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**NOVA ‘A.I. REVOLUTION’**

 **WINTER 2024 TCA PRESS TOUR PANELIST BIOS**

**(IN ALPHABETICAL ORDER):**

**ALEXANDER AMINI, PH.D.**

**Postdoctoral Researcher, the MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL) and co-founder/Chief Scientific Officer, Themis AI, Inc.**

Dr. Alexander Amini is the co-founder and the Chief Scientific Officer of Liquid AI as well as an AI Scientist at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) — where he is building advanced algorithms for safe and trustworthy artificial intelligence (AI). His breakthrough technology trains AI systems to be aware of their own risks and when they should not be trusted. His inventions have been deployed on autonomous vehicles, medical drug discovery, and across domains that require AI to make responsible and reliable decisions. Amini received his Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD degrees all from MIT in Computer Science, and is the creator, lead organizer, and lecturer of MIT Introduction to Deep Learning, MIT's official introductory course on deep learning, where his lectures have amassed over 10 million views from over 100,000 globally registered students.

**JULIA CORT**

**Co-Executive Producer, NOVA**

**(she/her)**

Julia Cort, together with Co-EP Chris Schmidt, oversees the long-running PBS science series NOVA, produced by GBH. Since joining NOVA, Julia has contributed to more than two hundred films and digital videos, covering everything from quantum mechanics to genetic engineering to climate change. She has developed and overseen some of NOVA’s most acclaimed episodes, mini-series, and digital content, including“**Ultimate Space Telescope,” “The Cannabis Question,” “Looking for Life on Mars,” “Decoding COVID-19,” “Polar Extremes,” “NOVA Wonders,” and “Antarctic Extremes**.” In her quest to make complex science engaging for all, Julia has traveled deep underground to investigate the hunt for dark matter, waded into leech-infested swamps, and attempted to re-create the technological feats of ancient engineers. Her work has been honored with the George Foster Peabody Award, the National Academies Keck Communication Award, the AAAS Science Journalism Award, the Alfred I. duPont-Columbia Award, and the News & Documentary Emmy.

**PETRINA KAMYA, PH.D.**

**VP and Global Head of AI Platforms and President of Insilico Medicine, Canada**

Petrina Kamya, Ph.D., is the VP, and Global Head of AI Platforms and President of Insilico Medicine Canada, overseeing Insilico’s end-to-end generative AI-driven drug discovery platform, Pharma.AI. Before joining Insilico, Dr. Kamya's career spanned many key stages of the drug discovery value chain from the early stages to commercialization. She holds a Ph.D. in chemistry and a BS in biochemistry from Concordia University.

 **MILES O’BRIEN**

**Emmy and Peabody Award-Winning Correspondent**

Miles O’Brien is a veteran, independent journalist who focuses on science, technology, and aerospace.

He is the science correspondent for the PBS *NewsHou*r, a producer, director, writer, and correspondent for the PBS documentary programs NOVA and FRONTLINE and an aviation analyst for CNN. He owns MOBIAS Media, Inc., a production company that creates award-winning documentary films primarily for PBS as well as several educational and corporate clients.

For nearly seventeen of his forty years in the news business, he was a staff correspondent and anchor with CNN, based in Atlanta and New York. He served as the science, environment, and aerospace correspondent and the anchor of various programs, including American Morning.

While at CNN, O’Brien secured a deal with NASA to become the first journalist to fly on the space shuttle to the International Space Station. The project ended with the loss of Columbia and her crew in 2003 – a story he told to the world in a critically acclaimed sixteen-hour marathon of live coverage.

Prior to joining CNN, he worked as a reporter at television stations in St. Joseph, Missouri, Albany, New York, Tampa, Florida, and Boston, Massachusetts. He began his television career as a desk assistant at WRC-TV in Washington, DC.

O’Brien is an instrument-rated pilot with more than 2,600 hours logged in numerous aircraft types. His interest in aviation was sparked as a boy flying in the right seat beside his private pilot father.

He has won numerous awards over the years, including six Emmys, a Peabody and a DuPont.

He has produced, written and directed ten films for PBS NOVA: **“Mind of a Rampage Killer” (2013), “Manhunt Boston Bombers” (2013), “Megastorm Aftermath” (2013), “Why Planes Vanish” (2014), “Nuclear Meltdown Disaster” (2015), “Fifteen Years of Terror” (2016)**, **“The Nuclear Option” (2017), “Inside the Megafire” (2019), “The Great Electric Airplane Race” (2021)**, and **“Chasing Carbon Zero” (2023).**

He also produced, wrote and directed FRONTLINE **“Coronavirus Pandemic”** (2020) and was a writer and correspondent for four FRONTLINES: **“Flying Cheap”** (2010), **“Flying Cheaper”** (2011), **“Nuclear Aftershocks”** (2012), and **“Dollars and Dentists”** (2012).

In February of 2014, a heavy equipment case fell on his forearm while he was on assignment. He developed Acute Compartment Syndrome, which necessitated the emergency amputation of his left arm above the elbow. Despite the loss of his arm, he has completed two marathons, several ultra-distance bike rides, a half Ironman, and has been re-certified to pilot airplanes.

Born in Detroit and raised in Grosse Pointe Farms, Michigan, he is based in Falmouth, Massachusetts. He was a history major at Georgetown University. Miles has two grown children. His son is a U.S. Navy Lieutenant stationed in Sigonella, Italy, and his daughter is a social worker in New York City.

**ADDITIONAL ON-SITE PRODUCER:**

**CHRIS SCHMIDT**

**Co-Executive Producer, NOVA**

Chris is an award-winning producer and director of documentaries and factual television series. Along with Co-Ep Julia Cort, Chris oversees NOVA’s development team in creating new multi-hour projects in collaboration with U.S. filmmakers and international co-producers. Since joining NOVA in 2012 he has developed and guided more than 100 ground-breaking films and series including “**The Planets,” “Black Hole Apocalypse,” “Great Math Mystery,” “Einstein’s Quantum Riddle,” “Hunting The Elements,” “Human Nature,” “Arctic Sinkholes,” “Alaskan Dinosaurs**” and “**Zero to Infinity.”**Prior to working full-time at NOVA Chris was an independent filmmaker and executive producer making programs for factual networks including Discovery, National Geographic, History, Animal Planet and PBS. In love with stories of human ingenuity and discovery, Chris’s curiosity and persistence have led him up Chinese construction cranes, into the Sahara Desert in search of whale skeletons, catapulted him off an aircraft carrier and made it possible to hang out with some of the world’s most dedicated scientists, mathematicians and engineers. His work has received the prestigious Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia University Award, the AAAS Gold Kavli Science Journalism award, the Cine Golden Eagle, and many nominations for the News and Documentary Emmy Award.

A graduate of Northwestern University and University of Chicago, Chris currently lives in Concord, Massachusetts.

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