Richard Bowman graduated as a ceramic engineer at the University of New South Wales in 1974. He spent the next 30 years as a research scientist at CSIRO, Australia's principal R&D organisation, where he established their slip resistance laboratories and directed their sustainable tiling systems research. He has published over 100 papers and presented numerous invited lectures at international conferences.

In 2005 Richard established his own tiling system and slip resistance consultancy, Intertile Research, which employs a research-based focus to provide leading edge solutions to a wide range of problems, as well as expert witness reports.

Richard is a past President of the International Ceramic Federation. He is a Fellow and Honorary Member of the Australian Ceramic Society and an Emeritus Member of the American Ceramic Society. He chaired the Standards Australia Committees on Ceramic Tiles and the Fixing of Ceramic Tiles for over 30 years, and the Pedestrian Slip Resistance Committee for 20 years. He has led the Standards Australia delegation to ISO/TC 189, Ceramic Tiles, since 1986. He serves on a number of ASTM and BSI committees, and is an active member of the UK Slip Resistance Group.

Richard is currently the President of the Australian Ceramic Society, the Chair of the International Ergonomics Association's Technical Committee on Slips, Trips and Falls, and the Honorary President of the Slip Resistance Group of Spain.