



DAY 1

Thursday, 22nd October 2026

TIME	SESSION	DETAILS
09:00 - 10:00	Registration & Welcome Refreshments	
10:00 - 10:30	Opening Address <i>Formal opening of the conference</i>	<p>Dr Orla Flynn - President of ATU</p> <p>Dr Brendan Jennings - Chief Officer Research, Innovation & Engagement, ATU</p> <p>Dr Deirdre Quinn – Senior Manager, System Development & Performance Management, Higher Education Authority (HEA)</p>
10:30 – 11:00	Keynote Address	Claire McGee - CEO of the Technological Universities Association
11:00 - 12:00	Thematic Presentations 1: Society & Enterprise <i>This session will explore research addressing societal and enterprise challenges, with a focus on its relevance to communities, organisations and regional development.</i>	<p>Sana Ullah – <i>Balancing Transparency and Privacy in Irish MedTech Cross-Border Regulatory Compliance using Blockchain</i></p> <p>Fakiha Bashir – <i>Advancing Women into Leadership in ICT and Innovation</i></p> <p>Farhan Ahmad – <i>From Regional Policy to Enterprise Action: Developing a Regional Development Matrix</i></p> <p>Kithmini Gamange – <i>Creating value with purposeful freight data sharing</i></p>

12:00 - 13:00 Networking Lunch & Poster Session

**13:00 - 14:00 Thematic Presentations 2:
Environment & Sustainability**

This session will showcase research addressing environmental and sustainability challenges, including climate action and the transition towards a more sustainable West and North-West.

Mariam Elmofti – *Towards Regenerative Business in a Polycrisis World*

Madiha Rubeel – *From Influence to Impact: Communicating Sustainable Fashion to Young Consumers*

Catherine White – *Addressing Climate Action in the North-West, Small to Medium Hotels through Communities of Practice*

Morena Gaudino – *After the Storm: Investigating the impact of extreme weather events of microplastic distribution in intertidal sediments*

**14:00 - 15:00 Thematic Presentations 3:
Technology & Innovation**

Highlighting emerging research across AI, engineering and technology, and its potential applications for industry and regional innovation.

Nasim Shokri – *Development of a Stretchable Sensor for Enteral Feeding Systems*

Mostafa Mellizadeh – *Robotic Silicone dip coating for Medical Devices*

Ali Riaz – *Tetrahedral Lattice Heat Sinks for Advanced Electronics Cooling*

Obed Peprah - *Physics-Constrained Hybrid Modelling of Dairy Spray Drying for a Validated Digital Model and an Implementation Pathway Towards a Self-Updating Digital Twin*

15:00 - 15:30 Coffee break, Networking & Posters

**15:30 – 16:30 Thematic Presentations 4:
Health & Wellbeing**

Exploring research addressing health and wellbeing challenges, including the development of new approaches, technologies and interventions.

Fnu Talha – *Generative AI for Non-invasive MRI Enhancement in Brain Tumour Diagnosis*

Audrey Fayne – *Can Machine Learning Better Predict Weight Loss in Obesity Interventions?*

Lauren Callaghan – *Smart Kids, Healthy Lives: Integrating Technology to combat Childhood Obesity in Ireland*

Vanessa Nobles – *Improving Pharmacogenomics testing implementation through multi-stakeholder involvement to*

reduce inappropriate prescribing in primary care

TIME	SESSION	DETAILS
16:30 - 17:15	Panel Discussion: From Research to Enterprise – Building Regional Innovation Partnerships <i>This panel will bring together representatives from national and regional agencies to explore how stronger connections between research, enterprise and industry can support innovation and regional development.</i>	Majella Maher – Regional Manager, Enterprise Ireland Michelle Conaghan – Northwest Regional Manager, IDA Ireland John Daly – Senior Economist, Northern & Western Regional Assembly Dr Niall McDonough – Director of Policy, Innovation & Research Support, Marine Institute Dr Aisling McEvoy – Head of Enterprise Partnerships, Research Ireland
19:30 – 21:30	Conference Dinner	<i>To be held in the Benbulbin suite, Radisson Blu, Sligo.</i>

DAY 2

Friday, 23rd October 2026

TIME	SESSION	DETAILS
08:00 - 09:00	Registration & Welcome Refreshments	
09:00 - 09:10	Opening Address	
09:10 - 10:00	Panel Discussion: Multi-Sectoral Perspectives on Regional Development <i>This panel discussion will bring together leading voices of regional enterprise to highlight the challenges and opportunities facing the West and North west region.</i>	Caroline Faulkner – Executive Leadership Coach & Former Senior VP of Prudential Financial John Gaffney – European General Manager, Avery Dennison Medical Barry Gallagher – Head of Bank of Ireland Donegal, Sligo, Leitrim & Roscommon Finola Howe – Head of Enterprise & External Engagement, ATU

10:00 – 11:00 **Coffee break, Networking & Poster Session**

11:00 – 11:30 **ATU Research Communications & Impact**

The ATU Research Coordinator team will provide an overview of ongoing work to strengthen research communications, knowledge mobilisation and stakeholder engagement, supporting researchers to enhance the visibility, reach and impact of their work within and beyond academia.

Dr Shane Conway – Research Coordinator, ATU

11:30 – 13:00 **Session:**
Research Elevator Pitches:
Connecting Research & Enterprise

In this session, RISE@ATU PhD researchers will deliver three-minute elevator pitches, highlighting how their research can contribute to enterprise and regional innovation.

Muteeb Ahmad Sheikh – *Rainwater harvesting for water supply & stormwater storage*

Patricia Warren – *Anthelmintic Efficacy of Bioactive Compounds from Macroalgal Sources*

Giulia Maria Rossi – *“Make them shine”: Fluorescence-in-situ-hybridisation for identifying mackerel (*Scomber scombrus*) eggs.*

Neil Farren – *Examining the demands and resources for managing hybrid teams*

Lea Sophie Stiehl – *Building Business Communities in the Gaeltacht Regions through Leveraging the Digital Ecosystem*

Hirushan Sajindra – *Mapping Ireland's Funded Research: Fields, Agencies, and Citation Impact (2024 to 2025)*

Rebecca Tarpey – *Nutritional knowledge, attitudes & practices for menstrual cycle symptom management among women on the island of Ireland*

Luke Canavan Dignam – *Using Artificial Intelligence to detect possible head impacts in male and female football*

Kashaf Arif – *Co-designing an e-coaching intervention to improve psychological well-being among third-level students*

Ali Al Abbas – *A Vision-Based Learning from Demonstration Framework for Personalized and Safe Robotic Rehabilitation*

Abdullah Haider Ali – *Automated Medical Guidewire Inspection Using Tactile and Vision Sensing*

Dipshikha Das - *Aligning Human Inspection Intent with Robot Behaviour via Neural Radiance Fields*

13:00 - 14:00 **Networking Lunch & Poster Judging**

14:00 - 14:45 **Awards & Closing address**

Dr Brendan Jennings – Chief Officer,
Research, Innovation & Engagement, ATU