessment
- Exercise 2: The AI Leadership Augmentation Map, a Leadership future-readiness exercise

Attendees will leave with a personal leadership diagnosis, a 90-day development roadmap, an integrated Lean-AI adoption model applicable, and a unified strategic view connecting all five conference tracks into one coherent organizational excellence agenda.

Track 1: AI and Lean Practices

Options Profiling for Innovative Future State Designs

Frank Murdock **11:15 AM** **12:00 PM**

Process improvement teams often excel at analyzing current processes but struggle to create truly innovative future-state solutions. This track introduces Options Profiling, a structured Interactive Management method developed by John Warfield, that helps teams move beyond incremental fixes to systematically envision and design radically improved processes and value streams. Participants will learn how to bridge the gap between process analysis and breakthrough improvement.

Lean Thinking Is the Missing Discipline in AI and the Key to Sustainable AI

Priyank Patel and Manny Veloso **12:15 PM** **1:00 PM**

AI adoption is growing rapidly, but are organizations evaluating it through a lean lens? This track applies lean principles to AI implementation, helping quality professionals assess AI investments based on value creation, waste reduction, process flow, and problem visibility. Participants will learn practical approaches to determining whether AI initiatives deliver measurable value or simply add cost, complexity, and inefficiency.

The Data-Driven Path to Process Excellence: AI as the Quality Professional's New Enabler

James Henderson **1:15 PM** **2:00 PM**

Traditional process improvement methods often rely on interviews and workshops that capture how people think work happens, not how it actually occurs. This track explores how process mining, business process modeling, and AI can uncover the true flow of work by analyzing data generated by operational systems. Participants will learn how to identify hidden bottlenecks, rework, and value leakage, prioritize improvements using objective evidence, and leverage AI to enable continuous, data-driven process excellence while applying human judgment where it matters most.

Quality by Design in Shared Services: A Stage-Gate Process Framework

Dr. Nauzad Tantra **2:15 PM** **3:00 PM**

Advanced Product Quality Planning (APQP) principles can be successfully applied beyond manufacturing to create high-performing, customer-focused service operations. This track explores how a structured, stage-gate approach incorporating tools such as VOC/VOB, SIPOC, FMEA, demand analysis, and operational readiness can improve process transitions and service delivery. Participants will learn practical methods for reducing variability, strengthening governance, enhancing SLA performance, and bringing manufacturing-grade quality rigor to modern shared services and digital operations.

Track 2: Cutting EDGe Practices

The Quality Manager as Change Manager: Effectively Leading Change Across Organizations

Zac Jarrard	11:15 AM	12:00 PM
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Successful quality initiatives require more than process improvements, they require people to embrace change. This track provides an overview of change management principles, key strategies for guiding organizational transformation, and practical lessons learned from real-world project implementations. Participants will gain insights into managing the people, process, and technology impacts that drive successful project delivery and lasting adoption.

Building AI Together: The Collaboration Advantage

Shruti Patil	12:15 PM	1:00 PM
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Successful AI adoption in government depends less on technology and more on effective governance and collaboration. This track explores how public sector organizations can break down silos, align stakeholders, and accelerate responsible AI implementation while balancing innovation, accountability, and public trust. Participants will learn proven approaches, real-world examples, and practical tools for AI governance, workforce upskilling, use case development, and implementation planning that can be applied across organizations of any size.

A 10-Year Quality Program Journey in Environmental Consulting

Rich Evans	1:15 PM	2:00 PM
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Building a culture of quality requires more than procedures and policies. This track shares a decade-long journey of transforming a traditional quality program into an active, behavior-based culture modeled after a successful safety program. Participants will learn how cross-functional engagement, leadership commitment, quality champions, and behavior-based tools can embed quality into everyday operations, strengthen organizational culture, and drive sustained improvement. Real-world successes and lessons learned provide practical insights for organizations seeking to elevate quality as a core value.

Human + AI Innovation: Leveraging Generative AI for Better Ideas and Better Decisions

Dr. Fuat Ramazanov	2:15 PM	3:00 PM
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Generative AI is transforming how organizations innovate, solve problems, and create value. This track explores how AI can enhance human creativity, support innovation teams, and influence the evolving role of quality professionals. Participants will examine both the opportunities and risks of AI-enabled innovation and learn practical strategies for integrating GenAI into innovation processes while maintaining human judgment, ethical decision-making, quality standards, and organizational learning.

Track 3: Leadership in the Age of AI

The Human Edge: Leadership in the Age of AI

Eileen Serrano

11:15 AM

12:00 PM

As AI transforms how organizations work, the most important leadership skills are becoming distinctly human. This track explores the capabilities leaders need to thrive in an AI-powered world, including critical thinking, curiosity, judgment, empathy, adaptability, and trust-building. Participants will learn how to combine human and artificial intelligence to drive better decisions, stronger teams, and lasting organizational transformation.

Leading with AI: What Makes Responsible Adoption Possible?

Natella Isazada

12:15 PM

1:00 PM

This presentation explores what enables leaders to use generative AI responsibly and effectively in organizational settings. Moving beyond questions of adoption alone, it focuses on four interconnected conditions: leadership competencies, calibrated trust in AI systems, governance, and organizational readiness. The presentation examines why responsible AI leadership requires more than technical familiarity or enthusiasm for innovation. Leaders must be able to evaluate AI-generated outputs, recognize limitations and risks, apply professional judgment, and operate within organizational structures that support accountable use. The presentation also considers how these conditions interact to shape selective, context-sensitive, and sustainable approaches to AI-enabled leadership.

Critical Thinking in the Age of AI

Jamie Giani

1:15 PM

2:00 PM

In a world increasingly shaped by AI, critical thinking is more important than ever. This track explores how to strengthen critical thinking skills while effectively using AI as a tool and thinking partner. Participants will learn when AI can enhance decision-making, when independent analysis is essential, and how to critically evaluate AI-generated outputs rather than accept them at face value. The session provides practical strategies for maintaining sharp thinking, exercising sound judgment, and leveraging AI responsibly in professional environments.

The RAISE Framework: A Governance Model for AI Risk in Financial Reporting and Audit

Dr. Tulay Guneyssel

2:15 PM

3:00 PM

As artificial intelligence becomes more embedded in financial reporting, auditing, and decision-making, organizations must address new challenges related to accountability, transparency, risk, and oversight. This track introduces the RAISE Framework: Responsible, Auditable, Interpretable, Secure, and Ethical, a practical approach to AI governance. Participants will learn how to strengthen human oversight, improve audit readiness, manage AI-related risks, and balance innovation with sound governance, professional judgment, and stakeholder trust.

Track 4: Process Excellence

Process Excellence by Design: Integrating Lean Six Sigma, AI, and Business Strategy

Seetharam Kandarpa	11:15 AM	12:00 PM
Process Excellence is no longer about optimizing individual processes—it is about creating an integrated management system that continuously improves organizational performance. By combining Lean Six Sigma, digital technologies, data-driven decision-making, leadership, and customer focus, organizations can build agile, resilient, and high-performing operations that deliver sustainable value.		

Process Excellence in an AI-Driven World: Redefining the Role of Quality Professionals

Abbigail Meah-Ali	12:15 PM	1:00 PM
As AI takes on a growing role in performance monitoring, data analysis, and decision-making, the role of quality management is evolving rather than disappearing. This track explores why quality remains essential in an AI-driven environment and how quality professionals can adapt their skills to lead process excellence, ensure reliable outcomes, and drive continuous improvement in increasingly intelligent organizations.		

Applying Statistical Techniques Effectively to Enhance Supply Chain Performance

Dr. Milt Krivokuca	1:15 PM	2:00 PM
Supply chains play a critical role in organizational performance, yet many continue to struggle with achieving optimal process efficiency despite established quality management practices and advanced software tools. This track examines how statistical techniques can be integrated into supply chain operations to enhance monitoring, analysis, and decision-making. Participants will gain insights into applying data-driven methods alongside quality management principles to improve process performance, strengthen supply chain effectiveness, and support organizational success.		

Making your processes work: Managing risk and continual improvement

Mark Swanson	2:15 PM	3:00 PM
Risk-based thinking is a powerful approach to improving business management processes, reducing uncertainty, and driving better organizational outcomes. This track provides practical examples of how to apply risk-based thinking to identify, assess, and mitigate risks while supporting continuous improvement. Participants will also learn strategies for leading meaningful discussions around organizational transformation and fostering a positive quality culture that supports long-term success.		

Track 5: The Future of Quality: AI, Analytics, and Operational Excellence

AI Governance in Medical Device Organizations: What Quality Engineers Need to Know

Sai Ranjith Ramakrishnan Kumar **11:15 AM** **12:00 PM**

As AI-enabled medical devices become more common, quality professionals must navigate evolving regulatory and governance requirements. This track provides a practical roadmap for addressing FDA and EU AI regulations, assessing governance gaps, managing AI-related risks, and implementing effective post-market monitoring. Attendees will gain actionable frameworks and real-world insights they can immediately apply to support compliant and effective AI medical device development.

Modernizing U.S. Industry Through Structured, AI-Ready

Kate Molina **12:15 PM** **1:00 PM**

High-quality data is the foundation of effective analytics, AI, and business decision-making. This track introduces a practical Data Quality Lifecycle framework that helps organizations transform raw data into trusted, AI-ready assets through structured assessment, cleansing, integration, and governance. Participants will learn how to establish data quality as a continuous discipline, reduce costly errors, improve operational performance, and unlock greater value from analytics and emerging technologies.

AI Agents and Design of Experiments: Changing the gameplan for training and application

Robert Launsby **1:15 PM** **2:00 PM**

Design of Experiments is a powerful but complex method for improving products, processes, and technologies. This track demonstrates how a purpose-built AI agent can guide scientists and engineers through the DOE lifecycle, from selecting factors and designs to analyzing results, optimizing responses, and communicating findings. Through practical case studies, participants will explore AI's potential as an interactive DOE coach while learning where expert judgment and human oversight remain essential.

Leading Quality Forward: AI, Analytics, and Executive Decision Excellence

Shireen Yalda **2:15 PM** **3:00 PM**

AI-enabled analytics and digital quality tools are transforming how organizations make decisions, manage risk, and drive performance. This track explores practical approaches for integrating AI into quality systems, modernizing quality management frameworks, and strengthening predictive insights. Participants will learn how to combine advanced analytics with human-centered leadership to improve compliance, enhance decision-making, align cross-functional teams, and accelerate operational excellence in a data-driven business environment.

Defining What's Next: The Executive EDGe Turning Proven Practices Into Future Advantage

Keynote presented by Dr. Rhonda Farrell



10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Abstract: Organizations have spent decades building disciplines around quality, standardization, continuous improvement, and proven best practices. Those foundations remain essential. But in an environment being reshaped by AI, automation, workforce disruption, emerging technologies, shifting stakeholder expectations, and accelerating change, executive leadership requires something more: the ability to determine what should remain, what must evolve, and what needs to be created next.

This executive keynote challenges leaders to move beyond simply replicating what has worked toward deliberately creating what will create value next. The EDGe team will explore the progression from BEST PRACTICE → EMERGING PRACTICE → NEXT PRACTICE, showing how organizations can preserve the rigor, evidence, consistency, and continuous improvement embedded in quality while creating space for experimentation, innovation, transformation, and new ways of working.

The executive challenge is not choosing between standardization and innovation. It is knowing where consistency creates value and where experimentation creates advantage. Leaders must continually sense change, question assumptions, reduce organizational friction, test emerging approaches intelligently, and convert new possibilities into measurable outcomes without abandoning the disciplines that make excellence sustainable.

Using a practical KEEP → EVOLVE → REINVENT lens, participants will examine their own strategies, processes, technologies, workforce practices, and leadership assumptions. What should we KEEP because it continues to differentiate and deliver value? What should we EVOLVE because conditions have changed? What must we REINVENT because yesterday's successful practice could become tomorrow's constraint?

Ultimately, the organizations that lead what comes next will not simply become better at benchmarking yesterday's excellence. They will learn faster, decide smarter, adapt sooner, and create the next practices others eventually benchmark.

Key Thought

Best practice captures what we have learned. Next practice determines what we will become. The executive EDGe is knowing when to make the shift.

Three Executive Takeaways

Participants will leave with a practical approach for distinguishing enduring practices from emerging constraints, balancing operational rigor with intelligent experimentation, and translating emerging change into measurable organizational value and future advantage.

Track 1: AI and Lean Practices

From Intelligence to Impact: Engineering Human-AI Execution for Operational Excellence

Eleke Ukpabi **11:15 AM** **12:00 PM**

Organizations are investing heavily in AI, but sustainable success requires more than technology alone. This track explores how leaders can align human expertise, AI capabilities, decision-making authority, workflows, and governance to achieve operational excellence while maintaining accountability. Through practical examples and systems thinking, participants will learn actionable strategies for designing human-AI operating environments that enhance collaboration, improve performance, and translate intelligence into measurable business results.

Developing AI Guidelines: From First Experiments to Organizational Governance

Dr. Núria Negrão **12:15 PM** **1:00 PM**

AI is already being used across organizations, often before formal policies and governance are in place. This track provides a practical roadmap for developing effective AI guidelines that promote responsible adoption, protect confidential information, and maintain human accountability. Participants will learn the key steps for implementing AI governance, selecting secure tools, communicating AI use transparently with clients and stakeholders, and building trust through clear policies and ethical practices. The session offers actionable guidance for creating adaptable AI frameworks that evolve alongside rapidly changing technologies.

Beyond Check-the-Box: Deploying FMEA for Real Risk Reduction

Gurdip Panesar **1:15 PM** **2:00 PM**

Failure Mode and Effects Analysis (FMEA) is most effective when it goes beyond compliance and becomes a driver of operational improvement. This track explores practical strategies for transforming FMEA from a check-the-box exercise into a living risk management tool that influences decisions and prevents failures. Participants will learn how to simplify complex analyses, foster cross-functional ownership, integrate structured problem-solving approaches, and use FMEA to proactively reduce risk and improve performance across global operations.

Leading Through the Knowledge Cliff: Lean Quality Systems in the Age of AI

Sainyam Arora **2:15 PM** **3:00 PM**

As organizations accelerate AI adoption, a growing “Knowledge Cliff” threatens quality, stability, and operational performance as experienced professionals retire and critical institutional knowledge is lost. This track explores how quality management systems can serve as the foundation for successful AI transformation by leveraging process discipline, traceability, corrective action, and governance. Participants will learn practical strategies for aligning workforce readiness with AI implementation, addressing change management challenges, preserving organizational knowledge, and building a sustainable roadmap for AI adoption across manufacturing, service, and public-sector environments.

Track 2: Cutting EDGe Practices

Using FDA Enforcement Intelligence to Identify Emerging Quality-System Risk

Michael Kuehne **11:15 AM** **12:00 PM**

Internal quality metrics often reveal risks only after they emerge. This track introduces a structured approach for transforming FDA inspection observations and enforcement trends into forward-looking regulatory risk signals. Participants will learn how to combine external regulatory intelligence with internal quality indicators to identify emerging vulnerabilities, strengthen management review, prioritize CAPAs, and target assessments or remedial actions before deficiencies become findings.

AI Innovation & Humanity- Future of Leadership in the AI era

Jay Patel **12:15 PM** **1:00 PM**

In a rapidly evolving era of artificial intelligence, effective leadership requires more than embracing new technologies. It demands the ability to balance innovation with ethics, operational excellence, and a commitment to people. This track explores the leadership principles that drive lasting organizational transformation, drawing on decades of experience in quality, continuous improvement, and responsible innovation. Participants will gain insights into building resilient organizations, developing future-ready leaders, and successfully integrating AI, quality, and human-centered values to create meaningful and sustainable impact.

AgeWise Innovation: Advancing Quality Through Smarter Processes and Responsible Technology

Dr. Marcela Campoli **1:15 PM** **2:00 PM**

As populations age and care needs become more complex, organizations must shift from reactive services to proactive, person-centered systems. This track explores how quality improvement, data, responsible technology, and cross-sector collaboration can be used to enhance safety, access, independence, and overall quality of life for aging adults. Participants will learn practical approaches for identifying unmet needs, redesigning workflows, measuring meaningful outcomes, and building adaptable systems that better support older adults, caregivers, healthcare professionals, and communities.

How Digital QA and AI are transforming construction verification in BIM

Akwasi Kwakye-Ampem **2:15 PM** **3:00 PM**

Digital quality assurance and AI-enabled workflows are transforming how field work is verified and managed. This track explores how quality requirements can be embedded directly into Building Information Models (BIM) and automatically validated against as-built conditions in near real time. Participants will learn how these technologies reduce reliance on manual inspections, improve visibility into quality performance, accelerate issue detection, and create more proactive, data-driven approaches to quality management in construction and project delivery environments.

Track 3: Leadership in the Age of AI

Before the Algorithm, Come the People

Michael Guirguis **11:15 AM** **12:00 PM**

The success of AI in quality management depends as much on people as it does on technology. This track explores how effective change management can help organizations navigate the challenges of AI adoption, including employee resistance, uncertainty, and operational disruption. Using proven frameworks such as Kotter's 8-Step Process and ADKAR, participants will learn practical strategies for building urgency, engaging stakeholders, fostering AI champions, addressing workforce concerns, and embedding new behaviors into a culture of continuous improvement. Attendees will leave with actionable approaches for leading successful AI-driven transformation initiatives.

Taming the Dragon: How Human Leadership Masters the Power of AI

Pedro García Millán **12:15 PM** **1:00 PM**

Artificial intelligence is transforming Industry 4.0, but technology alone does not drive success. This track explores how effective leadership, structured problem-solving, and proven management practices are essential for turning AI potential into measurable results. Through a real-world case study from automotive manufacturing, participants will learn how frameworks such as Agile/SCRUM, collaborative brainstorming, and continuous feedback can guide AI initiatives, overcome implementation challenges, and accelerate innovation. The session highlights the critical role of human judgment, communication, and leadership in harnessing AI to achieve operational excellence.

AIMRI: The New Global Standard for Industrial AI Transformation

Nital Zaveri **1:15 PM** **2:00 PM**

Industrial AI is transforming quality and operational excellence, but many organizations struggle to move beyond fragmented data and isolated pilots. This track introduces the AI Maturity Readiness Index (AIMRI), a structured framework for assessing readiness, prioritizing investments, and accelerating responsible AI adoption. Participants will learn how to identify maturity gaps, strengthen data and technology foundations, and translate assessment insights into targeted actions that improve quality, productivity, compliance, and operational performance.

Why Quality is the Operating System for AI Transformation

Dr. Nicole Radziwill **2:15 PM** **3:00 PM**

AI Native organizations create value by identifying opportunities that were previously invisible and transforming insights into action at unprecedented speed. This keynote explores how value creation has evolved in the AI era and the new leadership mindset required to succeed. Participants will gain a practical understanding of where value is created, how to identify and manage constraints, the critical role of human judgment in AI-enabled systems, and why continuous learning is the foundation of sustainable competitive advantage. Attendees will leave with a framework for building adaptive, high-performing organizations that learn and evolve as quickly as the technologies they deploy.

Track 4: Process Excellence

Embracing & Leading Change Across Diverse Organizations; Lessons Learned

Dr. Luis Morales **11:15 AM** **12:00 PM**

Despite significant investments in transformation initiatives, many organizational and technology changes fail to deliver the expected results. This track explores proven change management practices that help organizations improve adoption, reduce costly rework, and achieve lasting business outcomes. Drawing on the Prosci ADKAR® model and Kotter's 8-Step Change Model, participants will learn practical strategies for overcoming common barriers to enterprise change, understanding why technology projects fail, and building a sustainable approach to organizational transformation that delivers measurable value.

Write Better Findings That Improve Performance Using AI and the RACE™ Approach

Rob De La Espriella **12:15 PM** **1:00 PM**

Traditional audits often identify symptoms rather than the underlying issues that drive poor performance. This track introduces the Rapid Apparent Cause Evaluation (RACE) approach, a proven methodology for moving beyond surface-level findings to uncover meaningful root causes and opportunities for improvement. Participants will learn how AI can further accelerate and strengthen this process by helping identify patterns, evaluate evidence, and focus attention on the issues that matter most. Through real-world quality assurance and audit examples, attendees will gain practical techniques for delivering findings that drive action, improve performance, and add measurable value to the organizations they support.

Demonstrating your Relevance with Effective Strategic Planning and Execution

Jd Marhevko **1:15 PM** **2:00 PM**

Hoshin Kanri is a proven approach for translating strategic goals into focused, measurable actions. This hands-on track demonstrates how organizations can align strategy with execution by connecting long-term objectives to daily operational activities. Participants will learn how to use Hoshin Kanri in combination with Lean Six Sigma and DMAIC principles to visualize priorities, deploy resources effectively, and drive organizational results. Attendees will leave with practical tools and a customized working example that can be applied directly within their own business environment.

Prompt, Do, Check, Act: A New Generation's Take on AI-Powered Improvement

Sanket Kolhe **2:15 PM** **3:00 PM**

Students and early-career professionals are entering the workforce as AI natives, and they're bringing new instincts to continuous improvement. In this moderated discussion, emerging voices share how they plan to use AI within Lean thinking. They'll cover where it speeds up problem-solving, where it risks adding waste, and how it changes what "respect for people" means. Attendees will hear what the next generation expects from their workplaces and take away practical ideas for bringing AI into CI cultures.

Track 5: The Future of Quality: AI, Analytics, and Operational Excellence

Measurements of Data Quality: ISO 25014 and ISO 14224 applied to Asset Management Data

Daniel Zrymiak **11:15 AM** **12:00 PM**

High-quality data is essential for effective asset management, reliability engineering, and condition monitoring. This track explores how international standards, including ISO 25024 and ISO 14224, can be applied to improve data quality, support failure analysis, and enhance maintenance and reliability performance. Participants will learn practical approaches for measuring data quality, managing equipment reliability data, developing meaningful KPIs, and leveraging benchmarking to reduce downtime, extend asset life, and improve operational decision-making. By treating data as a strategic resource, organizations can strengthen failure management and drive continuous performance improvement.

Beyond Descriptive SPC: Predictive Analytics for Early Defect Detection

Binitkumar M. Vaghani **12:15 PM** **1:00 PM**

Traditional quality metrics often detect problems only after defects occur. This track presents a practical framework for advancing from reactive statistical process control to predictive defect prevention using real-time telemetry, multivariate analysis, and digital twins. Participants will learn how to identify process drift earlier, integrate predictive alerts into CAPA, FMEA, and validation frameworks, and strengthen supplier oversight to reduce scrap, prevent line stoppages, and improve manufacturing performance.

From Quality Assurance to Intelligent Quality: AI, Analytics & Operational Excellence

Sravan Kumar Nidiganti **1:15 PM** **2:00 PM**

Quality is evolving beyond traditional inspection and defect prevention toward a future powered by data, analytics, and intelligent decision-making. This track explores how artificial intelligence, advanced analytics, automation, and human expertise can work together to improve quality and operational excellence. Participants will learn practical approaches for identifying risks earlier, enhancing process performance, strengthening decision-making, and delivering measurable business value. The session also addresses responsible AI adoption, data quality, governance, and the critical role of human judgment in building effective, future-ready quality systems.

From Data Quality to Digital Trust: Rethinking Quality in the Age of AI

Alina Codreanu **2:15 PM** **3:00 PM**

As organizations become increasingly dependent on AI, analytics, automation, and digital ecosystems, data quality alone is no longer enough. This track explores the emerging concept of digital trust and the critical role of traceability, information integrity, governance, and verification in ensuring reliable decision-making. Participants will learn how quality professionals can extend traditional quality principles into the digital domain, building confidence in data, AI-driven insights, and the systems that organizations rely on to operate effectively and responsibly.

Keynote Speakers



Dr. Adil Dalal

Dr. Adil Dalal, DBA is a globally recognized executive, transformational leader, and CEO of Pinnacle Process Solutions, Intl., with more than 20 years of experience advancing organizational excellence across 25 industries on five continents. A member of the Forbes Executive Council and Chair of ASQ's Lean Enterprise Division, he has trained over 9,500 leaders worldwide in AI, leadership, lean, quality, and cultural transformation. Dr. Dalal is the award-winning author of seven books, including *The 12 Pillars of Project Excellence*, and an internationally sought-after keynote speaker. His work has earned prestigious honors, including the ASQ Crosby Medal, Shingo Publication Award, and Axiom Best Business Book Award.



Dr. Rhonda Farrell

Dr. Rhonda Farrell is a transformation strategist, executive advisor, and entrepreneur with more than 25 years of leadership experience across the U.S. Marine Corps, Fortune 500 companies, federal agencies, and global nonprofits. As CEO of Global Innovation Strategies and an ASQ Fellow, she helps organizations achieve sustainable, enterprise-wide transformation by aligning strategy, technology, cybersecurity, and continuous improvement. Holding a Doctorate in Information Assurance, an MBA, and multiple industry certifications, Dr. Farrell partners with leaders to accelerate digital transformation, build resilient high-performance cultures, and deliver measurable gains in innovation, efficiency, and mission outcomes.

Opening Remarks



Dr. Mary Kay Taylor

Dr. Mary Kay Taylor, MBA, CSSMBB, is the founder of Strategy Dr Consulting in St. Louis, Missouri, where she helps organizations lead through transformation and strengthen leadership, quality, and operational excellence. She currently chairs the ASQ Human Development & Leadership (HD&L) Community. Dr. Taylor is passionate about building sustainable, people-centered approaches to organizational excellence.

Track 1

AI and Lean Practices



Sainyam Arora

Sainyam (Sam) Arora is a Quality Assurance and Systems Engineer at Honeywell Technologies, where he builds & leads quality management systems for emission control catalyst technologies. Quality Magazine's 2026 Rookie of the Year, he is an ASQ Senior Member, Certified Quality Auditor, and ISO 9001:2015 Lead Auditor. He is the webinars Chair for the Lean Enterprise Division and serves on the TEDx Savannah Board of Directors. His work focuses on Quality 5.0: predictive, human-centered systems where ISO governance meets machine intelligence. He holds a B.S. in Chemical Engineering from Penn State University & is an upcoming thought leader in the Quality Industry.



James Henderson

James Henderson - Awarded Top 40 under 40

Mr. Henderson has a passion for efficiency and process optimization. With over 20 years' experience overseeing both domestic and international business strategies in a variety of industries including Security, IT and Technology. Previously the President and COO of Avigilon (TSX:AVO) where he led the sales process resulting in a USD \$1 Billion acquisition.



Frank Murdock

Frank Murdock is an industrial engineer and the principal consultant with FKM Consulting LLC located in Ann Arbor, MI. He is an ASQ Certified Six Sigma Blackbelt. Frank worked at Ford for 28 years in a variety of positions. As an independent consultant, Frank has worked in a variety of industries including aerospace, banking, and construction. Frank presented at the ASQ Lean & Six Sigma Conference, WCQI, and the ASA Fall Technical Conference. Frank is currently the Chair-Elect of the ASQ Lean Enterprise Division, a member of the ASQ VoC Committee, and is on the ASQ NextGen Mentorship Subcommittee.



Dr. Núria Negrão

Dr. Núria Negrão is a scientist, medical writer, and AI adoption advocate known as the "AI Whisperer" for medical education. Combining scientific rigor with expertise in education and science communication, she helps medical education professionals navigate the integration of generative AI with clarity and confidence. A daily AI power user and lifelong learner, Nuria translates complex AI concepts into practical, actionable strategies that support innovation while preserving the integrity of continuing education. Leveraging her deep understanding of the CE/CME landscape, she empowers organizations and professionals to adopt AI effectively, strategically, and responsibly.



Gurdip Panesar

Gurdip Panesar is a quality leader with more than 12 years of experience helping organizations improve performance through effective risk management, operational excellence, and quality system deployment. His career spans a broad range of industries, products, and manufacturing technologies, providing a unique perspective on applying quality principles in both highly specialized and large-scale operating environments. His expertise includes APQP, PPAP, FMEA, problem solving, and continuous improvement. Recognized for his passion for coaching, facilitation, and capability building, Gurdip helps teams turn complex quality concepts into practical actions that improve performance, strengthen collaboration, and drive lasting results.

Track 1

AI and Lean Practices



Priyankkumar Patel

Priyankkumar Patel has a decade of experience in the medical device industry launching and remediating diverse products including surgical robots. He holds a Masters in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Texas at Arlington. He is a Senior IEEE member, ASQ Certified Quality Engineer, ASQ Pittsburgh Section Program Chair, ASQ Lean Division SME and ASQ Supplier Division Newsletter Chair. He serves on ISO TAG 69 and TAG 176 committees and is a peer reviewer for IEEE conferences. A two-time Quality Magazine feature author and WCQI speaker, he is the 2025 recipient of the Wayne Paupst Memorial Award from ASQ Lean Enterprise Division.



Dr. Nauzad Tantra

Dr. Nauzad Tantra is a global transformation and operations leader with deep roots in manufacturing engineering, R&D, and new product development. A Lean Six Sigma Black Belt has led manufacturing, design transfer, supply chain and shared services transformation across organizations operating in 60+ countries. Nauzad specializes in structured, AI enabled operating models and quality frameworks that lift reliability, flow, and enterprise performance. His Quality by Design approach brings stage gate discipline from NPD into complex service environments, creating predictable, customer centric operations.



Eleke Ukpabi

Eleke Ukpabi is President and Chief Strategist of United Strategies LLC, an executive advisor with more than 20 years of senior leadership in strategy, engineering, operations, and technology, including as Vice President of Engineering and Strategy at Ruan Transportation Management Systems. A past chair of the Council on Industrial and Systems Engineering, Certified Quality Engineer, and Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt, he leads cross-sector transformation and AI-enabled performance work. He is a Doctor of Engineering candidate in industrial engineering focused on human-centered AI, enterprise execution, and turning decision intelligence into trusted, measurable strategic impact.



Manny Veloso

Manny Veloso's hands-on approach has provided practical, real-world solutions for countless companies. Manny holds a Master's Degree in Business Administration from Rider University and a BS in Industrial Engineering from Penn State. Manny has delivered projects and trained internationally. He has a Master Black Belt certification and is a guest lecturer at Holy Family University, Temple University and spoken at industry conferences.

Track 2

Cutting EDGe Practices



Dr. Marcela Cámpoli

Dr. Marcela Cámpoli is a health economist, quality leader, and co-founder of ElderWise LLC, where she advances human-centered approaches to aging through process improvement and responsible technology. Her experience spans healthcare, research, public health, and organizational excellence, including leadership at the American Nurses Enterprise. An ASQ Certified Manager of Quality/Organizational Excellence and member of the 2026 Baldrige Board of Examiners, she brings a systems perspective to improving quality, safety, and access. Marcela is passionate about translating evidence into practical solutions that empower aging adults, support caregivers, and help organizations respond to changing needs with compassion and purpose.



Rich Evans

Rich Evans is Senior Vice President of Technical Functions and has led GES' Quality Program since 2018. He also provides senior technical support and manages GES' corporate technical functions team that includes engineering, hydrogeology, air quality, small, unmanned aircraft systems, and data management and visualization. He also leads our Emerging Contaminants team and is a member of GES' corporate environmental, social, and governance (ESG) team.



Zac Jarrard

Zac Jarrard is the President of Jarrard Consulting, LLC. The company is dedicated to bringing out the best in people through team building activities, project management training, and workshops to bridge generational gaps. Zac holds three master's degrees from Park University and several certifications. His research interests include gamification, project management, and working across different generations. Outside of his company, Zac is active in the community. He is a proud ASQ senior member who serves as the Secretary for the Quality Management Division. Zac is an Eagle Scout who aspires to make the world a better place for everyone.



Michael Kuehne

Michael Kuehne - Founder/Principal of ComplyFDA.com, is a life sciences quality and compliance leader with 25+ years serving early-stage to Fortune 50 organizations. He transforms regulatory intelligence into practical strategies that strengthen quality, compliance, and risk management. His innovations include Intelligent Insights™ Quarterly Reports and a proprietary FDA Enforcement Database. With expertise in quality system transformation, regulatory excellence, and risk-based solutions, Michael is a trusted advisor helping organizations anticipate regulatory risk and deliver quality products that benefit patients.



Akwasi Kwakye-Ampem

Akwasi Kwakye-Ampem is a Lead Professional in Digital Delivery at WSP USA, supporting major transportation and aviation programs. Based in New Jersey, he helps project teams adopt digital workflows, manage asset information, and strengthen data and quality practices across complex infrastructure projects. His work focuses on BIM, Digital Twins, 4D planning, asset lifecycle management, and AI-supported quality assurance.

**Jay Patel**

Jay Patel is a globally recognized transformation leader, executive educator, and keynote speaker with over 30 years of experience helping organizations achieve measurable excellence. As founder and CEO of Quality & Productivity Solutions, Inc. (QPS), he has trained and mentored thousands of professionals through more than 200 specialized courses in leadership, AI, project management, and quality management. Before founding QPS, he held roles at GE, Bendix-Allied Signal, Carrier Corporation, and Cabot Safety from Program Manager to Director of Quality to Plant Manager. An ASQ Fellow and Lancaster Medal recipient, he has authored 15 books, including *Modern Leadership in the AI Era*, *World Class AI Management using ISO 42001*, and *AI for Everyday Use*. He has served five professional organizations.

**Shruti Patil**

Shruti Patil is a certified Sr. Informatics Data Analyst serving Texas local government. With dual master's degrees in computer engineering and industrial management, plus PMP and Lean Six Sigma Black Belt certifications, she leads strategic planning, budgeting, and AI enterprise adoption initiatives. As Chair of the ASQ Government Division and active member of the Gov AI Coalition, Shruti champions data-driven decision-making and performance excellence. She's passionate about advancing AI adoption in the public sector through collaboration and fact-based governance.

**Dr. Fuat Ramazanov**

Dr. Fuat Ramazanov is an educator, researcher, and innovation practitioner specializing in generative AI, creativity, problem-solving, and continuous improvement. He has taught project management, supply chain, and innovation to students from diverse international backgrounds. His research explores how humans and AI can collaborate to enhance creativity, critical thinking, and decision-making in higher education and professional practice. Fuat is a Past Chair of the ASQ Vancouver Section and a recipient of the ASQ Community Service Award.

Track 3

Leadership in the Age of AI



Pedro García Millán

Pedro García Millán is an Industrial and Systems Engineer from Tecnológico de Monterrey specialized in Smart Mobility. Recognized by industry leadership as a next-generation talent, Pedro bridges classical operational frameworks with predictive AI, meta-heuristics, and IoT to solve high-stakes automotive supply chain challenges. His track record includes architecting actionable AI production-scheduling models implemented directly at Audi México, alongside optimization initiatives for Volkswagen and Benteler. A multilingual professional (Spanish, English, French, German) and former ASQ Student Branch President, Pedro is an international speaker who has presented on digital twins, reliability, and connected mobility at ASQ conferences across North America.



Jamie Giani

Jamie Giani is the founder of Third Branch Solutions (3B®), a boutique consultancy dedicated to supporting federal court units. Drawing on experience as a law clerk, Assistant Federal Public Defender, and Clerk of Court, she brings a unique perspective to process improvement and organizational change. Jamie led change management and communications for the federal judiciary's largest modernization effort as Customer Engagement Lead for the Case Management Modernization initiative. A Prosci-certified change practitioner, she helps courts adopt new technologies, strengthen quality practices, and foster healthier workplace cultures that support long-term success.



Michael Guirguis

Michael Guirguis is a Master Black Belt, PROSCI Change Management Specialist, and Organizational Excellence leader with extensive experience driving operational excellence and business transformation across industries. He specializes in Lean, Six Sigma, change management, and process optimization to help organizations improve performance and achieve sustainable results. Mike serves as a faculty instructor at the McGill Executive Institute, where he has trained more than 300 professionals in Lean Six Sigma, and as a lecturer at Zhejiang University College of Management. He is passionate about integrating AI-enabled solutions with continuous improvement practices to drive productivity, innovation, and competitive advantage.



Dr. Tulay Guneyssel

Dr. Tulay Guneyssel - With more than 20 years of combined academic and industry experience, Dr. Tulay Guneyssel is Founder and President of TG Financial Services Inc., advising organizations on financial management, internal controls, risk management, regulatory compliance, and AI governance. She is the author of *Ultimate GenAI for Financial Accounting and RAISE Framework: A Governance Model for AI Risk in Financial Reporting and Audit*. She is also co-editor of *Advanced Use of AI: The Next Wave*. Through her research, keynote presentations, and advisory work, Dr. Guneyssel advances practical approaches to responsible AI adoption, accountability, transparency, effective governance, and operational excellence.

Track 3

Leadership in the Age of AI



Natella Isazada

Natella Isazada is an Assistant Professor at University Canada West and a doctoral candidate in Leadership in Post-Secondary Education at the University of Calgary. Her research focuses on generative AI in higher education leadership, particularly AI adoption, human–AI collaboration, trust, governance, organizational readiness, and leadership decision-making. She also brings extensive professional experience in quality, safety, risk management, and organizational leadership, and serves as ASQ BoD member and Region Director of ASQ Canada.



Dr. Nicole Radziwill

Dr. Nicole Radziwill is Co-Founder and CTAIO of team-x.ai, where she helps leaders transform organizations through the strategic use of AI. A former Senior Vice President, Chief Data Scientist, and tenured Associate Professor, she brings deep expertise in data science, quality systems, and organizational transformation. Dr. Radziwill is an Academician in the International Academy of Quality (IAQ) and an ASQ Fellow. She holds a PhD in Quality Systems from Indiana State University and is the author of widely adopted data science and statistics textbooks used at more than 30 universities across 12+ countries.



Eileen Serrano

Eileen Serrano is a Senior Director of Operational Excellence for Baxter's Global Integrated Supply Chain with more than 25 years of experience in manufacturing, quality systems, and operational excellence across the medical device, biotechnology, and pharmaceutical industries. She holds degrees in Chemical Engineering and Manufacturing Engineering and is ASQ-certified as a CQE, CSSBB, and CMQ/OE. An active ASQ leader and leader of the Puerto Rico Medical Device Cluster's Operational Excellence community, Eileen is a recognized trainer, mentor, facilitator, and speaker. She was named Manager of the Year 2023 and Industrial Woman of the Year 2024 by the Puerto Rico Manufacturers Association.



Nital Zaveri

Nital Zaveri is the founder of DigiMex, a Certified Smart Industry Readiness Index Assessor, and an MIT Professional Education alumnus in Advanced Smart Manufacturing. He has led digital transformation and operational excellence initiatives in more than 1,500 manufacturing organizations across the U.S., GCC, Africa, and India. An active ASQ leader, he serves as Chair of the ASQ India Section and Deputy Director of the RAIN Region. A recipient of numerous honors, including CEO of the Year and the Young Entrepreneur Award, he is a recognized speaker, author, judge, and advocate for manufacturing excellence, innovation, and quality improvement.

Track 4

Process Excellence



Rob De La Espriella

Rob De La Espriella - Deming Prize winning team member and pioneering Nuclear Quality Assurance expert Rob De La Espriella is a former US Navy nuclear submarine officer and the Founder/CEO of BlueDragon. Rob's distinguished career spans over four decades, leading and facilitating hundreds of audits, assessments, root cause analyses, and operational excellence initiatives. During his six-year tenure as a Nuclear Site Quality Manager, his QA organization was deemed among the best in the US by the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations. He has supported QA initiatives in South Africa and Slovenia and developed QA Programs for companies such as Schneider Electric (Switzerland) and Burns and MacDonald.



Seetharam Kandarpa

Seetharam (Ram) Kandarpa is an ASQConnEx Expert, GxP consultant, data scientist, Lean Six Sigma practitioner, and Founder & Director of Shaarkview Consultancy. With more than 23 years of experience across pharmaceuticals, medical devices, food products, and other regulated industries, he helps organizations strengthen compliance, quality, and operational excellence through consulting, training, auditing, and data science solutions. A highly credentialed quality professional and active ASQ volunteer leader, Ram is recognized for bridging regulatory requirements with business performance. He is an international trainer and speaker whose expertise spans global GxP regulations, quality systems, continuous improvement, and organizational transformation.



Sanket Kolhe

Sanket Kolhe is an engineering leader and Lean Six Sigma Black Belt with a career spanning precision laboratory execution, high-volume manufacturing scale-up, and enterprise R&D operations. At Varex Imaging, he drove yield from 40% to 98%, reduced process variation by 40%, and delivered \$600K in annual cost savings. At Sila Nanotechnologies, he leads R&D Operations, building the quality infrastructure and measurement systems that power advanced battery materials research. He serves on the leadership team of ASQ's Lean Enterprise Division, where he is integrating AI into Lean principles for the next generation of quality professionals.



Dr. Milton Krivokuca

Dr. Milton Krivokuca is the Interim Program Coordinator for the Master of Science Quality Assurance program at California State University Dominguez Hills, Carson, CA. He is a recognized Quality 4.0 thought leader. Dr. Krivokuca frequently presents results of his quality related research through papers and presentations. He is past chair of ASQ Quality Management Division, an ASQ Fellow, ASQ 2024 Grant Award recipient, ASQ Section 700 Simon Collier Award recipient, ASQ Section 701 Quality Guru of the Year Award, and Quality Magazine's 2024 Quality Professional of the Year. Dr. Krivokuca has earned 10 ASQ professional certifications.

Track 4

Process Excellence



Jd Marhevko

Jd Marhevko is a VP of Quality for ZF Groups Electronics & ADAS Division. Jd has served in multiple senior executive roles in Operations, Quality, Lean and EHS. She has helped companies transform from bankruptcy to best in class. In 2026 Jd received the SWE Beacon Award and in 2020 Jd was inducted into the USA's Women in Manufacturing Hall of Fame. Jd is an ASQ Fellow, Shainin Medalist, CMQ/OE, CQE, CSSBB and MBB. In 2018, she was recognized by Crain's as a notable Woman in Manufacturing. She holds a BSE and MSA. Jd has co-authored several books and articles on Lean and Quality Systems; most recently the AIAG/VDA SPC Handbook.



Abbigail Meah-Ali

Abbigail Meah-Ali MBA, PMP, CSSBB, is a senior project and quality management executive, ASQ ConnEx Expert, Vice Chair, QMD Member Volunteers, trainer and consultant. She brings extensive experience across quality management, operational excellence, project management and continuous improvement within energy, construction, manufacturing and professional services. Abbigail is passionate about helping organizations and professionals translate quality and process excellence principles into practical strategies that improve performance, strengthen decision-making and create sustainable organizational impact.



Dr. Luis Morales

Dr. Luis Morales is an ASQ Senior Member who has been active in the society since 1996 and holds ASQ certifications as a CMQ/OE, CSSGB, and CQIA, as well as the PMP® credential from PMI. He has extensive experience leading organizational and individual change initiatives across multiple industries and within ASQ. His volunteer leadership includes serving as Chair of the Richmond and Greater Atlanta Sections, Director of the South Atlantic Region, GCC Vice-Chair, and ASQ Board Director (2015-2019). Currently, he is Chair of the Quality Management Division and serves as Cybersecurity Governance Program Manager at Genuine Parts Company. A retired U.S. Army Officer, he holds a Doctorate in Organizational Leadership and Development.



Mark Swanson

Mark Swanson (MBA, ASQ CMQ/OE, CQE, CMDA) is a Founding Partners of Quality and Regulatory Expert Partners, LLC; they focus on helping small to mid-sized companies. Mark has more than 25 years of experience in quality management. He is a senior member of ASQ and currently the Region Director for the West North Central region. Mark has spent several years as an active member of ISO Technical Committee 210 (ISO TC210). He also participates with ISO TC176 on ISO 9000/9001/9002 (quality management), ISO TC262 (risk management) and he also participates in the US TAG for medical device risk management (ISO 14971).

Track 5

The Future of Quality: AI, Analytics, and Operational Excellence



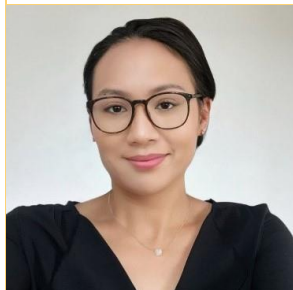
Alina Codreanu

Alina Codreanu is an experienced transformation professional with a background in business and digital transformation, strategic change, operational excellence, and emerging technologies. She brings a broad perspective on how organizations evolve, combining strategic thinking with practical experience in turning ideas into action. Her work focuses on improving performance, enabling organizational change, and creating sustainable growth and value. Alina has worked across business, technology, and transformation initiatives, engaging with diverse stakeholders and navigating complex organizational challenges. She is particularly interested in helping organizations respond to change, strengthen their capabilities, and build practical approaches that deliver meaningful and lasting results.



Robert Launsby

Robert G. Launsby is President of Launsby Consulting and a recognized expert in Design of Experiments (DOE), Six Sigma, process validation, and applied statistics. Throughout his career, he has trained thousands of professionals through more than 700 seminars, supported over 3,000 improvement and experimental design projects, and authored seven books. Today, Launsby focuses on advancing the use of AI Agents for Design of Experiments, helping engineers and scientists design studies, analyze results, and translate statistical insights into practical decisions. His work draws on decades of experience across manufacturing, medical diagnostics, technology, and product development.



Kate Molina

Kate Molina is a strategic program and portfolio leader who sees the world through the lens of data, end-to-end processes, and systems thinking. With over 18 years of experience driving business transformation across Finance and Operations, she excels at untangling complex organizational workflows and designing future-state operating models that deliver measurable value. A Lean Six Sigma Black Belt practitioner holding advanced credentials in Finance and Systems Engineering, Kate leverages process mining, data-driven governance, and AI-enabled program management to optimize performance. She is passionate about empowering cross-functional teams to turn raw operational data into actionable, high-impact business outcomes.



Sravan Kumar Nidiganti

Sravan Kumar Nidiganti is an enterprise healthcare quality leader specializing in benefits and clinical operations, pharmacy benefit management, Medicare, Medicaid, quality assurance, and operational excellence. At CVS Health, he leads quality strategies focused on accuracy, risk management, automation, and better member outcomes across complex healthcare programs. He is a doctoral candidate in Healthcare Administration, published author, researcher, and speaker on AI, analytics, clinical infrastructure, and the future of quality. Sravan also serves as a peer reviewer, innovation judge, and mentor. He is passionate about advancing quality from traditional assurance toward intelligent, data-driven systems that are practical, trustworthy, and human-centered.

Track 5

The Future of Quality: AI, Analytics, and Operational Excellence



**Sai Ranjith
Ramakrishnan Kumar**

Sai Ranjith Ramakrishnan Kumar is a Quality Engineering Lead specializing in Software as a Medical Device (SaMD), AI-enabled medical device quality systems, and FDA regulatory compliance. He currently serves as Digital Device Quality Engineering Lead at Sanofi and has held leadership roles at Smith & Nephew and Spectrawave Medical, leading FDA 510(k) clearance programs, AI-integrated risk management frameworks, and enterprise FMEA remediation initiatives. Kumar is Chair-Elect of the ASQ Granite State Section, serves on the editorial review boards of the ASQ Quality Management Forum and Lean & Six Sigma Review, and is a published author on AI-enabled medical device quality and SaMD regulation.



Binilkumar M. Vaghani

Binilkumar M. Vaghani, MS, CQE, is a Senior Supplier Quality Engineer at Siemens Healthineers with over a decade of experience in medical device quality and supplier management. A Lead Auditor and Senior Member of IEEE and ASQ, his published research focuses on integrating advanced digital technologies, including artificial intelligence and digital twins into the medical device quality lifecycle for Industry 4.0. In his current practice, he focuses on leveraging predictive analytics to enable early defect detection and drive proactive manufacturing quality.



Shireen Yalda

Shireen Yalda is a senior quality executive with deep expertise in integrating AI-enabled analytics, data integrity, and advanced quality systems across pharmaceutical, medical device, biologics, sterile operations, and clinical trial services. With more than 14 years leading multi-site QMS transformation, inspection readiness, and CAPA excellence, Shireen specializes in helping organizations modernize quality through digital tools, predictive insights, and human-centered leadership. As Founder of NexReg Consulting LLC and Strategic Engagement Partner for ASQ GCC, Shireen guides quality leaders in adopting AI-supported decision frameworks and scalable operational strategies. Her work focuses on elevating executive judgment, strengthening cross-functional influence, and shaping future-ready quality cultures.



Daniel Zrymiak

Daniel Zrymiak is a Client Services Manager for DMSI in North Vancouver, British Columbia, with nearly 30 years of experience in international quality and risk management. An ASQ Fellow and recipient of ASQ's Feigenbaum and Crosby Medals, he holds multiple certifications, including PMP®, CMQ/OE, Six Sigma Black Belt, Software Quality Engineer, and Quality Engineer. He earned a Bachelor of Commerce (Honors) in Marketing from the University of Saskatchewan. Mr. Zrymiak combines expertise in quality, auditing, software engineering, IT service management, and Scrum, and is a recognized conference speaker, webinar presenter, author, and active professional volunteer.

Wednesday, October 7th Panelists



Dr. Adil Dalal

Panel Moderator: Dr. Adil Dalal, DBA is a globally recognized executive, author, and transformational leader with more than 20 years of experience advancing organizational excellence across 25 industries on five continents. As CEO of Pinnacle Process Solutions International and a Forbes Executive Council member, he helps organizations drive performance through AI, leadership, lean, quality, and cultural transformation. Dr. Dalal serves as Chair of ASQ's Lean Enterprise Division and has trained more than 9,500 leaders worldwide. A bestselling author of seven books and recipient of numerous international awards, he is a sought-after keynote speaker and thought leader in innovation, excellence, and organizational change.



Dr. Aniruddha Bora

Dr. Aniruddha Bora is an Assistant Professor of Computer Science at Texas State University and director of the SPARKS Lab (Scientific Prediction through AI Research, Knowledge & Simulation). His research sits at the intersection of computer science, applied mathematics, and scientific computing, focusing on physics-informed machine learning, operator learning, and hybrid modeling approaches that combine domain expertise with modern AI. Dr. Bora develops robust, interpretable machine learning methods to address complex scientific and engineering challenges, advancing the use of AI for reliable prediction, simulation, and discovery across real-world applications.



Shweta Padmanabha

Shweta Padmanabha is a Cedar Park City Council Member representing Place 6, elected in 2026, and a dedicated community leader with more than 17 years of experience in project and program management. She has held leadership roles with organizations including Apple, Microsoft, Nike, CVS Health, JAMF, and Nokia. A graduate of the Cedar Park Leadership Academy, Shweta has served on community and economic development boards and led the Indian American Coalition of Central Texas as a two-term president. Passionate about public service, she advocates for responsible growth, public safety, economic development, quality education, and preserving Cedar Park's exceptional quality of life.



Jim Penniman-Morin

Jim Penniman-Morin is serving his third term as Mayor of Cedar Park, Texas, after first being elected to the City Council in 2021. A West Point graduate, decorated Army veteran, and attorney with 18 years of legal experience, he currently serves as in-house counsel for an artificial intelligence company. Mayor Penniman-Morin is committed to fostering Cedar Park's continued growth as a safe, inclusive, and thriving community while representing the city on the Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization's Transportation Policy Board. An Eagle Scout and active community volunteer, he is a devoted husband and father of seven who remains deeply engaged in civic, youth, and faith-based activities.

Wednesday, October 7th Panelists



Bill Scherkenbach

William W. Scherkenbach is internationally recognized as one of the world's foremost authorities on the subject of Quality and its implementation. Twenty years of Bill's career were spent with Dr. W Edwards Deming on over 1000 different client sessions worldwide. Bill has successfully balanced consulting assignments with line assignments throughout his career. Many consultants never get a chance to actually practice what they preach and many line managers never get a chance to see in detail how others approach business! Bill continues his aim of helping individuals and organizations to deliver on their visions through consulting, coaching, and seminars. "He was my student, and there's none better in the world... It takes a little ingredient called profound knowledge, and he's got it." W. Edwards Deming



Dr. Jennifer Speed

Dr. Jennifer Speed is Assistant Vice President for Research Development at Texas State University, where she advances research growth through large-scale collaborative proposals, capacity-building initiatives, and strategic partnerships with industry, government, and academia. An accomplished research development leader, she has extensive experience securing major federal and private grants. Prior to joining Texas State, she held research development leadership roles at Princeton University and the University of Dayton, where she also served as a research professor. Dr. Speed earned her Ph.D. in History from Fordham University, and her scholarship has received support from Fulbright, NEH, Mellon, and other prestigious organizations.



Ken Snyder

Ken Snyder is the Executive Director Emeritus and Faculty Fellow at the Shingo Institute, home of the Shingo Prize. The Shingo Institute is a program of the Jon M. Huntsman School of Business at Utah State University. Ken joined the faculty at Utah State in 2008 and immediately got involved with the Institute as an examiner, board member, and eventually in 2015 as Executive Director. He stepped down as Executive Director as of September 15th of this year. Prior to 2008, Ken spent 30 years in industry in senior executive positions at various manufacturing companies, including as president of Thin Film Technology, a subsidiary of the Japanese electronics company, Susumu Kogyo K.K., and Progressive Impressions International, a Taylor Corp. company. Ken earned an MBA from the Harvard Graduate School of Business in 1980 with an emphasis in international business. Prior to that he earned a bachelor's degree in Japanese history from the University of Utah in 1978.

Thursday, October 8th Panelists



Natella Isazada

Panel Moderator: Natella Isazada is an Assistant Professor at University Canada West and a doctoral candidate in Leadership in Post-Secondary Education at the University of Calgary. Her research focuses on generative AI in higher education leadership, particularly AI adoption, human–AI collaboration, trust, governance, organizational readiness, and leadership decision-making. She also brings extensive professional experience in quality, safety, risk management, and organizational leadership, and serves as ASQ BoD member and Region Director of ASQ Canada.



Michel Guenette

Michel Guenette is a Microsoft Office Specialist Master with over 25 years of experience. He managed the templates and 1,800+ forms at Atomic Energy of Canada Limited (AECL), during the last five years of his 10 years there. He transferred those skills to Manulife, where he was a bilingual Learning and Development Specialist for five years. During COVID, he became an expert with Webex and Zoom, acting as the technical host for the ASQ Canada Quality Conference in 2020 and 2021 for ASQ Toronto and ASQ Montreal, respectively. Michel is a member and member leader of ASQ Hamilton, as well as a Deputy Region Director for ASQ Canada and Greenland region. He is certified as an ASQ CSSGB, CQT, CQPA, CQI, and CQIA, and has a degree and diplomas from multiple post-secondary institutions.



Dr. Michael Mladjenovic

Dr. Michael Mladjenovic, P.Eng., MBB, Lean Sensei, and ASQ Fellow, is a leader in digital transformation, quality, and business excellence. As founder of Simplicity Advantage Inc., he helps organizations connect operational excellence, data, and intelligent systems to create value. He integrates Lean Six Sigma, systems thinking, digital technologies, and AI while building lasting capabilities and cultures of continuous improvement. His leadership experience spans LifeLabs, Maple Leaf Foods, Magna International, General Electric, PPG, and SKF. Active in ASQ, he chairs the Data Science Interest Group and advances quality excellence in the digital era.



Shruti Patil

Shruti Patil is a certified Sr. Informatics Data Analyst serving Texas local government. With dual master's degrees in computer engineering and industrial management, plus PMP and Lean Six Sigma Black Belt certifications, she leads strategic planning, budgeting, and AI enterprise adoption initiatives. As Chair of the ASQ Government Division and active member of the Gov AI Coalition, Shruti champions data-driven decision-making and performance excellence. She's passionate about advancing AI adoption in the public sector through collaboration and fact-based governance.

Virtual Conference Committee Members



Dr. Adil Dalal

Dr. Adil Dalal DBA is a globally recognized executive, author, and transformational leader with more than 20 years of experience advancing organizational excellence across 25 industries on five continents. As CEO of Pinnacle Process Solutions International and a Forbes Executive Council member, he helps organizations drive performance through AI, leadership, lean, quality, and cultural transformation. Dr. Dalal serves as Chair of ASQ's Lean Enterprise Division and has trained more than 9,500 leaders worldwide. A bestselling author of seven books and recipient of numerous international awards, he is a sought-after keynote speaker and thought leader in innovation, excellence, and organizational change.



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Ellen C. Quinn

Ellen C. Quinn is a quality and operational excellence leader with more than 30 years of experience in project quality management, process improvement, facilitation, and Six Sigma. A longtime professional with Northrop Grumman and currently an on-call employee with Peraton, she has led quality and mission excellence initiatives supporting critical programs. Ellen is an active ASQ volunteer, serving in multiple leadership roles within the Quality Management Division and contributing to several successful ASQ conferences. She is also engaged with the Society of Women Engineers. Ellen holds M.S. and M.B.A. degrees from Johns Hopkins University and maintains multiple certifications, including CMQ/OE, PMP, Six Sigma Black Belt, and ISO 27001 Lead Auditor.



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