Internet-connected digital eyeglasses and similar smart technologies will soon be on the market, but their benefits and dangers are little understood.

Renowned experts in wearable technology, artificial intelligence, augmented reality and privacy will discuss both the potential and the pitfalls of these technologies at this groundbreaking conference at the University of Toronto. Speakers will include futurist, inventor and Director of Engineering, Google Inc. Ray Kurzweil, the ‘father of artificial intelligence’ Marvin Minsky, ‘father of wearable computing’ Professor Steve Mann, legendary computer scientist Gordon Bell, science fiction writer and futurist David Brin and American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) president Susan N. Herman.

ISTAS’13 presenters and panellists will address the implications of living in smartworlds - smart grids, smart infrastructure, smart homes, smart cars, smart fridges, and with the advent of body-worn sensors like cameras, smart people. The environment around us is becoming “smarter”. Soon there will be a camera in nearly every streetlight enabling better occupancy sensing, while many appliances and everyday products such as automatic flush toilets, and faucets are starting to use more sophisticated camera-based computer-vision technologies. Meanwhile, what happens when people increasingly wear these same sensors?

A smart world where people wear sensors such as cameras, physiological sensors (e.g. monitoring temperature, physiological characteristics), location data loggers, tokens, and other wearable and embeddable systems presents many direct benefits, especially for personal applications. However, these same “Wearable Computing” technologies and applications have the potential to become mechanisms of control by smart infrastructure monitoring those individuals that wear these sensors.

There are great socio-ethical implications that will stem from these technologies and fresh regulatory and legislative approaches are required to deal with this new environment. Come and join the exciting discussion!

For more information, visit www.istas13.org