Michal Vakrat Wolkin

Dr. Michal Vakrat Wolkin joined 3M in 2014 as the Global head of Innovation in Israel, as part of 3M's efforts to expand its investments and technical collaborations internationally. Her role was focused on connecting 3M to the Israeli innovation eco system, with emphasize on Nanotechnology, IOT, Energy, Digital Healthcare and Smart Transportation. She is responsible for R&D collaborations & investments relationships with Israeli startups, academia, government, multinationals, VCs and other industrial partners.

Michal joined 3M after living in the Silicon Valley for over 17 years. In her last position Dr. Vakrat Wolkin was the technical Chair of the NASA/ Clean Tech Open Night Rover Challenge since 2012. From 2008, Michal was Better Place director of Battery technologies in Palo Alto where she managed multinational business development and technical teams, working with leading automotive companies, battery manufactures, and tier 1 suppliers.

Before joining Better Place, Michal was a researcher. As a member of the research staff at the Palo Alto Research Center (Xerox PARC) Materials and hardware labs, she led a group of researchers developing highly innovative materials in Nanotechnology, Fuel cells, Flexible Electronics and Sensors for drug discovery applications. Prior to that Dr. Vakrat Wolkin was a Post Doc at Xerox PARC.

Dr. Wolkin received a PhD in Materials Science, focusing on Nanotechnology and Photonics from the University of Rochester, NY, and an undergraduate degree in Chemical Engineering from The Technicon. Her Post Doc is from Xerox PARC. She holds 10 patent applications, and her research is widely cited (over 2000 citations to her PRL paper on silicon quantum dots). Dr. Vakrat Wolkin currently serves on various industrial review panels related to nanotechnology, batteries, EVs and other technical areas, and is a frequent speaker at industry events. She has been an advisor and reviewer to the USA ARPA-E and other government scientific agencies.