



IRFAN S. AHMAD, Ph.D.

1104 Micro and Nanotechnology Laboratory ([MNTL](#))

University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois 61801

isahmad@illinois.edu

Phone: 217-333-2015

Dr. Irfan Ahmad is currently Executive Director for Interdisciplinary Initiatives at the College of Engineering; Research Faculty at the Department of Agricultural and Biological Engineering; Resident Faculty at the Micro and Nanotechnology Laboratory; and Assistant Dean for Research, and Executive Director for the Health Maker Lab at the Carle Illinois College of Medicine at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He is a former Assistant Dean for Research at the College of Engineering ([COE](#)). He also is Co-PI/co-Site Director and Innovation Director for the NSF-Industry/University Cooperative Research Center for Advanced Research in Drying (CARD).

Dr. Ahmad obtained his B.Sc. from the University of Agriculture, Faisalabad, Pakistan, and M.S. and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Illinois, all in Agricultural Engineering ([ABE](#)). His postdoctoral work was conducted on crop and nitrate sensing at Agricultural Engineering Dept. under the aegis of CNH, and USDA respectively. His current research interests involve bionanotechnology, nanomedicine, sensors, agricultural machinery design, and precision agriculture. Other interests include strategic planning, innovation-based entrepreneurship, academia-industry partnerships, and strategic initiatives in higher education.

As an entrepreneur Dr. Ahmad was involved with [IT24](#), an information technology company, and Buruj, a sensors development startup, and more recently helped found Avicenna Community Health Center ([ACHC](#))- a social entrepreneurial endeavor, providing high quality culturally competent preventive and curative healthcare services to the uninsured residents; where he until recently served as the President of the Board of Directors; and continues to spearhead the integration of biomedical technologies at the clinic for broad societal impact. He also serves as a consultant to NanoSi Advanced Technology.

Dr. Ahmad firmly believes in intellectual and social exchanges and views learning as a two-way street for advancing societies and democratization of innovation. In pursuit of these ideas, he has initiated and served on several initiatives, forums, and panels (*such as robotic surgery; societal implications of nanotechnology; systems approach to addressing healthcare disparities, role of free clinics in the training of next-generation healthcare workforce, nano entrepreneurial panels, to name a few*), and has appeared on radio interviews, and delivered invited lectures in the U.S. and overseas.