J. Christopher Beck, PhD, LEL, FAAAI

Updated: April 14, 2026

University of Toronto
Department of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering
5 King's College Rd
Toronto, ON, Canada M5S 3G8

chris.beck@utoronto.ca
tidel.mie.utoronto.ca
Phone: +1 (416) 946-8854

Education

University of Toronto
PhD, Computer Science, 1999.
MSc, Computer Science, 1994.

St. Francis Xavier University
BSc, Computer Science, 1992.

Employment

University of Toronto
Department of Mechanical & Industrial Engineering
Professor, 2015 – present.
Associate Chair Research, 2012 – 2015.
Associate Professor, 2009 – 2015.
Assistant Professor, 2004 – 2009.
With cross-appointment to the Department of Computer Science.
University College Cork
Cork Constraint Computation Center
Staff Scientist, 2002 – 2004.
ILOG, SA
Senior Scientist and Software Engineer, 1999 – 2002.

Sabbatical Visits

2025	**Universität Basel**, Departement Mathematik und Informatik
2024	**Technische Universiteit Delft**, Department of Computer Science
2017 – 2018	**King's College London**, Department of Informatics
2010 – 2011	**Zuse Institute Berlin**

Publications

180 peer-reviewed papers in journals and conferences.
6 conference proceedings edited or co-edited.
Google Scholar Citations: 8369, h-index: 46.
See tidel.mie.utoronto.ca/publications.php.

Scholarly Addresses Over 300 national and international presentations since 2000.

Research Funding Over CAD$7M as PI, co-PI, or collaborator since 2003.

Awards

2025 **Fellow**
Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence
Best Technical Paper Award
31st International Conference on the Principles and Practice of Constraint Programming
Best Senior Program Committee Member
35th International Conference on Automated Planning and Scheduling

2023 **Winner International Numeric Planning Competition**
Winner of Optimal, Agile, and Satisficing Tracks
Best Paper Runner-up
33rd International Conference on Automated Planning and Scheduling
Best Paper Award
20th International Conference on the Integration of Constraint Programming, Artificial Intelligence, and Operations Research

2022 **10-year Influential Paper Award**
International Conference on Automated Planning and Scheduling
Improved Non-deterministic Planning Exploiting State Relevance
Distinguished Program Committee Member
31st International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence

2020 **Canadian Operations Research Society Student Paper Competition First Prize**
INFORMS Computing Society Student Paper Award, Runner Up
A Combinatorial Cut-and-Lift Procedure with an Application to 0-1 Chance Constraints (Student author: Margarita Castro)

2018 **Distinguished Paper Award**
15th International Conference on the Integration of Constraint Programming, Artificial Intelligence, and Operations Research

2016 **Distinguished Student Paper Award**
22nd International Conference on the Principles and Practice of Constraint Programming (Student author: Kyle Booth)

2011 **Google Research Award**

2010 **Outstanding Program Committee Member**
24th AAAI Conference on Artificial Intelligence

2009 **Award of Excellence**
3rd International Competition on Knowledge Engineering for Planning and Scheduling

2007 **Early Researcher Award**
Ontario Ministry of Research and Innovation.

2006 **Rob Milne Memorial Award for the Best Refereed Application Paper**
27th International Conference of the British Computer Society's Specialist Group on Artificial Intelligence

2001 **PLANET Prize for Research Excellence**
European Conference on Planning

Selected Professional Activities

Editorial Roles

Journal of Artificial Intelligence Research
Editor-in-Chief, 2024 – present.
Associate Editor-in-Chief, 2023 – 2024.
Associate Editor, 2010 – 2016.

Mathematical Programming Glossary, Editorial Board, 2009 – present.

Knowledge Engineering Review, Editorial Board, 2005 – 2015.

Constraints
Letters Editor 2010 – 2013.
Editorial Board, 2008 – 2013.
Special Issue Co-editor, **18**(2), 2013; **5**(4), 2000.

Journal of Scheduling, Associate Editor, 2005 – 2012.

Annals of Operations Research, Special Issue Co-editor, **171**(1), 2009.

Constraint Programming Letters, Area Editor, Editorial Board, 2006 – 2008.

Executive Committee of the Association for Constraint Programming
Past-President, 2023 – 2024.
President, 2021 – 2022.
Member, 2021 – 2024.

Executive Council of the International Conference on Automated Planning and Scheduling
President, 2014 – 2016.
President-Elect, 2012 – 2014.
Conference Liaison, 2010 – 2012.
Member, 2008 – 2016.

INFORMS Computing Society Prize Committee
Chair, 2015.
Member, 2012 – 2015.

External Review Committee
United Arab Emirates Commission for Academic Accreditation, 2013, 2017, 2019.
NSERC Industrial Research Chairs Program, 2016.

Selected Professional Activities continued

Grant Referee

Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada, 2000 – 2026.
Belgian Fonds de la Recherche Scientifique (FNRS), 2024.
Canada Excellence Research Chair Program, 2018.
Netherlands Organization for Scientific Research, 2006, 2018.
Canada 150 Research Chair Program, 2017.
Israel Science Foundation, 2008, 2009, 2017, 2020, 2022.
Austrian Science Fund, 2015.
Swiss National Science Foundation, 2014.
German-Israeli Foundation for Scientific Research and Development, 2012.
Microsoft Research PhD Scholarship Program, 2007.
Chilean National Commission for Scientific and Technological Research, 2007.

Selected Conference Organization

International Conference on Automated Planning and Scheduling
Program Co-chair, 2008, 2020.
(Senior) Program Committee, 2004 – 2026.

International Conference on the Principles and Practice of Constraint Programming
Program Chair, 2017.
(Senior) Program Committee, 2007, 2012 – 2026.

International Conference on the Integration of Constraint Programming, Artificial Intelligence, and Operations Research
Program Co-Chair, 2006, 2011.
Program Committee, 2004 – 2026.

Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence AAAI Conference
Area Chair, 2019.
(Senior) Program Committee, 2006 – 2008, 2010, 2015, 2020.

International Joint Conference on Artificial Intelligence
Program Committee, 2019.

Symposium on Abstraction, Reformulation, and Approximation
Co-Chair, 2009.
Program Committee, 2005 – 2011.

Teaching

Personnel

PDF, 12 supervised, 2 co-supervised.
PhD, 14 supervised, 12 co-supervised.
MASc/MSc, 16 supervised, 11 co-supervised.
MEng, 6 supervised (project).
BASc, 21 supervised (thesis), 22 supervised (internship), 58 supervised (capstone project).

Courses

MIE1632, Symbolic AI Methods for Combinatorial Optimization, 2026.
MIE245, Data Structures and Algorithms, 2026.
MIE562, Scheduling, 2005 – 2009, 2011 – 2016, 2018 – 2023, 2025.
MIE1619, Constraint Programming and Hybrid Optimization, 2019, 2021, 2024.
MIE1619, Constraint Programming and Local Search, 2006 – 2010, 2012, 2014, 2016.
APS106, Fundamentals of Computer Programming, 2010, 2012, 2015 – 2017, 2019 – 2024.
MIE350, Design and Analysis of Information Systems, 2004 – 2008.