



**Mid-West
Lean Network**

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2024

Wednesday, 20 November 2024

***Are People Central
to Lean?***

Venue: Dromoland Castle Hotel

#midwestlean



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People are at the Heart of Lean

Lean methodologies emphasise continuous improvement; this requires the involvement of employees within an organisation and the customers it serves.

Empowering people at all levels and encouraging them to participate in problem solving and decision making is therefore essential to the success of any Lean implementation strategy.

Effective **collaboration** among people is also vital to implementing Lean successfully as is creating a culture where employees are actively involved in improving their work processes. This requires lean leaders to **develop, coach** and **mentor** their teams, enabling them to grow their problem-solving skills and their capacity for innovation.

This 2024 Conference Programme has been structured to give practical examples of how this is achieved.



LEAN = Improved Quality
+ Improved Visual Management
+ Increased Efficiency
+ An Easier to Manage Company

LEAN =
A Rewarding
Challenge



Conference Programme

Conference Chair: *Jennifer Stratton, Continuous Improvement (CI) Engineer, Cook Medical*

08:00am	Registration and Networking
08:45am	Welcome and introductions Helen Downes, CEO, Shannon Chamber Jennifer Stratton, Chair, Mid-West Lean Network Leo Clancy, CEO, Enterprise Ireland
09:00am	Creating A “People Centric” Culture <i>Martin O’Shaughnessy, Operations Director, Advanced Technical Concepts</i>
09:30am	Journey to Factory 4.0 <i>Paul Taylor, Global Quality Leader at Panametrics, Baker Hughes</i>
10:00am	Coffee and Comfort Break
10:30am	“Lean is not just a set of tools or processes, it’s a mindset and a core responsibility of every associate” <i>Dolores Ryan, Director of Manufacturing Operations, Beckman Coulter Diagnostics</i>
11:00am	Empowering People: The Heart of Regeneron’s Continuous Improvement Program <i>Ciara Barrett, Senior Continuous Improvement Specialist, Regeneron</i>
11:30am	Empowering Continuous Improvement: How we develop our CI roadmap <i>Teresa Prendergast, Director of Continuous Improvement and Business Operations, Cook Ireland</i>
12:00pm	Q&A with presenters
12:30pm	Street Event Street Event, Exhibitors Event & Networking
1:30pm	LUNCH
2:30pm	Award and Keynote Speaker Voting & Awards
3:00pm	Keynote - The role of Leadership in getting the “best” rather than the “most” from their employees. <i>Noel Hennessy, Managing Director, Practical Lean Solutions</i>
3:45pm	Remarks from sponsor – Crystal Lean Solutions <i>Maria Ryan, Managing Director, Crystal Lean Solutions</i>
4:00pm	Closing Remarks - Helen Downes, CEO, Shannon Chamber



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About the Presenters

Conference Chair

Jennifer Stratton, Continuous Improvement (CI) Engineer, Cook Medical & Chairperson, Mid-West Lean Network

Jennifer joined Cook Medical Limerick in 2021 as Continuous Improvement Engineer. Her work is centred around supporting and executing the Continuous Improvement Strategy for Cook Ireland. She has previously worked in the chemical manufacturing industry and as a contract researcher for industry.



She is a Master Black Belt having graduated from the University of Limerick's MSc Strategic Quality Management, Lean System and holds a BSc in Biochemistry, MSc in Biomedical Science and Specialist Diploma in Medical Device Science all from the University of Galway.

She is passionate that people are at the centre of all the Continuous Improvement work that we do and driven by the fact that there are opportunities to apply Lean and Continuous Improvement principles to all areas of an organisation.

Speaker Profiles

Martin O'Shaughnessy, Operations Director, Advanced Technical Concepts

Martin has over 25 years' experience in manufacturing industry. He joined Advanced Technical Concepts (ATC) in 2018 as Operations Director, having led successful lean transformation programmes during his last two previous roles. Martin has been an influential leader on ACT's strategy deployment and transformation journey to date. He is an Alumnus of the University Of Limerick where he completed his "Black Belt" in Quality Management & Lean Systems.



Paul Taylor, Global Quality Leader at Panametrics, Baker Hughes

Paul Taylor joined Panametrics in 2017. He started as a site quality leader in Shannon, before becoming the Global Quality leader in 2019.



As part of his current role, Paul has responsibility for quality across two manufacturing sites, and global service centres. Paul is a certified LEAN Six Sigma Black Belt, with over 20 years' experience in training and deploying LEAN techniques and practices across many businesses. Paul has a particular interest in operational excellence and A3 thinking.

Dolores Ryan, Director of Manufacturing Operations, Beckman Coulter Diagnostics

Dolores Ryan is the Director of Operations at Beckman Coulter Ireland inc. She has dedicated over 17 years of her career to the Beckman Coulter organisation having held various roles across the Materials, Lean, and Manufacturing Operations functions.



Her academic background includes Bachelor of Business studies at the University of Limerick along with a Postgraduate Diploma in Project Management from University College Cork, where she gained the knowledge and skills that have underpinned her professional achievements. Her leadership and expertise continue to drive innovation and efficiency within Beckman Coulter Clare.

Beckman Coulter is deeply committed to continuous improvement through the Danaher Business System (DBS). By leveraging Lean principles and tools, they can systematically address problems and enhance efficiency. This approach not only optimises operations but also ensures that their important customers, such as hospitals and reference laboratories, receive high-quality and reliable products and services.

Ciara Barrett, Continuous Improvement Specialist, Regeneron

Ciara embarked on her journey with Regeneron in 2021 and currently works as a Senior Continuous Improvement (CI) Specialist. In this role, she is instrumental in driving and executing CI initiatives, collaborating with cross-functional teams across Ireland and the US. Before joining Regeneron, Ciara gained extensive experience in various IT roles, where she played a key role in supporting operations and implementing CI initiatives.



Ciara's academic credentials include a Level 8 in Business Computing from Technological University of the Shannon, a Level 9 in Innovation Management from the University of Galway, and more recently a diploma in Digital Transformation Management. Additionally, she is certified as a Lean Six Sigma Green Belt. Ciara has been contributing to the professional field since 2013.

She is passionate about ensuring that people are at the centre of all Continuous Improvement work and is driven by the belief that Lean and Continuous Improvement principles can be applied to all areas of an organisation. Additionally, she is passionate about Digital Transformation Management, recognising its critical role in modernising and optimising business processes.

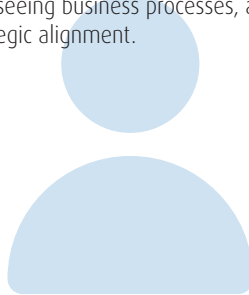
Teresa Prendergast, Director of Continuous Improvement and Business Operations, Cook Ireland

Teresa joined Cook Medical in 2008, bringing a decade of experience from the chemical industry. She initially joined as Quality Control Supervisor, moving to Quality Control Manager in 2014.



In 2018, Teresa transitioned to the role of Continuous Improvement (CI) Manager, where she implemented a continuous improvement framework and long-term CI strategy. In 2020, she became Director of Quality Assurance, overseeing the Quality Management System and ensuring compliance with the relevant regulations and industry standards.

In 2024, Teresa advanced to her current role as Director of Continuous Improvement and Business Operations, where she is responsible for implementing and sustaining the CI framework, overseeing business processes, and ensuring strategic alignment.



Keynote Speaker

Noel Hennessy, Managing Director, Practical Lean Solutions

Noel was the EU/Asia Enterprise Excellence Director for Lake Region Medical (now Integer) at New Ross, County Wexford. During Noel's tenure, the site achieved, in 2012, the distinction of becoming the first company in any sector in Ireland, and the first medical device company in Europe, to achieve the prestigious Shingo Accreditation. Also in 2012, it was crowned Irish Medical Technology Company of the Year in recognition of its Enterprise Excellence Program.



A committed life-long-learner, Noel's search for best practices has seen him participate in global benchmarking visits across Europe, Japan, USA, and India. He has an MSc in Lean Operations from Cardiff University, and attained his Doctorate in Business Administration from WIT (now South East Technological University). In 2021, Noel published the Human Lean book with his co-author John Bicheno, which has won both Shingo and Lean Business Ireland Publication Awards.

In October 2023, Noel was inducted into the Shingo Academy Hall of Fame for his contribution to organisational excellence across Ireland and further afield. Now semi-retired, Noel continues to share his experiences and expertise with organisations across various sectors through his Practical Lean Solutions (PLS) company www.practicalleansolutions.com

A3 Project Storyboards' Street Event

A key element of this annual conference is the inclusion of a Lean-related award, sponsored by LBS Partners. Three awards will be made this year - one for the best board submitted by an SME (small/medium indigenous Irish organisation); one for the best board submitted by an MNC (large indigenous Irish organisation or the Irish-based operation of a multinational company); and one for the best micro enterprise.

The 'Street Event' will include displays of A3 storyboards. Each project storyboard will outline the process the company used to attain a solution for their identified problem, with each milestone recorded and an overall quantifiable benefit derived.

The storyboards will outline how the judging criteria - Define, Measure, Analyse, Improve, Control - were met.

Conference attendees will select the winners via an online voting system in the auditorium on the day.



Define: 

The Problem statement identified to begin the project; its impact on employees, customers, business etc?

Measure: 

The existing performance of the process.

Analyse: 

The problem and summarise the key insights gained.

Improve: 

Improvements made to the process.

Control:



Mitigations in place to deal with unintended outcomes.



Mid-West Lean Network

The Mid-West Lean Network has developed considerably since its formation in November 2016. There are now in excess of 115 member companies in the Network, deriving benefits from the 45 Lean-focused workshops, and 4 conferences, 2 visits to Toyota Motor Manufacturing, UK, and 1 visit to Seating Matters held to date.

This Conference is the culmination of the 2024 calendar of events.

Be part of it.

BOOK YOUR PLACE

To book your place at this Conference, log onto:
www.shannonchamber.ie/events/mid-west-lean-network-conference-are-people-central-to-lean/

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