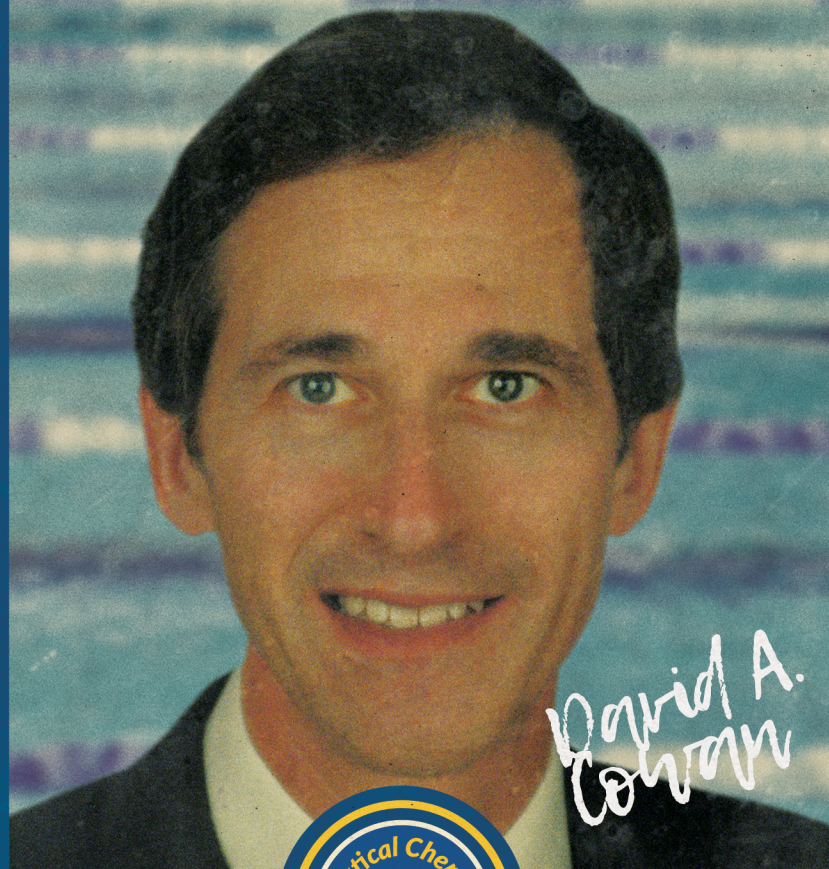




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David A.  
Cowan



Director  
Drug Control Centre,  
King's College of London

DAVID COWAN

## ACS PROGRAM-IN-A-BOX

www.acs.org/PIB



DR. DAVID A. COWAN



**POSITION:** Head of the Department of Forensic Science and Drug Monitoring at King's College London.

**RECOGNITION:** 1998 - IOC Trophy for Sport Ethics by the British Olympic Association.

**INTERESTING FACT:** Co-founded the Drug Control Centre at King's College in 1978, the only human drug sports testing laboratory in the United Kingdom accredited by the World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA).

## TALKIN' CHEMISTRY

### WHAT DO YOUNGER CHEMISTS INTERESTED IN THE ANTI-DOPING FIELD NEED TO KNOW?

Understand what is involved by reading about the topic. See if you can get an internship in the area or a research project placement. We take on people who have studied at King's College London in one of our Master of Science programs, such as our Analytical Science for Industry MSc.

### WHAT DO YOU KNOW NOW THAT YOU WISH YOU HAD KNOWN WHEN YOU WERE 25?

I am lucky that I have reached the top of the ladder in my area and the ladder is against the right wall! Early in my career, I wondered whether to study law or electronics. Early in my career when I was more laboratory based, I spent a lot of time designing and fixing the electronics of many instruments. I now spend a lot of time interacting with the law.

### WHAT MOMENT IN YOUR LIFE INSPIRED YOU TO BECOME A CHEMIST?

I think when I gave a talk in primary school about my family's background in pharmacy and this was a great success. I then found that I had a natural talent in science and chemistry. I loved working on small scale and instrumental methods of analysis that has been so important to my career. Because of my pharmacy background, I have a good understanding of the biological relevance of the chemicals that I can identify in complex biological matrices.

Discover more careers like David's!

## WHAT CHEMISTS DO

BY THE AMERICAN CHEMICAL SOCIETY

The *What Chemists Do* video project profiles the careers of top chemists in a variety of disciplines. Discover your next career path or simply learn what your colleagues are up to across the bench at [acs.org/whatchemistsdo](http://acs.org/whatchemistsdo).

