Panel Chair Statement

COMSNETS 2019
December 21, 2018

We welcome you to the 2019 edition of COMSNETS' panel discussions where we have a nexus of academia, industry, and policy-makers speaking on the following three topics:

1. *Man versus Machine: Humans Need Not Apply*

2. *AI could solve the world's healthcare problems and that too at scale!*

3. *Blockchain can be the backbone of India's Economy*

We are excited to cover topics that are of interest to both the Indian and the global audience and in some sense highlight different facets of "networks", whether they be:

- Networks of humans and drones or IoT sensors, co-existing or eventually competing, as AI moves on from "Artificial Narrow Intelligence" to "Artificial General Intelligence" and finally to "Artificial Super Intelligence". **(PANEL 1)**

- Artificial Intelligence enriching healthcare by integrating -omics datasets (often in the form of networks, whether they be gene regulatory networks or protein-protein interactomes) or electronic healthcare records (EHRs) in networked databases. **(PANEL 2)**

- Distributed ledgers of networked nodes that can record, share, and synchronize transactions, organizing data into blocks and how the use cases of blockchain that have evolved from these networks may (or may not) change the face of the Indian economy. **(PANEL 3)**

Further, we believe the topics call for both technical insights and for policy and ethical challenges that govern the right use of the technology to benefit the society without riding roughshod over privacy and computational sustainability for example.

From our selection and views of our panelists, our hope is that you will come away with deeper understanding and insights on the panel topics and will also be able to hold your own as a more educated variant of the initial version of your being, which was possibly a tad befuddled by the pros and cons of the technologies in question, before the panels.

Further, a new feature this year is that short write-ups on each panel will be submitted as 3 separate vision articles to widely read Computer Science technical magazines.

We welcome you to lively panel programming.