

Professor Brian Austin was Director of the Institute of Aquaculture and Professor of Microbiology at the University of Stirling from 2009 until retirement in 2015. He graduated from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne with BSc and PhD degrees in microbiology before postdoctoral work on aquatic microbiology with Dr Rita Colwell at the University of Maryland. Brian joined Heriot-Watt University as a New Blood Lecturer in Aquatic Microbiology in 1984, and was promoted to Reader in 1989, and then to Professor in 1992. He held the posts of Head of Department of Biological Sciences, Dean of the University, and Head of the School of Life Sciences. Research interests have centred on the taxonomy and ecology of aquatic bacteria, bacterial fish pathology, and marine biotechnology. He was part of the original team that linked issues of antibiotic resistance with heavy metal tolerance in estuarine environments. Subsequently, research activities focused on aspects of bacterial taxonomy, the development of novel antimicrobials with effectiveness against hospital superbugs, fish pathology, and the development of disease control strategies based on vaccines, probiotics and medical plant products. He holds a honorary professorship at the Ocean University of China, and Fellowships the American Academy of Microbiology and the Higher Education Academy, U.K. He has published over 300 scientific articles and 20 books, to date.