

# ICHAD's 10th Anniversary Celebration



## The Story of ICHAD

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### Timothy Opobo

**Executive Director, AfriChild Center, Makerere University Kampala, Uganda**

Mr. Timothy Opobo's primary interests are in social challenges affecting children and young people in Sub-Saharan Africa. He has over 12 years of development practice experience. He directs the AfriChild Center, a multidisciplinary training and research center, which contributes to knowledge building and skills development; and influences policy, programming and practice concerning the wellbeing of the African child. Mr. Opobo previously worked with the African Network for the Prevention and Protection against Child Abuse and Neglect in Uganda and Liberia.



### Fred Ssewamala

**William E. Gordon Distinguished Professor, Associate Dean for Transdisciplinary Faculty Research, Director & Founder of ICHAD, Director of SMART Africa Center, Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis**

Dr. Fred Ssewamala leads innovative, interdisciplinary research, funded primarily by the National Institutes of Health (NIH), that informs, develops and tests family-based economic empowerment and social protection interventions to improve life chances and long-term developmental outcomes for children, adolescents, and youth, particularly those impacted by poverty, civil strife and HIV/AIDS in Sub-Saharan Africa. He has authored more than 150 publications on these topics. His research engages collaboratively with local institutions to ensure scale-up and sustainability. In addition, Dr. Ssewamala leads several NIH-funded research training programs focused on training early career researchers, including PhD students, recent PhD graduates, and medical doctors, from underrepresented backgrounds interested in children and adolescent health in a global context. Before joining the Brown School in 2017, Dr. Ssewamala was a tenured Professor at Columbia University in New York for 15 years, where he established ICHAD.



### Proscovia Nabunya

**Assistant Professor, Co-Director of ICHAD Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis**

Dr. Proscovia Nabunya's global research focuses on HIV-stigma reduction interventions, mental health, and family and community-based support systems as protective factors for the development and well-being of children and families impacted by HIV/AIDS. Her current research studies, funded by the National Institutes of Health, are focused on: addressing HIV-associated stigma among adolescents living with HIV and their families in Uganda and low-resourced communities in the US; examining the longitudinal HIV treatment adherence outcomes among youth living with HIV transitioning into young adulthood; and evaluating the long-term impact of economic empowerment intervention on HIV risk prevention and care continuum outcomes among orphaned youth transitioning to young adulthood in Uganda.

# The Story of ICHAD



## Leyla Ismayilova

**Associate Professor, University of Chicago Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, and Practice**

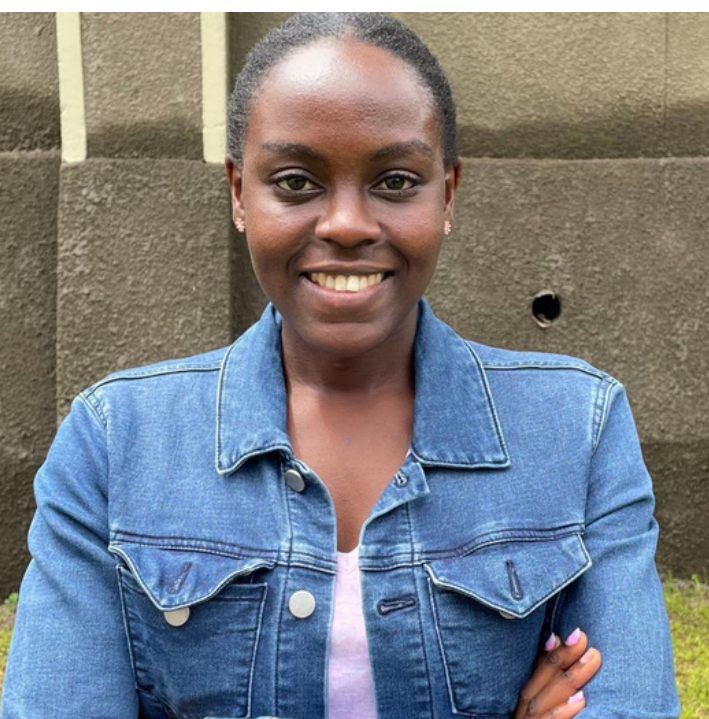
Professor Leyla Ismayilova received her PhD and Master's Degree in Social Work from the Columbia University School of Social Work (CUSSW) with a concentration in advanced clinical practice and was among the first Open Society Institute (Soros Foundation) fellows from the former Soviet Union at Columbia. She also holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Psychology from Baku State University (Baku, Azerbaijan). Professor Ismayilova was the founder and director of the Center for Psychological Counseling in Azerbaijan. The Center was the first mental health clinic in the country that provided counseling services to adults, children, and families with various emotional and behavioral problems. Her work experience also includes clinical practice at substance abuse and child and family mental health clinics in New York City. Throughout the doctoral program at Columbia University School of Social Work (CUSSW) she was involved in two National Institute of Health/NIH-funded randomized clinical trials testing the family-based economic empowerment model of care and support for AIDS-orphaned children in Uganda and its subsequent adaptation to impoverished communities in Nigeria. During her post-doctoral training at Columbia University Global Health Research Center of Central Asia (GHRCCA), she has served as an investigator on a NIDA-funded clinical trial testing couple-based preventive health intervention for drug users and a longitudinal epidemiological health study with migrant workers in Central Asia, funded by the National Institute of Mental Health/NIMH.



## Scovia Nassaazi

**Head of Qualitative Data Management, ICHAD, Masaka, Uganda**

Ms. Scovia Nassaazi is responsible for ensuring quality data collection, transcription, and translation of qualitative data across all research studies. Ms. Nassaazi is interested in the improvement of the wellbeing of orphaned children and families impacted by HIV/AIDS.



## Phionah Namatovu

**Research Coordinator, ICHAD Masaka, Uganda**

Ms. Phionah Namatovu oversees several NIH-funded R01-level research projects at ICHAD, including study coordination, data collection, and data entry and management. Phionah is interested in implementation science and is passionate about addressing contextual barriers related to the social determinants of health for low-resource communities. She leads ICHAD's efforts of connecting research to local policies in Uganda.

# The Story of ICHAD

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## Jennifer Nattabi

**Doctoral Student, Research Associate, ICHAD Brown School at Washington University in St. Louis**

Ms. Jennifer Nattabi's research interest areas include international child welfare, child poverty, and social and economic transitions among adolescents in low- and middle-income countries. Prior to joining Washington University as a doctoral student, Ms. Nattabi worked with ICHAD on several NIH-funded studies as a study and field coordinator. She currently works with the Center as a research associate on the M-Suubi Study. She is an Researcher Resilience Training program alumni.



## Elizabeth Sperber

**Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Denver**

Dr. Elizabeth Sperber's work has received awards at both Columbia University and Brown University and has received significant grant support. At Columbia, she was also awarded a Mellon Interdisciplinary Graduate Research Fellowship through the Interdisciplinary Center for Innovative Theory and Empirics. She has published in journals such as Political Behavior, Politics and Religion, Perspectives on Politics, the International Journal of Social Policy, the American Journal of Public Health, and the Journal of International Affairs, among others. She is the recipient, with Erin Acampo Hern, of the 2018 Ted Jelen Award for the best paper published in Politics and Religion. In 2019-20 she was awarded a Kellogg Institute Research Fellowship at the University of Notre Dame.

# ICHAD Speaker Series

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## Ozge Sensoy Bahar

**Research Assistant Professor, Co-Director of ICHAD Brown School, Washington University in St. Louis**

Dr. Ozge Sensoy Bahar's global research focuses on child and family well-being in global contexts characterized by poverty and associated stressors. Within this broad research program, her research examines the multi-level factors that expose children, youth, and their families to social and economic vulnerabilities, such as engagement in child labor, sexual risk-taking behaviors, and mental health, all of which are associated with poverty. In addition, Dr. Sensoy Bahar serves as a co-principal investigator/co-investigator qualitative expert on NIH-funded projects that test the effectiveness of combined interventions that incorporate the family economic empowerment intervention on sexual risk-taking behaviors and other psychosocial and health outcomes among vulnerable populations, including children, in Uganda and Ghana.

# ICHAD Speaker Series

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## April Thames

**Professor of Psychiatry and Chief Psychologist of the Psychology Adult Division in the Department of Psychiatry and Biobehavioral Sciences, University of California Los Angeles**

Dr. April Thames' research program focuses on the intersection between sociocultural factors and cognitive/brain health, with a focus on disparities. Her work has been funded by the National Institutes of Health, Alzheimer's Association, and Robert Wood Johnson Foundation. She is also Associate Director of UCLA's Medical Psychology Assessment Center and Director of the Adult Consultation Liaison Psychology Services for UCLA Resnick Neuropsychiatric Hospital.

# Afternoon Opening Remarks

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## Mary McKay

**Vice Provost of Interdisciplinary Initiatives, Co-Director of SMART Africa Center, Washington University in St. Louis**

Dr. Mary McKay joined Washington University as dean of the Brown School in 2016, continuing the school's legacy of creating vital knowledge, initiating social change, and preparing leaders to address social and health challenges both locally and globally. Dr. McKay has received substantial federal funding for research focused on meeting the mental health and health prevention needs of youth and families impacted by poverty. She also has significant expertise in child mental health services and implementation research methods, as well as over 20 years of experience conducting HIV prevention and care-oriented studies, supported by NIH. She has authored more than 150 publications on mental and behavioral health, HIV/AIDS prevention and urban poverty.

# Afternoon Opening Remarks

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## Beverly Wendland

**Provost and Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs,  
Washington University in St. Louis**

Provost Beverly Wendland reports to the chancellor and is responsible for the academic enterprise across the Danforth Campus. She sets the academic strategy for the university in close collaboration with the chancellor, deans, faculty, and others across campus. Provost Wendland convenes the deans of the major academic units, as well as the leaders of numerous centers, programs, and institutes, and works closely with them to promote academic excellence and scholarly activity, facilitate cross-disciplinary connections, foster improvements and innovations in research, and further enhance Washington University's deep commitment to student learning and success at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. Prior to joining Washington University, she served as the James B. Knapp dean of the Krieger School of Arts & Sciences at Johns Hopkins University since 2015. As dean she oversaw 22 highly ranked academic departments representing the natural sciences, social sciences and humanities. During her tenure as dean, she led the Krieger School of Arts & Sciences through a highly successful capital campaign that raised \$747 million, and was instrumental in the establishment of the SNF Agora Institute, a hub for research, teaching and practice to strengthen global democracy.



## Andrew Martin

**Chancellor, Washington University in St. Louis**

Dr. Andrew Martin, who also is a professor of political science and law, served from 2014-2018 as dean of the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts at the University of Michigan. Previously, he served in various positions at WashU, including as the Charles Nagel Chair of Constitutional Law and Political Science at the School of Law, vice dean of the School of Law, founding director of the Center for Empirical Research in the Law, and chair of the Department of Political Science in Arts & Sciences. Throughout his career in higher education administration, Dr. Martin has taught courses in judicial decision making and political methodology and mentored numerous graduate and doctoral students. In recognition of his teaching and mentorship, he received the Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award from the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences at WashU in 2011 and the Distinguished Faculty Award from the Washington University Alumni Board of Governors in 2013. In 2021, he was elected to the American Academy of Arts & Sciences. Along with numerous scholarly articles and book chapters, Dr. Martin is the author of "An Introduction to Empirical Legal Research," which he co-authored with Lee Epstein, the Ethan A.H. Shepley Distinguished University Professor at WashU in 2014; and "Judicial Decision-Making: A Coursebook," which he co-authored with Barry Friedman and others in 2020. Throughout his career, he has received research funding from many organizations, including the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, the National Science Foundation, and the National Institutes of Health. Dr. Martin earned his Ph.D. in political science from WashU in 1998 and his A.B. from the College of William & Mary in mathematics and government in 1994.

# It Takes A Village: Collaborations Panel

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## Davis Ssenabulya

**Program Coordinator, Villa Maria Hospital Home Care, Masaka, Uganda**

Mr. Davis Ssenabulya is the Program Coordinator at Villa Maria Hospital Home Care. Villa Maria Hospital Home Care Program started in 1989 as community arm of Villa Maria Hospital. Its supported satellite health centers have 449 adolescents on antiretroviral therapy (ART) – mostly perinatally infected Villa Maria started working with ICHAD in 2012 of which Mr. Ssenabulya has been a strong partner.



## Simba Machingaidze

**Country Director, ChildFund, Zambia**

Mr. Simba Machingaidze is the Director for ChildFund in Zambia. Prior to this role he worked in similar roles in Uganda, Zimbabwe, Malawi, Togo and El Salvador. ChildFund's mission is to connect children with the people, resources, and institutions they need to grow up healthy, educated, skilled, and safe.



## Barbara Mukasa

**Executive Director, Mildmay Uganda Kampala, Uganda**

Dr. Barbara Mukasa has over 23 years of diverse experience as a health care professional in a developing setting with demonstrable expertise in strategic HIV program design, implementation, and performance monitoring & evaluation. Her research interests include behavioral and clinical strategies to improve HIV care and ART access/ adherence among children, adolescents and young people. Dr. Mukasa has collaborated on several projects implemented in partnership with ICHAD, RAND Cooperation, Makerere University, Howard University, Michigan State University, Boston University and Washington University in St. Louis.

# It Takes A Village: Collaborations Panel

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## Abel Mwebembezi

**Executive Director, Reach the Youth-Uganda Kampala, Uganda**

Dr. Abel Mwebembezi serves as the in-country implementation partner for ICHAD in Uganda. Dr. Mwebembezi has previously managed a UNFPA grant supporting more than 12NGOs implementing reproductive health and HIV/AIDS projects; coordinated the Advocacy Project for reproductive health and HIV/AIDS under the African Youth Alliance program funded by the Bill and Melissa Gates Foundation and has managed multiple child sponsorship education programs. Dr. Mwebembezi also served as a Planning Officer with the UN Africa Peace Keeping Mission in Darfur. He has been serving as an in-country co-investigator and implementation partner to ICHAD's and SMART Africa's NIH-funded studies.



## Agnes Sebowa

**Senior Public Health Specialist, Uganda Ministry of Health**

Ms. Agnes Sebowa is a Senior Public Health specialist with a discipline in nursing, with over 9 years' expertise in Child and Adolescent Health. She has surpassed in Child and Adolescent Health programming, coordinated the implementation of Child & Adolescent Health programs at the Ministry of Health, which has informed policy development. She also has substantial responsibilities in the areas of policy formulation, resource materials, institutional capacity development, Program development, Rights Based programming, strategic planning, research and documentation. Ms. Sebowa holds a Master's Degree in Public Health MUK, a post Graduate Diploma in Nursing. MUK, Post Graduate Diploma in Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights. She is currently Senior Technical Advisor Child and Adolescent Health.



## Rebecca Walugembe

**Training Programs Coordinator, ICHAD Kampala, Uganda**

Ms. Rebecca Walugembe has over forty years of experience working in the banking sector, NGOS, research institutions, and diplomatic missions. Ms. Walugembe has worked in Kenya, Uganda, Southern Africa, and the United Kingdom in the field of human resources and resources procurement.

# Impacting Global Policy



## Laura Benoist

**Director, McDonnell International Scholars Academy, Washington University in St. Louis**

Ms. Laura Benoist is the Director of the McDonnell International Scholars Academy. In her role she fuels those passions by directing the McDonnell Scholars admissions process, co-teaching the Leadership Seminar and communication skills, and uniting the McDonnell Academy community. Mentoring these wildly talented and diverse Scholars as they discover their career fit is undeniably the most rewarding part of her work. Her expertise in connecting people and improving processes has led to various cross-campus collaborations with the Engineering, Business, and Arts & Sciences schools at WashU. In this way, she helps attract the most talented and leadership-focused international students to WashU. Additionally, she partners with the Vice Provost for Graduate Education & International Affairs to build bridges both within WashU and with external partners to expand university reach and awareness.



## Anita Kabarambi

**Research Director Clinical Studies, ICHAD Kampala, Uganda**

Dr. Anita Kabarambi serves as the Research Director of Clinical Studies at the ICHAD, Uganda office. She received her Bachelors degree in Medicine and Surgery from Makerere University in 2009. She then received her Masters in Public Health from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London in 2018.



## Mondo Kyateka

**Assistant Commissioner in the Department of Youth and Children Affairs at the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development, Uganda**

Mr. Mondo Kyateka has nearly 30 years of experience in the Public Sector with a special focus on the Social Sector. He is a Youth Development and Programming Specialist and a Child Protection and Development Expert. Mr. Kyateka also has global competence in the Art of Development Communication, Project Design and Management, Youth and Child Participation, and Community Empowerment. He holds a Degree in Political Science and Public Administration and English Literature from Makerere University, A post Graduate International Diploma in Youth Work from Froebel Akademie in German, as well as an International Certificate in Women's Education from the National Women's Education Centre Japan. In addition, he holds several certificates in Leadership and Change Management, Community Project Management, Communication for Development, Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights, Population and Development among others.



# It Takes A Village: Collaborations Panel



## Stella Ayo Odongo

**Director, Pathfinding Countries, Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children – Hosted by UNICEF**

Ms. Stella Ayo-Odongo is a Child Rights, Child Protection, Social Policy expert and an advocate for social justice. Stella is a motivated leader and development practitioner with over 25 years of progressive experience in strategic leadership, development management, and program operations. She has extensive knowledge and experience advocating for vulnerable groups such as children, youth, and the elderly. Ms. Ayo-Odongo is a visionary pan African leader as demonstrated in the founding of national and regional level movements for social justice such as the African Wide Movement for the children, Civil Society Organizations for Peace in Northern Uganda (CSOPNU) and the Uganda Parliamentary Forum for Children, all of which have made significant contributions to voicing issues of the affected.



## Nhial Tutlam

**Research Assistant Professor at the Brown School Fogarty Global Health/LAUNCH, ACHIEVE Training program, Washington University in St. Louis**

Dr. Nhial Tutlam is a scholar whose research centers on the intersection of mental health impact of war trauma and risk of health outcomes such as suicide, substance use and HIV among youth affected by conflict, with the aim of developing and testing culturally congruent community-based interventions to address the myriad of mental health challenges in this vulnerable population both in refugee settlements and resettlement settings. Dr. Tutlam is currently leading an NIH-funded study in refugee settlements in Uganda to understand factors around adherence to HIV treatment, trauma-associated disorders, psychological functioning, and sexual decision-making, which will contribute to understanding of the dual public health threats of mental health and HIV in this vulnerable population. Additionally, as part of his ACHIEVE Training, he is testing the feasibility and acceptability of the youth readiness intervention (YRI), a psychosocial intervention, combined with financial literacy training (FLT), to address mental health and HIV risk among refugee youth in Uganda. Dr. Tutlam's work is conducted through the International Center for Child Health and Development (ICHAD).



## Lydia Najjemba Wasula

**Child Protection Specialist, Uganda Ministry of Gender, Labour, & Social Development**

Ms. Lydia Najjemba Wasula is a Child Protection Specialist whose professional expertise in child protection spans a period of over 16 years. She has been at the helm of OVC and ending VAC Programming in Uganda since 2008. She has been very instrumental in the design and implementation of major OVC and VAC interventions including ending harmful practices against children and other child care and protection interventions in Uganda. She is the National Focal Person for ending violence against children for Uganda as a Pathfinder. She is most credited for successfully coordinating the first ever Violence against Children survey that was launched in 2018, technically leading the development and implementation of the National Strategy to end child marriage and teenage pregnancy National Child Policy 2020 and its Implementation Plan 2020/21-2024/25. She serves as a Principal Probation and Welfare Officer and the Head of the National Child wellbeing Unit under the Department of Youth and Children Affairs in Uganda's Ministry of Gender, Labour & Social Development.

# Screening of Documentary Film: Offering Hope



## Roumy Theunissen

**Director, Global Communications & Outreach, Washington University in St. Louis**

Ms. Roumy Theunissen supports the vice chancellor for international affairs and the vice chancellor for marketing and communications with advancing international strategic priorities and raising awareness about WashU's reach and impact globally. Within the McDonnell Academy, she oversees seed grants initiatives that foster new collaborative research with our strategic partners around the globe. She also provides programmatic support for the International Symposium and other events that advance discussions of world affairs on campus. Prior to joining WashU, she worked at Harvard University where she managed core programs at the Minda de Gunzburg Center for European Studies. Before that, Ms. Theunissen conducted research on issues with a nexus of technology and international affairs at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs. She is passionate about international affairs and public policy as well as fostering collaboration across disciplines and cultures. Ms. Theunissen earned a Masters in International Relations from the University of Cambridge and an undergraduate degree in Government from Harvard.



## Anne Cleary

**Executive Director Multimedia, University Marketing & Communications, Washington University in St. Louis**

Ms. Anne Davis Cleary is the Executive Director of Multimedia for University Marketing & Communications. She is focused on multimedia content development, strategy and policies for Washington University. Ms. Cleary is an Emmy award-winning producer and has worked on programming for brands that include PBS, ESPN, the National Parks Service and United Way. She is a 2015 FOCUS St. Louis Diversity Leadership Fellow and certified in Directing, Scriptwriting, Computer-Assisted Reporting (IRE) and Data Visualization. Ms. Cleary earned her bachelor's degree from Washington University and is a graduate of the CORO Women in Leadership program.



## Tom Malkowicz

**Senior Multimedia Producer, University Marketing & Communications, Washington University in St. Louis**

Mr. Tom Malkowicz began his career at Drury Outdoors creating a variety of programs on the Outdoor Channel. He since transitioned to Washington University in St. Louis and is the Senior Multimedia Producer. The camera has become his way to explore and share stories such as ICHAD's. His interest in storytelling started at a young age. Nature and history documentaries that he saw as a kid sparked curiosity in film, video, and television; ultimately leading to a degree in video production. Mr. Malkowicz has a Bachelors degree in Communication and Media Studies from Missouri State University.

# Screening of Documentary Film: Offering Hope

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## Jeannette Cooperman

**Staff writer, *The Common Reader*, Washington University in St. Louis**

Ms. Jeannette Cooperman is a member of the St. Louis Media Hall of Fame, who was the staff writer at St. Louis Magazine for twelve years. Her work was cited as Notable in Best American Essays 2021; she received the Writer of the Year award at the 2019 City & Regional Magazine Awards; and she was named to the 2017 FOLIO: 100 list of “the best and brightest” in the magazine industry nationwide. Ms. Cooperman spent a decade doing investigative reporting for Riverfront Times, where her work was recognized by the National Education Writers Association, the National Mental Health Association, the National Black Journalists Association, the National Gay and Lesbian Journalism Association, and the Society of Environmental Journalists. She holds degrees in philosophy and communication and a Ph.D. in American studies, and she has written seven books—six nonfiction, biography or cultural history, and a murder mystery. She and her husband, a historian, live with Willie, a goofy but sweet standard poodle, in a century-old farmhouse in Waterloo, Illinois.

# Closing Remarks

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## Vijay Ramani

**Vice Provost for Graduate Education and International Affairs  
Roma B. & Raymond H. Wittcoff Distinguished University  
Professor, Washington University in St. Louis**

Dr. Vijay Ramani is the vice provost for graduate education and international affairs and the Roma B. & Raymond H. Wittcoff Distinguished University Professor in the McKelvey School of Engineering. His administrative duties include advising the provost on graduate education trends, programming, strategic planning and policy. He collaborates with school deans and vice-deans to advance graduate and professional education across the university. In addition, he collaborates with student leadership, including the Graduate Professional Council. Dr. Ramani will also lead the Doctoral Council, whose primary role will be to regularly review and support the enhancement and growth of the university’s PhD programs. Dr. Ramani maintains an active research group in the area of electrochemical energy conversion and storage, and teaches chemical engineering courses at both the graduate and undergraduate levels.