**Taighde Éireann - Research IRELAND**

**St Patrick’s Day Medal**

# CALL FOR NOMINATIONS 2026

**Key Dates**

Call for nominations launch **16 September 2025**

Deadline for receipt of nominations **07 November 2025**

Formal award announcements **March 2026**

## Background

The Research Ireland St Patrick’s Day Medal is awarded annually to a distinguished researcher living and working in the USA with strong Irish connections. Running since 2014, the competition was further developed in 2016 to include a specific award for an industry leader, and in 2025 to recognise the contributions of academic and industry leaders in the US across every discipline of research – from science and engineering to the arts, humanities and social sciences.

The industry and academic medals recognise individuals who are not only outstanding in their fields of expertise, but who also have demonstrably assisted researchers in Ireland in either academia or industry – via mentorship, supervision, collaboration, industrial development, entrepreneurship or who have made significant contributions to developing the research ecosystem in Ireland.

## Past Medal Recipients

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| Year | Academic Medal Recipient | Industry Medal Recipient\* |
| 2014 | Dr Garret FitzGerald, University of Pennsylvania |  |
| 2015 | Prof Katherine Fitzgerald, University of Massachusetts |  |
| 2016 | Prof Séamus Davis, University College Cork  (ex Cornell University) | Dr Craig Barrett, former CEO of Intel |
| 2017 | Prof Adrian Raftery, University of Washington | Dr T. Pearse Lyons, Founder and President of Alltech |
| 2018 | Prof Margaret Murnane, University of Colorado Boulder | Mr David McCourt, Founder and CEO, Granahan McCourt Capital |
| 2019 | Prof Eamon Quigley, Houston Methodist Hospital | Mr Mike Mahoney, CEO Boston Scientific |
| 2020 | Prof Neville Hogan, Massachusetts Institute of Technology | Dr Ann Kelleher, Technology Development Lead, Intel Corporation |
| 2021 | Prof William C. Campbell, Drew University | Mr. Vincent Roche, Analog Devices Inc. |
| 2022 | Prof Donald McDonnell, Duke University | Messrs. John and Patrick Collison, President & CEO respectively, Stripe |
| 2023 | Dr Paul K Whelton, Tulane University | Mr Paul Daugherty, CTO Accenture |
| 2024 | Prof Eamonn Keogh, University of California, Riverside | Mr John Hartnett, CEO SVG Ventures | Thive |
| 2025 | Prof Richard Kearney, Boston College | Mr Micheal Dowling, CEO and President Northwell Health |

\*Industry medal awarded from 2016

## Eligibility Criteria

The nominee[[1]](#footnote-2) must be an Irish[[2]](#footnote-3) researcher or industry leader who, at the time of the nomination, is living and working in the United States. The specific criteria for the academic and industry medals are described in sections 3.1 and 3.2 respectively:

### 3.1 Academic Medal

* The nominee should be an outstanding academic researcher and recognised as one of the field-leaders in their discipline.
* The nominee should hold or have held, a full professorial position, or equivalent, at a major US research-performing organisation.
* The nominee should have contributed to academic, economic, social, cultural and/or environmental development, and/or sustainability of Ireland.

### 3.2 Industry Medal

* The nominee should be an inspirational business leader operating/have operated in a business sector that promotes and supports research and innovation in Ireland.
* The nominee should hold or have held a senior executive position in industry.
* The nominee should have contributed to academic, economic, social, cultural and/or environmental development and/or sustainability of Ireland.

## Nomination Procedure

* All nomination submissions must be made on the official nomination form.
* All nominations must meet the eligibility criteria outlined in section 3.
* The nomination submission must include:
  + Nominee details
  + Nominator details
  + Nominator support statement (max 2 pages)[[3]](#footnote-4)
  + Nominee CV/Resume/Biography[[4]](#footnote-5) (max two pages)[[5]](#footnote-6)
  + Optional - up to two letters of support may also be included.
* The deadline for receipt of nomination submissions is 07 November 2025. All submissions must be sent via email in .doc format to [medal@researchireland.ie](mailto:medal@researchireland.ie).
* Eligible nominations will remain valid for a period of five years, including the year of nomination.

## Review Process

Each eligible nomination will be reviewed by the selection committee based upon the following criteria:

1. **Research Excellence** – Research Excellence as demonstrated through leadership in their field of endeavour, research impact (including the economic, social, cultural and environmental impact of their research) and measurable outputs such as citations and commercial outputs. Industry candidates should also reach the same levels of esteem both in their field of speciality and their industry accomplishments. *Weighting of review scores: 50%.*
2. **Global Recognition** – Evidence of recognition of excellence at an international level as demonstrated through achievement of international awards, honours and membership of prestigious societies. Industry leadership and business success, particularly in the case of Industry candidates. *Weighting of review scores: 30%*
3. **Engagement with Ireland** – Evidence of the nominees’ commitment to the support of the research community and/or industry in Ireland and to Ireland’s wider economic development as evidenced through ongoing and meaningful collaboration, mentorship of Irish researchers/companies, national policy dialogue participation, representation of Irish research at an international level. *Weighting of review scores: 20%*

Within each criterion, nominees must receive a minimum of 50% of the available scoring in order for their nomination to remain eligible for an award. The Selection Committee will be made up of high-ranking individuals from Research Ireland and the Irish research community, drawn from academia, industry and Government bodies, who will review and evaluate the merit of all eligible nominees and recommend the final selections to the Research Ireland Senior Leadership Team.

## Medal Award

Medals will be awarded by the Taoiseach[[6]](#footnote-7) during the official St Patrick’s Day Programme in the United States in March 2026.

1. Self-nominations are not accepted. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. Irish citizens, persons of Irish descent, persons entitled to Irish citizenship or persons with a strong historical and enduring connection to the research ecosystem in Ireland, including, but not limited to: mentorship, supervision and collaboration with Irish researchers/companies; supporting education and public engagement, industrial development or entrepreneurship in research in Ireland; and any other demonstrable contributions to Irish society or the economy within their field of research. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. Nominator support statements longer than two pages will, without exception, be cut off at the end of page two. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. Biographies may only be provided for nominees in the industry category and should capture the career of the nominee. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. CVs/Resumes/Biographies longer than two pages will, without exception, be cut off at the end of page two. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
6. Subject to final programme arrangements by the Department of the Taoiseach. [↑](#footnote-ref-7)