

2019 US-Ireland Research Innovation Awards – Assessment Panel



Dick Ahlstrom

Dick Ahlstrom is the former Science Editor of The Irish Times. He has won a number of awards for his science writing. The Royal Irish Academy published his book on Irish science, *Flashes of Brilliance*. He is a Fellow of the British Association for the Advancement of Science and is a Life Member of the Royal Dublin Society. Dick holds degrees from Temple University, Philadelphia and from University College Dublin.



Dr Jennifer Brennan

Dr Jennifer Brennan is Director of Research, Development and Innovation at the Technological Higher Education Association (THEA). Prior to joining THEA, Jennifer was Ireland's National Contact Point for the European the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) funding programme. She represents Ireland's interests in the MSCA programme as National Delegate to the MSCA Programme Committee. Jennifer has a background in research and has worked in academia in the UK, USA and Ireland. She is particularly interested in researcher career development, gender in research, and responsible research & innovation and is the Deputy Chair of the National Forum on Research Integrity.



Dr Carol Gibbons

Dr Carol Gibbons is Director ICT Commercialisation & Manager of the Digital Tech Sector portfolio in Enterprise Ireland, a Government Agency responsible for the growth of Irish-owned businesses in global markets. Prior to this, Carol held a number of senior sector positions, spanning a 20 year career in Enterprise Ireland, Forfas and IDA Ireland. Carol has considerable experience in a variety of industry sectors, most notably the ICT sector, where she has worked directly with some of Ireland's best-known ICT brands, from very early stage startup companies, right through to globally trading multi-national ICT businesses. Carol was a Senior Investment Advisor and has managed a portfolio of clients in Enterprise Ireland's commercial evaluation division and Enterprise Ireland's equity department, one of the largest equity portfolios in Europe, in terms of deal flow.



Professor Dermot Diamond

Professor Dermot Diamond is currently a principal investigator in the SFI INSIGHT Centre (<http://www.insight-centre.org>) and co-chair of the EU Future and Emerging Technologies programme advisory group (FETAG) dealing with topic selection for very large scale FET-Flagship initiatives, and strategy related to the FETopen and FETproactive programmes. His research is focused on the fundamental science of stimuli responsive polymers, the development of futuristic autonomous chemical sensing platforms, and the use of analytical devices and sensors as information providers for wireless networked systems i.e. building a continuum between the digital and molecular worlds. He received his Ph.D. and D.Sc. from Queen's University Belfast and joined DCU in 1987. He was Vice-President for Research at Dublin City University (2002-2004) and was director (2007-2015) and founding member of the National Centre for Sensor Research (www.ncsr.ie) at DCU. In 2002, he was awarded the inaugural silver medal for Sensor Research by the Royal Society of Chemistry, London. He was awarded the DCU President's Award for Research Excellence (2006) and the DCU President's Award for Innovation (2015). In May 2014, in recognition of his academic contributions and achievements, he was admitted to Membership of the Royal Irish Academy. In April 2015 he was awarded the Boyle Higgins Gold Medal by the Institute of Chemistry of Ireland in recognition of his research achievements. In 2018, his contributions to music, arts and culture were recognized by the award of an honorary Doctorate by Ulster University (D.Litt).



Leonard Hobbs

Leonard Hobbs is Director, Research and Innovation at Trinity College Dublin. The former Director of Global Public Affairs at Intel Ireland, he joined Intel in 1991, where he held various roles in process engineering before establishing Intel Ireland's Silicon Research team in 2008, working with Irish universities and European consortia. He holds an honours degree in Electrical Engineering from University College Cork and a Masters degree from the NMRC (now called Tyndall). From 1988 to 1991 he worked as a research scientist at IMEC, in Leuven, Belgium.



Yvonne Kennedy

Yvonne Kennedy is Head of Foreign Direct Investment within the Corporate Banking division of Ulster Bank, part of RBS Group.

Yvonne works with new and existing international corporate customers, ensuring their banking requirements are seamlessly met as each company invests and expands in Ireland. As part of this role, Yvonne collaborates closely with RBS (UK and Silicon Valley) and each of Ulster Bank's 35 global partner banks (the IBOS Association). Yvonne represents Ulster Bank in the IBOS Association and is the Bank's designated IBOS Business Development Committee member. Yvonne is also Chairperson of the Ulster Bank FDI Forum.

Prior to joining Ulster Bank in 2007, Yvonne trained as a Chartered Accountant with Andersen and KPMG. She holds a Bachelor degree in Civil Law from University College Cork, a Diploma in Digital Marketing, a Professional Certificate in Digital Age Banking and she is a QFA qualified member of the Institute of Bankers.



Professor Madeleine Lowery

Madeleine Lowery is a Professor in the School of Electrical and Electronic Engineering, University College Dublin. Her research is focused on applying engineering to understand the human nervous system as it relates to movement in health and disease, and to design therapies and technologies to improve impaired motor function. Her research interests include electromyography, bioelectromagnetics, control of artificial limbs, electrical stimulation, deep brain stimulation and neural control of movement. She received the B.E. and Ph.D. degrees from the Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering, University College Dublin, in 1996 and 2000, before joining the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago and Northwestern University as a Postdoctoral Fellow then Research Assistant Professor. She is a former member of the Council of the International Society of Electrophysiology and Kinesiology (ISEK) and was the 2018 ISEK Congress Chair. She is a Principal Investigator in the Insight Centre for Data Analytics, Funded Investigator in the CURAM Centre for Research in Medical Devices and holds a European Research Council Consolidator grant.



Professor Michael Madden

Michael Madden is the Chair of Computer Science in the National University of Ireland Galway. He joined NUI Galway as a lecturer in 2000. He leads the Data Mining & Machine Learning Group, working on theoretical advances in machine learning, applied to problems in health, security, and scientific domains. He has over 90 publications, four patents, and spun out a company based on his research. He has spent time as a Visiting Research Scientist in University of Helsinki, University of California Irvine, and UC Berkeley.



Professor Peter McHugh, MRIA
(Chair)

Peter McHugh holds a BE in Mechanical Engineering from UCG (1987), and an MSc (1990) and PhD (1992) in Mechanics of Solids from Brown University, Providence, USA. He joined NUI Galway in 1991, where he is currently Professor of Biomedical Engineering and Dean of the College of Engineering and Informatics. His research is focused on fundamental developments and applications of computational and experimental methods in biomechanics, tissue mechanics and medical implants and devices. He has taken a leadership role in the development of biomedical engineering in Ireland through high quality and prolific research and publication output, and undergraduate and graduate education programme generation. He has received numerous awards, including membership of the Royal Irish Academy (2011), the Silver Medal of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland (Section of Bioengineering) in 2011, the Presidential Nominee Fellowship of Engineers Ireland in (2009), and the Alexander von Humboldt Fellowship (1995). He served as Science Secretary of the Royal Irish Academy 2015-2016 and is currently the Policy and International Relations Secretary.



Dr Eucharia Meehan, MRIA

Dr Eucharia Meehan MRIA is the Registrar and CEO of the Dublin Institute for Advanced Studies. Prior to joining DIAS in June 2017, Dr Meehan was the inaugural Director of the Irish Research Council, the latter being established in 2012 through the merger of two former councils IRCSET and IRCHSS. She was Head of Research and Innovation (policy and investment) at the Higher Education Authority (HEA) from 2002 to 2012. This latter role encompassed Director of the Programme for Research in Third Level Institutions (PRTL) which invested €1.2bn of public and private funds to develop strategic research infrastructure and capacity. Before joining the HEA in 2001, Dr Meehan was Head of Programme Management at Elan Biotechnology Research (EBR). She holds a PhD in Pharmacology (Neuropharmacology) from NUIG, in addition to a number of postgraduate management, accounting and finance qualifications from TCD and the ACCA. She was designated as Science Europe's inaugural Gender and Diversity champion in 2016/2017. She was admitted as a member of the Royal Irish Academy in 2017.



Cliona Murphy

Cliona Murphy is Vice-President, Research & Development, PepsiCo. She is responsible for the Dairy Centre of Excellence & Bioconversion Research Programme as part of PepsiCo's Global Nutrition Category and for creating and driving an innovation culture in their newly expanded Cork R&D centre, one of PepsiCo's Top 5 global R&D centres. She is chair of PepsiCo Ireland's STEM Council and leads PepsiCo's Million Women Mentor programme globally.

Since she joined PepsiCo in 1997, she has been responsible for bringing many innovations to market including Sensations in the UK. Prior to her current role Cliona led the Technical Services team for PepsiCo's Global Concentrate Business.

Cliona is a Chartered Engineer with a Degree in Engineering from Trinity College Dublin, and a Diploma in Management from Manchester Metropolitan University. She is a member of the Teagasc Authority, a member of the Strategic Advisory Board of the UCD Institute of Food and Health and a Director of Cork Chamber of Commerce. Cliona was recently recognised by STEMConnector as [one of the 100 Corporate Women Leaders in STEM](#).



Dr Ena Prosser

Dr Ena Prosser is a Partner in Fountain Healthcare Partners, a life sciences venture capital firm based in Ireland and New York. In this role, Ena has led investment in companies including NeRRe Therapeutics Ltd, KaNDy Therapeutics Ltd, Genable Technologies Ltd (sold to Spark Therapeutics) and Trino Therapeutics Ltd. A biotechnology PhD by training, she also has a broad background in international alliance and intellectual property management. She has led due diligence projects on technologies and products within the Specialty Pharma, diagnostic, device and biotechnology areas. Dr Prosser is a member of the advisory board of Knowledge Transfer Ireland (KTI) and has previously served as a member of the Irish Government Innovation Taskforce in Intellectual Property, ICSTI, as a board member for HRB, SFI and Fighting Blindness Ireland. She is an Adjunct Professor at University College Dublin and a member of the Institute of Directors.

Anna Scally, Partner, Head of Technology & Media, Fintech Lead, KPMG in Ireland advises many Irish and international companies on tax and efficiently structuring their international businesses. She also advises many early stage Technology and FinTech companies on the challenges around fundraising, structuring shareholding arrangements, rewarding founders and employees and growing global businesses. Anna is a founding Board member of the FinTech and Payments Association of Ireland. She is also a former Director and Member of the Board of the



Anna Scally

American Chamber of Commerce in Ireland, where she served for three-and-a-half years and was the former Chair of its Tax Working Group.

Anna leads KPMG's global partnership with Connected Intelligence (or Ci), the company behind Web Summit, Founders and their related US and Asian events, Collision and Rise. Anna has been recognized by the Silicon Republic Women Invent Tomorrow programme as one of the 100 Top Women in STEM. She was also nominated for the Woman Mean Business (WMB) Award for Women in Technology and was nominated one of the Top 30 Women in Tech in Ireland. Anna was announced as one of Image Magazines Nominees for Business Woman of the Year 2015, in the Digital Women category. Anna was also a former member of the Innovation Taskforce and its Implementation team, whose objective was to make recommendations to the Irish government designed to assist Ireland in becoming an Innovation Hub.



Professor Fergus Shanahan, MRIA

Fergus Shanahan is Professor and Chairman of the Department of Medicine at University College Cork (UCC), National University of Ireland. He is the foundation director of the *APC Microbiome Institute* (now known as *APC Microbiome Ireland*) which was established in 2003 with funding from Science Foundation Ireland and grants from industry and which investigates host-microbe interactions in the gut in health and disease. Under his directorship, the centre has achieved worldwide recognition and has grown to a membership of over 250 staff, scientists, and students.

He has several patents and is a co-founder of three university start-up companies which continue as a source of over 45 high tech jobs in the Cork region. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in Ireland, Canada, and the United Kingdom as well as of the American College of Physicians. He served as President of the Irish Society of Gastroenterology from 2007-2009, was named to the "Irish Life Science 50" a list of the top 50 Irish and Irish Americans in the life science industry and has received the Irish Society of Immunology biennial medal and public lectureship award. He was the first recipient of the Hektoen international medical humanities grand prix for an essay entitled 'Waiting'. In 2013, Science Foundation Ireland named him as its Researcher of the Year. He was awarded a DSc for published work on mucosal immunology by the National University of Ireland in 2014. He was also acknowledged with an honorary DSc. from his alma mater, University College Dublin, in 2015. The Royal Irish Academy (RIA) honoured him with a gold medal for contributions to the life sciences (2016) and he was elected to membership of the RIA in 2017.



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