



Dr. Resve Saleh, Professor and NSERC/PMC-Sierra Chair, University of British Columbia.

Canada's Research Magnet

Top Scientist Seizes World-Class Research Opportunities on Home Ground

"When I first looked at CMC's proposal for a System-on-Chip Research Network my jaw dropped. It was everything I wanted to do in Canada. It would have been impossible to do what I wanted at any U.S. institution, whether it was Stanford, Berkeley or MIT."

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Dr. Resve Saleh left a prestigious 20-year career as an academic, researcher and successful entrepreneur in the United States to return to Canada. Three years later, he has no doubt the right decision was made.

Fresh out of Carleton University, Dr. Saleh chased a dream that he believed couldn't be realized in Canada. The aspiring electrical engineer was determined to make his mark in the promising field of computer-aided design, and left home in 1981 to pursue doctoral studies at the University of California at Berkeley before embarking on a prestigious academic career at the University of Illinois.

Excited by the prospect of bringing his research and expertise to market, Dr. Saleh headed to Silicon Valley in 1995 to start up Simplex Solutions, a successful high tech firm that makes software for the verification of chip designs. The company went public in 2001 and was acquired by Cadence Design Systems, Inc. His thoughts of returning to Canada never subsided, but the time never seemed to be right. His opportunity emerged a few years later.

"I went to the U.S. because what I wanted to do wasn't available in Canada," says Dr. Saleh, an industrial EDA (electronic design automation) technology expert who has published extensively in the field of mixed-signal simulation. "In deciding to come back, I heard from a colleague that I might be interested in something exciting happening in Canada. It was CMC."

Suddenly the reasons for returning to Canada began adding up. CMC had a national program for the design, manufacture and test of chips—something American universities could only dream of. The Canadian economy was booming, academic salaries were rising, universities were experiencing a research renaissance, and the University of British Columbia (UBC) had offered him a professorship and a \$2 million industrial research chair.

If he had any lingering doubts, CMC offered one more incentive he couldn't refuse. "CMC had put out a proposal for a \$40 million System-on-Chip infrastructure, which is exactly the type of research I wanted to pursue," says Dr. Saleh, who now heads up the SOC Lab at UBC with Dr. André Ivanov. "The reality has exceeded my expectations."

Three years and counting, and this Canadian research star has never looked back. Canadians coast to coast can look forward to a future of innovation and discovery with the return of top Canadian research talent and Dr. Resve Saleh is one shining example. [cmc](#)