# 2024 MIT Startup Ecosystem Conference

**April 30, 2024 8:00 am - 5:30 pm**

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|   Gayathri Srinivasan  
   Executive Director  
   MIT Corporate Relations  
|   Catarina Madeira  
   Director  
   MIT Startup Exchange |
| 9:15 AM| Inside Real Innovation: Challenges for Corporations and Universities    |
|   Eugene A. Fitzgerald  
   CEO of Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology (SMART)  
   and the Merton C. Flemings SMA Professor, MIT Department of Materials Science and Engineering  
   MIT Department of Materials Science and Engineering  
| To move from an idea to market, a technical concept must be implemented for a market application. Incremental innovation involves introducing uncertainty predominately in only one aspect of innovation (technical, implementation, or market application) to minimize risk and use current organization knowledge. For more fundamental innovation that results in larger impact over a greater amount of time, uncertainty must be simultaneously introduced in market application, technology, and implementation. Processes to optimize such search for value are unnatural in hierarchical organizations. Corporations and Universities working in a ‘Third Place’ will be more effective at shaping such long-term innovation productivity, producing new enterprise that can bridge the gap between organizations. |
| 10:00 AM| University and Corporate Tech Transfer                                 |
|   Gayathri Srinivasan  
   Executive Director, MIT Corporate Relations  
   MIT Corporate Relations  
|   Lesley Millar-Nicholson  
   Executive Director  
   MIT Technology Licensing Office  
|   Thomas Holcombe  
   Head of Collaboration & Scouting North America  
   BASF  
|   Thomas A. Collet  
   President, CEO, and Director  
   Blayer 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| Amy Nordrum                                                             |
|   Executive Editor of Operations  
   MIT Technology Review |
| Every year, MIT Technology Review’s list of 10 Breakthrough Technologies highlights the technological advances that will have the biggest impact on the world in the years to come. Join MIT Technology Review’s Executive Editor of Operations, Amy Nordrum, as she presents the 2024 list. |
11:40 AM

Startup Lightning Talks I

Tricia Dinkel
Manager of Partnerships & Engagement
MIT Startup Exchange

Alicia Chong Rodriguez
Founder and CEO
Boomer 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

Sujeesh Krishnan
CEO
Kinnam Software Corporation

Saman Amarasinghe
Co-Founder
Venti Technologies

12:20 pm

Lunch with Startup Exhibitors and MIT Campus Partners:

- MIT Sandbox
- MIT Technology Licensing Office (TLO)
- 14 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

1:30 PM

Startup & Corporate Engagement, Success Cases

Ron Spangler
Director
MIT Corporate Relations

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

Irina Gazievaya  
Program Coordinator  
MIT Startup Exchange

John Greenfield  
Head of Business Development  
Nova

Tairan Wang  
Co-Founder & CEO  
Sangera

Kanwar Singh  
CEO and Co-Founder  
Skyline Nav AI

Chris Mannion  
Founder  
Meander

Catherine O'Shea  
COO and Co-Founder  
Narratize

Michael Davies  
CEO  
WKD.SMRT

2:55 PM

Networking Break & Startup Exhibit

3:20 PM

Myths About Entrepreneurship

William Aulet  
Ethernet Inventors Professor of the Practice, MIT Sloan School of Management and  
Managing Director of the Martin Trust Center for MIT Entrepreneurship  
Martin Trust Center for MIT Entrepreneurs

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  
The Engine

Carmichael Roberts  
Business Lead, Investment Committee, Breakthrough Energy Ventures and Co-Founder,  
Material Impact  
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  
MIT Startup Exchange

4:35 PM

Networking Reception