

Dr Mark McAllister is a research fellow in the Drug Product Design group, Pharmaceutical Sciences, Pfizer, located in Sandwich, UK. He graduated in Pharmacy from Queens University Belfast in 1990 and completed a pharmaceuticals PhD at Aston University under the supervision of Prof. Oya Alpar. After his first industrial position at Hoechst-Roussel, formulating silicone-based hormone sustained-release systems, Mark moved to SmithKline Beecham where he gained experience in biopharmaceutics and early phase candidate assessment. As a manager within the Strategic Technologies department of GlaxoSmithKline Pharmaceutical Development in Harlow, he was responsible for a number of technology development programmes spanning areas such as oral modified-release, hot-melt extrusion and microencapsulation. Since joining Pfizer in 2008 to lead the Research Formulation drug delivery group, he has continued his research interests in biopharmaceutics and provided formulation support for programmes in early discovery through to proof-of-concept stage. More recently, he has moved into the Drug Product Design group and has responsibility for mid-to-late stage development projects. Mark was recently made a Fellow of the Royal Pharmaceutical Society and he is the current chairman of the UK Academy of Pharmaceutical Scientists (APS). He also leads the APS Biopharmaceutics focus group. He is the deputy scientific coordinator for the Innovative Medicines Initiative 'OrBiTo' project, a pre-competitive consortium involving 27 partners assembled from academia, industry and specialist technology companies, which is seeking to develop the next generation of *in vitro* and *in silico* tools to predict oral absorption.