



Paul Townsend: As a visionary leader in academia, scientific research and innovation, Paul joined the University of Stirling in November 2024 as Deputy Principal (Research and Innovation). He brings exceptional expertise in biomedical and health sciences, interdisciplinary innovation, and a proven track record of transformative leadership in higher education.

Following his PhD at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund (now CRUK) in 1997, under Professor Michael A. Horton's supervision and mentorship, Paul has consistently worked across industry and academia, pushing the frontiers of scientific discovery. His research in cell stress and survival mechanisms, coupled with developing network solutions for early disease detection and unpicking pathophysiology, exemplifies his innovative approach.

His career spans prestigious institutions including Southampton and Manchester. Most recently, as Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Executive Dean at Surrey's Faculty of Health and Medical Sciences, he established the new Surrey School of Medicine, founded the Surrey Academic Health and Care Partnership, and co-led both the Wolfson Bioanalytics Centre of Excellence and Surrey Centre of Excellence in Ageing. Under his leadership, the Faculty secured Athena Swan Gold and Silver awards and excellent REF and NSS.

Paul has co-founded several companies and secured multi-million-pound grants from major funding bodies. His expertise spans drug discovery, AI applications, and advanced mass spectrometry, leading to significant breakthroughs in biomarker identification.

At Stirling, Paul's ambitious vision focuses on maximising innovation initiatives through Scottish and U.K. Government City Region and Growth Deals, aiming to elevate the university's global research standing and REF29 performance. His international influence extends across multiple countries, and his recent work in senescence technology exemplifies his commitment to collaborative innovation addressing real-world challenges.

His energetic 'can do' leadership style combines scientific excellence with strategic vision, positioning Stirling at the forefront of innovative research while nurturing future academic leaders.