

Dr Simon Sheard, Director of Operations

Simon joined UK Biobank in June 2013 as Director of Operations. With over 12 years' experience in the life sciences sector plus experience of working within both public funded business support environments and "high-tech" university & corporate "starburst" companies, Simon brings a broad range of expertise and knowledge to UK Biobank.

Simon is a physicist by training. He graduated with a 1st class honours degree in Physics with Physical Electronics from Bath University of Science and Technology in 1986 and, remaining at Bath for his doctoral research, he gained his PhD in 1989 for work on "Metallic Glasses for Pulse Compression" – a research programme undertaken for (and funded by) British Aerospace. Since then, Simon's career has spanned:

- Project, Product, Sales and Business Development Management roles within a leading supplier of automation systems to the life science industry
- Management of UK Government and EU funded business support initiatives including the design, development and delivery of innovation, technology and design support programmes for small and medium sized enterprises in the NW of England
- Management of technology transfer projects and machine test programmes including design, commissioning and operation of a world leading high speed energy storage flywheel test facility
- Management of R&D and manufacturing, including the transitioning of a thin film magnetoresistive sensor production facility from a (university spin out) clean room research environment to a manufacturing unit within an ISO9001 (BS5750) certificated operation

Prior to joining UK Biobank, Simon was involved with various academic steering groups, was a member of (and chaired) the audit committee of the Association for Laboratory Automation (now merged with the Society for Biomolecular Screening to form SLAS) and was closely involved with SiLA (a consortium working towards Standardisation in Laboratory Automation).

Simon has published a number of papers in peer reviewed scientific journals, presented papers and posters at numerous international conferences and exhibitions, provided copy and content to the scientific press and is a named inventor on the patent for the automated blood fractionation technologies employed at UK Biobank.