University of Massachusetts Amherst
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VIRTUAL CENTER FOR SUPERNETWORKS CELEBRATES A QUARTER CENTURY WITH SYMPOSIUM NOV. 20-21

November 12, 2026



The Virtual Center for Supernetworks (https://supernet.isenberg.umass.edu/) at UMass Amherst will celebrate its 25th anniversary with a two-day symposium (https://supernet.isenberg.umass.edu/25th/Twenty-five.html) Nov. 20-21, bringing together researchers, academics and industry professionals to discuss the role of networks in addressing global challenges.

The symposium, hosted by the Isenberg School of Management (https://www.isenberg.umass.edu/), will feature keynote presentations, invited talks and a panel discussion exploring applications of network research in business, economics, supply chains, technology and international affairs.

Three keynote speakers will headline the event: Ina Ganguli (https://www.umass.edu/economics/about/directory/ina-ganguli), joint professor of economics and management at UMass Amherst; Tinglong Dai (https://carey.jhu.edu/faculty/faculty-directory/tinglong-dai-phd), Bernard T. Ferrari Professor of Business at Johns Hopkins Carey Business School; and Sergiy Butenko (https://engineering.tamu.edu/industrial/profiles/sbutenko.html), professor and Lillio Family Faculty Fellow in Industrial and Systems Engineering at Texas A&M University.

Friday's program will open with welcoming remarks from campus stakeholders including center founding director Anna Nagurney (https://www.isenberg.umass.edu/people/anna-nagurney), Eugene M. Isenberg Chair in Integrative Studies; Tilman Wolf (https://www.umass.edu/provost/about/directory/tilman-wolf), senior vice provost and deputy chancellor for operational and organizational strategies; Senay Solak (https://www.isenberg.umass.edu/people/senay-solak), John F. Smith Memorial Professor and Chair of the Department of Operations and Information Management; and Fousseni Chabi-Yo (https://www.isenberg.umass.edu/people/fousseni-chabi-yo), associate dean for research and doctoral programs and Berthiaume Endowed Professor in Business Administration.

Dai will deliver the first keynote, titled "Will AI Supercharge or Supersede Operations Research? OR at an Inflection Point." The presentation will examine the relationship between artificial intelligence and operations research.

Other presentations will address the societal impact of food-bank fresh-produce supply chains, global supply chain networks and labor, cluster analysis, blockchain applications in sustainable supply chains, and crop and cargo war risk insurance in Ukraine.

Butenko will present the afternoon keynote, “Optimization Approaches to Cluster Analysis in Networks.” The day will conclude with a panel discussion, “Challenges and Opportunities for Industry and Academia and How Networks Can Help.”

Saturday’s program will begin with Ganguli’s keynote, “How Does War and Conflict Shape Global Science Networks?” Additional presentations will examine sustainable urban supply chains, including crowdfunded logistics and parcel locker deployment, and the network effect of impact.

The Virtual Center for Supernetworks is marking a quarter-century of work focused on network theory and its applications across disciplines. The anniversary symposium will highlight the continued relevance of network research to complex societal, economic and technological issues.

Friday’s program is scheduled for 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.; Saturday’s program is scheduled for 9 a.m. to noon.

Virtual participation is open to all. Registration is free and available online (https://umass-amherst.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_zsawMKuRSFGPt9LiYYFUeQ#/registration). Due to space limitations, in-person registration is closed. Additional information is available through the Virtual Center for Supernetworks (https://supernet.isenberg.umass.edu/25th/Twenty-five.html).