

MIT Industrial Liaison Program Faculty Knowledgebase Report

2023 MIT Startup Ecosystem Conference

May 10, 2023 8:00 am - 5:30 pm

8:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Registration & Networking

9:00 AM - 9:15 AM

Opening Remarks
John Roberts
Executive Director (Interim), [MIT Corporate Relations](#)



John Roberts
Executive Director (Interim)
[MIT Corporate Relations](#)

John Roberts has been Executive Director of MIT Corporate Relations (Interim) since February 2022. He obtained his Ph.D. in organic chemistry at MIT and returned to the university after a 20-year career in the pharmaceutical industry, joining the MIT Industrial Liaison Program (ILP) in 2013. Prior to his return, John worked at small, medium, and large companies, holding positions that allowed him to exploit his passions in synthetic chemistry, project leadership, and alliance management while growing his responsibilities for managing others, ultimately as a department head. As a program director at MIT, John built a portfolio of ILP member companies, mostly in the pharmaceutical industry and headquartered in Japan, connecting them to engagement opportunities in the MIT community. Soon after returning to MIT, John began to lead a group of program directors with a combined portfolio of 60-80 global companies. In his current role, John oversees MIT Corporate Relations which houses ILP and MIT Startup Exchange.

Catarina Madeira
Director, [MIT Startup Exchange](#)



Catarina Madeira
Director
[MIT Startup Exchange](#)

Catarina has been working with the Cambridge/Boston startup ecosystem for over 10 years and joined Corporate Relations with a solid network in the innovation and entrepreneurial community. Prior to MIT, she was part of the team that designed and launched the startup accelerator IUL MIT Portugal, which was later rebranded as Building Global Innovators. She was based in Lisbon and worked in direct relation with the Cambridge team. She held positions including Operations Coordinator, Program Manager, and Business Developer. The accelerator soon achieved steady growth in large part due to the partnerships that Catarina led with regional and global startup ecosystems. After that, she worked at NECEC, leading a program that connects cleantech startups and industry. In this role, she developed and built a pipeline of startups and forged strong relationships with both domestic and European companies. She has also held positions in Portugal and France, including at Saboaria e Perfumaria Confiança and L'Oréal as Technical Director and Pharmacist. Catarina earned her bachelor's in chemistry and pharmaceutical sciences in Portugal. She went on to earn her Master of Engineering for Health and Medicines in France.

9:15 AM - 9:45 AM

The Federal Entrepreneurial Landscape
David Goldston
Director, MIT Washington D.C. Office, [MIT Washington D.C. Office](#)



David Goldston
Director, MIT Washington D.C. Office
[MIT Washington D.C. Office](#)

David Goldston became Director of the MIT Washington Office in May 2017. The Washington Office is MIT's "embassy," providing policymakers with information and positions from MIT, and keeping the campus abreast of relevant developments in the nation's capital. As director, Goldston helps shape MIT's policy and positions, and its communications regarding federal matters.

Prior to coming to MIT, Goldston was Director of Government Affairs at the Natural Resources Defense Council, a leading environmental group for eight years, where he helped shape NRDC's federal political strategy, policies, and communications. Before his time at the NRDC he spent more than 20 years on Capitol Hill, working primarily on science and environmental policy, including serving as Chief of Staff of the House Committee on Science from 2001 through 2006.

After retiring from government service, Goldston was a visiting lecturer at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, and at Harvard University Center for the Environment. He is currently an adjunct professor at Georgetown University. From 2007 through November 2009, he wrote a monthly column for Nature on science policy titled, "[Party of One](#)." Goldston also was the project director for the Bipartisan Policy Center report: "[Improving the Use of Science in Regulatory Policy](#)," which was released in August 2009. He authored a chapter in *The Science of Science Policy: A Handbook* (Stanford University Press, 2011). He is a member of the advisory committee for the National Academies' Climate Communications Initiative, and has served on numerous panels of the Academy and other science policy organizations. He holds a B.A. (1978) from Cornell University and completed the course work for a Ph.D. in American history at the University of Pennsylvania.

David Goldston will discuss how recent and upcoming policy decisions by the executive branch and Congress may affect the environment for start-ups.

9:45 AM - 10:25 AM

Supporting New Ventures. The Ecosystem's Role

Sarah Delmar
Vice President, Global Expansion And Corporate Development
[CIC](#)

David Cohen-Tanugi
Clean Energy & Fusion Venture Builder
[Proto Ventures](#)

Shaina Horowitz
Vice President of Product & Programs
[Newlab](#)

Vanessa Chan
Chief Commercialization Officer & Director, Office of Technology Transitions
[U.S. Department of Energy \(DOE\)](#)

Throughout their life cycle startups go through many ups and downs. How are they nurtured to overcome obstacles and become companies that can transform industries? What resources does the ecosystem offer to support entrepreneurs?

This panel brings together four key players from academia and federal and private organizations who provide resources that are essential for early-stage tech startups. The panelists will provide perspectives on how they help build startups and support entrepreneurs, and how corporates can get involved. Attendees will get the opportunity to learn skills and lessons they can apply to their own external innovation programs.

10:25 AM - 10:50 AM

Networking Break

10:50 AM - 11:30 AM

Growing Beyond Frontiers
John Roberts
Executive Director (Interim), [MIT Corporate Relations](#)



John Roberts
Executive Director (Interim)
[MIT Corporate Relations](#)

John Roberts has been Executive Director of MIT Corporate Relations (Interim) since February 2022. He obtained his Ph.D. in organic chemistry at MIT and returned to the university after a 20-year career in the pharmaceutical industry, joining the MIT Industrial Liaison Program (ILP) in 2013. Prior to his return, John worked at small, medium, and large companies, holding positions that allowed him to exploit his passions in synthetic chemistry, project leadership, and alliance management while growing his responsibilities for managing others, ultimately as a department head. As a program director at MIT, John built a portfolio of ILP member companies, mostly in the pharmaceutical industry and headquartered in Japan, connecting them to engagement opportunities in the MIT community. Soon after returning to MIT, John began to lead a group of program directors with a combined portfolio of 60-80 global companies. In his current role, John oversees MIT Corporate Relations which houses ILP and MIT Startup Exchange.

Natan Linder
Cofounder & Chairman of @Formlabs
Cofounder & CEO
[Tulip](#)

Seyma Aslan
Director of Open Innovation
[L'Oreal](#)

As startups grow, founders have to decide if and when to expand to the global market. This decision brings new challenges, and if implemented, will reshape the company at all levels – culture, mindset, team dynamic, strategy, product, positioning, etc. Corporate organizations can play a decisive role in this process while potentially gaining a significant competitive advantage.

This panel brings together the startup Tulip, which is present in four countries with ILP corporate member, L'Oréal. Panelists will engage in a candid conversation about growth strategy and the resources that can catalyze it, as well as collaboration towards higher impact. This panel aims to build on the morning session "Supporting New Ventures. The Ecosystem Role", by providing additional insights to both entrepreneurs and corporates planning and/or running their own startup engagement activities.

11:30 AM - 12:10 PM

Startup Lightning Talks I: Cleantech/Sustainability/Life Sciences

Ariadna Rodenstein

Program Manager, [MIT Startup Exchange](#)



Ariadna Rodenstein

Program Manager

[MIT Startup Exchange](#)

Ariadna Rodenstein is a Program Manager at MIT Startup Exchange. She joined MIT Corporate Relations as an Events Leader in September 2019 and is responsible for designing and executing startup events, including content development, coaching and hosting, and logistics. Ms. Rodenstein works closely with the Industrial Liaison Program (ILP) in promoting collaboration and partnerships between MIT-connected startups and industry, as well as with other areas around the MIT innovation ecosystem and beyond.

Prior to working for MIT Corporate Relations, she worked for over a decade at Credit Suisse Group in New York and London, in a few different roles in event management and as Director of Client Strategy. Ms. Rodenstein has combined her experience in the private sector with work at non-profits as a Consultant and Development Director at New York Immigration Coalition, Immigrant Defense Project, and Americas Society/Council of the Americas. She also served as an Officer on the Board of Directors of the Riverside Clay Tennis Association in New York for several years. Additionally, she earned her B.A. in Political Science and Communications from New York University, with coursework at the Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey in Mexico City, and her M.A. in Sociology from the City University of New York.

Katherine Mizrahi

Co-founder & VP of Engineering

[Osmoses](#)

Aaron Baskerville-Bridges

Co-founder and VP of Operations

[AeroShield](#)

Aruna Ramkrishnan

Co-founder and CTO

[Copernic Catalysts](#)

Ralph Wisner

Director of Product Development

[Mantel](#)

Barbara Hibner

Co-founder and CSO

[Decoy Therapeutics](#)

Ho-Jun Suk

Co-founder and CEO

[DxLab](#)

Floris Engelhardt

Co-founder & CEO

[Kano Therapeutics](#)

Greg Ekchian

Co-founder and CEO

[Stratagen Bio](#)

12:10 PM - 1:15 PM

Lunch & Startup Exhibit

Creating the Next Generation of Entrepreneurs

William Aulet

Managing Director of the Martin Trust Center for MIT Entrepreneurship and the Ethernet Inventors Professor of the Practice, [MIT Sloan School of Management](#)



William Aulet

Managing Director of the Martin Trust Center for MIT Entrepreneurship and the Ethernet Inventors Professor of the Practice

[MIT Sloan School of Management](#)

Bill is changing the way entrepreneurship is understood, taught, and practiced around the world. He is an award-winning educator and author whose current work is built off the foundation of his 25-year successful business career, first at IBM, and then as a three-time serial entrepreneur. During this time, he directly raised over a hundred million dollars and, more importantly, created hundreds of millions of dollars of shareholder value through his companies. Since 2009, Bill has been responsible for leading the development of entrepreneurship education across MIT at the Trust Center. His first book, "Disciplined Entrepreneurship," was released in August 2013, has been translated into over 20 languages, and has been the content for three online edX courses, which have been taken by hundreds of thousands of people in 200 different countries. The accompanying follow on book, "Disciplined Entrepreneurship Workbook," was released in April 2017. He has widely published in places such as the Wall Street Journal, TechCrunch, the Boston Globe, the Sloan Management Review, the Kauffman Foundation, Entrepreneur Magazine, MIT Sloan Experts, and more. He has been a featured speaker on shows such as CNBC's Squawk Box, BBC News, Bloomberg News, as well as at events and conferences around the world. He has degrees from Harvard and MIT and is a board member of MITEK Systems (NASDAQ: MITK) and XL Hybrids Inc. (privately held) as well as a visiting professor at University of Strathclyde (Scotland). On July 1, 2017, Bill was named a Professor of the Practice at MIT Sloan, the first at the school in the area of entrepreneurship since Alex d'Arbeloff received the designation in 2003. Bill has earned external recognition as well for his efforts, which include Boston 50 on Fire, 2017 Favorite MBA Professors from Poets and Quants, and 2018 Nannerl Keohane Distinguished Visiting Professorship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and Duke University. In 2019, Bill was awarded the Outstanding Contributions to Advancing Innovation and Entrepreneurship Award by the Deshpande Foundation. In 2021, Bill was recognized by the United States Association for Small Business and Entrepreneurship (USASBE) as the 2021 Entrepreneurship Educator of the Year. Disciplined Entrepreneurship has been translated to versions in Arabic, Audio (via Audible), Chinese Orthodox, Chinese Simplified, Croatian, Danish, German, Greek, Farsi, Japanese, Korean (where it was named one of the top Economics & Business books of 2014 by the prestigious Kyobo Book Store), Mongolian, Polish, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, Thai, Turkish and Vietnamese. It has been a best seller in many countries including Korea, Thailand and Vietnam. It has also been the basis of a series of highly successful MIT edX online classes Entrepreneurship 101, Entrepreneurship 102 and Entrepreneurship 103 as well as the MIT Global Entrepreneurship Bootcamps which have been held at different locations including MIT, Seoul (South Korea) and Brisbane (Australia). He has also led the design and delivery of two other online edX courses, "Cultivating Entrepreneurship & Antifragility to Thrive in a Fast-Paced World" and "Fundamentals of Entrepreneurial Finance: What Every Entrepreneur Should Know".

[View full bio](#)

Entrepreneurship is the new cool thing, but what exactly is it? Can it be taught? What is the past, present and future of entrepreneurship? In this session the award winning author and entrepreneurship educator will explore these topics and explain why everyone should seek to be more entrepreneurial and why entrepreneurs must exist in much more than just startups. Entrepreneurial mind set, skill set and way of operating will need to become ubiquitous as the pace of change in the world inexorably get faster and faster. We will also explain how this goal can be achieved.

The Road to Corporate Transformation

Scott Stern

Professor, Technological Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Strategic Management

David Sarnoff Professor of Management of Technology, [MIT Sloan School of Management](#)



Scott Stern

Professor, Technological Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Strategic Management

David Sarnoff Professor of Management of Technology

[MIT Sloan School of Management](#)

Scott Stern is the *David Sarnoff Professor of Management* at the MIT Sloan School of Management.

Stern explores how innovation and entrepreneurship differ from more traditional economic activities, and the consequences of these differences for strategy and policy. His research in the [economics of innovation and entrepreneurship](#) focuses on [entrepreneurial strategy](#), [innovation-driven entrepreneurial ecosystems](#), and [innovation policy and management](#). Recent studies include the impact of clusters on entrepreneurship, the role of institutions in shaping the accumulation of scientific and technical knowledge, and the drivers and consequences of entrepreneurial strategy.

Stern has worked widely with practitioners in bridging the gap between academic research and the practice of innovation and entrepreneurship. This includes advising start-ups and other growth firms in the area of entrepreneurial strategy, as well as working with governments and other stakeholders on policy issues related to competitiveness and regional performance. In recent years, Stern has developed a popular new MIT Sloan elective, [Entrepreneurial Strategy](#), co-founded the [MIT Regional Entrepreneurship Acceleration Program](#), advised the development of the [Social Progress Index](#), and served as the lead MIT investigator on the [US Cluster Mapping Project](#).

Stern started his career at MIT, where he taught from 1995 to 2001. Before returning to MIT in 2009, he held positions as a Professor at the Kellogg School of Management and as a Non-Resident Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution. Stern is the director and co-founder of the [Innovation Policy Working Group](#) at the National Bureau of Economic Research. In 2005, he was awarded the [Kauffman Prize Medal for Distinguished Research in Entrepreneurship](#).

Stern holds a BA in economics from New York University and a PhD in economics from Stanford University.

[View full bio](#)

Alison Handley

Head of Strategy & Operations, Center for External Innovation

[Takeda Pharmaceuticals](#)

2:15 PM - 2:55 PM

Startup Lightning Talks II: Data/AI/Robotics

Tricia Dinkel

Manager of Partnerships & Engagement, [MIT Startup Exchange](#)



Tricia Dinkel

Manager of Partnerships & Engagement

[MIT Startup Exchange](#)

Tricia Dinkel comes to Corporate Relations with several years of experience in the innovation ecosystem and managing relationships with startups and corporates. Tricia previously worked as Director of Navigate (NECEC's flagship innovation program) at the Northeast Clean Energy Council (NECEC) in Boston where she led all operations and partnership development for 400+ startups, 65+ innovation partners, and 200+ investors & corporates in North America and Europe. Prior to that role, Tricia held positions with increasing responsibility in program management at NECEC. Before that, her experience included Director of Data Analytics and Sustainability Reporting Manager at WegoWise Inc. in Boston, Associate Director at the Committee on Capital Markets Regulation in Cambridge, Senior Sustainability Coordinator at A Better City in Boston, and Assistant Director at The Green Alliance in Portsmouth, NH.

Tricia earned her B.A., Environmental Studies/Natural Resource Policy at the University of Colorado, and her M.A., Environmental Science Education at the University of New Hampshire. She served on the NECEC Diversity & Inclusion Committee and as a member of the USGBC (U.S. Green Building Council), Massachusetts Chapter.

David Morczinek

Co-founder and CEO

[AirWorks](#)

Norhan M. Bayomi

Founder

[Lamarr](#)

Marc Tamres

CEO

[HomeRun IQ](#)

Anuj Bhalla

Founder & CEO

[serviceMob](#)

Katie Hall

Founder & CEO

[Claira](#)

David Anderson

Founder and CEO

[Engora](#)

Faye Wu

Co-founder and CTO

[Manus Robotics](#)

Andrea Stamp

Chief Strategy Officer

[VitaKey](#)

2:55 PM - 3:30 PM

Networking Break & Startup Exhibit

Investing in the Ecosystem
Katie Rae
CEO and Managing Partner, [The Engine Ventures](#)



Katie Rae
CEO and Managing Partner
[The Engine Ventures](#)

Katie is the CEO & Managing Partner of Engine Ventures. She serves as a Board Member for The Engine Funds' portfolio companies Commonwealth Fusion Systems, Form Energy, Boston Metal, and Sublime Systems. Katie has over 10 years of experience as an investor and 25 years as a tech executive, helping build Boston into a thriving tech hub. She has invested in nearly 100 companies and advised hundreds of founders from early-stage formation to scale-up. Key investments include Pillpack (acquired by Amazon for \$1 billion in 2018), Flywire, Moon, and GrabCAD. Katie has experience in managing startup accelerators and business-innovation programs — she was a Managing Director of Techstars Boston. She was also a co-founder and Managing Director at Project 11 Ventures. In addition to her extensive investing career, she has over 20 years of experience in product development, management & operations including holding management positions at Microsoft, Eons, AltaVista, RagingBull, Zip2, and Mirror Worlds. Katie holds an MBA from Yale and a BA in Biology from Oberlin College. Katie co-founded the Equity Summit, which convenes leading General Partners and Asset Managers of diversity across the venture capital industry.

Jeffrey Grossman
Professor of Materials Science and Engineering
MacVicar Fellow, [MIT Department of Materials Science and Engineering](#)



Jeffrey Grossman
Professor of Materials Science and Engineering
MacVicar Fellow
[MIT Department of Materials Science and Engineering](#)

Professor Grossman received his Ph.D. in theoretical physics from the University of Illinois and performed postdoctoral work at the University of California at Berkeley. In 2009, he joined MIT, where he developed a research program known for its contributions to energy conversion, energy storage, membranes, and clean-water technologies. He served as the Head of the Department of Materials Science and Engineering from 2020-2023, and in 2021 he helped create and became the founding co-director of the MIT Climate and Sustainability Consortium, a new type of academia-industry partnership. In recognition of his contributions to engineering education, Grossman was named an MIT MacVicar Faculty Fellow and received the Bose Award for Excellence in Teaching. He has published more than 200 scientific papers, holds 17 current or pending U.S. patents, and co-founded two Massachusetts companies to commercialize novel membranes materials for efficient industrial separations: ViaSeparations, a company that commercializes graphene-oxide membranes to separate chemicals for manufacturing, and SiTraction, a company that commercializes silicon membranes for chemical-free, energy-efficient extraction and recycling of critical materials.

[View full bio](#)

Thriving entrepreneurial ecosystems (e.g., Silicon Valley, Kendal Sq., etc.) require more than just money. In addition to capital and technology, they need an educated workforce, entrepreneurial talent, infrastructure, potential customers, supporting services (e.g., legal, accounting, etc.), and a policy framework that promotes innovation. What role can investors assume to help entrepreneurs transform early-stage ventures into successful businesses? Which mechanisms are being used, at the federal and private level and how, at the end, does this impact the broader ecosystem.

4:10 PM - 4:15 PM

Wrap-Up
Catarina Madeira
Director, [MIT Startup Exchange](#)



Catarina Madeira
Director
[MIT Startup Exchange](#)

Catarina has been working with the Cambridge/Boston startup ecosystem for over 10 years and joined Corporate Relations with a solid network in the innovation and entrepreneurial community. Prior to MIT, she was part of the team that designed and launched the startup accelerator IUL MIT Portugal, which was later rebranded as Building Global Innovators. She was based in Lisbon and worked in direct relation with the Cambridge team. She held positions including Operations Coordinator, Program Manager, and Business Developer. The accelerator soon achieved steady growth in large part due to the partnerships that Catarina led with regional and global startup ecosystems. After that, she worked at NECEC, leading a program that connects cleantech startups and industry. In this role, she developed and built a pipeline of startups and forged strong relationships with both domestic and European companies. She has also held positions in Portugal and France, including at Saboaria e Perfumaria Confiança and L'Oréal as Technical Director and Pharmacist. Catarina earned her bachelor's in chemistry and pharmaceutical sciences in Portugal. She went on to earn her Master of Engineering for Health and Medicines in France.

4:15 PM - 5:30 PM

Networking Reception