



WORLDWIDE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT  
BioMedicine Design



Following a PhD in Biochemistry at Trinity College Dublin, Orla spent 5 years at the national molecular oncology institute (IFOM) in Milan carrying out postdoctoral research in cancer cell biology. She returned to Ireland in 2006 to establish Wyeth's nascent Protein Discovery & Optimization group in University College Dublin. Her team use advanced protein engineering technology platforms to discover, evolve and optimize therapeutic antibodies. The group moved to the Pfizer Grange Castle site post-Wyeth acquisition in 2009 & continues to support antibody discovery across Pfizer's diverse therapeutic research units based in the US including oncology, immunology, cardiovascular & rare diseases. A recent highlight has been the initiation of a unique collaboration with Science Foundation Ireland (SFI) through the SFI-Pfizer Biotherapeutics Innovation Award Program. The collaboration between SFI and Pfizer provides academics from the Irish biomedical research community to partner novel biology with drug development expertise. Orla is director of Pfizer's Biomedicine Design group based in Grange Castle.