



Section 1.1

Chair's report

I'm delighted to introduce this year's annual report, which looks back on The Alan Turing Institute's activities during 2023/2024, another important year in data science and AI.

This has been, and continues to be, a pivotal time for both the Turing and our wider ecosystem. Here in the UK, we have a new government with new priorities for science and technology, and across industry and the public sector the adoption of AI moves at ever greater pace.

As we survey the opportunities ahead of us, it is increasingly clear that, if used responsibly and ethically, the benefits of these powerful technologies will be substantial. AI has the transformative potential to boost productivity, bringing positive impacts to the global economy and improving the efficiency of our resource-stretched public services. This technological revolution will also uncover new ways to tackle pressing challenges like climate change and the health of our population, and to keep us safe from the security threats posed by an ever more volatile world.

For the Turing, this is a time of renewal. Yet, as we transform into an Institute with a more targeted, challenge-led approach to realising the societal benefits of AI, we maintain the same enduring purpose: to make great leaps in data science and AI research in order to change the world for the better.

Notably, in the spring, our primary funding body, the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, awarded us core funding of £100M over the next five years, following the completion of our Quinquennial Review. The review, carried out by a range of eminent experts, provided external endorsement of the Turing's vision, as well as important steers on how the Institute can build and improve in the coming years.

The Turing also revised its corporate governance with the agreement of our founding university members and welcomed a number of new leaders to drive forward its agenda, including a new CEO, and four new Directors of Science and Innovation – each with a compelling

vision of how data science and AI can change the world for the better.

As Chair of the Board, I want to pay tribute to outgoing Institute Director and CEO, Sir Adrian Smith, and our incoming CEO, Dr Jean Innes. Both have helped the Turing chart a path and make its contribution at this time of huge change, as AI has become one of the most important technologies and significant talking points of our time. It has been a real privilege to help steer the Institute and I would like to thank the Board of Trustees and everyone across the Turing community for their insights and expertise.

We are pleased to share this report, which summarises some of the Turing's science and innovation activity over the last year, the partnerships forged, the diverse voices convened, and the impact made in shaping policy and real-world action.

Dr Douglas Gurr
Chair of the Board of Trustees

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