Global Discovery to Development Innovation Forum - Speaker Bio

James O'Connell - Director, Structural Biology - UCB Celltech

Dr. James O'Connell has 35 years’ experience in the Pharmaceutical Industry. Having joined UCB (formerly Celltech) in 1986, he helped to establish small molecule screening. Following his work on kinases he chaired the first IIR kinase workshop on screening methodologies. As a core member of the global small molecule Technology support group and the HTS cross-site team he played a leading role in identifying and testing new screening platforms for UCB. He became Head of Biomolecular Sciences based in Slough, where his group was responsible for assessing new technologies, developing medium throughput and HTS screens for hit discovery and providing kinetic and mechanistic data for hit optimization. Latterly, his work has focused on challenging protein: protein interactions and in particular on their inhibition by fragments. As project leader, he successfully led such a team in the discovery and development of small molecules targeting protein: protein interactions and remains involved in leading the science in this area. Additionally, he is a member of the Scientific Advisory Board for Cyclofluidic.