



Martin Dawson is Professor and Associate Director at the University of Strathclyde's Institute of Photonics ( [www.photonics.ac.uk](http://www.photonics.ac.uk) <<http://www.photonics.ac.uk/>> ), which he joined on its foundation in 1996. He obtained his Ph.D in laser physics in 1985 from Imperial College London, studying optical gain switching in III-V semiconductor lasers and simultaneous mode-locking and Q-switching in Nd-YAG lasers. From 1985 – 1991 he was a Visiting Assistant Professor in the group of Prof. A.L. Smirl, initially at North Texas State University and subsequently at the University of Iowa. Whilst there, he contributed widely to the development of femtosecond synchronously pumped dye lasers and synchronous amplifiers. He returned to the UK in 1991, spending the following five years as one of the founding research staff of Sharp Laboratories of Europe, Ltd. and performing fundamental studies of AllnGaP red-emitting semiconductor materials and devices. Since coming to Strathclyde, he has concentrated mainly on three research areas: he is recognised as a pioneer of semiconductor disk lasers (VECSELs) and has contributed strongly to the development of this field over the past ten years, including the introduction and exploitation of diamond intracavity heatspreader technology; he was an early proponent of GaInNAs/GaAs 'dilute nitride' semiconductors for 1.3-1.55 $\mu$ m optoelectronics and has developed many novel devices based on this technology, including VECSELs and semiconductor saturable absorber mirrors (SESAMs); he has also built up substantial activity and wide collaborations on gallium nitride microstructured optoelectronic devices (<http://bt-onethousand.photonics.ac.uk> <<http://bt-onethousand.photonics.ac.uk/>> ). Prof. Dawson has authored or co-authored over 400 journal and conference papers and holds 12 patents. He is a Fellow of OSA, of the Institute of Physics and of the Royal Society of Edinburgh.