

### Kevin O'CONNOR



**Professor**  
**Director of Bioeconomy Research Centre (UCD),**  
**Member of School of Biomolecular and Biomedical Science**  
**and the Earth Institute at University College Dublin, Ireland**

Kevin O'Connor is the director of the recently funded Irish National Bioeconomy Research Centre (BEACON) (2017). He is passionate about the sustainable use of the natural resources and the benefit of the bioeconomy to the society and the environment.

His research interests integrate biorefining, biobased products, synthetic biology, biocatalysis and protein engineering. Kevin O'Connor is also involved in strategy and policy development at National and European level.

#### **Career background**

Kevin O'Connor has published over 90 international peer-review articles and made over 200 contributions (presentations and posters) at national and International conferences. He has filed 8 patents and successfully licensed 3 technologies resulting from his research work.

Kevin O'Connor is the founder of Bioplastech, a university spin-out company that develops processes and products based on biodegradable polymers.

He has a BSc and PhD in Microbiology from University College Cork (1995) and became Postdoctoral scientist at Agricultural University Wageningen, Netherlands, Postdoctoral scientist at ETH Zurich, Switzerland. He has been an academic at University College Dublin since 1999.

#### **Current/past Chairs/Committees/Boards served on**

- Chairman of the BBI JU Scientific Committee (2014-present)
- Member of the European Commission bio-based products expert group (2013-present)
- Former member of European Commission Committee entitled the "lead market initiative for Bio-based products (2008-2011)