iCORE
ALBERTA INFORMATICS
CIRCLE OF RESEARCH EXCELLENCE

Alberta
INNOVATION AND SCIENCE

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"Research in nanotechnology and artificial intelligence is being put into increasing use worldwide, and with today's iCORE research awards, we can proudly say that some of the world's leading researchers in these technologies call Alberta home."

Innovation and Science Minister Victor Doerksen

Two new iCORE awards launch $10 million labs in nanotechnology and artificial intelligence

EDMONTON – Two new high profile iCORE research awards are being announced today during a lunch ceremony at the University of Alberta, marking two more areas in which Alberta is developing clusters of information and communications technology (ICT) research excellence. Dr Jonathan Schaeffer is Chair of the iCORE High Performance Artificial Intelligence Systems Laboratory. Dr Michael Brett and Dr Mark Freeman share leadership of the iCORE Nanoscale Engineering Physics Initiative as Senior Research Fellows.

"Visionary researchers like Drs Schaeffer, Brett and Freeman are significant contributors to the University of Alberta's international reputation for excellence in research, and we are delighted to support the expansion of their research programs here," said Dr. Rod Fraser, President of the University of Alberta. "With the ongoing support of programs such as iCORE, and the energy and innovation of researchers like these, the University of Alberta continues to take a leading role in shaping our province's future."

Dr Jonathan Schaeffer is a professor of computing science who is well-known for his games-related artificial intelligence research. He will lead a team that includes several other faculty members, programmer/ analysts, almost a dozen graduate students, and a number of central industry partners. The ideas developed through this game-related research will have application in areas such as computational biology, in commercial products for research, as well as in the burgeoning interactive entertainment industry.

Dr Michael Brett and Dr Mark Freeman will collaborate on research to provide the building blocks for continued improvements in the density and speed of data storage. Dr Brett is a professor in electrical and computing engineering who specializes in engineering and controlling microstructures on a nanoscale. Dr Freeman is a professor of physics who has helped pioneer microscopy techniques to achieve a kind of "movie-making" for nanoscale processes. The research team will include several other faculty members working in nanotechnology at the U of A.

Each lab will operate a $5 million research program, with $2.5 invested by iCORE over five years.

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