



SYIS – STUDENT MEET MENTOR

Robert Brown

Professor Robert Brown was appointed as Head of the Tissue Engineering Unit at the University College of London in 2002. Professor Brown originally joined the Institute of Orthopaedics from 1984 - 1992 holding the posts of lecturer and senior lecturer as Deputy Director of Experimental Pathology. After moving to Plastic & Reconstructive Surgery in 1992 Professor Brown established a research activity in soft tissue repair, which led to the formation of the Tissue Repair Unit. Professor Brown is also Co-ordinator of the London Tissue Engineering Consortium (Tissue Bioreactor Science) and the British Tissue Engineering Network (BRITENet) and internationally active in research into cytomolecular control of tissue organisation and matrix material growth. He has over 110 reviewed publications, 9 patents, 4 licensed to a UK tissue engineering company, with current collaborative funding of approx £2 million, including two EU consortia (technical coordinator of one).

One of the founder members of the UK tissue engineering research community, Professor Brown's work over the past 10 years has focused on the platform science underpinning engineering & repair of human tissues. This includes research into novel micro-structured (cell support) biomaterials and the mechanisms by which mechanical cues act through such materials to regulate 3D tissue growth. Most recently this has included studies (EPSRC funded) on novel optical techniques for monitoring the formation of fine tissue structure in vitro and development of connective tissue bioreactors (BBSRC/EPSRC).