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Dr. Michael Karasick, Vice President Innovations, oversees the Research and Development of technologies and products for Watson, including Natural Language Processing, Machine Learning, Discovery and Analytics. Karasick manages a unique combination of Researchers and Engineers committed to developing cognitive technologies and products that are transformational for IBM and for our customers.

Prior to this Karasick was Vice President Software; Vice President and Lab Director of IBM Research – Almaden; and Research Software Strategy leader, overseeing scientists and engineers performing exploratory and applied research worldwide. Prior to his Research role, Karasick was VP of Business and Technical Strategy for IBM's Software business in Somers, NY. He led technical initiatives spanning all IBM Software brands encompassing key industry and horizontal standards work, Linux support and IBM platform workload optimization. Before moving to New York, Karasick was for three years Director of Development for Lotus-China – responsible for products such as Lotus Symphony. He has also been the Lotus Director of Development for Client Platforms and Technologies, where he was responsible for the Lotus Expeditor product as well as the Lotus mobility products and technical direction. Before moving to China, Karasick was the IBM development director responsible for embedded software development and sensor solutions.

Karasick has served as CTO and Director of Architecture for IBM's Pervasive Computing Division, leading the design and evolution of middleware and device software. He has also led the Pervasive Computing Systems and Software team at TJ Watson Research Center, focusing on hardware design, system development, cognitive psychology and usability, user interface design, speech, and middleware. Karasick's early career in Research included a senior manager role in Software Development Technology; an IBM assignment at Sematech, where he led a multi-company effort to produce a system for simulating semiconductor manufacturing logistics; work in the areas of robotics and geometric modeling and robotics, shortly after joining IBM Research in 1988.

Karasick has published numerous papers in the areas of software engineering, geometric modeling, programming languages and compilers and pervasive computing. He is a member of the ACM and IEEE. He received an Honors B.S. from the University of Manitoba, MS from McGill University, and PhD from McGill and Cornell Universities, all in Computer Science. Karasick is an IBM Master Inventor.