

David Wraith, Chief Scientific Officer and Founder, **Apitope Technology Ltd**

David Wraith is a research immunologist and Professor of Experimental Pathology at the University of Bristol. David began his career at NIMR, London, working on the immune response to viruses. He received MRC funding to work at Stanford University in California where he developed his interest in autoimmune diseases. This led to him establishing a Wellcome Trust funded research laboratory at the University of Cambridge and, in 1995, he took up the Chair in Experimental Pathology in Bristol. His research group is principally supported by the Wellcome Trust, MRC and MS Society UK. In 2002, he founded Apitope in order to promote clinical development of peptide therapy in autoimmune diseases and allergies. The company successfully completed clinical trials of its peptide treatment for MS in 2009 and 2013. EMD Serono is now testing the Apitope peptide treatment for MS in phase II clinical trials while Apitope is developing treatments for Graves' disease and Uveitis. Apitope technology has the potential to treat many serious autoimmune and allergic diseases for which there is currently no effective treatment: currently, >1/5 children will suffer from an allergy or autoimmune condition during their lifetime. The Apitope approach is designed to improve the safety and efficacy of immunotherapy by specifically targeting the cells involved in the disease.