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Mark Heffernan, PhD CEO, Opsona Therapeutics Ltd



Dr. Heffernan completed his PhD in Biochemistry from Monash University (Australia).

He worked in R&D and business development roles for both Metabolic Pharmaceuticals and Antisense Therapeutics for a number of years.

In 2003, Mark moved to Ireland in search of new opportunities for biotechnology start-ups where he founded Opsona Therapeutics Ltd. Opsona is a biotechnology company focused on inflammatory diseases, which is based on technology originating from with three prominent immunologists from Trinity College (Dublin).

Opsona employs twenty full-time staff in Dublin (Ireland) and Lausanne (Switzerland) and has successfully raised over €28m in venture financing. Investors include Inventages VC, Novartis Venture Fund, Roche Venture Fund, Genentech, Seroba Kernel Life Sciences, Fountain Healthcare Partners and Enterprise Ireland.

Opsona has signed research and license agreements with numerous multi-nationals, including Wyeth, Schering-Plough and CSL.

Opsona has a rich pipeline of anti-inflammatory and vaccine adjuvant technologies and will enter clinical development with its lead drug candidate (OPN-305), a humanized monoclonal antibody to TLR2, in 2010.

Mark is the CEO and a Director of the company and is involved in a number of advisory committees and initiatives in the European biotechnology sector.