



Dr Robert Ford

College Secretary, College of Life Sciences



Don't specialise too early – leave your options open, do what you're interested in, see what opportunities arise and do everything to the best of your abilities.



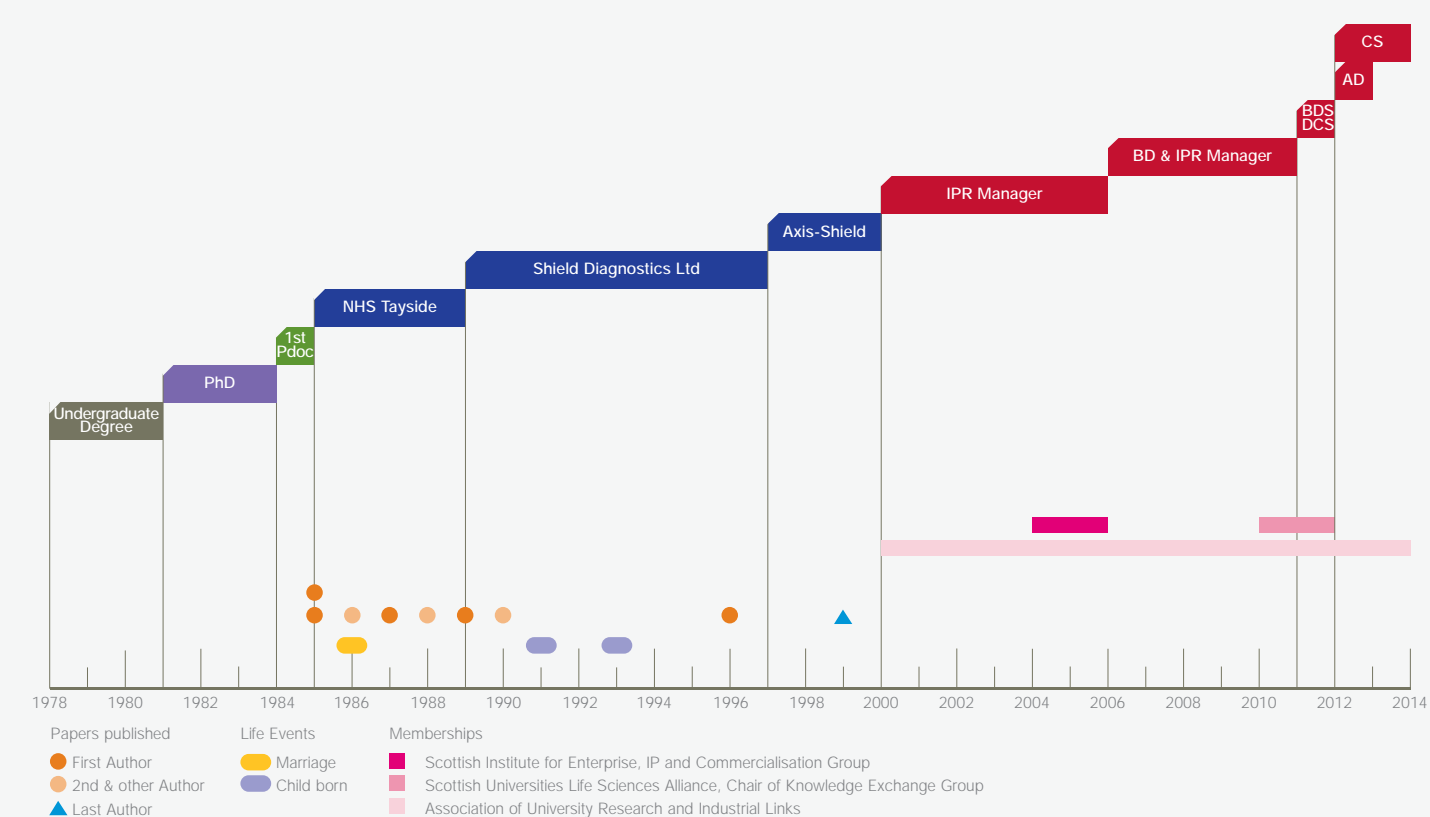
I studied for my first degree in Biochemistry after being inspired by an open day at Cardiff University which opened up a whole new world to me. Whilst I was doing my degree I decided to do a PhD for no other reason than to prove to myself I could! I enjoyed research and bench work but primarily I didn't want to look back and regret not having done it. During my PhD, I realised that I wanted to get involved in the applied aspects of Science and see how basic research is translated. I first worked in the NHS on improving diagnoses and supporting doctors in their diagnosing and monitoring of patients. An opportunity came up in product development with a spin-out company from the University of Dundee. I was there for eleven years – initially developing new diagnostic tools and technology and then I moved more into business development and marketing.

Due to extensive travel commitments I left Axis-Shield for a position that whilst challenging allowed me to spend more time with my family. I now support academic colleagues in learning and teaching and research in their work at the University of Dundee so they can focus on the science, taking a lead on management, administration and financial aspects of the College of Life Sciences.

A Day in my Life

First thing in the morning I check my emails, which inevitably results in me re-prioritising my day! At work, I spend a significant amount of my time in meetings with the Head of College, Deans, Director of the MRC-PPU, Pls, managers of the various support services within the college and student and academic support services, to review progress and often to look at finding

solutions to challenges that arise. I also spend time managing budgets and future planning of resources for the College. Additionally I work with colleagues on industrial collaborations, most notably the Division of Signal Transduction Therapy collaboration with the pharmaceutical industry which plays an important role in our knowledge exchange activities.



- Undergraduate Degree**
University College Cardiff, University of Wales
BSc (Hons) Biochemistry
- PhD/Postdoctoral Position**
University of Edinburgh
PhD Biochemistry
Professor George Boyd
and Dr Keith Suckling
- NHS Tayside, Dundee**
Clinical Biochemist
- Shield Diagnostics Ltd**
1989 - 1993 Project Leader,
Research and Development
1994 - 1997 Product Manager,
Sales and Marketing
- Axis-Shield, Dundee**
1997-1998 Cardiovascular Business
Unit Manager
1999 - 2000 Marketing Manager
- Intellectual Property Rights Manager**
Research and Innovation Services (RIS),
University of Dundee
- Business Development Intellectual
Property Rights Manager**
RIS, University of Dundee
- Business Development Manager
and Deputy College Secretary**
College of Life Sciences,
University of Dundee
- Assistant Director**
MRC Protein Phosphorylation
and Ubiquitylation
- College Secretary**
College of Life Sciences,
University of Dundee