



**Enterprise Tuesday  
28<sup>th</sup> November 2023  
13.30-18.00  
John Innes Conference Centre**

**Judging Panel Biographies:**

**Peter Cowley, Serial Entrepreneur and Investor**

Peter is an active angel investor for nearly 15 years, Peter has invested in 76 startups and was named UK Business Angel of the Year 2014/15 and angel investor in the most successful Exit of the year 2021 by EBAN in Cork. For two years, he was President of the European Business Angels Network (EBAN) - the trade body representing the early-stage investor and start-up community throughout Europe and have now joined the President Emeriti advisory council. Peter as a board member of the Global Business Angel Network (GBAN). Until 2019, he was chair of the board of the Cambridge Business Angels (which invested over £45M in 2019) and am an Investment Director of Martlet Capital - a VC that he co-founded in 2011. Peter has led 30 investment deals and is currently a non-executive director of two angel-backed technology start-ups, plus a board observer of seven others. He has been a director on over 40 boards. After studying Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Cambridge, he founded fourteen businesses in technology and construction.

**James Thomas, Start-Up Advisor, Angel Investor, Mentor and Coach**

James is Martlet Capital's University Venture Scout, tasked with finding university spin-outs for Martlet to invest in. Martlet Capital is an early-stage venture capital firm investing in DeepTech, Life Sciences and Sustainability start-ups from across the UK who are commercialising novel intellectual property. They have invested in >65 start-ups to date, including 20+ university spin-outs.

Prior to joining Martlet, James was an Investment Manager in the Seed Funds team at Cambridge Enterprise, the technology transfer office of the University of Cambridge. During his time there, he led 20 investments into 11 spin-outs and worked closely with colleagues who put in place licensing agreements between the University and spin-outs, giving him a good overview of the end-to-end process of setting up a spin-out. Before working at Cambridge Enterprise, James worked as an early employee of a software start-up and is now using his combined experience to advise and mentor with a variety of organisations including investors, accelerators, and start-ups.

**Christina O'Brien, Corporate Principal Associate, Mills & Reeve**

Christina is a senior lawyer in the corporate team at Mills & Reeve specialising in equity investments, be that venture capital and private equity. She has acted on numerous investments both for founders and investors and acts for investee companies on general company matters. Christina is named as a 'rising star' in the Legal 500.

**Dr Kam Pooni, CEO, Glyconics Ltd and Royal society Entrepreneur In Residence**

Kam is an accomplished Executive Director with a distinguished career spanning over two decades in the Lifesciences industry. He has a proven track record of driving strategic growth and innovation in the science and technology sector. Throughout his career, Dr Pooni has held executive leadership positions in life sciences, bringing a wealth of strategic insights and corporate governance acumen to the table. He is also an angel investor.

Currently serving as the CEO of Glyconics and a board member of the British InVitro Diagnostic Association (BIVDA), Dr Pooni holds prominent positions in key organizations, highlighting his industry recognition and standing. Additionally, his role as the Royal Society Entrepreneur-in-Residence at the University of Southampton (Life Sciences) has further allowed him to contribute his skills in translating bench research into market applications and supporting emerging founders and technologies.



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**Prof Sheng Qi (Chief of Judges)  
Professor of Pharmaceutical Material Science & Technology, Associate Dean for Innovation  
(Faculty of Science), UEA**

Sheng is a reader in pharmaceuticals at the School of Pharmacy, University of East Anglia. She has worked closely with pharmaceutical and excipient companies in the areas of pharmaceutical processing, physicochemical characterisation, and formulation development. Her current interests mainly focus on innovations in processing and material characterisation and engineering research which have applications in product development of the food, cosmetic and pharmaceutical industries.

**Roz Bird, CEO, Anglia Innovation Partnership (Science Park Management Entity)**

A Chartered Surveyor, and Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Marketing, Roz joined Norwich Research Park as Chief Executive Officer in May 2022.

Roz has had a very successful career managing urban regeneration projects and science parks in Cambridge, Silverstone, Milton Keynes and Bristol. She joined AIP LLP after 15 years with MEPC Ltd – a commercial property company – where she was commercial director. Previous to that she was business development manager at the UK Science Park Association.