Roy Taylor received his Ph.D. in 1974 from the Queen's University of Belfast. Following two years post-doctoral research at the Technical University Munich, he returned to the Physics Department at Imperial College, where he had undertaken part of his Ph.D. programme. He established the Femtosecond Optics Group at Imperial College in 1986. His research interests have included tunable femtosecond dye lasers, amplifiers and non-linear conversion, ultrafast molecular dynamics, ultrashort pulse fibre laser sources, compact solid state lasers, optical soliton generation and non-linear optics in fibres, publishing around 400 articles in international peer reviewed journals and co-authoring over 400 conference presentations in these areas.