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Alistair is a Chartered Engineer, Chartered Builder and Professor of construction engineering management, joining UK's Loughborough University in 1993, following a career in civil engineering and construction management. He is Director of the industry-sponsored Construction Engineering Management Programme and leads the construction management Innovative Manufacturing and Construction Research Centre (IMCRC). He is Project Director of the European Construction Institute's Safety, Health and Environment task force (ECI).

He has led many health and safety research projects funded both by the UK Government and industry. A feature of this work has been the practical, industry-focussed nature of the deliverables. He has authored practical manuals as well as a many journal and conference papers on management of both health and safety on construction sites. Recent projects have included health and safety implications for and from migrant and older workers. He also leads research into construction innovation.

Major health and safety publications include Institution of Civil Engineers H&S issues for Migrant Workers; ECI's Global Safety manual (*ISBN 1873844 63 8*); the ECI Safety, Health and Environment Management Guide (*ISBN 0-7277-2082-1*); the ECI Guide to managing health in construction (*ISBN 0-7277-2762-1*); *D⁴h* - Design for Healthy Construction (*ISBN 18738-44-55-7*); CIRIA's Site Health; HASPREST - Health and Safety implications from offsite production (*ISBN 0-947974-16-4*); . HSE report - The case for CDM: better, safer design (*ISBN 0 7176 2733 0*); and HSE report - Causal factors in construction accidents, (*ISBN 07176 2749 7*).