John Tesh graduated from London University with a B.Pharm. (Hons) degree, specialising in pharmacology and pharmaceutics. He joined Beecham Research Laboratories where he was instrumental in establishing the Department of Reproductive Toxicology. After 2 years, the company sponsored his PhD on the topic of effects of ageing in spermatozoa on fertilisation and prenatal development in the rabbit at the School of Veterinary Medicine, Liverpool University. On completing his research he returned to BRL as overall Head of Toxicology.

Research has always been fundamental to his interest in reproductive toxicology and he subsequently returned to Liverpool as Principal Lecturer and Head of Physiology and Pharmacology at the School of Pharmacy and Senior Research Fellow in the Ford Foundation Unit of Reproductive Biology Liverpool to pioneer ovum transfer in women, as well as developing an interest in Behavioural Teratology.

From there he moved to the newly established Contract Research Organisation, Life Science Research, later Pharmaco LSR, where he inaugurated and directed the Department of Reproductive Toxicology, which became one of the largest reproductive toxicology departments worldwide. Whilst there he was appointed Course Director and lecturer for the Reproductive Toxicology module of the MSc degree course in Applied Toxicology at the University of Surrey, Guildford, a position he held for more than 20 years. He was also on the Board of Examiners and Board of Studies for the university and a visiting professor. After taking early retirement from the CRO he joined his wife, Sheila Tesh, as an independent consultant in all aspects of general and reproductive toxicology. He has represented pharmaceutical and agrochemical companies at government regulatory meetings in UK, Europe, Scandinavia, USA, Canada and Japan. JMT is an honorary founder member of the European Teratology Society and a member of the Society for Birth Defects Research and Prevention. He is author or co-author on more than 70 scientific publications and senior author of 2000+ confidential research reports and expert reviews for submission to drug and agrochemical/chemical regulatory agencies worldwide.