

## Healthy ageing FORUM conference steering committee

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### Steering Committee

- Professor Dame Linda Partridge FRS FMedSci, University College London (Chair)
- Professor Carol Brayne CBE FMedSci, University of Cambridge
- Professor Ian Deary OBE FBA FMedSci, University of Edinburgh
- Professor Janet Lord FMedSci, University of Birmingham
- Dr Fiona Marshall FMedSci, MSD
- Mr Steve Rees, AstraZeneca
- Professor Andrew Steptoe FMedSci, University College London

### Biographies

#### **Chair: Professor Dame Linda Partridge FRS FMedSci**

Director, Institute of Healthy Ageing, University College London

Linda Partridge works on the biology of ageing. Her research is directed to understanding the mechanisms by which healthy lifespan can be extended in laboratory model organisms and humans. Her work has focused in particular on the role of nutrient-sensing pathways, such as the insulin/insulin-like growth factor signalling pathway, and on the role of diet. She is the recipient of numerous awards, including the Royal Society's Croonian Prize Lecture, and was honoured with a DBE for Services to Science in 2009. She is a Fellow of the Royal Society, the Academy of Medical Sciences and a foreign member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She is Director of the Institute of Healthy Ageing at UCL and the founding director of the Max Planck Institute for Biology of Ageing in Cologne, Germany.

#### **Professor Carol Brayne CBE FMedSci**

Professor of Public Health Medicine and Director of the Cambridge Institute of Public Health, University of Cambridge

Carol Brayne is a medically qualified epidemiologist and public health academic. Since the mid-eighties her main research area has been longitudinal studies of older people following changes over time in cognition, dementia natural history and associated features with a public health perspective. She is lead principal investigator in the group of MRC CFA Studies which have informed, and will continue to inform, national policy and scientific understanding of dementia in whole populations. She has been responsible for training programmes in epidemiology and public health for under and postgraduates since the early nineties. Alongside her Directorship of the Cambridge Institute of Public Health, at the University of Cambridge, Carol holds the position of Faculty of Public Health, Academic & Research committee Chair, Royal College of Physicians special advisor, NIHR SI PH SIG co-lead, SPHR member PI, and CLAHRC theme lead. Carol was awarded a Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE) for her services to public health medicine in 2017. She was recently listed among the highest cited scholars in the world across all disciplines.

#### **Professor Ian Deary OBE FBA FMedSci**

Professor of Differential Psychology, University of Edinburgh

Ian Deary is Professor of Differential Psychology at the University of Edinburgh. He is Director of the Lothian Birth Cohort studies. He is a graduate of Psychology and Medicine from the University of Edinburgh, where he also took his PhD. He practised psychiatry in London and Edinburgh before moving to academic psychology. His principal research interests are: human intelligence differences, cognitive ageing, and the reciprocal association between intelligence and health in the human life course. He is an elected Fellow of the British Academy, the Royal Society of Edinburgh, the Academy of Medical Sciences, the Royal College of Psychiatrists, and the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh. He was awarded an OBE for services to the social sciences in the 2019 New Year's Honours.

### **Professor Janet Lord FMedSci**

Professor of Immune Cell Biology and Director of MRC-Arthritis Research UK Centre for Musculoskeletal Ageing Research, University of Birmingham

Janet Lord is Professor of Immune Cell Biology and director of the Institute for Inflammation and Ageing at Birmingham University. She is also director of the MRC-Versus Arthritis Centre for Musculoskeletal Ageing Research. Her primary research focus is in the effect of ageing upon immune function and how this limits the ability of older adults to resolve inflammation and predisposes them to chronic inflammatory disease such as Rheumatoid arthritis. In 2013 she was awarded the Lord Cohen of Birkenhead medal for her outstanding research in human ageing by the British Society for Research in to Ageing. She was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences in 2015.

### **Dr Fiona Marshall FMedSci**

Head of Neuroscience Discovery and Head of the Discovery Research Centre in London, MSD

Fiona is Head of Neuroscience Discovery and Head of the new Discovery Research Centre in London for MSD which is focused on research into diseases of ageing. Previously Fiona was Chief scientific officer at SoseiHeptares. Fiona was a founder of Heptares Therapeutics a highly successful UK Biotech company focused on structure- based drug design. Fiona is most well known for her work in the field of G protein-coupled receptors and has published extensively in that field. Fiona won the 2012 WISE Women of Outstanding Achievement for Innovation and Entrepreneurship and the 2015 RSC Malcolm Campbell Award for chemistry. She is a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences, Honorary Fellow of the British Pharmacological Society and Honorary Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry.

### **Steve Rees**

VP Discovery Biology, Discovery Sciences, AstraZeneca

Steve Rees is Vice-President of the Discovery Biology department at AstraZeneca with global responsibility for reagent generation, assay development and functional genomics. Prior to this Steve led the Screening Sciences and Sample Management department at AstraZeneca with accountability for Compound Management, the human tissue BioBank, Hit Discovery and Lead Optimisation biology support to preclinical discovery projects. Prior to joining AstraZeneca, Steve worked at GlaxoSmithKline for 24 years in various roles. Steve has led multiple international collaborations, has authored >65 scientific papers and has spoken at many international symposia. He is currently Chairman of the European Laboratory Research and Innovation Group, and a member of the Scientific Advisory Board for LifeArc, the Centre for Membrane Protein Receptor Research at the Universities of Birmingham and Nottingham and Axol Bioscience Ltd.

### **Professor Andrew Steptoe FMedSci**

Professor of Psychology and Epidemiology, University College London

Andrew Steptoe is professor of psychology and epidemiology at University College London (UCL), where he is also head of the Department of Behavioural Science and Health and is director of the English Longitudinal Study of Ageing (ELSA). He was a student at the University of Cambridge before moving to Oxford University for his doctorate. He was appointed lecturer in the Department of Psychology at St. George's Hospital Medical School, becoming Professor and Chair of the Department in 1988. He moved to UCL as British Heart Foundation Professor of Psychology in 2000, continuing in this post until 2016. He is a past-president of the International Society of Behavioral Medicine, was founding editor of the British Journal of Health Psychology. His work is currently focused on social, psychological and biological aspects of ageing, links between mental and physical health, loneliness and social isolation, health behaviour change, and the biology of stress.