

# Biosketch

## Prof. Dr. Michael Comer

- **Michael Comer** holds a professorship in a “joint chair” between the Ulster University and the Queen’s University, Belfast. He is also a Guest Professor at the University of Natural Resources and Applied Life Sciences, Vienna. Before his retirement in 2011 he was the Head and Managing Director of the Fighting Blindness Vision Research Institute in Dublin.
- **Michael Comer** has a distinguished international career spanning more than 40 years experience in research and development in the biotech and bio medical-science spheres. For instance, he rose to the position of the Vice President of Biotechnological R & D at Boehringer Mannheim GmbH (now Roche), Penzberg, Upper Bavaria due to his outstanding research and translational activities: there he developed the first cholesterol assay; soon or later no individual on earth escapes this assay. He also discovered and exploited a score of restriction enzymes that boosted the rapid development of gene technology in the 1970<sup>s</sup> and 1980<sup>s</sup> and held approximately 40 patents on them. In 1998 Michael Comer became Vice Chair of the Health and Life Sciences Panel of the Irish Government’s 'Foresight Exercise'. The resulting recommendations of this were to initiate the establishment of the Science Foundation Ireland with an R&D budget of some €650 million. In 2001, the then Minister of Health Mary Harney appointed him as one of the six Irish representatives to the US Ireland R&D task force that was to examine possibilities for joint North-South and US science research collaborations under the sponsorship of the US Secretary of Health and the US Director of National Institute of Health. In May 2003, he was appointed to Science Foundation Ireland to act in the interim capacity of Director of the Life Sciences Division, overseeing the allocation and management of funds dedicated to research in the biosciences in access of €300 million. This exciting initiative was to form the basis of the Government’s endeavor to improve Ireland’s position in the acquisition of scientific knowledge and opinion in order to sustain a future socioeconomic advantage in Ireland’s world competitiveness. Based on this outstanding career no one else than **Michael Comer** is more distinguished to talk about ***Entrepreneurial Science: From the Bench to the Product.***