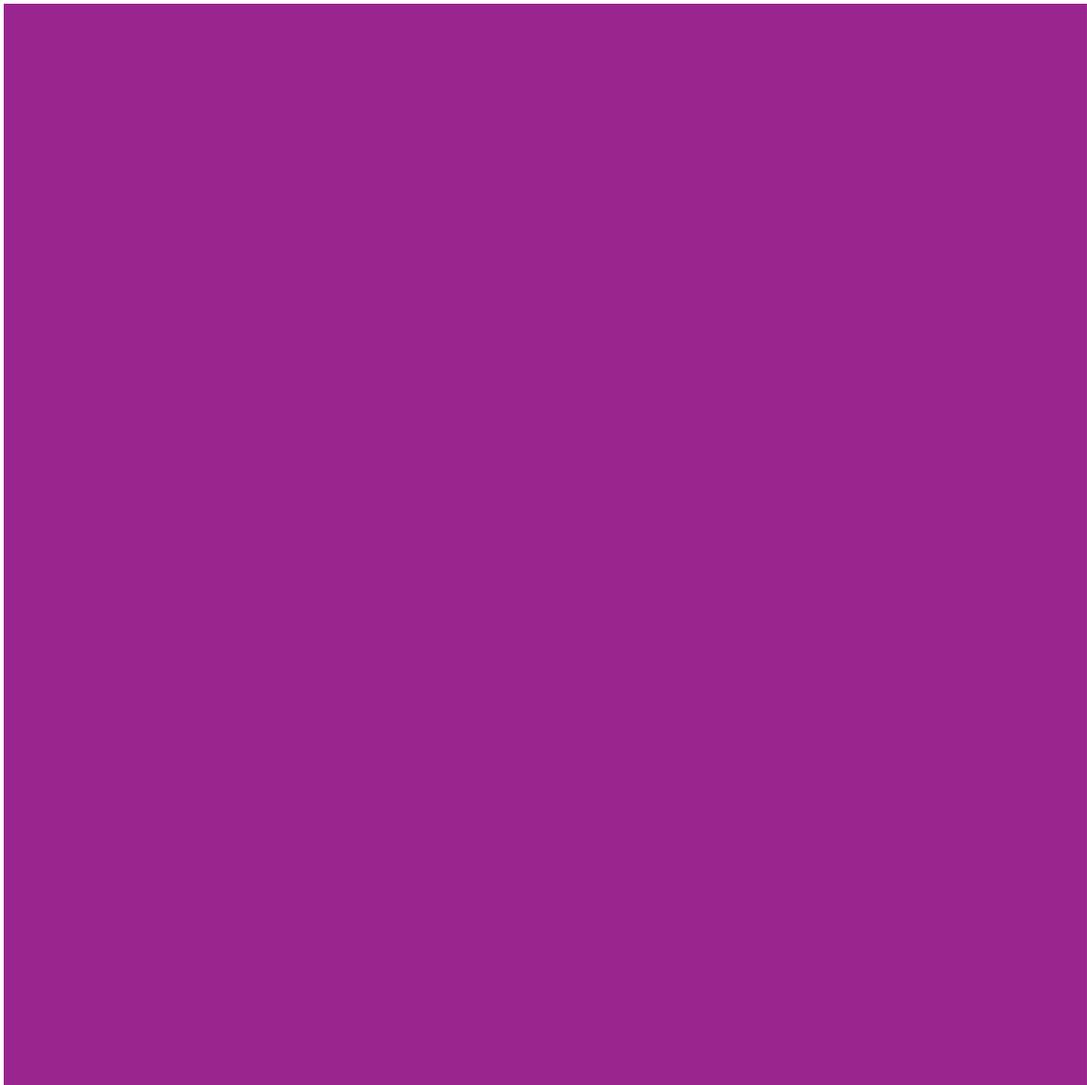




**KTI**  
Knowledge Transfer Ireland  
Where Research & Business Connect



Research2Business Award



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The inaugural KTI Research2Business award celebrates excellence in engagement between researchers and the business community. For example, through collaborative research, contracted services and consultancy. The award recognises the researcher whose interactions have delivered exceptional impact for businesses and had a beneficial effect for their host institution.

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## About the Award

The award also recognises the winning researcher's University, Institute of Technology or research organisation in encouraging and facilitating the researcher's industry collaborations and for promoting and supporting knowledge transfer at institutional level.

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## Short listed nominees

### **Dr. John Breslin**

NUI Galway

### **Professor Willie Donnelly**

Waterford Institute of Technology

### **Professor Luke O'Neill**

Trinity College Dublin

### **Dr. Mark Southern**

University of Limerick

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**Dr. John Breslin**  
NUI Galway



Dr. John Breslin is a Lecturer in Engineering and Informatics at NUI Galway and a Research Leader at the Insight Centre for Data Analytics at NUI Galway. He has been Principal Investigator (PI) / budget holder for national and international funding totalling €1.75 million and was co-PI on the €15 million Lion 2 DERI CSET, and was PI on the Eurapp study of EU app companies with Gigaom.

He has written 150 peer-reviewed publications, and co-authored the book "The Social Semantic Web". He has co-authored papers with industry partners including IBM and Cisco, and his papers have been cited in patent grants / applications by IBM and Google.

He has won various awards: ICEGOV 2013 best research paper; ESWC 2012 seven-year most influential paper; IEEE PELS 2000 best paper; IIA Net Visionary (twice); and a Golden Spider.

He has chaired international conferences including AAAI ICWSM 2012 in Dublin. He is Vice Chair of IFIP's Working Group 12.7 on Social Networking Semantics and Collective Intelligence, and Dissemination Chair for the KEYSTONE COST Action IC1302. He is also on the Board of Directors for the American Council on Exercise, the largest non-profit fitness certification, education and training organisation worldwide.

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**Impact**

John's research has been used by business and he is a prolific business advisor. He is an entrepreneur and he has used his experiences to develop and promote enterprise activity nationally and within the Galway region.

He created the SIOC Semantic Web framework, implemented in hundreds of applications (by Yahoo, Boeing, Vodafone, etc.) on over 25,000 websites. His research in the field has resulted in collaborations with companies such as IBM and Cisco. He is an Advisor to a number of companies including AYLIEN, BuilderEngine, CloudDock, CrowdGather, Dot-Irish, Fimsi, Pocket Anatomy, and Trugence. As an internet entrepreneur, John has co-founded three companies that now employ approximately 20 people. (boards.ie, adverts.ie, and StreamGlider).

John has been proactive in supporting the entrepreneurial ecosystem within Galway through co-founding Startup Galway and specifically supporting the student community through establishing the NUI Galway Entrepreneurship Society. As founder of Technology Voice, John provides advice to budding founders through his monthly podcast/radio show and he publishes "Talented 38" a yearly list of Irish and Ireland-based women in technology.

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Professor Willie Donnelly is Vice President of Research and Innovation at Waterford Institute of Technology (WIT) and Director of the Telecommunications Software and Systems Group (TSSG). He received a BSc in Applied Science in 1984 and a PhD in Physics in 1989. Prior to re-entering academia in 1996 he worked as a software and product design engineer in the utilities sector and as a telecommunications engineer in the telecommunications industry.

Professor Donnelly was appointed as WIT's first VP of Research and Innovation in 2003 and under his leadership the Institute has strategically developed its research capacity, programmes and infrastructure in a number of areas most notably mobile networks and services, bio-pharma, advanced manufacturing and eco-innovation. Throughout the ten year period (2003 – 2013) the Institute has competitively secured more than €130 million in research funding from a variety of private, national and European sources.

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**Professor  
Willie Donnelly**  
Waterford Institute  
of Technology



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Through the creation of research expertise in the telecommunications and software sector and deliberate reach-out to industry, Willie has created a research and innovation ecosystem that has led to the creation of mobile services and software industry in the South East that otherwise would not have existed. The number of jobs created as a result of these activities, delivered through the Telecommunications Software & Systems Group (TSSG) at WIT, is conservatively estimated at 500 over six years. The group has partnered with over 110 Irish based companies, concluded 11 licence agreements and spun out six companies (Hash 6, FeedHenry, Headway, Nubiq, ZolkC and Kodacall). FeedHenry has secured international investment and employs approximately 50 people, a number of whom have been recruited directly from the TSSG at WIT.

Internationally recognised as a world leader in telecommunications research, Willie demonstrates that it is possible to balance an academic career and significant engagement with industry. Willie is also lead PI in the Strategic Research Cluster, FAME, bringing multinationals such as IBM, Cisco, Alcatel-Lucent, Intel and EMC into research collaborations. Willie has developed an international graduate programme in the TSSG that is strongly industry focussed, with the majority of graduates now employed in Irish industry.

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**Impact**

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## Professor Luke O'Neill

Trinity College Dublin



Professor Luke O'Neill was appointed to the Chair of Biochemistry at Trinity College Dublin in 2008, where he leads the Inflammation Research Group. He is Academic Director of the Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute. He has a PhD in Pharmacology from the University of London and undertook Post-Doctoral research at Cambridge U.K.

He has won numerous awards for his research, notably the Royal Irish Academy Medal for Biochemistry, The Irish Society for Immunology medal, the Royal Dublin Society/ Irish Times Boyle medal for Scientific Excellence, the Science Foundation

Ireland Researcher of the Year Award 2009 and the Royal Irish Academy Gold Medal for Life Sciences. He was elected a member of EMBO in 2005. In 2008 he was appointed Chair of the Immunity and Infection panel of the European Research Council.

His research is in the area of the molecular basis to inflammatory diseases. He has published over 230 papers and reviews on his research, in journals such as Nature, Science, Cell, Nature Immunology, Nature Medicine, Nature Genetics and PNAS. He is on the editorial boards of six journals and on the Board of Reviewing Editors for Science, covering Innate Immunity.

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## Impact

Luke has an outstanding academic track record and is one of the world's leaders in Toll receptor biology. He has won numerous awards for his research. He is an entrepreneur, mentor, inventor, advisor and collaborator to business. He balances work with industry, at scale, with an excellence in scientific research.

Translating his academic research to support business innovation, Luke has been involved in over 15 industry collaborations, been an inventor on six patent portfolios and his IP has led to five licences to industry. He is Academic Director of the Trinity Biomedical Sciences Institute which is now working with 76 companies and currently generating a total of €2.2 million in contracts.

Luke is a founder of Opsona Therapeutics, a spin-out company from Trinity College, which has raised over €60 million in Series A-C investment rounds and employs ten people. Luke remains actively involved in the company as CSO, whilst continuing to carry out his academic duties.

Luke has fostered a strong innovation culture within his research team who regularly submit invention disclosures, are involved in patents and licensing deals and who have initiated their own industry licences and collaborations. He mentors and guides other researchers considering business engagement and shares his business network.

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Dr. Mark Southern Mark is Senior Research Fellow within the Enterprise Research Centre, at the University of Limerick. Mark graduated from Nottingham Trent University in 1989 and obtained his Doctorate from the University of Limerick in 2004. He is an experienced senior manager with a ten year track record in project management, managing research teams, new product and process development, procurement and installation of complex manufacturing systems in the electronic and automotive sectors in both multinationals and SMEs.

Over ten years in senior manufacturing positions in the UK and Ireland has equipped Mark to use the best from both worlds - industry and academia - for the benefit of both. Mark's own research into modern global manufacturing gives his clients the very latest in process and production methods.

**Dr. Mark Southern**  
University  
of Limerick



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Mark and his team are considered one of Ireland's leading groups in enabling manufacturing change, boosting productivity, output and profit. Mark has received research funding of over €4.6 million of which 23% has been from industry. His group helps manufacturing companies through applying their cutting edge research and expertise to matching companies' technical issues and challenges. The group are able to provide state-of-the-art solutions in manufacturing measurement, simulation, software and statistical know-how.

These collaborations have led to the creation of over 100 new high-end manufacturing jobs in Ireland, in addition to sustaining core employment in these companies and enabling the companies to secure tens of millions of Euro in new export sales.

## **Impact**

Mark has supported a substantial number of research collaborations with companies across a range of different sectors. For example, with companies such as Vistakon (J&J), Stryker, Aerogen, Oglesby & Butler, Ceramicx Ireland, Shannon Coiled Springs.

The research team at UL has been able to benefit from the range of projects that they have undertaken with companies which has enabled the group to broaden its base of research competencies. In turn this means the team has developed a strong multi-disciplinary approach to solving industry problems. Many of Mark's research team have moved into partner companies as a result of the collaborations in which they have engaged.

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## Nominations in alphabetical order

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### **Dr. John Breslin**

NUI Galway

Lecturer and  
Research Leader at  
the Insight Centre  
for Data Analytics



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### **Dr. Catherine Deegan**

Institute of  
Technology  
Blanchardstown

Senior Lecturer  
and Principal  
Investigator, School  
of Engineering  
and Informatics



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### **Professor Eithne Dempsey**

Institute of  
Technology  
Tallaght Dublin  
Co-ordinator, Centre  
for Research in  
Electroanalytical  
Technology  
(CREATE), Principal  
Investigator, MiCRA  
Biodiagnostics  
Technology Gateway



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### **Professor Willie Donnelly**

Waterford Institute  
of Technology  
Vice President  
of Research  
and Innovation,  
Director of the  
Telecommunications  
Software and  
Systems Group  
(TSSG)



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**Professor  
Timothy Guinee**  
Teagasc Food  
Research Centre  
Moorepark

Principal Research  
Officer, Department  
of Food Chemistry  
and Technology



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**Dr. James Kennedy**  
Athlone Institute  
of Technology

Lecturer, Senior  
Research Fellow  
and Director of the  
Centre for Industrial  
Solutions and Design



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**Dr. Fergal McCaffery**  
Dundalk Institute  
of Technology

Principal Investigator,  
Senior Lecturer,  
Director of the  
Regulated Software  
Research Centre,  
Leader of the  
Medical Device  
Software Engineering  
Competency  
Group in Lero



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**Dr. Tim McCarthy**  
NUI Maynooth

Senior Research  
Fellow, National  
Centre for  
Geocomputation



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**Dr. Liam Morris**  
Galway-Mayo  
Institute of  
Technology  
Lecturer and  
Principal Investigator,  
GMedTech Centre



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**Dr. Izabela  
Naydenova**  
Dublin Institute  
of Technology  
Lecturer, Senior  
Researcher at  
Centre for Industrial  
and Engineering  
Optics and FOCAS



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**Professor  
Richard O'Kennedy**  
Dublin City  
University  
Principal Investigator,  
Deputy Director,  
Biomedical  
Diagnostics  
Institute (BDI)



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**Professor  
Luke O'Neill**  
Trinity College  
Dublin  
Chair of  
Biochemistry,  
Academic  
Director of the  
Trinity Biomedical  
Sciences Institute



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**Professor Dolores O’Riordan**  
University College Dublin  
Director, UCD Institute of Food and Health, Principal Investigator, Food for Health Ireland, Researcher in the School of Agriculture and Food Science



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**Dr. Dick Pesch**  
Cork Institute of Technology  
Head of the Nimbus Centre for Embedded Systems Research



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**Professor Fergus Shanahan**  
University College Cork  
Professor and Chairman of the Department of Medicine, Director of the Alimentary Pharmabiotic Centre



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**Dr. Mark Southern**  
University of Limerick  
Senior Research Fellow, Enterprise Research Centre



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