# 2024 MIT Startup Ecosystem Conference

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

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<td>8:00 AM</td>
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| 9:00 AM| Opening Remarks                                                       | Gayathri Srinivasan  
MIT Corporate Relations  
Catarina Madeira  
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                                                          | 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

- **Chris White**  
  COO  
  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)
- 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

**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 Gaziyeva  
Program Coordinator  
MIT Startup Exchange

John Greenfield  
Head of Business Development  
Noya

Tairan Wang  
Co-Founder & CEO  
Sangtera

Kanwar Singh  
CEO and Co-Founder  
Sangtera

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**