

## **John Claxton**

John Claxton qualified as a veterinary surgeon in 1981. After a few years in practice, he participated in several animal health development and research projects in the Caribbean, West Africa and South America. He gained an MSc in Tropical Veterinary Science in 1987 and his PhD in veterinary parasitology in 1997. He carried out a series of short term consultancies in animal health and veterinary training in Africa, Asia, Europe and South America, before returning to the United Kingdom to work in research support with the Wellcome Trust in London. In 2001 he joined the European Commission Directorate-General for Research, as a scientific officer responsible for a range of projects in animal genomics and production. More recently he has been part of the team setting up the Research Executive Agency, which will manage a portfolio of research grants in the Marie-Curie and SME specific funding schemes. In July 2009, once the agency gained its autonomy, he returned to the Biotechnologies Unit where he is currently Deputy Head of Unit.