AUSBIOTECH 2011 CONFERENCE
SPEAKERS' PROFILE

Professor Rob Short
Director, Mawson Institute
University of SA, Australia

Professor Rob Short has a 20 year track record of research and commercialisation in the fields of thin film coatings, biomaterial science and life science tools research. He studied Chemistry (BSc) and Physical Chemistry (PhD) at the University of Durham (UK) and joined the University of Sheffield in 1988, where he held the Chair of Material and Biomaterial Chemistry from 2001. During this period, he was a founder Director of two University spin-out companies. He was appointed Director of the Mawson Institute, University of South Australia in 2006, and in 2008 he joined the ARC College of Experts (2008-10). He has held positions on several Boards and on Scientific Advisory Groups.

Rob's principal research field is plasma polymerization. He hopes that his work in this field has contributed to a better understanding the multi-facetted processes that lead to thin film growth from low temperature plasma. Studies have involved the application of mass spectrometry and novel electrostatic probes. In 1992 he was awarded the CR Burch Prize for outstanding work in Physical Chemistry for Thin Films or Vacuum.

Relevant contributions in biomaterial science, in the areas of protein adsorption, cellular attachment and wound-healing, have led to the development of a bandage that attaches and releases cells into non-healing wounds. This technology was commercialised in 2000 by the University of Sheffield. The resulting product, myskin™, and its allogenic variant cryoskin™, are used clinically to treat burns, scalds and chronic ulcers. In 2004 Rob was awarded the UK Society for Biomaterials' second highest prize, the Biocompatibles Endowed Lecture (for mid-career achievement)

In 2003 Rob founded Plasso Technology, an advanced surface engineering company for developing tailored coatings for use in diagnostics and life sciences. The company's first product EpranEx™ (now known as the BD™ Heparin Binding Plate) is used to immobilise heparin without modification, thereby retaining its natural ability to interact with other biomolecules. In May 2007 the company was sold to BD Biosciences, a leading global medical technology company. Based upon the acquired technology BD Biosciences have developed a range of surfaces for a number of applications in life science research.

Contact details
Email: rob.short@unisa.edu.au