Kaushik Bhattacharya is the Howell N. Tyson, Sr., Professor of Mechanics and Materials Science and Caltech’s vice provost. His research focuses on the mechanical behavior of solids, and specifically uses theory to guide the development of new materials. Bhattacharya received his BTech degree from the Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, India; his PhD from the University of Minnesota; and completed postdoctoral training at the Courant Institute for Mathematical Sciences.

Michael Borrus is the founding General Partner of XSeed Capital (XSeed), where he invests in opportunities that span the technical continuum from autonomous systems to AI, blockchain applications, and where computer science intersects with other disciplines to disrupt large markets. He is a member of the UC Berkeley School of Mechanical Engineering External Advisory Board and a lecturer in the Haas School of Business. He has served on several National Academy of Science / National Research Council steering committees and currently serves on the board of trustees for the National Center for Women and Information Technology and the Bay Area Council Economic Institute.

Case Cortese is the director for innovation, new ventures and entrepreneurship in Caltech’s Office of Technology Transfer and Corporate Partnerships (OTTCP). Cortese has been in OTTCP since 2006, working closely with Caltech faculty and other inventors to provide advice on startups, intellectual property, and licensing issues. She has over ten years of experience drafting and negotiating option and license agreements with both startups and established companies, as well as collaboration agreements, confidentiality agreements, material transfer agreements, and research agreements. Cortese has a PhD in molecular genetics and microbiology from the University of Florida and a BA in biology from Franklin & Marshall College.

Fred Farina (MS ’92), Caltech’s chief innovation and corporate partnerships officer, directs the Office of Technology Transfer and Corporate Partnerships (OTTCP). He leads OTTCP’s efforts to facilitate and manage the transfer of technologies created by scientists and engineers at Caltech and JPL to the commercial sector and to establish and maintain partnerships in support of scientific collaborations between Caltech and industry.

Viviana Gradinaru (BS ’05) is a professor of neuroscience and biological engineering, Heritage Medical Research Institute Investigator, and director of the Center for Molecular and Cellular Neuroscience at Caltech. Her work is focused on the development and application of neuronal activity readout and control tools such as optogenetics and tissue clearing to dissect circuitry underlying movement, mood, and sleep disorders. She pursues research to engineer harmless viruses into shuttles that can deliver desired genes into targeted populations of cells, including brain
Alice Jacobs is a physician entrepreneur and was Caltech’s 2019 entrepreneur-in-residence. Jacobs has also served as an advisor to Third Rock Ventures, GE Healthcare Ventures, Greybird Ventures and Essex Management providing guidance including diligence, financing, strategy, corporate development, technology transfer, marketplace fit, and regulatory compliance. She has assisted in raising over $100 million in financings for businesses and holds ten patents. Jacobs has been recognized by Scientific American as one of the top 50 innovators and by the World Economic Forum as a Young Global Leader.

Dave Licata is President and CEO of 1200 Pharma, a Caltech startup that’s working to dramatically accelerate preclinical drug discovery and clinical approval timelines. Starting in 2015, he served as Caltech’s first Entrepreneur in Residence for two years. In this role, Licata utilized his hands-on knowledge about how to create, run, and sell technology-based start-ups to facilitate the commercialization of technologies developed at Caltech and NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory through the launch of start-up companies. He has extensive experience in start-up patent strategy, in-licensing, out-licensing, team creation, operational management, financing, and company exit through acquisition.

Axel Scherer is Caltech’s Bernard Neches Professor of Electrical Engineering, Applied Physics and Physics. Holding more than 100 patents in the area of nanofabrication and device design, Scherer’s research focuses on the application of microfabrication to integrated microsystems. He has pioneered microcavity lasers and filters, and now his group works on integration of microfluidic chips with electronic, photonic and magnetic sensors. Recently, his lab has specialized in developing sensors and diagnostic tools that can be used for lowcost point-of-care disease detection as well as precision health monitoring.

Mikhail Shapiro is a professor of chemical engineering and a Heritage Medical Research Institute Investigator at Caltech. Shapiro, who received his PhD from MIT in 2008, engineers biological molecules with unusual physical properties and, using noninvasive tools such as ultrasound and magnetic imaging, employs them to image and manipulate the ways cells and molecules work. He has been the recipient of a Packard Fellowship, a Distinguished Scientist Award from the Sontag Foundation, and a Pew Biomedical Fellowship.

Richmond Wolf (MS ’94, PhD ’97) is a partner at Capital World Investors, a division of Capital Research and Management, where he covers medical technology, real estate investment trusts, and solar power in the United States. Before he joined Capital in 2006, Wolf was the assistant vice president for technology transfer at Caltech. A registered patent agent, he has aided start-up companies from Caltech and JPL with business and product development. From 2011 through 2016, Wolf served as a Young Alumni Trustee on the Caltech Board of Trustees, where he was vice chair of the technology transfer committee. He is now serving as a trustee again, as of January 2019.