

Ted Dinan – Principal Investigator



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Education:

- 1985 MD in Pharmacology (National University of Ireland)
- 1992 PhD in Pharmacology (London)
- 1993 FRCPsych, FACP
- 1995 DSc (National University of Ireland), FRCPI

Career profile:

Ted Dinan is Professor of Psychiatry at University College Cork. He was previously Chair of Clinical Neurosciences and Professor of Psychological Medicine at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London. Prior to that, he was a Senior Lecturer in Psychiatry at Trinity College Dublin. He has worked in research laboratories on both sides of the Atlantic and has a PhD in Pharmacology from the University of London. He is a Fellow of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Psychiatrists and a Fellow of the American College of Physicians. His main research interest is on the role of the gut microbiota in influencing brain function and development. Within this context he has focused on depression and irritable bowel syndrome. He has made significant contributions to the literature on the regulation of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis in situations of stress. In 1995 was awarded the Melvin Ramsey Prize for this research into the biology of stress. His current research is funded by Science Foundation Ireland, the Health Research Board and the European Union through FP7. He has published over 400 papers and numerous books on the pharmacology and neurobiology of affective disorders.

Research interests:

The “**Brain-Gut-Microbe Axis**” research addresses the communication between the brain and gut and how it can be influenced by the gastrointestinal microbiota. This is an area of significance in infancy, where important links between diet, microbes and cognition are established. The influence of the microbiota on obesity and metabolic syndrome are also increasingly recognised. A better understanding of the role of this axis in the stress response, and its links with other debilitating psychiatric conditions, will help provide new treatment and management strategies – these will represent opportunities for both the food ingredients business and the pharmaceutical industry. Within this context papers Prof. Dinan's group have promoted the concept of Psychobiotics, probiotics that have a mental health benefit.

Professional activities:

Prof. Dinan runs a clinic for **treatment refractory depression** at Cork University Hospital. The research focus at this clinic is on biomarkers of response and the development of new therapies.

Publications:

Please see <http://orcid.org/0000-0002-2316-7220>