



## Dr Robert D F Keith MEng CEng PhD FIET

Robert Keith is the CEO and co-founder of K2 Medical Systems, a position he has held since the formation of the company in 1999.

Whilst a member of the Plymouth Perinatal Research Group, and having been awarded grants from the Medical Research Council, Robert undertook seven years of research between 1989 and 1996 to improve the interpretation of fetal heart rate monitoring during labour and clinical decision making. Robert developed a computer system to interpret the fetal heart rate record in real time and a prototype went on permanent exhibition at the National Science Museum, London. He was awarded a PhD entitled 'Intelligent Fetal Monitoring and the Management of Labour' in 1993,

Robert's passion to further the understanding of fetal heart rate interpretation and improve maternity care led him to secure the position of Engineer Manager and then Senior Staff Scientist for Corometrics Medical Systems (inventors of fetal heart rate monitoring technology and now part of General Electric Medical Systems) in Connecticut, USA, from 1996 to 1999. Whilst in the USA, Robert also lectured on Expert Systems in Medicine at Trinity College, Connecticut, and was in advanced collaborative projects with Cornell University and MIT.

In 1999, Robert then returned to the UK to form K2 Medical Systems; an innovation and technology company that develops and manufactures hardware and software medical devices for maternity and was the technology transfer vehicle for the previous decade of research and experience.

Under his leadership, K2 has grown from strength to strength and is now recognised as one of the leading maternity systems providers in the UK. Producing unique, innovative and effective products, K2 has developed quickly from its beginnings within a busy maternity department to an international concern which has been recognised with the Queen's Award for Innovation and winner of Healthcare innovation from the Institution of Engineering and Technology. K2 now has subsidiary companies in Australia and the USA, as well as having representation on the ground in the Middle East and customers based around the world.

Robert is leading the company into its next decisive phase with the release of INFANT<sup>®</sup>, unique software designed to provide an electronic analysis of the fetal heart rate and interpretation during labour to support clinical decision making and avoid the human errors that lead to poor perinatal outcomes including avoidable stillbirth during labour. Following over 25 years of research and development, and having successfully evaluated INFANT<sup>®</sup> in the largest NHS funded maternity trial ever undertaken in the UK, Robert has seen his dreams of improving maternity care for all become a reality.

A Chartered Engineer and Fellow of the Institution of Engineering and Technology, as well as an Expert Witness providing advice in obstetric litigation regarding fetal monitoring, Robert remains committed to improving maternity care for mothers and their babies and is dedicated to continued innovation focused on improving healthcare outcomes.