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<td>8:00 AM</td>
<td>Registration &amp; Networking</td>
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April 30, 2024 8:00 am - 5:30 pm
9:00 AM  Opening Remarks  Gayathri Srinivasan  Executive Director, MIT Corporate Relations

Gayathri Srinivasan  Executive Director  MIT Corporate Relations

Dr. Srinivasan is a distinguished scientist who received her PhD in Microbiology from The Ohio State University in 2004, where she contributed to the discovery of the 22nd amino acid, Pyrrolysine (2002). She first came to MIT as an NIH Postdoctoral Fellow in Prof. Tom Rajbhandary’s lab, where her research focused on understanding protein synthesis mechanisms in Archaea.

Dr. Srinivasan subsequently moved into the business development and technology licensing space, serving in MIT’s Technology Licensing Office, where she helped commercialize technologies in medical devices and alternative energies. She then moved to UMass Medical School’s Office of Technology Management in 2009 and to Emory University in Atlanta in 2014 as the Director of Public and Private Partnerships for the Woodruff Health Sciences Center. In 2019, Dr. Srinivasan joined Emory’s Office of Corporate Relations as Executive Director, and in 2021, she led the Office of Corporate and Foundation Relations.

Catarina Madeira  Director, MIT Startup Exchange

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Catarina has been working with the Cambridge/Boston startup ecosystem for over 10 years and joined Corporate Relations with a solid network in the innovation and entrepreneurial community. Prior to MIT, she was part of the team that designed and launched the startup accelerator IUL MIT Portugal, which was later rebranded as Building Global Innovators. She was based in Lisbon and worked in direct relation with the Cambridge team. She held positions including Operations Coordinator, Program Manager, and Business Developer. The accelerator soon achieved steady growth in large part due to the partnerships that Catarina led with regional and global startup ecosystems. After that, she worked at NECEC, leading a program that connects cleantech startups and industry. In this role, she developed and built a pipeline of startups and forged strong relationships with both domestic and European companies. She has also held positions in Portugal and France, including at Saboaria e Perfumaria Confiança and L’Oréal as Technical Director and Pharmacist. Catarina earned her bachelor's in chemistry and pharmaceutical sciences in Portugal. She went on to earn her Master of Engineering for Health and Medicines in France.

9:15 AM  Inside Real Innovation: Challenges for Corporations and Universities  Eugene A. Fitzgerald

Presenting innovation as an iterative process where one goes through several cycles in the areas of technology, market, and implementation. This talk gives concrete examples of how corporates can find new directions and how to build a better innovation system collectively.
10:00 AM  

**University and Corporate Tech Transfer**

**Gayathri Srinivasan**  
Executive Director, MIT Corporate Relations

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**Lesley Millar-Nicholson**  
Executive Director, MIT Technology Licensing Office (TLO)

Lesley Millar-Nicholson is the Executive Director of MIT’s Technology Licensing Office (TLO) and was part of the Founding Leadership team of MIT Office of Strategic Alliances and Technology Transfer (OSATT) formed in 2019. As TLO Executive Director, she leads a team of technology transfer professionals. Together, they manage MIT’s intellectual assets and technology transfer process involving over 11,000 unique pending and issued US and foreign patents, and hundreds of copyright and open source assets. The team engages broadly with stakeholders to facilitate engagements leading to licenses for qualified third parties to deliver on the TLO mission to have impact through technology commercialization.

Prior to arriving in Cambridge Ms. Millar-Nicholson had served for ten years as Director of the Office of Technology Management (OTM) at the University of Illinois, Urbana/Champaign.

Ms. Millar-Nicholson is a past President Board of Governors of Certified Licensing Professionals Inc, a member of AUTM and the Licensing Executive Society, and a past Board Member of Cambridge Enterprise, UK. A native of Scotland, Ms. Millar-Nicholson has a B.Ed., M.Ed., MBA and is a Certified Licensing Professional.

[View full bio](#)

**Thomas Holcombe**  
Head of Collaboration & Scouting North America  
BASF

Thomas A. Collet  
President, CEO, and Director  
Bilayer Therapeutics

This panel will focus on the most effective approaches for operating at the nexus of university, industry, and early-stage ventures. From invention to market, creating a favorable environment for technology development, collaborations, and accelerated commercialization.
10:45 AM  Networking Break

11:10 AM  MIT Technology Review’s List of 10 Breakthrough Technologies
Amy Nordrum
Executive Editor of Operations
MIT Technology Review

11:40 AM  Startup Lightning Talks I
Alicia Chong Rodriguez
Founder and CEO
Bloomer Tech

Christian Wentz
Founder and CEO
Gradient

Daphne Pariser
Postdoctoral Researcher
HeronAI

Jerry Shu
Co-Founder
Lendica

Stewart Peña Feliz
Co-Founder and CEO
MacroCycle

Heidi Wyle
Founder & CEO
Venti Technologies

12:20 PM  Lunch with Startup Exhibitors and MIT Campus Partners

- MIT Sandbox
- MIT Technology Licensing Office (TLO)
- E14 Fund
- MIT Office of Innovation
- MIT Computer Science and Artificial Intelligence Laboratory (CSAIL)
- MIT Venture Mentoring Service (VMS)
- MIT International Science and Technology Initiatives (MISTI)
- MIT Entrepreneurship Club
- MIT Deshpande Center for Technological Innovation
- The Engine
Ron Spangler has been a Program Director in Corporate Relations since late 2013. Currently, he manages a portfolio of companies in the mining, energy, aerospace, and defense industries. Prior to joining MIT Corporate Relations, Ron had a twenty-year career in industry, focused mainly on several MIT-connected startup companies. Ron received his doctorate in Aeronautics and Astronautics from MIT in 1994.

Brendan Smith
Co-Founder & CEO
SiTration

Saskia Duyvesteyn
Chief Advisor of Research & Development
Rio Tinto

Captain Aisha Saeed Harib
Head of Knowledge, Innovation, and Development Center
Dubai Police

Joshua Sarmir
CEO
SplitSage

Fostering collaborations between MIT-connected startups and corporates is part of MIT Startup Exchange mission. This panel features two successful collaborations that Startup Exchange and ILP helped form with startups and ILP corporate members. Panelists will talk about the different types of engagement, how they took shape, and what’s next as they keep progressing.
2:15 PM  Startup Lightning Talks II

John Greenfield  
Head of Business Development  
Noya

Tairan Wang  
Co-Founder & CEO  
Sangtera

Kanwar Singh  
CEO and CO-Founder  
Skyline Nav AI

Chris Mannion  
Founder  
Sonar Talent

Katie Trauth Taylor  
CEO and Co-Founder  
Narratize

Tim Spong  
CEO & Co-Founder  
Vistapath

Michael Davies  
CEO  
WKD.SMRT

2:55 PM  Networking Break & Startup Exhibit

3:20 PM  Myths About Entrepreneurship

William (Bill) Aulet

Entrepreneurship in the last decade has undergone a profound transformation, adapting to the rapid technological advancements and evolving market demands. To meet these new challenges, there’s a pressing need for robust and adaptable standards in entrepreneurship education that ensure future entrepreneurs are well-equipped. In this session, we will debunk common myths and misconceptions surrounding entrepreneurship, shedding light on the realities of starting and running a successful business in today’s world.
4:00 PM
Investing in Science Based Startups
Katie Rae
CEO and Managing Partner, The Engine Ventures

Katie is the CEO & Managing Partner of Engine Ventures. She serves as a Board Member for The Engine Funds’ portfolio companies Commonwealth Fusion Systems, Form Energy, Boston Metal, and Sublime Systems. Katie has over 10 years of experience as an investor and 25 years as a tech executive, helping build Boston into a thriving tech hub. She has invested in nearly 100 companies and advised hundreds of founders from early-stage formation to scale-up. Key investments include Pillpack (acquired by Amazon for $1 billion in 2018), Flywire, Moon, and GrabCAD. Katie has experience in managing startup accelerators and business-innovation programs — she was a Managing Director of Techstars Boston. She was also a co-founder and Managing Director at Project 11 Ventures. In addition to her extensive investing career, she has over 20 years of experience in product development, management & operations including holding management positions at Microsoft, Eons, AltaVista, RagingBull, Zip2, and Mirror Worlds. Katie holds an MBA from Yale and a BA in Biology from Oberlin College. Katie co-founded the Equity Summit, which convenes leading General Partners and Asset Managers of diversity across the venture capital industry.

Carmichael Roberts
Co-Founder & Managing Partner
Material Impact

In this fireside chat speakers will talk about taking science based startups to market. The potential these ventures have to transform sectors and the challenges they face as they invest early on.

4:30 PM
Wrap-Up
Catarina Madeira
Director, MIT Startup Exchange

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4:35 PM - 5:30 PM  
Networking Reception