

Prof. Fergal O'Brien is Professor of Bioengineering & Regenerative Medicine, Deputy Vice Chancellor for Research & Innovation, and Head of the Tissue Engineering Research Group in RCSI, one of the largest advanced biomaterials and tissue engineering/regenerative medicine research groups in Ireland. Following a degree in mechanical engineering and PhD in bone mechanobiology, Prof. O'Brien was a Fulbright Scholar in tissue engineering at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard Medical School. Since his faculty appointment in 2003, he has published close to 300 journal articles in leading peer-reviewed international journals, filed 20 patents/disclosures and supervised over 50 doctoral students to completion. He has a current h-index of 88 (April 2023; Google Scholar). He is a recipient of three prestigious European Research Council Awards (Starting Grant, Proof-of-concept and most recently in 2018, a €3 million Advanced Grant). Other accolades include a Fulbright Scholarship (2001), New Investigator Recognition Award by the Orthopaedic Research Society (2002), Science Foundation Ireland, President of Ireland Young Researcher Award (€1.1. million, 2004), Anatomical Society New Fellow of the Year (2014), Fellowship of both Engineers Ireland (2013) and the European Alliance for Medical & Biological Engineering Science (2016). In 2018, O'Brien was elected as member of the Royal Irish Academy (RIA), Ireland's foremost body of experts in the Sciences and Humanities. He was also awarded the RAMI Silver Medal and presented the Samuel Haughton Honorary Lecture at the 2018 Annual Meeting of the RAMI Section of Bioengineering (BinI). In 2023, he was the recipient of the Marshall R Urist, MS award for sustained contribution to the field of regenerative medicine in relation to the musculoskeletal system, as well as being awarded Fellowship of the Irish Academy of Engineering. He was included on the updated list of the world's top 2% most widely cited scientists published by Stanford university in 2022.

O'Brien is currently a member of the World Council of Biomechanics and immediate-past President of the Section of Bioengineering of the Royal Academy of Medicine in Ireland and has previously served as Biomaterials Topic Chair for the Orthopaedic Research Society, as an EU Council Member of Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine International Society (TERMIS) and a member of Irish Medicines Board Advisory Committee on Medical Devices. He has patented a number of technologies from his lab and has translated 2 technologies for bone and cartilage repair to the clinic. In addition he has served as an editorial board member for 10 leading journals. He was co-chair of the World Congress of Biomechanics which brought over 4000 delegates to Ireland in 2018. He has presented over 100 invited talks including keynotes at leading international conferences and symposia including the Gordon Musculoskeletal Conference, World Congress of Biomechanics, TERMIS Annual meetings, World Conference on Regenerative Medicine, International Controlled Release Society, and Anatomical Society meetings. He has served as an invited reviewer for more than 100 scientific journals and as a grant reviewer and committee panelist for funding agencies worldwide including serving as Chair of the PE11 Panel for the European Research Council.