***Paul Beaumont - resumé***

Paul studied biochemistry as an undergraduate at Salford University and followed this with PhD work in photobiology and radiation biology. After a brief spell teaching chemistry in the state sector in North Wales he spent 2 years as a postdoctoral research associate in the Laboratory of Radiation Biology, University of Texas at Austin, USA before returning to the North East Wales Institute where he became Head of Science.

In September 1998 Paul was appointed Head of Natural and Applied Sciences at Edge Hill University College. In July 2001 Paul moved from his post in the university sector on appointment as the Director of Science and Plants for Schools (SAPS). SAPS is a charity which seeks to interest young people in plant science and in molecular biology and encourage more young people to follow careers in these subjects.

Paul moved to Scotland in September 2008 to join SSERC and until his retirement in December 2019 he was involved in the development and delivery of professional learning programmes for science teachers and technicians. He was appointed as SSERC’s Director of Professional Learning in 2016. In September 2019, Paul was awarded the Convener’s Award from the General Teaching Council for Scotland for his work in respect of professional learning.

For many years Paul has presented science lectures to school and public audiences including the Royal Society of Chemistry Worthington Schools’ Lecture in December 2003. More recently, Paul has been involved in the Royal Institution’s Schools Lecture Programme as well as the Cambridge, Dundee, Glasgow, Fife, Orkney, Strathearn and Wrexham Science Festivals.

Outside of his work in STEM outreach and his allotment, Paul is interested in areas as diverse as photoinactivation of viruses, methods of detecting irradiated food, the effects of tissue processing on biomechanical properties of tissue grafts, and mechanisms of bioluminescence and chemiluminescence.

On retirement, Paul established an educational consultancy (PK Partners) with a focus on STEM-related areas, was formed. PK Partners is currently working with the Robert Owen Centre for Educational Change at the University of Glasgow on a range of projects.

In February 2022 the lure of meeting young people and sharing with them his passion for STEM became too difficult to resist and Paul was appointed as one of two STEM Outreach Officers at Forth Valley College with a brief to go into local primary schools and provide engaging workshops for P5, P6 and P7 pupils.

In May 2022 and in recognition of a long career within STEM education and training the SSERC Board of Directors and Trustees presented Paul with the inaugural SSERC Honorary Fellowship.