



## Media alert

### **AUTM Annual Conference in Austin to Feature USPTO Director Andrei Iancu**

Andrei Iancu, Under Secretary of Commerce for Intellectual Property and Director of the United States Patent and Trademark Office (USPTO), will be a guest speaker at the AUTM Annual Meeting Fireside Chat, on **Sunday February 10, from 5:30- 6:30 p.m.**, at the **JW Marriott in Austin, Texas** where he will discuss recent changes to enhance the innovation ecosystem, and the future of the U.S. patent system.

In his role at the USPTO, Iancu provides leadership and oversight to one of the largest intellectual property offices in the world, with more than 12,000 employees and an annual budget of more than \$3 billion. He is the principal advisor to the Secretary of Commerce on domestic and international intellectual property policy matters.

**The media is invited to attend the Fireside Chat as well as the rest of the 4-day Meeting, which will also feature:**

Entrepreneur **Leah Busque**, who has devoted her career to building and scaling technology products that have improved the lives of millions of people around the globe. In 2008, she founded one of the most widely-recognized new consumer technology brands of the past decade with TaskRabbit, the pioneering on-demand marketplace company. Today, she is a General Partner at Fuel Capital, where she invests in early-stage start-ups. Fast Company named her one of the “100 Most Creative People in Business.” Busque will be the keynote speaker on Monday, February 11. [Learn more](#)

Senior leadership from prominent VC firms (**Jim Flynn**, Deerfield Management; **Jenna Foger**, Alexandria Real Estate Equities; **Carmichael Roberts**, Breakthrough Energy Ventures and Material Impact; and **Yoav Tzruya**, Jerusalem Venture Partners) will join moderator **Orin Herskowitz**, from Columbia Tech Ventures, to discuss the complex intersection of venture capital and university tech transfer. The panel discussion will be on Tuesday, February 12. [Learn more](#)

Robotist **Dr. Ayanna Howard**, the Linda J. and Mark C. Smith professor and Chair of the School of Interactive Computing at Georgia Institute of Technology. Her career focus is on intelligent technologies that must adapt to and function within a human-centered world. Her work encompasses advancements in artificial intelligence (AI), assistive technologies and robotics. She has been recognized as one of the 23 most powerful women engineers in the world by Business Insider. Howard will be the keynote speaker on Wednesday, February 13. [Learn more](#)

#### **About AUTM**

AUTM is the non-profit leader in efforts to educate, promote and inspire professionals, throughout their careers, to support the development of academic research that changes the world. AUTM's community is comprised of more than 3,000 members who work in more than 800 universities, research centers, hospitals, businesses and government organizations around the globe. To learn more, visit [www.AUTM.net](http://www.AUTM.net).

**For press credentials and complimentary Annual Meeting registration, please contact:**

Leef Smith Barnes  
AUTM Chief Marketing Officer  
703-870-4895  
[lsmithbarnes@autm.net](mailto:lsmithbarnes@autm.net)

The complete conference meeting schedule and other background can be found on AUTM's [Media Resource Center](#).