

Biography

Damian O'Connell MD BSc PhD
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Dr O'Connell is a senior pharmaceutical executive with extensive R & D, management, business development, clinical & academic research experience. He has a substantial record of accomplishment in senior leadership roles allied with strategic pharmaceutical development knowledge in leading US and European Pharma companies. Experience includes managing programmes of research & development in the areas of cardiovascular, respiratory, CNS, and analgesic drugs.

Damian is currently serving as Clinical Research Group Head leading all Research Clinicians working in the Sandwich Research Business Unit, having previously been Head of Experimental Medicine at the Pfizer Global Research & Development site in Sandwich (UK). A key function of that group was the development of clinical safety and efficacy measurements (biomarkers) that can predict whether compounds have desirable pharmacological effects. The group devises and expedites comprehensive clinical strategies to facilitate effective early drug development and works with research colleagues to plan and prioritise approaches from a clinical perspective. Immediately prior to this position, Damian was employed by Warner-Lambert as International Drug Director, for Cardiovascular & Clinical Pharmacology with responsibility for conducting all Phase 1-2a clinical studies outside the USA.

Damian, who has both MD & PhD degrees from the National University of Ireland, has been a Medical Faculty member of The University of Virginia Health Sciences Center as well as being a member of the Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics Department at University College Cork. He started his career in the Industry in 1998 with Elan Pharmaceuticals as Director of Clinical Research (US) and then moved to the UK in 1999 to take up his position with Warner Lambert. Following the merger of Warner Lambert with Pfizer in 2000, Damian was appointed head of Experimental Medicine in the Clinical Sciences group at Sandwich.

Damian also serves as a member of the Association of British Pharmaceutical Industry (ABPI) Experimental Medicine & Safety Biomarker Committees and as a Rapporteur for the Efficacy component of the recently published *Innovative Medicines Initiative* created under the joint leadership of EFPIA and the EC. He is Chairman of the Board of Molecular Medicine Ireland. In addition he is a Fellow of The Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland, and Member of The British Pharmacological Society; The American Society for Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics; The American College of Clinical Pharmacology and The Irish Association of Pharmacologists.