



BioConnect IRELAND

THE NETWORK FOR BIOTECH IN IRELAND



*Celebrating
15 Years of
Networking*

ABOUT BIOCONNECT IRELAND

BioConnect Ireland is an informal, open and independent networking organisation for individuals in the biotechnology, life science and medical device sectors in Ireland, North and South.

BioConnect Ireland held its first meeting in 2001.

It was founded to promote forward-thinking interaction and exchange between all the stakeholders in academia, industry, government agencies, trade, professional services and financial organisations.

ABOUT THIS EVENT

RNA Therapeutics - advances and opportunities

Albert Theatre, Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland

123 St Stephen's Green, Dublin 2 – Thursday, December 10th, 2015

RNA based therapeutics have the potential to treat diseases such as cancer and rare genetic disorders by turning on and off the production of dysfunctional proteins in affected cells. However, RNA is inherently unstable, potentially immunogenic, and typically requires a delivery vehicle for efficient transport to the targeted cells. Historically, these issues have hindered the clinical progress of RNA-based drugs. However, recent advances (and significant investment) in the field has resulted in several promising candidates enter late stage clinical testing. This event will provide a general overview of the progress RNA therapeutics are making towards becoming viable therapeutic options in the clinic, the approach to drug discovery within the RNA therapeutics field, the different types of RNA therapeutics in development and the potential for medical devices to reduce the challenges associated with RNA therapeutic delivery.

THANKS TO OUR SPONSORS



Thursday 10 December - Albert Theatre, Royal College of Surgeons, Dublin

RNA Therapeutics - advances and opportunities

AGENDA

2.30 pm **Registration & Tea/Coffee**

3.00pm **Event Starts**

Dr Jim Ryan, Chair BioConnect Ireland
Introduction and Welcome

Prof Ray Stallings, RCSI Director of Research
Welcome to RCSI

Presentations

Mads Aaboe Jensen, Principal Scientist, Drug Discovery & Alliance at RNA Therapeutics Research, Roche Innovation Center Copenhagen
RNA Therapeutics – A Large Pharma perspective

Prof. David Henshall & Prof. Fergal O'Brien
Royal College of Surgeon in Ireland
RNA Therapeutics - A translational research perspective

Aiden Flanagan - Principal Development Engineer
Boston Scientific
RNA Therapeutics – A Medical Device Industry perspective

Open Mike

A series of 3 minute presentations for organisations and individuals to introduce themselves, their projects and their partnering needs.

4.30 pm* **Q&A/Discussion: *RNA Therapeutics - advances and opportunities***

4.45pm **Networking Reception:**
- 6.00pm*



* Times are approximate

Speaker Profiles

Mads Aaboe Jensen, Ph.D., is Principal Scientist in Dept. of Drug Discovery & Alliance at RNA Therapeutics Research, Roche Innovation Center Copenhagen A/S in Denmark. His responsibilities in this role cover various activities within drug discovery and early drug development, including project management, partnership alliance and strategic planning. Dr Jensen joined Santaris Pharma A/S in 2013, which is a company that later was acquired by Roche in 2014. Prior to Santaris Pharma A/S, Dr Jensen was a postdoctoral fellow at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory (US), where he worked on RNA splicing and RNA Therapeutics with Prof Adrian Krainer. Dr Jensen holds a M.Sc. in molecular biology and a Ph.D. in cancer biology from Aarhus University (DK). Recently, Dr Jensen has received a Henley executive CBL certificate from Henley Business School, University of Reading (UK).



David Henshall is Professor of Molecular Physiology and Neuroscience at the Royal College of Surgeons (RCSI) in Ireland. He obtained his Pharmacology degree from the University of Bristol and PhD in Neuropharmacology from the University of Edinburgh. He then moved to the University of Pittsburgh where he began studying apoptosis and stress signalling pathways in epilepsy. He established an independent lab at the newly opened Robert S. Dow neurobiology laboratories in Portland, Oregon in 1999. In 2004, David took up an appointment at RCSI where his lab is now internationally recognised for discoveries on molecular mechanisms of epilepsy in particular the role of microRNA in the causes, treatment and diagnosis of epilepsy.



Fergal O'Brien is Professor of Bioengineering & Regenerative Medicine, Deputy Director for Research and heads the Tissue Engineering Research Group based in RCSI. He was a graduate in mechanical engineering with a PhD in the area of bone mechanobiology from Trinity College Dublin before a Fulbright Scholarship in tissue engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology & Harvard Medical School. He is a PI & Chair of the Executive Committee of the Centre for Bioengineering in TCD. His research focuses on mechanobiology and the development of advanced biomaterials for tissue repair. A major focus is scaffolds as therapeutic bioactive platforms for the delivery of stem cells, growth factors and nucleic acids (pDNA, siRNA & miRNA) to promote enhanced tissue repair.



Aiden Flanagan is an R&D Fellow in Corporate Research at Boston Scientific Corporation in Galway where he leads exploratory development teams to create new growth products. He has extensive experience innovating and developing technologies for the design and manufacture of minimally invasive medical devices. He has a BSc in Experimental Physics & Mathematics from NUI Maynooth, an MSc in Optoelectronics from Queens University Belfast and a PhD in Experimental Physics from NUI Galway. After his PhD Aiden was a consultant for Panasonic Technologies (MIT) and then worked for Summit Technology as a manufacturing engineer of Excimer Laser Systems for Laser Keratectomy. He joined Boston Scientific in 1995 working for a period in the R&D labs in Boston before returning to the R&D facility in Galway. Aiden has 35 US patents and more than 40 Patents pending.

