

LIST OF BIOS FOR ALL SPEAKERS

HCI Pillar 3 Midterm Conference

29th June 2023

The Convention Centre Dublin, D1

- **David Alarco, AMASE [Project Lead]**

David Alarco is a distinguished leader in Additive Manufacturing (AM). A Mechanical Engineer and Program Manager by training, he persistently optimizes manufacturing processes while ensuring regulatory compliance. David's expertise extends to business and academia. His diverse roles in sales, business development, and education reflect his adaptability.

Most notably, David's dedication to education stands out. Recognizing the traditional gap between industry needs and academic curricula, he is committed to bridging this divide, ensuring that the skills taught in classrooms are in lockstep with the evolving demands of the industry, thus fostering a more harmonious and productive future for both sectors.

- **Dr. Jennifer Boyer, Building Change [Project Lead]**

Dr. Jennifer Boyer is the inaugural Vice President of Sustainability at Ireland's first Technological University, TU Dublin. As a member of the University Executive Team (UET), she is the nominated Climate & Sustainability Champion, actively contributing to delivering on the University's mission and shares responsibility for evolving the overall University Strategy. As Vice President for Sustainability at TU Dublin, Jennifer provides leadership, strategic direction and oversight for the coordination and management of the University's activities in relation to sustainability, across both professional services and academic domains. Jennifer is responsible for positioning the University as a leader and voice for sustainability, a way of living and working in a new, more balanced way, a way that protects our planet for future generations.

- **Sorcha Carthy, Senior Manager, Human Capital Initiative [Higher Education Authority]**

Sorcha Carthy is a Senior Manager in the Skills and Engagement unit at the Higher Education Authority. She leads on the Human Capital Initiative (HCI), which is a skills programme providing increased capacity in high skills needs areas and innovations in higher education teaching and learning through collaboration with enterprise. She has over 20 years public service administration experience, 16 of these in managerial and senior managerial positions. Prior to her role in skills and engagement, she held senior managerial positions responsible for the allocation of core state funding for higher education, ICT skills development, apprenticeship, and research development. She has been successful in securing multi-million European funding awards for Irish research programmes, driving policy change in Ireland's response to skills development and implementing national programmes in research, skills, and higher education.

- **Marianne Cassidy, Assistant Secretary, Public Service Transformation Division, Department of Public Expenditure NDP Delivery and Reform**

Marianne Cassidy is the Assistant Secretary General, heading up the Public Service Transformation Division in the Department of Public Expenditure, NDP Delivery and Reform. Marianne has responsibility for leading and supporting Public Service Transformation including driving the implementation of the 10-year Strategy CSR 2030. She is also responsible for the Department's Communications Unit and the Central Vote, the Department-of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media Vote and the DPENDPDR Corporate Bodies Unit.

- **Cian Coyne, Designing Futures [Learner]**

Cian Coyne studied Global Commerce at undergraduate level at the University of Galway and is now beginning his studies in M.Sc. Global Environmental Economics. Cian first came to IdeasLab seeking mentorship to help with his business, Scrunch-Up, which sold anti-spiking drink cover scrunchies. He has since completed the Start100 student incubator and an internship with IdeasLab. Cian continues to lean on his connections and learnings from IdeasLab and apply them to his business, academic and sporting pursuits. Cian is now working on an exciting new business opportunity connecting generations through storytelling.

- **Dónal Óg Cusack, J & J Vision Care [UL@work]**

Donal Óg Cusack is a Senior Engineering Manager with the American multinational DePuy Synthes, Johnson & Johnson. He leads a Digital & Automation Systems Team focused on the convergence of IT/OT. He is OT Cyber Security Champion for Global Orthopaedics within J&J and a former Johnson & Johnson Worldwide environmental person of the year. He is a founding member and current Board member of Irish Manufacturing Research (IMR). Also known for his sporting exploits, he is an analyst with the flagship sports program The Sunday Game and is the current President of the Gaelic Players Association, which represents 4,000 past and present male and female intercounty players.

- **Brian Flatley, S3 Connected Health [Enabling Future Pharma]**

Brian Flatley is Vice-President Consulting Services, S3 Connected Health. Brian leads S3 Connected Health's Consulting Services division. Together with his team, they work globally with life science clients on the implementation of digital health strategies to drive their business forward and improve healthcare outcomes within their patient populations. Brian has extensive experience in digital health and its implementation within different healthcare systems.

- **Simon Harris, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science**

Simon Harris is the Minister of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. Minister Harris previously served as Minister for Health from May 2016 to June 2020, and as Minister for Justice from December 2022 to June 2023 to facilitate the maternity leave of Minister Helen McEntee. He also served as Minister of State at the Departments of Finance PER and Taoiseach with Special Responsibility for the OPW, Public Procurement, and International Banking from 2014 to 2016. He has been a TD for the Wicklow constituency since 2011. Minister Harris' involvement in politics began after he established the Wicklow Triple A Alliance, a charity to support children and families affected by Autism.

- **Professor Edmond Harty Innovator, Entrepreneur, President of Engineers Ireland. [REEdI Project] Pre-recorded Video**

Professor Edmond Harty is a founding Partner of the REEdI (Rethinking Engineering Education in Ireland) project and a recognised leader in the delivery of innovative Engineering solutions and programmes. Professor Harty is regarded as one of the world's pioneers in agricultural technology. He has a track record of combining leading research with successful commercialisation of the resulting intellectual property A former CEO of Dairymaster, a world-leading dairy innovation and technology company.

- **Martin Hynes, Boston Scientific [Designing Futures]**

Martin Hynes is Director of Process Improvement, Boston Scientific. He spent 10 years working in the US and returned to Galway to help establish Boston Scientific in the city. Boston Scientific is one of Galway's largest employers with a workforce of approximately 6,500. Martin is a founding enterprise partner with Designing Futures and works to support one of our core programmes the 'Enterprise Challenge' each year. Together with his team they have supported 3 Enterprises challenges since the project was awarded and were our lead partner for the launch of the Empathy Lab earlier in 2023.

- **Dr. Paul J. LeBlanc, President of Southern New Hampshire University**

Dr. Paul J. LeBlanc is President of Southern New Hampshire University (SNHU) and author of Students First: Equity, Access, and Opportunity in Higher Education and Broken: How our Social Systems are Failing Us. Under the 20 years of Paul's direction, SNHU has grown from 10,000 students to over 180,000 learners and is the largest non-profit provider of online higher education in the country. Paul immigrated to the United States as a child, was the first person in his extended family to attend college and is a graduate of Framingham State University (BA), Boston College (MA), and the University of Massachusetts (PhD). From 1993 to 1996 he directed a technology start up for Houghton Mifflin Publishing Company, was President of Marlboro College (VT) from 1996 to 2003 and became President of SNHU in 2003.

- **Professor Ann Ledwith, UL@Work [Project Lead]**

Professor Ann Ledwith is Director of HCI and UL@Work. She worked for over twelve years as a Product Development Engineer and as a Manager of Product Development in small high-technology firms before completing an MBA at the University of Limerick and a PhD at the University of Brighton. Professor Ledwith has a keen interest in work-based students and flexible learning. She is passionate about the role of the university in supporting regional growth and currently chairs Explore Engineering, an industry-led initiative to increase the quality and quantity of engineering talent (apprentice, technicians and engineers) in the region.

- **Jonathan McCrea, Whipsmart Media [MC]**

Jonathan McCrea is a multi-award-winning TV and radio broadcaster and founder of Whipsmart Media. He is the founder of science communications conference SCI:COM and a highly regarded keynote speaker on future technologies and communication strategies. Jonathan is also the creator of "Futureproof", Newstalk's flagship science programme that has won 11 national and international radio awards in the 9 years it has been on air. He has presented "Ten Things To Know About", the critically acclaimed 6-part TV series for RTE that showcases Irish research.

- **Claire McGee, Education and Innovation Policy IBEC**

Claire McGee is Head of Education and Innovation Policy for Ibec. Claire's role is to promote business and industry priorities in supporting the education system to respond to the changing world of work and society, and boost Ireland's capacity for innovation. She is a board member of the National Forum for the Enhancement of Teaching and Learning in Higher Education and of the National Council of Curriculum and Assessment, in addition to supporting many agency and government initiatives on skills, education, research and innovation.

- **Keith Moynes, Assistant Secretary Higher Education Policy, Department of Further & Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science**

Keith Moynes is an Assistant Secretary in the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science who is responsible for higher education and for the equality, diversity and inclusion agenda. Keith began his career within the Civil Service over twenty years ago, where he served as a Third Secretary with the Department of Foreign Affairs. Since then, he has worked in a variety of roles across the Department of Education and the Department of the Taoiseach.

- **Faith Olasogba, Creative Futures Academy [Learner]**

Faith Olasogba is a student at UCD studying English, Drama and Film Studies aspiring to have a career in any of the three in her future. In October 2022, Faith took a Creative Futures Academy module in Creativity. The spoken word piece performed as part of the HCI Conference was developed as part of this CFA module. Faith was the winner of the Peace Proms Poetry competition in 2016.

- **Robert O'Mahony, Logitech [Sustainable Futures]**

Robert O'Mahony leads Logitech's Global Sustainability function, with responsibility for driving Logitech's "Pervasive Sustainability" commitment to deliver on the company's ambition to help Sustainability become "a mindful principal infused into everything we do at Logitech". During Robert's tenure, Logitech has emerged as a defined 'Leader' in the technology sector for ESG performance and maintains inclusion on the Dow Jones Sustainability Index (DJSI) Europe, the FTSE4GOOD Index and Swiss SIX Sustainability Index as one of the "top 25 most sustainable Swiss companies."

- **Linda Onzule, Events & Education Support Officer, Irish Green Building Council [DASBE]**

Linda Onzule is qualified in International Business with expertise in sustainable projects. Linda is a key team member of the Irish Green Building Council (IGBC) and directly involved with Education and Training provision, ranging from cross sectoral webinars, conferences and training initiatives. In addition, Linda has been involved in many research and implementation projects including: Digital Academy for Sustainable Built Environment (DASBE).

- **Alannah Pardy, GROWTHhub [Learner]**

Alannah Pardy is a BA Marketing and Digital Media graduate from SETU. She is currently employed as a Demo Solutions Associate by SAP Global BTP Presales Ireland while simultaneously running the business she established while in University. In June 2022 Alannah successfully won the Enterprise Ireland Student Entrepreneur Grant Thornton Award. Alannah recognised the need for families who have lost a loved one to keep their memory alive. Accessing advice and mentoring support from GROWTHhub helped Alannah to develop her business, RecaptureOne.

- **Dr Vivienne Patterson, Head of Skills and Engagement [Higher Education Authority]**

In 2006, Dr. Vivienne Patterson joined the team at the Higher Education Authority as Head of Statistics. She led the Statistics Unit of the HEA for 10 years where she was responsible for transforming the communication of education data publishing a number of key reports. Since becoming Head of Skills, Engagement and Statistics in 2016, her responsibilities include the management of both Springboard+, a national upskilling and reskilling programme and the oversight of national apprenticeships in higher education. In 2019, she implemented the Human Capital Initiative, a €300m investment in Agility and Innovation across the Irish Higher Education System. Her role in the HEA involves active strategic engagement with enterprise to strengthen the relationship between higher education promotion and future employment and innovation. She is a member of the CAO Board of Directors, the Expert Group on Future Skills Needs, and the National Training Fund Advisory Group.

- **Aisling Soden, Lead of the Talent Pillar Within the Talent, Transformation and Innovation (TTI) Department IDA Ireland IDA**

Aisling Soden leads the Talent Pillar within the Talent, Transformation and Innovation (TTI) Department in IDA Ireland. TTI supports IDA clients to transform their business through innovation, digital transformation and talent development, sustaining their existing business in Ireland and positioning them for future growth. Prior to joining IDA Aisling worked as a Programme Manager in Science Foundation Ireland. Aisling obtained a PhD in Earth Science from the University of Glasgow and has held postdoctoral positions in the University of Strathclyde and UCD.

- **Professor Blánaid White, DCU Futures [Project Lead]**

Professor Blánaid White is Dean of Strategic Learning Innovation in Dublin City University. She leads DCU Futures, a €20 million education transformation project, which aims to radically reimagine the university curriculum and reconceptualise university teaching. Previously, Blánaid has held the roles of Associate Dean for Teaching and Learning in the Faculty of Science and Health and Head of School of Chemical Sciences.