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As one of the pioneers of commercial biotechnology in Scotland, I discovered the importance of allying business skills to Intellectual Property to create successful businesses. Since 1996 I have been a Business Coach helping build sustainable company value. I work with innovative people with great ideas and help them develop and grow the business that achieves their ambitions. I am currently in start-up phase for my latest venture, International Life Science Investors, This is a new hands-on investor group, who have established offices in the UK and California, and are currently seeking funds for investment.

In 1975 I graduated from the School of Biological Sciences of Strathclyde University. Having specialised in Food Science my career soon took me into manufacturing medical devices and Pharmaceuticals. I gained my MBA from London Business School in 1983, and during that time I took the opportunity to study the emergence of Venture Capital and Biotechnology in the UK. I served in the Public sector from 1984 to 1990 as Divisional Head of the Scottish Development Agency managing a budget of £3.5m for strategic sectoral development, including making seed investments to develop new business areas. During and after my time with the SDA period I provided Board level direction to Biotechnology and Healthcare companies at all stages from angel investment and Venture capital raising, to IPO. From there I joined a Canadian business coaching company (RLG) and developed my coaching skills using techniques of adult education and continuous learning for performance improvement in a business context. In 2003 I co-founded Shirlaws (UK) Ltd bringing from Australia the best IP around the coaching of SMEs in Business growth.