Derryck Reid gained his BA from the University of Cambridge in 1991 and his PhD from the University St Andrews in 1994 for the development of new near-infrared femtosecond laser sources. After a post-doc position, followed by a 5-year EPSRC Advanced Fellowship and lectureship in St Andrews he moved to Heriot-Watt University in Edinburgh, where he was appointed full professor in 2005. He is currently Head of Heriot-Watt’s Institute of Photonics and Quantum Sciences, a grouping of over 200 researchers in applied photonics, ultrafast phenomena and quantum technology.

His research concentrates on the development of new types of femtosecond light sources, tailored to applications in microscopy, spectroscopy and metrology. His lab has developed femtosecond oscillators with repetition rates from 15 MHz to 10 GHz, wavelength coverage from 400 – 13000 nm and pulse durations as short as a few optical cycles. In 2012 he founded the company Chromacity Ltd., which manufactures a range of laser oscillators covering the near- and mid-infrared spectrum.

He is a Fellow of the Optical Society of America, the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the Institute of Physics and the Institution of Engineering and Technology.