



Natalie Walsh

Director of Entrepreneurial Development & Co-Lead of Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) in Research and Innovation. University of Galway, Ireland.

With over 17 years of experience in higher education, Natalie has held senior roles in the College of Medicine, Nursing, and Health Sciences and the Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation. As Director of Entrepreneurial Development, Natalie is a strategist, mentor, connector, and advocate, championing innovation, entrepreneurial thinking, and ecosystem development to drive economic growth. At the heart of her work is IdeasLab, the University of Galway's multi-award-winning innovation and entrepreneurship hub. Under her leadership, IdeasLab has grown into a dynamic space where students, staff and industry converge to generate innovative solutions and develop entrepreneurial skills. The unit has received national and international recognition for its impactful programs, partnerships, and contributions to the entrepreneurial ecosystem. Natalie has extensive expertise in human-centered design and is currently completing an Innovation Fellowship with Stanford University. She has secured over €10 million in national and EU research funding, demonstrating her leadership in designing and delivering high-impact projects.

