



## **John R McFarlane**

John McFarlane, himself a Polio Survivor (1949), is the Chair of the Post Polio Support Group of Ireland.

Although by training an engineer he worked for a major multinational for many years before turning his interests towards matters concerning disability. He was the founder director and chief executive of COMPUTABILITY, now AbilityNet, a leading organisation dealing with assistive

technology.

He went on to be the joint Managing Director of POSSUM Ltd, makers of environmental controls for those with severe physical disabilities caused through trauma or disease. At the same time he was conducting research in conjunction with the European commission both on technology (TIDE programmes) and social inclusion (HELIOS programmes). Appointed as a Fellow of Birmingham University in 1993.

He is the author of "Polio - The Late Effects Reality" (Dublin 2004), and the joint commissioning editor of "Post Polio Syndrome: Management and Treatment in Primary Care" (Dublin 2007). He has also spoken at international disability conferences on the subject of Post Polio Syndrome and the socio economic effects on people with disabilities.