



Catherine Side graduated from Cambridge in genetics and from Heriot-Watt with a masters degree in brewing; she was the country's first lady brewer. Her career subsequently took her to North America where she worked extensively in food and brewing ingredients. After a spell as marketing director with a biotech company working with algal products, she created Inside Consulting in 1991 to provide consultancy to the food, beverage and biotech sector in business development of ingredients and technologies. She also created and ran the Virtual Consulting Group (VCG) starting in 1994. Originally a self-help group for consultants, VCG has now created a virtual company Acumentia Ltd, providing the services of some 40 consultants. They work together to cover all aspects of the biosciences, and she now acts as their business development director alongside her own projects. Catherine has worked extensively with functional food ingredients and recently managed the UK sector of the Framework 6 project, Functional FoodNet. She has chaired a number of committees for IFT and IFST.