

## Brief Bio: Bryan McKersie

I received my PhD in Biology in 1978 from the University of Waterloo, Canada. After graduation and a brief postdoctoral position at Botany School, Oxford University, I was appointed as Assistant Professor in Crop Science at the University of Guelph. I established a research program in plant stress physiology that was supported by NSERC, NRC-IRAP, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and several agricultural industries and grower groups. I acted as Chairman of Interdepartmental Plant Physiology from 1980 to 1991, and Director of the Guelph Plant Biotechnology Centre from 1990-1991. I taught several undergraduate courses in plant physiology and agronomy, and graduate courses in plant cell biology and stress physiology. I spent a sabbatical leave at Plant Genetic Systems in Gent, Belgium learning methods in plant transformation and genetic engineering, and another leave at Wageningen University in the Netherlands. I was promoted to full Professor in 1989. In the early 1990s, my laboratory conducted the first field trials on genetically engineered alfalfa and grapevine.

In 1999, I left academia for a position at BASF Plant Science in Research Triangle Park, Durham, North Carolina. This was a new venture for the international chemical company, BASF, so I had the opportunity to work in a “start-up” company and begin several research projects that included international collaborations in Europe and Australia. I also had the opportunity to work on the BASF/Monsanto collaboration on the development of higher yielding crops. While at BASF, I attended several courses on project management from NC State University.

I retired from BASF in Jan 2014. I am currently serving on the Advisory Committee for University-Industry Grants (ACUIG) for NSERC, Canada. I am currently writing a book and developing training courses on “Successfully Managing Innovation”. Several summaries have been posted to LinkedIn. I am striving to adapt the techniques of project management to better suit the needs of the scientific research community.