

## **RGU Startup Accelerator - External Judges**

Over forty regional, national and international judges have volunteered to be part of the startup accelerator process. These individuals have significant backgrounds in entrepreneurship, innovation, design thinking, venture capital, intellectual property, strategy, leadership and commercialisation of new technology with experience across a wide range of industries globally.

Here is a small sample of the profiles of some of these accelerator judges:

### **Mark Crowell**

*United States*

**Bio:** Mark provides strategic planning and program development advice and consulting services in the areas of innovation, engagement, entrepreneurship and translational research to universities, boards, regional and national governing and development authorities, and private industry. Most recently, Mark was the Vice President for Innovation and Economic Development at the King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST) in Saudi Arabia, where he was responsible for the university's technology transfer, industry engagement, investment funding, entrepreneurship, and research park operations.

Prior to going to KAUST, he served as founding Executive Director of UVA Innovation at the University of Virginia; Vice President for Business Development at the Scripps Research Institute; Associate Vice Chancellor for Technology Transfer and Economic Development at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; Associate Vice Chancellor for Technology Transfer and Industry Research at NC State University; and Director of Technology Transfer at Duke University. Mark was 2005 President of the Association of University Technology Managers (AUTM), served for five years as Chair of BIO's Technology Transfer Committee, and was co-chair of the Research Committee of the APEC Life Science Innovation Forum.

Mark's clients include the World Bank, BIO, the DeTao Group in China, and numerous universities, NGOs and private firms. In 2013, Mark received the Bayh-Dole Award from AUTM "in recognition of his lifetime contributions to advancing academic innovations." In 2011, he was invited by the White House to attend President Barack Obama's signing ceremony for the America Invents Act.

### **Ms. Jennifer Kenny**

*United States*

**Bio:** Jennifer speaks, mentors, trains and facilitates on the topic of applied transformation as an innovative practice, with a specific focus on two of the

big levers of transformation: technology and gender diversity. Her work is founded on Systems Thinking and Language Action Design/Human Centered Design. Jennifer was CIO at SRI International (Stanford Research Institute). She led the transformation of the information technology organization to drive business innovation.

Jennifer has served as an advisor to the President and Executive team of Tanri Abeng University, Executive Center for Global Leadership, Jakarta, and visiting faculty for their Advanced Leadership Program. She advised their Top 200 Leadership Program and led preparation for investment.

As senior executive with Wells Fargo, she led major process transformation initiatives for commercial banking. She was Head of Global Professional Services at Cisco/WebEx and a senior consultant at Accenture in their Oil and Gas practice, Booz Allen in their IT Strategy Group and while heading up the PMO at the University of California San Francisco, Medical Center, she led management through the prioritization and implementation of 150 different projects as part of a campus-wide operational excellence initiative.

Jennifer has presented at Stanford University Executive Briefing Program; was Featured Entrepreneur and presenter at the University of Colorado's Profiles in American Enterprise program; and has lectured at the University of Santa Clara, Leavey School of Business, MBA Program. She has presented at the Northern California Human Resources Council Annual Conference and the WITI (Women in Technology) Annual Conference and spoke at the Irish Female Leaders in Silicon Valley event at Stanford Design School. She has published numerous papers, presented at Stanford Executive Briefings and at conferences in the U.S, Europe, and China, and has won the Intel and DEMO entrepreneurship awards. She is Chair of the Global Women's Leadership Network.

## **Roger Cannon**

*Scotland*

**Bio:** A recently retired partner of international law firm Pinsent Masons LLP ("PM") who was previously head of its Aberdeen office and head of corporate, he has over 30 years' experience in corporate and commercial law specialising in the Oil and Gas sector, acting for UK and foreign oil service companies and independent Exploration & Production companies. He also has significant expertise in sector-specific intellectual property matters.

He was commended in the 2018 editions of both Chambers and Legal 500, and in the former said to be held in high regard for having "a wealth of experience and a strong commercial awareness." In a previous edition of legal 500 he was also referred to as "an excellent all round advisor".

He is currently working part time as a consultant to PM responsible for developing the firms freelance lawyer service, Vario, focused on the global Oil & Gas sector. He is involved in the work of the Law department at the

University of Aberdeen, a trustee of the Robert Gordon University Foundation and the current president of the Society of Advocates in Aberdeen.

## **Dr Leo Bishop**

*Ireland*

**Bio:** Leonora leads business development within HiTech Health, bringing over 20 years of experience working in the Life Sciences sector with start-ups, government organisations and academic institutions.

Leonora is responsible for pursuing strategic opportunities and cultivating partnerships between HiTech Health and a wide range of organisations and academic institutions. Working closely with clients, Leo is committed to helping HiTech Health become the leading service provider to the Life Sciences in Ireland for the launch and supply of products.

Prior to joining HiTech Health, Dr Bishop was responsible for developing and managing the IDA's large scale industry-academic initiatives to support key industrial FDI sectors, including the €55m investment in Ireland the National Institute for Bioprocessing Research and Training to support the biopharma industry in Ireland.

Dr Bishop was also responsible for implementing strategies and policies that encourage multinational companies to carry-out R&D activities in Ireland by devising the models for large industry-academic collaborative research projects, leading to investments totaling €61m, by BMS, GSK, Beckman Coulter, Smith&Nephew and IDA

Previously Dr Bishop had a private consultancy practice, held senior business development positions with a number of start-up life science and medical device companies and held a lectureship post at Imperial College, London. Dr. Bishop is a graduate of University College Cork, (BSc) and the University of New South Wales, (PhD) Dr Bishop conducted post-doctoral research at Cancer Research UK.

## **Brian Hayes**

*Ireland*

**Bio:** Brian Hayes He is acting chairman of Global Currency Exchange Limited trading as Continuum Commerce whose principal customers are the global airlines. He is a non-executive director of Bank of Montreal Ireland plc). He is Chairman of the Governance Risk and Compliance Technology Centre (Chairman), which champions industry-led academic research collaboration principally in the area of semantic technologies.

He provides advisory services (financial services, innovation and strategy) to a range of companies across Europe and provides innovation consultancy and

training to small and large companies. Brian is an approved mentor for Enterprise Ireland, which supports Ireland's indigenous start-up and emerging companies across sectors. He also coaches senior executives in different industries.

He is an international mentor at the King Abdullah University for Science & Technology (KAUST) in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia working with a range of large corporations and start-ups on entrepreneurship and innovation.

He was formerly a Managing Director and Board Director of Citibank Europe plc (CEP). He was the founder of the first Citibank Innovation Lab (formerly called RDIL Labs) and was a member of Citibank's Global Innovation Council in New York. He has extensive senior business leadership roles as MD of a number of major businesses as Head of Treasury, Corporate Finance and Transaction Services.

Brian was also a former Chairman of the Dublin City University Educational Trust and was appointed by the Irish Government to its research prioritization advisory board. He has also lectured on treasury management on the Dublin City University Masters program.

### **Dr. Sarah Ghaleb**

*Saudi Arabia/United States*

**Bio:** Currently General Manager, Education & Poverty Alleviation Initiatives, Abdul Latif Jameel Community Initiatives, Community Initiatives in Saudi Arabia. Sarah is an American-born Saudi, and brings over 10 years of professional research experience, including developing and leading comprehensive training programs and social program evaluations to support programs funded through the U.S. Department of Education as well as the U.S. Department of State.

Ms. Ghaleb has a list of professional accomplishments that reflect her commitment to the development and evaluation of social programming. She began this through her work in the U.S. by statistically evaluating evidence-based programming to public charter schools in the District of Columbia. Then, she worked with the U.S. Department of state in introducing the concept of *social entrepreneurship* and business development skills to women in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia through a MEPI grant funded program.

She later co-founded Naqa'a Sustainability Solutions to address the pressing social and environmental needs in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and continues to offer training, curriculum development, and social impact evaluation. Next, she became the first GM of Education and Poverty Alleviation Initiatives at ALJCI-the CRS arm of the Abdul Latif Jameel Group.

Shortly after assuming this position, she was also selected to work simultaneously in her dual role with the President's office in the Jeddah headquarters of ALJ. Ms. Ghaleb holds a Masters in Education Leadership also

from George Mason University, and a doctorate in Higher Education Administration from The George Washington University.

## **Charlie Lewis**

*United States*

**Bio:** Charlie Lewis has been Senior Vice President of Venture Development at Arizona Science & Technology Enterprises (AZTE) since June 30, 2016. He manages the creation and growth of new Arizona State University spinout companies. In this role, he is responsible for the commercialization of ASU discoveries through licensing agreements, joint ventures, and the formation of new startups.

He served as Vice President of Venture Development at Arizona Technology Enterprises, LLC (AzTE) until June 2016. Charlie brings 20 years of entrepreneurial and private equity experience to AzTE. During his tenure, ASU has had over 90 spinout companies, who have closed over \$600 million equity funding.

Charlie has also been involved in the merger or acquisition of three portfolio companies at Arris Ventures, including one by Intrawest Corporation. Prior to joining AzTE, Mr. Lewis served as a General Partner at Arris Ventures and Paradise '94. He directed the investment committee responsible for analyzing due diligence findings and appropriating more than \$25 million in private capital with an emphasis on early-stage technology companies.

Prior to his venture fund experiences, Mr. Lewis was the Vice President of Sales and Marketing for Tritium Technologies. There he developed the marketing plan and managed the sales process for the company's digital vibration attenuation products. Mr. Lewis has also assumed senior management positions in three high tech companies in the software and semiconductor markets. Previously he served as an International Director for Distribution for ANVT, Inc. In that role, Mr. Lewis formulated the North American and European distribution plans and gained key insight into international trade relations. He was a Founding Partner and Chief Executive Officer at Midas Computers from 1984 until its acquisition by POS Systems in 1993.

## **Tony Kelly**

*Ireland*

**Bio:** Tony is the former CEO of Irish online technology success story, Demonware, as well as an investor in & adviser to several technology startups. He is an accomplished technology leader with 25+ years experience who has held positions with several fast-growing technology companies, both start-ups and multinational corporations. Over that period he has worked on

hundreds of apps, websites & online services & has credits in 150+ videogame titles.

He was CEO of Demonware, the online services provider behind some of the largest video-game brands in the world - where he oversaw all technology & product development. Demonware was acquired by Activision-Blizzard, the world's largest video-game publisher - where Kelly later helped architect the online, ecommerce & business intelligence / big data strategy - as well as bringing Call of Duty to China. During this same period he took the company from being a \$1.5M per year cost centre to a ~\$1Bn per year generating profit centre.

Products he has worked on have won 40+ national & international awards, including BAFTAs & an award from the United Nations. He has deployed extremely high performance, high uptime services at internet-scale (i.e. 600M+ users). He was also the infrastructure & cloud subject matter expert on Activision-Blizzard's senior leadership team - in addition to sitting on the M&A committee. He has planned, designed, managed & delivered products & services in mobile, web, desktop, fintech, cloud & infrastructure, big data, AI/machine learning, blockchain (Ethereum smart contract), chatbots, automation/tooling, elearning, cyber security, ecommerce & videogaming.

He was a mentor for Google Startup Weekend, as well as mentor and panel judge for Dare to be Digital & NDRC's GamePad accelerator. In addition to being policy director for Games Ireland, he was the chairman of the Videogame & Technology Cluster Development Team on behalf of the Irish government. Tony has consulted at both national & EU level on data protection/ GDPR, IAP/micro-transactions/loot boxes, esports & cyber security among others.