



**Irish Academy of Engineering welcomes nine new Fellows at a conferring ceremony held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024**

## **News Article**

The Irish Academy of Engineering (IAE) welcomed nine new Fellows to membership of the Academy at a conferring ceremony held on 13<sup>th</sup> June 2024. A short citation was read out by Academy Honorary Secretary Joe Harford and parchments were presented by Academy President Seamus McKeague.

Present at the ceremony were the full Executive team of the Academy including:

**President** – Seamus McKeague

**President elect** – Sean Finlay

**Immediate Past President & Special Advisor** – Tom Leahy

**Hon. Secretary** – Joe Harford

**Hon. Treasurer** – Tim Corcoran

In attendance:

Administrator – Fiona McCarron

The aim of the Irish Academy of Engineering is to advance the wellbeing of the country by marshalling the expertise and insights of eminent engineers to provide independent advice to policy makers on matters involving engineering and technology.

The IAE is an all-island body concerned with issues where the members, based on their wide and diverse experience, can make a unique contribution to economic, social and technological development.

The list of nine new fellows awarded the title Fellow of the Irish Academy of Engineering (FIAE) is:

- Eamonn O'Reilly
- Joseph Walsh
- Frances Hardiman
- Luuk van der Wielen
- David Porter
- Anne Marie Conibear
- Barry O'Sullivan
- Dick Meaney
- Leo Clancy

President Seamus McKeague said “ It is a pleasure to welcome the new Fellows to our Academy and we are in awe of their contribution to the Engineering profession”.

For more information on the Academy please visit our website [www.iae.ie](http://www.iae.ie)

**Tom Leahy – June 2024**

## Eamonn O'Reilly FIAE



### Citation

Eamonn O'Reilly holds a Bachelor of Engineering degree from University College Dublin (UCD) and an MBA from Trinity College Dublin (TCD).

Throughout his extensive career, he has held various senior positions in security services, transport infrastructure, power generation, and management consultancy. Early in his career, he worked on commissioning a new fuel milling system as part of a major cement plant. Later, he worked on oil field projects in Egypt, Saudi Arabia, and the Congo, where he was responsible for commissioning gas turbine units. He also developed a state-of-the-art container-handling terminal and modernised work practices during the transition of ownership of a marine cargo handling facility in Dublin.

In addition, he spent some time in consultancy specialising in EU-funded Access Transport for the Department of the Marine.

During his time as Chief Executive of Dublin Port, he oversaw significant growth in business volumes and profits, as well as the implementation of the strategic Masterplan 2040 for Dublin Port. This plan transformed the port's infrastructure and strengthened its relationship with the city. Despite dealing with the trade implications of Brexit and the hit from the Covid-19 pandemic, his period in charge of the State-owned company saw business volumes grow by one-quarter and profits by more than one-third. More than €500 million was spent on port infrastructure during that time.

He has independently put together a very thoughtful document "*An attempt to understand the potential for hydrogen in Ireland's energy future*" which was submitted to the Government in 2022 as part of the government's review of energy security.

## Joseph Walsh FIAE



### Citation

Joseph Walsh is currently Professor and Head of School and Director of the Intelligent Mechatronics and RFID (IMaR) and Agritech Centre of Excellence at Munster Technological University. He is also Co-Principal Investigator and AgriTech/Food lead at Lero, the Science Foundation Ireland Research (SFI) Centre for Software.

Professor Walsh holds an MSc (Bio Eng.), and a Ph.D in electronic engineering. He is also a Chartered Physicist and a CEng MIEI.

His diverse academic background has enabled him to make major contributions in areas such as intelligent mechatronics and sensors, dairy technology, robotics and automation, autonomous systems, bio-instrumentation and STEM education. He is well-published in these areas with over 200 scientific articles. His work has attracted over €20 million in funding during the past 5 years.

He set up and led the IMaR Research Centre with over 50 researchers, which is also part of the Enterprise Ireland (EI) Technology Gateway Network.

His expertise is sought after and he is currently leading on targeted industry projects which have generated IP, IDF, and licences. These include companies such as Dairymaster, McHale Engineering, Abbey Machinery, Bon Secours Hospital Group, Liebherr Container Cranes, Kostal and Tricel.

## Frances Hardiman FIAE



### Citation

Dr Frances Hardiman holds a Bachelor of Engineering (Hons) degree in Production Engineering and PhD in Manufacturing Engineering, both from the University of Limerick. She was a senior manufacturing engineer in industry before joining the higher education sector in 2008 as a lecturer, researcher and PhD supervisor.

She served as Head of Department of Electrical & Electronic Engineering in Limerick Institute of Technology (now Technological University of the Shannon, Midlands) before joining the executive management team in 2018 as Head of Faculty of Engineering in the former Institute of Technology Carlow, now South East Technological University (SETU). She is a member of the executive that led the formation of and transition into the new university and currently resides on the Academic Council, Research Committee, Commercialisation & Innovation Committee and the Governing Body Finance & Capital Investment Committee at SETU.

External to the university, she is currently chair of the Technological Higher Educational Association (THEA) Heads of Engineering group across the TU Sector supporting collaboration and sharing best practice and is a member of the Higher Education Apprenticeship Forum (HEAF) and THEA national Apprenticeship committee.

With responsibility for apprenticeship, industry applied engineering research and engineering graduate development in SETU Carlow, she is a Fellow of Engineers Ireland, supporting accreditation processes nationally. She is Principal Investigator and co-founder of the Enterprise Ireland funded industry cluster 'Engineering the South East' working with partners (for example, Enterprise Ireland, IDA, Skillnet, Educational Training Boards etc) in supporting SMEs and the engineering sector across the South East of Ireland. *[Her specialist expertise is in the design and development of educational programmes for industry upskilling, leading industry consortia and partnering with industry and public bodies on bespoke educational solutions.] REMOVE*

She recently chaired the Sustainable Development working group for the 2023 SETU strategic plan and is currently the THEA appointed representative on the Expert Advisory Group on Skills and Workforce Requirements on the Government Offshore Wind Taskforce. She is also a member of the Irish Steering Group of an EU funded Offshore Wind technical skills project and is engaging with stakeholders in the South East is developing opportunities in this sector.

## Luuk van der Wielen FIAE



### Citation

Luuk Van Der Wielen holds an MSc degree in Chemical Engineering from Twente University in the Netherlands and a PD degree from Delft University of Technology.

He was Principal Scientist in Biotechnology at Royal Dutch Shell

In 2017 he has been the Director of the Bernal Institute at the University of Limerick and Professor of Biosynthesis Engineering and Design. The Institute has over 450 persons and is a €150m leading research institute that focuses on structured characterisation design and manufacturing technology relating to Health, Energy and the Environment. Their work supports significant fractions of the pharmaceutical, biomed, micro-electronic and tech, car and aircraft manufacturing and increasingly the national and international renewable energy industries.

He has over 350 publications/patents, supervised 47 PhD, 75 Engineering Doctorates and over 100 MSc students have graduated under his supervision.

Since April 2022, he has been a member of the Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce and was specially tasked with the development of the focused RD&I program in the Taskforce's Final Report which was launched last July. Their plan is shaping a pathway for an Irish industrial leadership position in floating offshore renewable wind energy, and its on-shore industrial and societal integration.

Professor Van Der Wielen continues to be a Distinguished Professor in the Bio-based economy at TU Delft.

## David Porter FIAE



### Citation

David Porter obtained his BEng (Hons), Architectural Engineering, at Queen's University of Belfast, in 1998 and went on to complete an MSc, Innovation Management in the Public Sector at the University of Ulster, in 2011. He is a Chartered Engineer and Fellow of the Institute of Civil Engineers.

He has an extensive background in the public service in Northern Ireland.

He is currently the Director of Engineering with the Department for Infrastructure (DfI), which is the roads authority for Northern Ireland. He is responsible as the Chief Highways Engineer and the Head of the Civil Engineering Profession within the Northern Ireland Civil Service (NICS).

He is responsible for the professional development of staff, engineering policy and standards, Health and Safety, and leads internal engineering consultancy and the procurement teams.

He has worked in the area of flood risk management as Regional Engineer, then Director of Development and subsequently as the Chief Executive of Rivers Agency, the flood defence and drainage authority for Northern Ireland.

He has been appointed as ICE Vice President from November 2022 and will become President of the Institution in November 2025, after having served on numerous ICE Committees and Panels at both local and national levels.

## Anne Marie Conibear FIAE



### Citation

Anne Marie Conibear graduated from UCD in 1991 with a degree in civil engineering. She began her career in the UK, working for Binnie Black and Veatch, a large international consultancy company. In 1998, she returned to Ireland and joined J B Barry and Partners, where she worked in their Waters BI department.

Throughout her career, she worked her way up the ranks and was eventually promoted to director of the practice in 2016. In 2023, J B Barry was acquired by the Egis Group, and she became their Sustainable Cities Country lead. She continues to serve as a director of J B Barry.

In 2013, she was seconded to Uisce Eireann during its establishment phase. Her role involved setting up a division responsible for reviewing small projects across multiple WWTP and WTP sites. Over the years, she has made a significant contribution to the industry, particularly in sewer and pipeline design. She currently serves as the project director of the Ringsend WWTP, as well as other major projects in Limerick, Athlone, and beyond.

Her experience extends beyond Ireland, as she has worked on EU-funded projects in countries such as Latvia, Macedonia, Albania, Turkey, and Croatia. More recently, she has been involved in a large hydroelectric project in Lesotho. Last year, she held the position of Vice-President at ACEI and was recently elected President for this year.

## **Barry O'Sullivan FIAE**

### **Citation**

Barry O'Sullivan holds a B. E. in Electrical Engineering from UCD. He is also a Chartered Director from the IoD, and holds a Diploma in Executive Coaching from UCD.

He has 35 years of experience in Supply Chain with multinational companies in Ireland, the UK, and the US.

He was 20 years at Johnson & Johnson Vision Care, ultimately as Vice President of Global Manufacturing. Before that, he was the Plant Manager at their Limerick Plant. During his 12 years in that role, that site expanded to be the largest in its industry and the largest plant in J&J, itself, the world's largest healthcare company. With well over €3 billion is now invested in Limerick, the team there manufactures approx. 1/3 of all contact lenses worn worldwide.

Barry O'Sullivan was President of the American Chamber of Commerce in 2018, and a Board Member 2012-'19.

From 2015 to 2023 he was a member of the IDA Ireland Board and chaired the Board Sub-Committee on Innovation and Sustainable Development and also the Sub-Committee on Regional Development.

Of great importance, he chaired the Action Plan for Jobs for the Mid-West Region (2016-2019) and chaired the Shannon Estuary Economic Taskforce (2022-'23).

With his broad experience, he is making a major contribution to the Mid-West region in driving home the importance of secure, competitive and lower-carbon energy supplies for our economy. Also, the massive opportunity that Atlantic Wind presents for Ireland, not just in enabling the infrastructure to bring power onshore and for export, but also the potential for enabling new industries, both indigenous and foreign in Ireland.

## **Dick Meaney FIAE**

### **Citation**

Dick Meaney qualified with a Bachelor of Engineering in Electronics from the University of Limerick. He began his career with Analog Devices as a graduate IC design engineer, progressing to Global VP for Products and Technology managing over 1200 engineers worldwide and spent his final 5 years as Senior VP for Industrial, Healthcare and Consumer global business units.

During his first 10 years with Analog Devices was involved in designing industry-leading products. His major interest was in determining successful products and directing R&D investments.

After a successful career in the semiconductor industry, he is still passionate about how silicon and software technology can be more quickly applied to solving real-world problems. He passionately believes that Ireland has an opportunity to be a fast prototyping innovation region where we enable quick deployment of advanced technologies and learn quickly from user experience to optimize viable solutions. But he also believes you need more than successful technologies and R&D. You also need an imaginative understanding of user needs.

He has been providing pivotal leadership in trying to kickstart this innovation ecosystem model with Limerick's Engine Digital Collaboration Centre and through his directorship of the Future Mobility Campus Ireland in Shannon

He believes when advanced hardware and software technologies are successfully deployed, the Academy can use them to recommend ways to grow technology innovation clusters in Ireland for the government, academia, and industry.

## **Leo Clancy FIAE**

### **Citation**

Leo Clancy has an extensive career that spans across both the public and private sectors. He holds Honours Diplomas in Electrical & Electronic Engineering, in Electronics and Telecommunications from the Dublin Institute of Technology, and a BSc (Eng.) from Trinity College Dublin. Leo Clancy began his career with Ericsson as an engineer, where he worked in consulting and management roles. He was responsible for overseeing large-scale networks worldwide, primarily focusing on GSM, 3G, and 4G technologies.

He then went on to become Service Delivery Director, e|net. He led operations and engineering for this national fibre optic telecommunications network provider.

He then joined IDA Ireland and was a member of the Executive Committee involved in attracting to Ireland foreign direct investment.

His current role is Chief Executive Officer of Enterprise Ireland. He leads a very dynamic team helping Irish companies in starting and scaling up and supporting them to grow globally. In particular to encourage them to become more active in industry-focused research.

He leads an organisation that is deeply connected to public sector policy-making and strategic thinking in Ireland and around the world.