

MaREI

Governance Committee

Member Bios (October 2019)

Mr. Brendan Tuohy (Governance Committee Chair)

Brendan is Chairman of the Governance Committee of MAREI, TILDA (Irish Longitudinal Study of Ageing), Global eSchools and Communities Initiative and Quality Council for Kerry Education and Training Board. Since 2007, he has served on a number of boards of commercial companies and nongovernmental organisations. Previously, Brendan worked in various Government Departments and served as Secretary General of the Department of Communications, Energy, Marine and Natural Resources (2000 - 2007); as Assistant Secretary in the Department (1992 - 2000). Previously, he was Fire Adviser in the Department of Environment and Local Government (1986-1992), with responsibility for Fire Services, Building Control and Emergency Planning; Assistant Fire Adviser (1983-1986) and Fire Prevention Officer, Cork City Council (1977-1983). He holds a degree in Civil Engineering from University College Cork (UCC) and post-graduate qualifications Dublin University, Trinity College. He is a Chartered Engineer, Fellow of the Institution of Engineers of Ireland, Fellow of the Institution of Fire Engineers and Fellow of the Irish Academy of Engineering, having served as President in 2016/17

Prof. Brian Ó Gallachóir (Director, MaREI)

PhD from UCC

Brian serves as Director of MaREI, Professor of Energy Engineering in UCC, and Director of UCC's B.E. (Energy) and M.Eng.Sc. in Sustainable Energy. His research focuses on energy modelling to inform energy and climate change mitigation policy. Brian is also the elected Chair of the Executive Committee of IEA's Technology Collaboration Programme on energy systems modelling (IEA-ETSAP). Brian has published extensively (over 100 journal papers, over 4,800 citations and h-index of 36) and has directly informed energy and climate action policy decisions. Brian is a member of the national Gas Innovation Advisory Group, has a B.Sc. from TCD and a

Prof. Jerry Murphy (Director, MaREI)

Jerry serves as Director of MaREI, and in 2017 was awarded the UCC Chair in Civil Engineering. Jerry has represented Ireland at International Energy Agency (IEA) Bioenergy since 2007. He was elected by his international peers to lead the Biogas Task from 2016 till 2018 and for a second term from 2019 to 2021. In this role he authored/edited 11 IEA Bioenergy reports, 14 case stories and chaired 6 International Symposia. Professor Murphy's expertise in gaseous and algal biofuels is world leading. He has published c. 144 peer review journal papers in high-impact journals. His h-Index (49) places him amongst the highest cited academics worldwide in the fields of biogas and anaerobic digestion. He is also ranked amongst the most cited researchers worldwide in Civil Engineering. He has a strong history of working with industry; his work has led to Gas Network Ireland's target of 20% green-gas in the gas grid by 2030. He initiated UCC's collaboration with Zhejiang University (ranked in the top three Universities in China). He was awarded the EI Excellence Award (2015) for best paper/presentation, the MI Award for Excellence in Marine Research (2017), an adjunct professorship in University of Southern Queensland (2018) and a fellowship of the Irish Academy of Engineers in 2019

Dr. Gillian Bruton (Centre Manager, MaREI)

As Centre Manager of MaREI, Gillian has provided leadership and strategic direction to the Centre since its inception in 2012 as well as being responsible for its day to day operational management and business development activities. The Centre has 200 researchers, over 50 industry partners and a total budget of over €60m. Prior to this Gillian worked as a Research Fellow in UCC until 2013, where she secured and technically managed National and EU projects in Sustainable Infrastructure and Energy Optimisation.

Gillian graduated from UCC in 1992 with a BSc degree in Chemistry and completed an MSc and PhD in Electrochemistry. Gillian joined Intel in 1996 as a process engineer, where she held a range of senior technical and managerial positions in technology development and implementation across both the Wet Etch and Lithography areas. This included long-term assignments in Intel's Technology Development Sites in Santa Clara and Portland. Gillian was instrumental in the process development and certification of the first Intel C4 (controlled collapse chip connection) etch process and led the Lithography start-up project for both the 90nm and 65nm technologies for Intel Ireland

Prof. Anita Maguire (Vice President for Research & Innovation, UCC)



Anita has served as Vice President for Research & Innovation at University College Cork since 2011. Following studies at UCC (BSc Chemistry 1985, PhD 1989), and postdoctoral research experience in Namur, Belgium, then at the University of Exeter, UK, Anita returned to UCC in 1991 to establish an independent research team. In 2004 Anita was appointed as the first Chair of Pharmaceutical Chemistry at UCC. Anita leads a research team focusing on synthetic organic and medicinal chemistry, which interacts extensively with the pharmaceutical sector in Ireland and internationally. Her research interests include development of new synthetic methodology including the use of continuous flow, asymmetric synthesis including biocatalysis, and the design and synthesis of bioactive compounds. She is a Co-PI in the UL-led SSPC Centre, supported by SFI. She is actively engaged in national policy development in research and innovation, especially in relation to PhD education and the university-industry interface. For example, she chaired the Advisory Science Council Task Force on *The Role of PhDs in the Smart Economy*, and she is the inaugural Chair of the National Forum on Research Integrity in Ireland, established in 2015. She was elected as a Member of the RIA in 2014, and Vice President of the Royal Irish Academy in 2019. She was an Adjunct Professor in the University of Bergen, 2011-2016

Triona McCormack (Director of Research, UCD)



Triona has worked in the higher education and research sector for over 10 years and is Director of Research at University College Dublin. She contributes to the development of research across all disciplines and is responsible for research strategy, management and operations across the Institution. Prior to joining UCD, Triona was Director of Consulting for Ireland and European Practice Leader for Organisational Effectiveness at Hudson Highland. She worked extensively with organisations in the US and Europe across a broad range of sectors from utilities to financial services. She is a member of a number of advisory groups and contributes to research and innovation policy nationally and in the EU

Dr. Niall Smith (Head of Research, CIT)



Niall studied astrophysics at UCD, and became CIT's first Head of Research in 2005, now providing strategic oversight of a budget of €14m per annum across disciplines from science and engineering to arts and music. He led the establishment of a Researcher Career Framework for CIT researchers, which was central to the Institute being awarded the EU Commission HR Excellence in Research badge. He is the Founder-Director of the award-winning Blackrock Castle Observatory (BCO), which celebrated its 12th anniversary with over 1.2 million visitors. BCO staff have trained over 800 teachers to use space in the classroom, have engaged with over 35,000 primary and post-primary students in formal science workshops and an additional 40,000 in informal workshops, with over 120,000 members of the public attending events at BCO. In 2017, Niall was the host site lead for the International Space University Space Studies Programme, which is the largest conference programme ever to come to Cork, lasting 9 weeks and involving over 320 global space experts. The conference published a document entitled 'A Roadmap for Emerging Space States', which helped to catalyse the development of a National Space Strategy for Enterprise. Niall was the HEI

representative on the National Steering Group for the space strategy. He focuses on space topics including ultra-high precision photometry and the use of small satellites in low earth orbit for a range of functions from high resolution imaging to space cybersecurity to rural broadband. He has secured over €1m as PI on competitive grants, €400k as co-I, and through BCO approximately €2m for outreach. Niall writes a monthly column in the Irish Examiner called 'Skymatters', and is a Board Member of the National Sculpture Factory and a member of several national committees

Aengus Parsons (Director of Research, NUIG)



Aengus is the Director of Research at NUIG. He has 30 years of experience in marine and research domains. His current role encompasses both the strategic and operational elements of the research agenda, managing a team that support the research community to identify, develop and target research funding opportunities; developing and implementing the university's ambitious research strategy; and promoting NUIG's research activities and excellence. Aengus' background and education is in the field of marine and environmental science. Prior to joining NUIG, he worked in the marine sector for 25 years, including 10 years with the Marine

Institute (MI). As Director of Marine Environment and Food Safety Services, he led a team delivering technical and advisory services to Government. This focussed on meeting objectives for environmental protection and sustainable development of the marine environment; ensuring consumer protection through compliance with food safety regulations; and supporting evidence-based policy development. Previously, as the Research Programme Manager at the MI, his focus was on implementation of the national marine research strategy and management of the national marine research funding programme. He also spent time working in the aquaculture sector, in both a commercial and research setting, and as a marine environmental consultant undertaking work for public private sector clients

Marie Donnelly



Throughout her 30 year career in the European Commission (EC), Marie has been a leading advocate of future oriented policies and strategies, most recently to accelerate the energy transition. As the Director for Renewables, Energy Efficiency and Innovation, at DG Energy in the EC, she formulated key elements of the 'Clean Energy for All Europeans' package designed to put energy efficiency first, achieve global leadership in renewable energies and provide a fair deal for consumers. Earlier roles involved framing an overarching policy for the Pharmaceutical industry including Good Clinical Practice and the establishment of the European Medicines

Agency, currently located in London; and policy responses particularly for business and employee adaptation to change stemming from globalisation and technological innovation. Marie is currently a member of the Governance Committee of MaREI, and is also serving on the Steering Committee of the IERC. As a European Advisory Board Member of the Hawthorn Club, the only International Network for professional women in the energy industry, Marie advances the appointment of women to senior positions and mainstreams gender equality, with an emphasis that equality is for both women *and* men. Marie also sits on the Board of Directors for Tipperary Energy Agency

Eimear Cotter (Director of the Office of Environmental Sustainability, EPA)



Eimear has served as the Director of the EPA's Office of Environmental Sustainability since her appointment in 2017. She has responsibility for EPA environmental licensing, climate change (including emissions trading, greenhouse gas inventories & projections), and circular economy activities. Eimear has a wide range of experience in environmental protection, climate change, sustainable energy and sustainability, and previously worked within the SEAI. She is a 2019 Eisenhower Fellow and a Board member on the National Statistics Board. Eimear holds a BA from Trinity College Dublin, a PhD from Oxford University and an MBA from UCD's Smurfit

Business School

Declan McDonald (Partner, PwC Ireland)

Declan is a partner in PwC and leads the firm's Business Recovery Services practice. He has over 25 years' experience in corporate restructuring, having acted as receiver, examiner and liquidator across a range of sectors including hospitality, construction, property, retail, engineering, distribution, motor and software among others. He acts for financial institutions, government entities, private equity firms, hedge funds and distressed corporates in dealing with insolvencies, deleveraging plans, asset disposals, turnaround and restructuring plans. Declan is a graduate of UCD and a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants. In addition to leading PwC's BRS practice he has a keen interest in the oceans. Declan has led the firm's sponsorship of the Oceanwealth Summit for the last number of years and is a regular speaker at the event. Declan is also the Irish representative on PwC's blue economy team, a small group of like-minded people across the PwC network raising awareness about the importance of the sustainable development of our ocean economy and the importance of healthy oceans to the future of our planet

Caroline Spillane (Director General, Engineers Ireland)

Caroline is Director General of Engineers Ireland, the all-island professional body for over 25,000 engineers. Prior to undertaking this role, Caroline served as the Chief Executive Officer at the Medical Council of Ireland. Caroline has held senior roles in both public and private sector organisations including Assistant National Director with the HSE and Chief Executive Officer of the CPA. She holds a number of Non-Executive Director roles including ESF Networks, the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) and Chairs the HIQA Audit, Risk and Governance Committee. She also sits on the Medicine and Health Sciences Board of RCSI. Caroline is an economics graduate of University College Cork, holds an MA from the Technological University of Dublin and is a Chartered Director

Danny McCoy (CEO, IBEC)

Danny McCoy is CEO at Ibec, the group that represents Irish business domestically and internationally. Since becoming CEO in 2009, he has led a substantial transformation of Ibec increasing turnover to €31 million, leading a professional services staff of 240 in 7 locations and 38 sub-brands. Prior to joining Ibec, he served as a senior economist at both the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI) and the Central Bank of Ireland. He has held lecturing posts at Dublin City University, University College London, University of Oxford and Trinity College Dublin and has been visiting lecturer at the IMD Business School in Switzerland and Harvard University in the US. He has been a consultant for the European Commission and the OECD. He currently serves as President of the Statistical & Social Inquiry Society of Ireland and Honorary Fellow of the Academy of Engineers. He is a member of the Export Trade Council, the BusinessEurope Executive Committee, and the OECD-BIAC working group on Corporate Taxation. Danny correctly identified the turnaround in the Irish economy prior to the EU Troika programme and initiated significant media campaigns around the driving the recovery domestically and internationally. Over recent years, he has made significant speeches to the United Nations ILO plenary in Geneva; to the European Business Summit in Brussels; spoken at conferences in the New York and London Stock Exchanges, at the IMF in Washington DC, the World Trade Organisation in Geneva; Hong Kong Chamber of Commerce; and the OECD Economic Forum in Paris. He regularly presents to the Global Boards of international multinational organisation. He is a regular contributor in the print and broadcast media and has written columns for the Wall Street Journal, the Financial Times and the Irish Times among other international newspapers. The Irish Times recently described Danny as one of the '50 people who runs Ireland'. Ibec represents Irish business; home grown, multinational, big and small, spanning every sector of the economy. The organisation and its sector associations, work with

government and policy makers nationally and internationally, to shape business conditions and drive economic growth. It also provides a wide range of professional services direct to members

Mr. Peter Hourihane (MaREI Senior Programme Manager)



Peter serves as MaREI’s Senior Programme Manager, with responsibility for strategic planning and implementation, business and project development, research programme management, IP management and commercialisation, and project proposal writing and delivery. He graduated from UCC with a B.E. degree in Civil and Environmental Engineering, before spending six years working in Ireland and Canada in engineering design and project management roles. He subsequently completed an M.Eng.Sc. in Sustainable Energy at UCC, focussing on tidal energy, for which he received the EirGrid Prize, before joining MaREI in 2014