# KODLUYORUZ

# AI Advisory Board launched!

*We're called upon to be architects of the future; not its victims... – Buckminster Fuller*

Kodluyoruz, a social enterprise working to make Turkey a talent hub by creating pathways for driven people seeking careers in technology, formed an AI Advisory Board to create its AI talent development strategy.

While changing lives, AI is also projected to create 2.3 million related jobs by 2020 globally (Gartner). The disruptive potential is summarized by PwC: "No sector or business is in any way immune from the impact of AI.... The big question is how to secure the talent, technology and access to data to make the most of this opportunity."

We believe in the potential of youth in Turkey to lead new technological developments if we can invest in their talent in the right way and time. So, here we are with our Advisory Board who will help us create one of the most comprehensive AI talent development programs in Turkey!

## The Board members:

**Arkadaş Özakın** is a machine learning researcher and practitioner with over 15 years of experience in applying machine learning to scientific and technological problems. After receiving his PhD in theoretical physics from the California Institute of Technology, he embarked on a parallel career path in physics and machine learning, holding dual appointments as research faculty at the College of Computing and the Quantum Institute of Georgia Institute of Technology for about 9 years. He then moved to the Silicon Valley to join one of the earlier machine learning startups there, and continues to apply machine learning, statistics, and other quantitative techniques to various technological and industrial problems in the San Francisco Bay Area. In his spare time, he volunteers to teach remote courses and mentor young students in Turkey. He holds BSc degrees in Physics and Mathematics from Boğaziçi University.

**Aydın Akyol** is a Principal at Garanti Bank and manages the Enterprise Architecture efforts. Before joining Garanti Bank, he was in consultancy and worked for Accenture, Intellica, and Verifone. Aydin holds PhD degree in Computer Science from Istanbul Technical University (ITU), in the area of Machine Learning applications on Computer Vision. He has a Master's degree from Sabanci University in NLP & Bioinformatics. He also holds an Executive MBA degree from Koc University and Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from ITU.

**Cagri Hakan Zaman** is a computer scientist and a computational design expert. He is currently the research lead at MIT Virtual Experience Design Lab and a graduate research assistant at MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory. In his research, he explores the intersection of human perception of space and AI to develop AI systems that can learn from human experience and exhibit skills beyond object recognition and classification. Cagri holds a MSc in Architecture Studies (2014) and MSc in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science (2014) from MIT. Previously, he worked at various labs at MIT including MIT Design Lab and Sensible City Lab.
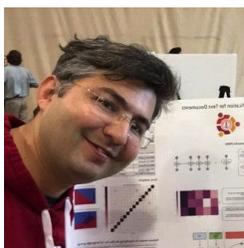
**Cetin Mericli,** Ph.D. is a co-founder and the CEO of Locomation. Formerly a Special Faculty – Commercialization Specialist at the National Robotics Engineering Center (NREC) of Carnegie Mellon's Robotics Institute, Dr. Meriçli has over 15 years of experience in developing and deploying complex robotic systems for real-world applications – and he has played key roles in over a dozen high profile applied robotics projects. His expertise can be read in over 40 publications on subjects covering his accomplishments including safe and efficient machine learning for robust robot autonomy and perception, robot learning from human demonstration and feedback, and interactive learning.

**Ece Kamar** is a senior researcher at the Adaptive Systems and Interaction group at Microsoft Research Redmond. She earned her Ph.D. in computer science from Harvard University where she was advised by Barbara Grosz. While at Harvard, she was awarded the Robert L. Wallace Prize Fellowship and Microsoft Research Graduate Research Fellowship. Her thesis focused on models and algorithms for effective human-computer teamwork. Ece's research is inspired by real-world problems with freedom to pursue long-term challenges in AI and lies at the intersection of AI and people.

**Ekin Dogus Cubuk** is a research scientist at Google Brain, working on deep learning as well as its applications to the physical sciences. He holds a B.S. in engineering and a B.A. in physics from Swarthmore College. He studied machine learning applications to atomistic systems at Harvard University where he received his M.A in physics and a PhD in applied physics. Before his current position at Google, he spent a year at Stanford University as a postdoctoral fellow to develop machine learning tools for materials design.

**Emrah Budur** is a fan of data science. He currently works as a Principal Software Engineer & Researcher at Garanti Technology, doing research on the state-of-art advancements in Natural Language Understanding. Emrah holds MSc degree in Computer Engineering at Bogazici University (2011) and completed Mining Massive Data Sets Graduate Certificate program at Stanford University (2016). He is currently pursuing his PhD at Bogazici University in Computer Engineering, focusing on NLP, Artificial Intelligence, Deep Learning, and Natural Language Understanding.

**Fatih Mehmet Güler** is the founder of PragmaCraft - a semantic technology startup. He is an experienced software engineer and AI researcher. He has been developing innovative software solutions for over a decade. He holds B.S. and M.S. degrees in Computer Engineering from Middle East Technical University. At PragmaCraft, Fatih is doing cutting edge research and development on Natural Language Processing and Deep Learning.

**Fırat Barış Kavlak** is the founding partner of Kavlak Law Firm. After completing his master's degree in the field of Private Law at Yeditepe University in 2006, he continued his career in the areas of corporate and commercial law. In 2006, he founded Kavlak Law Firm, and since then he has been carrying on providing counselling services on many areas including start-up law, angel investments, family owned companies and offices. Fırat guides the group on legal and ethical considerations of AI.

**Mustafa Ispir** has been working on AI at Google since 2013. He Led TensorFlow High Level API team and helped many Google products improve by Machine Learning. He is currently working on the intersection of AI and Health. Before joining Google, he worked at MilSoft, Aselsan and Synopsys. Mustafa holds an Electrical and Electronics Engineering degree from Middle East Technical University.

**Tekin Meriçli**, Ph.D. is a co-founder and CTO of Locomation. Prior to Locomation, he was a Special Faculty – Commercialization Specialist at the National Robotics Engineering Center (NREC) of Carnegie Mellon's Robotics Institute where he was also a Senior Robotics Engineer. Since 2003, Dr. Meriçli has been practicing systems engineering across a wide variety of robots and systems including autonomous and semi-autonomous ground vehicles, mapping, state estimation, and operator assist systems, perception and motion planning for ground and aerial robots, industrial automation and process improvement, wheeled tour guide and service robots, intelligent assistive robotic manipulators and search and rescue robots, and various legged robots.

**Tolga Kurtoglu** is the CEO of PARC, Silicon Valley R&D firm developing advanced technologies including artificial intelligence & human machine collaboration to microsystems and smart sensing, from IoT and cyber-physical security to novel printing and digital design. Dr. Kurtoglu oversees PARC's R&D investments for Xerox and its innovation portfolio for commercial clients and government agencies in a diverse set of focus areas and competencies. Motivated by his passion for bringing innovations to market, Dr. Kurtoglu specializes in leading cross-functional teams to apply science and technology to develop creative solutions to real-world problems. Since joining PARC in 2010, he has held various leadership roles focusing on R&D management, product strategy, and technology commercialization. In his early years at PARC, he pioneered the formation of PARC's digital design and manufacturing (DDM) program. Later he created and led the System Sciences Laboratory by building a technology portfolio across hardware, software, and process technologies. In both roles, he managed multi-million-dollar R&D investments and product strategy encompassing several platforms and market offerings, and led successful transition of inventions from an R&D output to commercial software systems and services. Prior to PARC, he was a researcher at NASA Ames Research Center, and a mechanical design engineer at Dell Corporation.