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## Profile

### **Alan H Windle**

*Chairman*

*Prof. Alan H. Windle, FRS*

Prof. Alan Windle graduated with a first class Engineering Degree in Metallurgy from Imperial College, London in 1963, and subsequently with a PhD from Cambridge University. He returned to Imperial, first as an ICI fellow under Peter Pratt and then as a Lecturer, and arising from a period in Andrew Keller's laboratory in Bristol developed a new interest in polymers. Back in Cambridge in 1975, as University Lecturer and Fellow of Trinity, he built up a group concentrating on structural studies of non crystalline polymers. Interest developed in polymer diffusion and in the early eighties in liquid crystalline polymers. Research into structure and properties of liquid crystalline materials has led to a particular development in the area of computer molecular modelling as well as a special interest in the modes of crystallisation of random copolymers. He is involved in major international collaborations in the areas of computational modelling of materials and of carbon nanostructures, and leads a research group of about ten people. Leading current research into carbon nanotubes means that his research embraces not only the basic materials discipline of structure and properties, but high temperature process development as well.

Professor Windle has been awarded the Bessemer Medal and the Royal Society of Arts Silver Medal (1963), the Rosenhain Medal (1987) and the Swinburne medal and prize (1992) and he was elected Fellow of the Royal Society in 1997. He has published some 200 papers and two text books : "A First Course in Crystallography" (Bell and Hyman 1978), and "Liquid Crystalline Polymers" (co-authored with Prof A M Donald FRS- CUP 1992). He was closely involved in the setting up of the Melville Laboratory for Polymer Synthesis in Cambridge, and the founding of Cambridge Molecular Design, a software company which, now as Accelrys, is the world leader in materials modelling software. He holds the chair of Materials Science in the University of Cambridge and was Head of the Department of Materials Science and Metallurgy until the end of 2000. He has recently completed two years as Executive Director of the Cambridge-MIT Institute. He is a Commissioner of the Royal Commission for the 1851 Exhibition.