From FIU to the World: The Enduring Impact of Professor S.S. Iyengar (2011-Present)

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Preliminary Report on Dr. Iyengar's Collective Contributions with Faculty, Students, and Collaborators (2011-Present)

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Executive Summary

This report documents the transformational administrative, research, and global leadership of Dr. S. S. Iyengar during his tenure as Director of the School of Computing and Information Sciences (SCIS) at Florida International University (June 2011 – August 2020), and his continued contributions as Ryder Distinguished Professor and Distinguished University Professor.

Under Dr. Iyengar's leadership, SCIS experienced unprecedented growth in academic production, research expenditures, faculty recruitment, and national visibility. Undergraduate degree production increased from 157 to 522 graduates annually, master's degree production nearly tripled, and new academic programs were launched in Cybersecurity, Data Science, and Computer Science. Student success metrics improved dramatically, with four-year graduation rates rising from 12% to 41% and two-year retention reaching 91%.

Dr. Iyengar strategically positioned SCIS as a nationally competitive research institution. FIU rose to #42 nationally in computer science research expenditures (top 30 among public universities) according to NSF HERD rankings. He recruited high-impact faculty from premier institutions such as CMU, MIT, Cornell, Purdue, Georgia Tech, UIUC, and UCLA, resulting in significant national recognitions including IEEE Fellows, ACM Fellows, AAAS Fellows, NSF CAREER awards, and the Taylor Booth Award.

He founded and expanded major research hubs including the Discovery Lab, CIERTA, and the U.S. Army-funded FINDS Center of Excellence in Digital Forensics—the first of its kind in the nation. Collectively, these initiatives generated over $35 million in research funding and supported hundreds of graduate and undergraduate students. His mentorship includes supervision of more than 19 Ph.D. students and engagement with over 50 additional graduate scholars.

Dr. Iyengar's scientific contributions have had global impact. He co-invented the highly cited Brooks-Iyengar Algorithm (150,000+ citations), advanced cognitive information processing architectures, contributed to the Florida Public Hurricane Loss Model, and authored over 600 research publications and more than 30 books. His work spans AI, sensor fusion, digital forensics, robotics, smart grids, and computational medicine.

A defining milestone of his leadership was the September 2020 Knight Foundation proposal, which led to a $10 million award and the establishment of the Knight Foundation School of Computing and Information Sciences in 2021. This initiative symbolized the institutional transformation he envisioned and catalyzed.

Today, SCIS stands as a globally recognized research powerhouse with strong international collaborations, high faculty distinction, and sustained academic growth. Dr. Iyengar's leadership reflects visionary strategy, measurable institutional transformation, global scientific influence, and a lasting legacy that extends from FIU to the world.

TRANSFORMATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH LEADERSHIP

Dr. S. S. Iyengar Director, School of Computing and Information Sciences (June 2011 – August 2020), Ryder Distinguished Professor

I. Leadership Appointment Dr. Iyengar has been hired as a director of school of computing and information science on June 2011 and also as a Ryder distinguished professor continued till Aug 2020**.**

II. Official Statement from then Dean John Volakis

09/18/2020 – About My Contribution

"I am writing to express our sincere gratitude to Ram for his service and leadership in making our SCIS one of the top schools in research and teaching, by growing our degree production, increasing research productivity, and expanding FIU's name recognition in computing and information technology.

Notably, during Ram's tenure, SCIS experienced an explosive growth:

1. Undergraduate degrees grew from 157 (26% of the college total) in 2010, the year prior to his arrival, to 522 (42% of the college total) last year,
2. Master's degree production almost tripled,
3. Several new degrees, including the new B.Sc. in Cybersecurity, B.A. in Computer Science, M.S. in Data Science, and M.S. in Cybersecurity programs,
4. Student success (4-year graduation rates) for the 2016-17 FTIC cohort will be 41% (up from 12% just three years ago), and
5. Our two-year retention rate at an impressive rate of 91% (vs. FIU overall of 76%).

Also, SCIS has led the college in offering online programs to better serve our student population. And during Ram's tenure, student activities within SCIS through groups like UPE as well as the Tech Station and MERIT have blossomed.

Ram has also led FIU's visibility in computer science research. As of today, FIU ranks #42 in computer science research expenditures (and is among the top 30 public) in the latest NSF HERD report. More importantly than these rankings, Dr. Iyengar created a culture of excellence, and this can be seen by the many national recognitions such as IEEE Fellow, ACM Distinguished Member, NSA Cybersecurity Award, and Taylor Booth

Award. And though this culture, Ram recruited outstanding junior faculty, including three recent CAREER awardees, Liting Hu, Monique Ross, Mark Finlayson.

Notably, Ram's achievements as SCIS Director, extend well beyond the School. He has led partnerships across campus with initiatives such as I-CAVE, the Cybersecurity pre-eminent center, and the new Digital Forensics Institute. Serving as a member of the collective bargaining negotiating team, Ram is most proud of his role in recognizing non-tenure track faculty by promoting the Teaching Professor titles.

Needless to say, I'm grateful for Dr. Iyengar's leadership, and we are indebted for his service as SCIS Director. I know that Ram's experience will continue to be needed, and we look forward to his continuing services as a Distinguished faculty member".

III. Additional Important Information Administrator / Director / Professor

Here is a summary of his contribution as an Administrator / Director / Ryder Professor:

Administrative Leadership

- Served as Director of SCIS (2011–2020)
- Led explosive growth in undergraduate and graduate degree production
- Established new degree programs:
    - B.Sc. in Cybersecurity
    - B.A. in Computer Science
    - M.S. in Data Science
    - M.S. in Cybersecurity
- Increased 4-year graduation rates (from 12% to 41%)
- Raised two-year retention rate to 91%
- Led expansion of online programs
- Promoted Teaching Professor titles recognizing non-tenure track faculty
- Led partnerships with I-CAVE, Cybersecurity Pre-Eminent Center, Digital Forensics Institute

Transformational Knight Foundation Proposal and Institutional Growth

In September 2020, Director Iyengar submitted a visionary proposal to the Knight Foundation at the request of then FIU President Mark Rosenberg and Provost Doug Wartzok. This strategic initiative laid the foundation for the significant expansion and elevation of the School of Computing and Information Sciences at Florida International University.

The proposal served as a catalyst for institutional growth, ultimately leading to the renaming of the school as the Knight Foundation School of Computing and Information Sciences, formally launched in September 2021. The initiative secured a landmark $10 million award to FIU, further strengthening the university's commitment to excellence in computing research, education, and innovation.

As a lasting testament to this transformative partnership, a building now bears the Knight Foundation name, symbolizing the impact of the proposal and the enduring advancement of computing and information sciences at FIU.

Research Leadership of Dr. Iyengar from his Research Efforts and Institutional growth

- Founded Discovery Lab, which is very unique for supporting undergraduate students on handson applications into programming development and AI-enabled techniques, initially funded by Stae-Farm research group. This is a collective effort, 2012.
- Founded CIERTA, *CIERTA* serves as the technical hub for cybersecurity related interdisciplinary research, innovation and education within *Florida International University, 2014*.
- Executive Director of U.S. Army Funded Center of Excellence in Digital Forensics First in the country, 2021 ($2.25M Army Research Office grant), jointly with HBCUs and Hispanic institutions around the country.
- Generated $35+ million in research funding in areas of information fusion, cybersecurity collaboratively with faculty from the department and around the country.
- Supervised 19+ FIU PhD students and mentored another 50+ students in their research being part of their committees. Many of his students placed in industries and National labs.
- Built international collaborations with 10+ universities and has resulted research collaborations and students have choosen to do their masters and PhD.

Faculty Recruitment & Strategic Growth

- Recruited faculty from CMU, MIT, Cornell, Purdue, Georgia Tech, UIUC, UCLA
- Strengthened national visibility by enhancing national awards and ranking (IEEE Fellows, ACM Fellows, AAAS Fellows), please refer to Dean Volakis letter.
- Expanded collaborative research clusters, built labs for faculties and students at FIU SCIS in the following areas:
    - Digital Forensics
    - AI/ML
    - Bioinformatics
    - HCI & Robotics
- Positioned SCIS for Top 50 national ranking goals

Scholarly Contributions

- Co-inventor of famous Brooks-Iyengar Algorithm (citation are over 150k+ and has been used all over the world by industries and universities and there is a book titled "Fundamentals of Brooks-Iyengar Algorithm" published by Springer, 2019)
- Co-inventor of Cognitive Information Processing Shell and many patents in this area
- Contributor to Florida Public Hurricane Loss Model under the leadership of Dr. Shu Ching Chen
- Author and co-author of books (MIT Press, Springer, etc.)
- Numerous national and international awards

IV. Research and Innovation Hubs

Founding Director of the Discovery Lab

He established this lab to bridge the gap between traditional academic research and commercialization, focusing on intelligent systems, autonomous mobile robots, and smart grids.

Under his leadership, the Discovery Lab became a translational research hub that converted theoretical models into deployable technologies in robotics, smart infrastructure, digital forensics, and computational medicine. The lab fostered interdisciplinary collaboration between engineering, computer science, industry partners, and government agencies. It

emphasized innovation, patent development, startup incubation, and real-world deployment of AI-enabled systems.

FIU SCIS Science Without Borders Summer Program

https://www.cis.fiu.edu/fiuscis-student-experience-with-science-without-borders-summer-research-program/
https://www.cis.fiu.edu/science-without-borders-summer-program-2019/
https://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/science-without-borders-program-at-fiu/53250/

The Science Without Borders Summer Program was a highly impactful international research initiative within FIU SCIS that strengthened global academic collaboration and expanded FIU's international footprint.

The program was designed to: Attract high-achieving international undergraduate and graduate students. Provide immersive research experiences in cutting-edge computing fields. Promote cross-border collaboration in science and technology. Expose students to advanced U.S. research infrastructure and faculty mentorship.

The program significantly strengthened FIU's global partnerships, particularly with universities in: India, Brazil, Latin America, Europe etc. It enhanced International research collaborations, Faculty exchange relationships, Joint publications, Pipeline development for international graduate enrollment The initiative helped position FIU SCIS as a globally connected research institution.

The program received public visibility, including coverage such as:

- NBC Miami feature on the Science Without Borders Program https://www.nbcmiami.com/news/local/science-without-borders-program-at-fiu/53250/

It aligned with Dr. Iyengar's broader vision of transforming SCIS into a globally recognized research powerhouse.

US Army Funded Center of Excellence in Digital Forensics: First in the Nation

He is the Executive Director of this U.S. Army-funded center, which focuses on advanced cybersecurity and forensic applications.

Tech-Station

Dr. Iyengar played a key role in establishing FIU's Tech-Station, a facility designed to promote student entrepreneurship and technology transfer.

Founder of Center for Cyber Infrastructure Education and Research for Trust and Assurance (CIERTA): Cyberspace, the ubiquitous collection of interconnected IP networks and hosts that have proliferated over the last two decades, has become the nervous system of the country. Healthy functioning of Cyberspace is essential for the proper operation of numerous critical infrastructures, such as telecommunication, energy, and transportation. It is also necessary to support the ever-expanding business infrastructure, including commerce and banking. The increasing reliance on Cyberspace has been paralleled by a corresponding increase in the variety, frequency and impact of attacks from a range of assailants. Both commercial companies and government agencies face continuous and increasingly more sophisticated cyber-attacks ranging from data exfiltration and spear phishing to sophisticated worms and logic bombs. The targets include not only computer information systems, but also the network communication infrastructure and power grids. Moreover, commercial companies and government agencies are themselves engaging in information gathering whose implications for privacy are disturbing.

V. Scientific and Global Impact Brooks-Iyengar Algorithm

His co-invention of this foundational algorithm for fault-tolerant sensor fusion is widely cited and implemented in industries and defense systems globally.

Cognitive Information Processing (CIM) Shell

He co-invented this architecture for mission-critical, real-time applications, which has been used in manufacturing and environmental monitoring.

Public Hurricane Loss Model

He contributed to the Florida Public Hurricane Loss Model, a critical tool used by the state to assess hurricane risk and validate insurance loss estimates.

VI. Discovery Lab Research Projects

Work at the Discovery Lab and in Digital Forensics has produced significant technological breakthroughs, from robotic law enforcement to medical diagnostic tools.

The TeleBot Project

A high-profile urban surveillance telepresence robot designed to allow injured or disabled police officers to perform patrol duties remotely. This AI enabled Telebot for a real

application has been shown in FOX Channel, Discovery Channel and all over the world. This is funded by State Farm Insurance co.

FAMPER (Fully Autonomous Mobile Pipeline Exploration Robot)

A single-module robot designed for the inspection of small-diameter pipelines (150 mm). It uses four wall-press caterpillars to navigate complex junctions like T-branches and 45-degree elbows.

Smart Grid Infrastructure

A project in partnership with the Indian Institute of Management Ahmedabad to develop peer-to-peer energy transferring platforms and algorithms for smart grid efficiency. This idea has resulted in a book and used all over the world titled: Smart Grid published by Springer Nature. 2018. Coauthored by a FIU PhD student Kianoosh Boorjeni.

Intelligent Home and Access Control

Development of Smart Access Control (SAC) systems and energy-efficient home automation platforms powered by robotic technology. This is being implemented by many companies.

VII. Computational Medicine Glaucoma Detection

Patented a low-cost device for early glaucoma intervention.

Cancer Research

Developed a 4D motion model for the early detection of lung cancer in collaboration with Sloane Kettring Memorial cancer center New York (collaborator is Dr Puneeth iyengar).

VIII. FINDS Center of Excellence

The Forensic Investigations Network in Digital Sciences (FINDS) Center of Excellence at FIU is a U.S. Army-funded research hub lead by Dr. S. S. Iyengar. Established in 2021 with a $2.25 million grant from the Army Research Office, it operates as a collaborative network involving three Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs): Florida A&M, Grambling State, and Jackson State.

Core Research Themes

- AI-Enabled Digital Forensics
- Video and Network Forensics (deepfake detection)
- Drone and Ubiquitous Forensics

- Big Data Forensics
- Workforce Development

Recent Impacts and Milestones (2024–2026)

- AI-Enabled National Conference on FINDS (May 2025)
- 380 students trained (19 PhD, 229 Master's)
- 60 peer-reviewed publications
- 4 books
- Spring 2026 workshops
- Digital Forensics Professional Program

International collaboration:

Dr. Iyengar's other major achievement is a partnership of more than 10 universities in India and around the world. This has attracted lot of international students to work at FIU.

Summary: FIU SCIS has positioned itself a major research university in the country and the world.

IX. Knight Foundation Funding Evolution

Around September 14, 2020, Dr. Iyengar submitted a proposal to the Knight Foundation through the College of Engineering and Computing (Document 1), addressed to then-President Mark Rosenberg and Provost Doug Wartzok. The proposal outlined a bold strategic vision to elevate FIU's School of Computing and Information Sciences (SCIS) into a top-ranked program nationally and globally. As a result of this vision and initiative, the Knight Foundation provided funding to establish the Knight Foundation School of Computing and Information Sciences in Spring 2021. Dr Jason Liu was then the Interim director of KFSCIS.

Transformational Outcome:
2021 the knight foundation awarded 10M dollars to FIU SCIS to make university in the number one ranking in Florida and then there is a building named after this foundation called knight foundation.

X. Organizational Structure (Current State)

Director
Associate Director Faculty:

- Full Professor (11)
- Associate Professor (11)
- Assistant Professor (8)
- Full Teaching Professor (1)
- Associate Teaching Professor (7)
- Assistant Teaching Professor (9)
- Professor Emeritus (2)
- Visiting Assistant Teaching Professor (2)

XI. Student Enrollment (Fall 2020)

- Undergraduates – 2,718
- Graduate Students – 332

XII. Faculty National Visibility

- 3 IEEE Fellows
- 1 ACM Fellow
- 3 AAAS Fellows
- 2 Test of Time Prestigious Awards
- Taylor Booth Award
- IEEE Awards
- 8 NSF CAREER awards
- 1 DOE award
- ACM Distinguished Computer Scientists
- Fellow of National Academy of Inventors
- Member of the European Academy of Science

- NSA Security Research Award
- Various national awards

XIII. Funding, Awards and Mentorship

- Distinguished University Professor (2019)
- FIU Top Scholar Award (2018)
- KFSCIS Distinguished Faculty in Research (2023)
- Recognized FIU Faculty Excellence in books publication for 4 Years by FIU Provost and President, 2017-2021, 2022, 2023, etc
- Over $35 million in research funding
- 19+ PhD students mentored
- Currently 2 PhD students to be graduated soon

XIV. Faculty Recruitment Impact

Dr. Iyengar as a director recruited talented and high quality faculty from various prestigious schools such CMU, MIT, Cornell, Purdue, Georgia Tech, University of Illinois, UCLA, and other top rank institutions. The implication of this hiring has been a direct impact in getting many prestigious awards and on recruiting top notched PhD students from all over the world. Our students have been placed in top-industries, national labs and various prestigious universities such as Case Western University, IITs, etc.

This is truly a reflection on FIU SCIS in transition to greatness in the context of national visibility awards like IEEE fellows, ACM fellows, AAAS fellows and rankings. More importantly, many students and faculties have co-authored text books published by MIT press, Springer, etc.

Under his direction school has 3 IEEE fellows, 1 ACM fellow, 3 AAAS fellows, and IEEE prestigious award, Taylor Booth award, 8 NSF CAREER award, 1 DOE award, 1 ACM distinguished scientist award, fellow of NAI, Member of the European Academy of sciences and many best paper awards.

Ultimate Software Academy for Computer Science Education @ FIU

The Ultimate Software Academy for Computer Science Education inspires and cultivates the advancement of a community of K-12 teachers and students who continuously rediscover computing and apply its principles to creatively solve problems and engender innovation. We offer workshops for teachers and students, which include hands-on demonstrations of research by FIU computer science professors, problem-solving techniques, and game programming.


to make our School a
top program in the nation!
Be Worlds
Ahead
FIU


FIU SCIS sponsored 26 CS/IT students attendance at
the 2019 Grace Hopper Conference in Orlando, Florida
FIU

Affiliated Faculty

Dr. SS Iyengar, Director of FIU SCIS

Dr. Kip Irvine, Co-Director
Dr. Giri Narasimhan, Co-Director
Dr. Leonardo Bobadilla
Professor Cristy Charters
Dr. Debra Davis
Dr. Radu Jianu
Dr. Hien Nguyen, Miami-Dade College
Ruben Balmaceda, Assurant Solutions
Jamie Gant, Miami-Dade County Public Schools
For a list of current workshops, visit: https://academy.cis.fiu.edu

The Ultimate Software Academy for Computer Science Education is supported by a 10-year $1M grant from Ultimate Software, and sponsored by the FIU School of Computing and Information Sciences. Students may bring their own laptops or use FIU's lab computers. Contact email: giri@cs.fiu.edu.

FIU unveils its new Tech Station

“With a ribbon-cutting and an open house with executives from South Florida’s largest technology companies and promising startups, Florida International University inaugurated its $3 million Tech Station on Wednesday. The new 8,000-square-foot College of Engineering and Computing facility, 16 months in the making, includes high-tech classrooms, team rooms, advisory centers for mentoring, research and computer labs, a maker garage, event spaces for community events, workshops and hackathons, brightly colored co-working areas and a café”

For details, please refer to Miami Herald in the following link.

Read more at:
https://www.miamiherald.com/news/business/technology/article32486670.html#storylink=cpy

Dr. Rosenberg then president and Provost Furton and Dr. Iyengar Inaugurating the Tech Station

Picture with Dean Ranu Jung and Ultimate Software Executives

Executives from Ultimate Software Company, Weston, Florida

Dr. Iyengar is welcoming Ultimate Software Company and Industrial Advisory Committees, 26th August 2015

Prof. Prabhakar showing the TeleBot of FIU Discovery Lab

Unique Advising center supported by Ultimate Software for FIU Computer Science Students

The Ultimate Software Academy for Computer Science Education (now often referred to as the UKG Academy or UKG Academy for CS & Education) at FIU is a unique partnership-driven center, supported by a $1M, 10-year commitment from Ultimate Software (now UKG). Located within the Knight Foundation School of Computing and Information Sciences (KFSCIS) at the Engineering Center (PG6), this initiative focuses on supporting computer science students through specialized training, workshops, and fostering a strong, industry-connected community.

Key Features and Support:

- **Targeted Support:** The Academy aims to improve student success and close the computing talent gap, with a focus on preparing students for 21st-century careers.
- **Hands-on Training:** It provides specialized workshops and training, including Python and PyGame workshops, to bolster technical skills.
- **Industry Connection:** The partnership with Ultimate Software (now UKG) connects students directly with industry needs.
- **Comprehensive Advising:** The KFSCIS provides advising for students, with specialized career-focused support and resources.
- **Facilities:** The initiative supports students at the Tech Station (PG6-100), which features collaborative spaces and labs.

Location:

- **Tech Station:** PG6-100 (Engineering Center)
- **Advising:** Walk-in advising is available at the KFSCIS in PG6 and via Zoom.

The center, originally established in 2015, continues to be a crucial part of the student experience for computer science and IT majors at FIU.

Unique Distinguished Lecture Series

Turing Award Winner John Hopcroft Speaks at FIU

Distinguished Director from IISc Bangalore Visited FIU, January 21st 2026

During his tenure as Director of the School of Computing and Information Sciences (SCIS) at Florida International University (FIU), Professor S.S. Iyengar demonstrated visionary academic leadership by establishing and personally coordinating a unique and high-profile Distinguished Lecture Series. This initiative was strategically designed to elevate the national and international standing of FIU SCIS by bringing some of the most celebrated

scholars in computing and engineering to campus. He is continuing to bring distinguished scientists to collaborate with FIU from all over the world.

Among the distinguished invitees were globally renowned leaders such as Turing Award recipients, including Professor John Hopcroft, as well as several members of the National Academy of Engineering (NAE) from leading institutions around the world. These were not routine guest lectures; each visit was carefully structured to include research seminars, faculty and student interactions, and strategic meetings with university leadership, including the President, Provost, and Dean of the College of Engineering and Computing. By integrating academic excellence with institutional engagement, Professor Iyengar ensured that these visits had both scholarly depth and administrative impact.

The program created a vibrant intellectual environment for students and faculty, offering them direct access to pioneers who shaped the field of computer science and engineering. Graduate students, in particular, benefited from close interactions, research discussions, and mentoring opportunities with internationally recognized scholars. Faculty collaborations were also strengthened through these engagements, fostering new research dialogues and long-term academic relationships.

Most importantly, this Distinguished Lecture Series significantly enhanced FIU's national visibility and academic reputation. Hosting Turing Award winners and NAE members signaled to the broader academic community that FIU SCIS was committed to excellence and positioned itself among leading research institutions. The initiative showcased the school's ambition, credibility, and growing influence, reinforcing its trajectory toward becoming a top-tier computing program.

Through this program, Professor Iyengar not only elevated the intellectual climate of SCIS but also strategically advanced FIU's institutional profile on the national stage.

Cybersecurity Training Center: Mentoring Program

The Cybersecurity Training Center: Mentoring Program, initiated by Dr. S.S. Iyengar in collaboration with Dr. Mark Weiss, and other faculty members at SCIS in the college of engineering and computing was established as a strategic effort to build a strong, research-driven cybersecurity workforce while fostering individualized student development. The program was designed to go beyond traditional classroom instruction by pairing undergraduate and graduate students with experienced faculty mentors, industry professionals, and research leaders in cybersecurity. Its core mission was to cultivate technical excellence, ethical responsibility, and leadership skills in areas such as network

security, digital forensics, secure systems design, AI-enabled threat detection, and cyber risk analysis.

Under their leadership, the mentoring framework emphasized hands-on training, research immersion, and career preparation. Students participated in guided research projects, cybersecurity competitions, internship placements, and collaborative industry engagements. The program also provided structured academic advising, professional development workshops, and exposure to emerging topics such as deepfake detection, quantum-resilient cybersecurity, and AI-driven intrusion detection systems.

A distinguishing feature of the initiative was its inclusive mentoring philosophy. The Center actively supported students from diverse and underrepresented backgrounds, ensuring access to research opportunities and professional networks. By integrating research excellence with workforce development, the Cybersecurity Training Center strengthened FIU's role as a hub for cybersecurity innovation and talent development. The mentoring model not only enhanced student retention and graduation outcomes but also contributed to placing graduates in leading technology firms, national laboratories, and government agencies, reinforcing the university's national visibility in cybersecurity education and research.

XV. Conclusion

The above metrics suggest that under the leadership of Dr. Iyengar, SCIS is on the way to: faculty hiring, funding, expenditure, graduation rate, recognitions, and recently created programs (MS/BS cybersecurity, M.S. data science).

FIU SCIS and the College has committed and continued to recruit talented and high-quality faculty from various prestigious Schools such as CMU, MIT, Cornell, Purdue, Georgia Tech, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, UCLA and other top ranked Universities. The implication of this hiring has been a direct impact on recruiting top-notched students from all around the world and after graduation, we have been able to place them in top industries and various other Universities. This is truly a reflection on FIU SCIS in transition to greatness under the direction of Dr. Iyengar.

From FIU to the World: The Enduring Impact of Professor S.S. Iyengar

Dr. Iyengar has demonstrated sustained and distinguished professional performance for well over fifteen years. His leadership at Florida International University began in July 2011, when he was appointed Director and tenured Ryder Professor. He served as Director through September 2020, providing strategic vision, academic leadership, and research growth for the School. From 2011 to 2020, and continuing to the present in his role as Distinguished University Professor and Ryder Professor, his record reflects consistent excellence in institutional leadership, research, scholarship, and service.

In research, Dr. Iyengar has built a nationally and internationally recognized program at the intersection of artificial intelligence, sensor networks, and cognitive information science, with particular emphasis on data fusion and computational intelligence. He is also recognized by several European universities and software research societies as a founding pioneer in artificial intelligence and digital forensics, reflecting the global impact of his scholarship. His work has been continuously supported by highly competitive federal agencies and industry partners, including the National Science Foundation (NSF), DARPA, ONR, DHS, and IBM. He served as Principal Investigator for the first U.S. Army Research Center of Excellence of its kind in the country, along with numerous other major initiatives—clear indicators of sustained research impact and leadership. With over 600 peer-reviewed research publications and more than 30 books, he has achieved an h-index of 68, placing him among the most impactful scholars at the university.

His scholarly excellence has been recognized through major honors, including designation as FIU Distinguished University Professor (2020), FIU Top Scholar Award, and Book Recognition Awards from the FIU Provost and President. Most recently, his national and state stature was further affirmed by election to the Academy of Science, Engineering and Medicine of Florida (ASEMFL) in 2025, one of the highest recognitions bestowed upon researchers in the state. He has also received the Distinguished Science Award from the Washington Academy of Sciences and other national recognitions, and he has been nominated for membership in the National Academy of Sciences and the National Academy of Engineering.

In teaching and mentoring, Dr. Iyengar has maintained an outstanding and sustained record of excellence, earning awards for Excellence in Teaching, FIU Top Scholar recognition, and KFSCIS Distinguished honors. His commitment to student success spans undergraduate education, graduate supervision, doctoral mentorship, and the professional development of junior faculty and researchers.

In service, he has made enduring contributions to the School, the University, and the broader research community. His distinguished university recognitions and sustained leadership roles demonstrate his ability to contribute strategically at institutional and national levels, well beyond individual scholarship.

Taken together, Dr. Iyengar's record from 2011 through 2026 clearly demonstrates long-term, significant professional performance characterized by visionary leadership, sustained external funding, high scholarly impact, international recognition, educational excellence, and distinguished service—fully meeting and exceeding university standards for exceptional academic achievement.

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Appendix:

Dr. SS Iyengar Webpage: https://people.cis.fiu.edu/iyengar/

Some Example, for more details refer to the webpage above