

John David Robinson
Technical Services Manager, School of Chemistry, University of Manchester

John is currently responsible for the line management and professional development of experimental officers and technical staff within the School of Chemistry. He ensures the cost effective provision and maintenance of all laboratory facilities, services and equipment within the School including a stores facility. John deputises for the Head of School Administration in her absence. He is responsible for pursuing the "Investors in People" award for the School.

IST Background

He first joined the Institute in 1984 and began to get interested in the Institute's training activities in 1996, when he was co-opted onto the Council. He was subsequently elected to Council and then was elected Honorary Secretary by Council in 2000- and subsequently Chair in 2001. He was elected a Fellow of the Institute in 2003. He subsequently led the internal restructuring of the Institute to a small Executive to meet the changing demands of the education sector and to enable rapid responses to opportunities that arise from new initiatives from the government in the education sector. He has been a keen, key player in developing the Institute's involvement with the HEaTED project.

Other Activities and Interests

Elected Secretary of the University Bioscience Managers' Association (UBMA) 2000 – 2001 and organiser of the 1996 conference in Manchester. Co-host of the 2007 conference in Manchester

Joined the British Universities Chemistry Laboratory Superintendents (BUCLAS) association in 2005 and co-hosted the annual conference at Manchester

HEaTED Management Group member, representing IST from 2008

Employment Background:

John commenced his technician career as a Laboratory Assistant at ICI Ltd, Alderley Edge, moving out of industry into the education sector in 1968 when obtaining an appointment in the Department of Biology, University of Salford. He was promoted to Senior Technician within that organisation and followed that with a move to the Paterson Laboratories, Christie Hospital and Holt Radium Institute, where he was appointed initially in 1975 as a Medical Laboratory Scientific Officer (MLSO), being promoted further to Senior MLSO in 1978. He subsequently moved to the University of Manchester, School of Biological Sciences, starting with an appointment as Technician (Grade E) in 1980, this appointment being followed by a series of promotions through to Department Superintendent, Laboratory Superintendent and then Communications and Development Manager within a restructured Faculty of Life Sciences. In 2005 he moved to the School of Chemistry to take up his current post as Technical Services Manager. He has been heavily involved with technician and staff development during his management roles and was instrumental in securing the "Investors in People" award during his time in the Faculty of Life Sciences.

Seminars and presentations given by invitation:

CPD Award for Technical Staff in HE – an IST Perspective – S4U workshop April 2005

CPD Award for Technical Staff in HE – an IST Perspective – Presentation for the Engineering Managers in Universities conference, Sheffield University April 2005

CPD Award for Technical Staff in HE – an IST Perspective – Report for the Universities Bioscience Managers Association, University College Dublin, March 2005

Registered Science Technician: a model for accreditation – Presentation for Hull and East Ridings Technician's Association, Hull Education Centre, Nov 2004

Technician Training – a National Perspective – a presentation for the North West Universities Purchasing Consortium Harper Adams College, June 2003

The way forward for HE Technical Managers – a presentation to the National Association of Biochemistry and Biology Superintendents University of York, September 2002

Investors in People: The Manchester Experience - a presentation for Department of Chemistry, University College London, July 2002

The Institute of Science Technology – How can we help? A presentation as part of a course for technical staff, for the Training and Development Unit, University College London, July 2002

Managing and Assessing the Training Needs of Technical Staff
University of Warwick, February 2002

Managing and Assessing the Training Needs of Technical Staff
Nottingham Trent University, Training and Development Unit Symposium, 2000

Managing and Assessing the Training Needs of Technical Staff
Laboratory North 2000, G-Mex, Manchester, 2000

Investors in People – the Manchester Biosciences Experience
Presentation for the Deans of Science and Head of Staff Development at the University of Ulster, 1999

Development of Qualifications for Technicians in Higher Education and the Implications of the Dearing Report
Guy's Hospital and Medical School, London, 1997

Vocational Qualifications and the Common Grading Scheme for HE Technical Staff. Institute of Science Technology Seminar, Greyfriars School, London, 1996