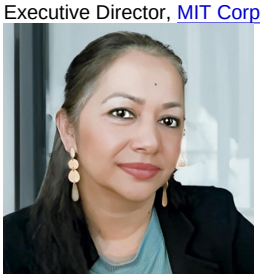
MIT Industrial Liaison Program Faculty Knowledgebase Report

2025 MIT London Symposium

October 9, 2025 8:00 am - 4:30 pm

8:30 AM	Registration with Light Breakfast
9:00 AM	Welcome and Introduction Ed Stainton 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.

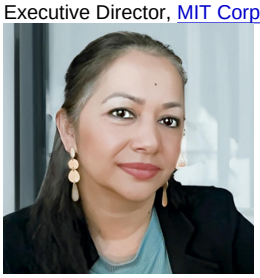
Dr. Srinivasan subsequently moved into the business development and technology licensing space, serving in MIT's Technology Licensing Office, where she helped commercialize technologies in medical devices and alternative energies. She then moved to UMass Medical School's Office of Technology Management 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.

9:15 AM

Session I: Preparing for Tomorrow - People, Skills, and Education

Melissa Nobles

Gayathri Srinivasan
Executive Director, MIT Corporate Relations



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9:45 AM

Session II: Innovation Ecosystems

Phil Budden

Walid Fakhry

Alan Stewart

Pryderi ap Rhisiart

Innovation and entrepreneurial ecosystems are essential to building the capabilities and competitiveness needed for the future. MIT's Regional Entrepreneurship Accelerator Program (REAP) has developed a five-stakeholder model (entrepreneurs, government, academia, industry, and risk capital) to help strengthen regional and national ecosystems worldwide. This panel will bring together representatives from these stakeholder groups to discuss the current landscape, as well as the challenges and opportunities ahead.

10:45 AM

Networking Break

11:15 AM

Session III: Engineering a Sustainable Future

Masha Folk

Sarwar Khan

Many of the key challenges we face today are complex and multidimensional. Climate change and sustainability are prime examples. Addressing such challenges will require a radical rethinking of our foundational infrastructures, including how we engineer, measure, and operate them, as well as how we understand the value they create and the values that guide their evolution. This session will explore two such areas: sustainable aviation and digital platforms. It will examine recent developments in how they are engineered and consider their emerging roles within the broader system.

12:15 PM

MIT MISTI - Engaging MIT Students in the UK

Stephen Barnes

Every year, over a thousand of MIT students travel abroad to teach, to learn, to help launch startups, or to work with industry partners on projects at the frontiers of science, technology, and innovation. This short session will introduce MIT's MISTI program and opportunities for attendees to build lasting partnerships with MIT students.

12:30 PM

Lunch

1:45 PM

Afternoon Remarks
Steve Whittaker

Program Director, MIT Industrial Liaison Program

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Program Director, MIT Industrial Liaison Program

Steve Whittaker has almost 40 years' of experience in R&D, innovation, and strategy. He has a background in computer science and AI, coupled with very broad interests in emerging technologies and their impact on individuals, organizations, and society.

Before joining MIT, Steve was responsible for BT's partnerships with US research universities and business schools. He was recently awarded the inaugural MIT CSAIL Connector Award for industry partnerships, and he was a resident visiting scientist/research affiliate at the MIT Media Lab for more than a decade.

Prior to relocating to the US, Steve held various research, research management, strategy and business development roles at BT's Adastral Park research labs.

2:00 PM

Session IV: Rethinking Thinking When AI Is Smarter Than You
Michael Schrage
Research Fellow, MIT Initiative on the Digital Economy, MIT Sloan School of Management

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Research Fellow, MIT Initiative on the Digital Economy
MIT Sloan School of Management

Michael Schrage is a research fellow with the MIT Sloan School of Management's Initiative on the Digital Economy. His research, writing, and advisory work focuses on the behavioral economics of models, prototypes, and metrics as strategic resources for managing innovation risk and opportunity. He is author of the award-winning book The Innovator's Hypothesis (*MIT Press*, 2014), Who Do You Want Your Customers to Become? (*Harvard Business Review Press*, 2012), and Serious Play (*Harvard Business Review Press*, 2000). His latest book, Recommendation Engines, was published in September 2020 by *MIT Press* as part of its Essential Knowledge series. He's done consulting and advisory work for Microsoft, Procter & Gamble, British Telecom, BP, Siemens, Embraer, Google, iRise, the Office of Net Assessment, and other organizations

Schrage has run design workshops and executive education programs on innovation, experimentation, and strategic measurement for organizations all over the world and is currently pioneering work in selvesware technologies designed to augment aspects, attributes, and talents of productive individuals. He is particularly interested in the future co-evolution of expertise, advice, and human agency as technologies become smarter than the people using them.

View full bio

Detlef Nauck

Robert Smith

The rapid emergence of new AI capabilities is creating both opportunities and challenges. One of the most intriguing questions is how we will use AI as a partner—not only in business operations, but also in how we explore and apply knowledge, experiment, understand, and create. How will we think and act differently in the future? What will our new relationship with knowledge look like? What risks and opportunities will it bring? And what have we learned so far, and what must we still strive to understand?

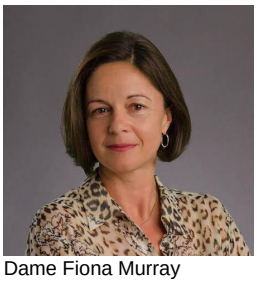
3:00 PM

Networking Break

3:20 PM

Session V: Innovation and Competitiveness
Dame Fiona Murray

Associate Dean For Innovation
Co-Director MIT Innovation Initiative
William Porter (1967) Professor of Entrepreneurship
Faculty Director Legatum Center
MIT Sloan School of Management



Dame Fiona Murray

Associate Dean For Innovation
Co-Director MIT Innovation Initiative
William Porter (1967) Professor of Entrepreneurship
Faculty Director Legatum Center
MIT Sloan School of Management

Professor Dame Fiona Murray is the Associate Dean of Innovation at the MIT Sloan School of Management, William Porter (1967) Professor of Entrepreneurship. She is the Co-Director of MIT's Initiative for Innovation and also an associate of the National Bureau of Economic Research.

She is an international expert on the transformation of investments in scientific and technical innovation into innovation-based entrepreneurship that drives jobs, wealth creation, and regional prosperity. She has a special interest in entrepreneurship, the commercialization of science and the economics of entrepreneurship and innovation. She has done extensive work with entrepreneurs, governments, large corporations and philanthropists designing and evaluating the policies and programs that shape vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystems: prizes competitions, accelerators, patent licensing rules and proof of concept funding programs.

A former scientist trained at Harvard University and the University of Oxford, Murray has taught and published extensively on fostering cultures that bridge scientific innovation and entrepreneurship, building effective entrepreneurial strategies for science-based businesses (in biotech and biomedical companies and recently, clean energy), and evaluating the commercial potential of novel scientific ideas. Closely tied to real world problems, Fiona works with public policy makers and entrepreneurs designing and evaluating the policies and programs that shape vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystems: prizes competitions, accelerators, patent licensing rules and proof of concept funding programs.
She also works with large global corporations who seek to leverage the ideas of a wide range of internal scientists as well as external entrepreneurs through novel programs such as prize competitions. Her recent engagements have focused on relationships that span the public and private sectors. She is particularly interested in new emerging organizational arrangements for the effective commercialization of science, including public-private partnerships, not-for-profits, venture philanthropy, and university-initiated seed funding and innovation-focused competitions and prizes.

After a short time on the faculty of Oxford University's Said Business School, Murray joined MIT Sloan where she is now Faculty Director of the Martin Trust Center for MIT Entrepreneurship. In this role, Fiona works on the design and delivery of entrepreneurship education at the undergraduate and graduate levels. She teaches the "Innovation Teams" course, which assembles teams of students from across MIT to learn the process of technology commercialization, with a focus on evaluating a technology's potential for significant commercial and social impact. She has recently started the REAL course – Regional Entrepreneurial Acceleration Lab - which gives students practical and academic insights into the design and development of entrepreneurial ecosystems around the world. These courses encourage cross-campus collaborations that move scientific discoveries closer towards marketable products and allow for students from different stakeholder perspectives to understand the broader entrepreneurial ecosystem. She also has a particular interest in the entrepreneurial education of scientists and engineers, and in the role of women in entrepreneurship and commercialization of science.

Fiona has spoken at events worldwide about building entrepreneurial capacity built upon the engine of scientific research. She also speaks in academic and policy settings on innovation and intellectual property in the scientific community. She has been published in a wide range of journals, including Science, Nature, New England Journal of Medicine, Nature Biotechnology, American Journal of Sociology, Research Policy, Organization Science, and the Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization.

Murray has served on the faculty at MIT Sloan since 1999. In 2006 she was promoted to Associate Professor in the Technological Innovation & Entrepreneurship Strategic Management Group and in 2009 became Faculty Director of the Trust Center for MIT Entrepreneurship. Previously, Murray held positions at Harvard University, the University of Oxford, the Asian Development Bank, and United Nations Environment Program in Kenya.

4:20 PM	Closing Reflections
4:30 PM	Adjournment