

Citation for the Award of Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) to Professor Dame Sally C Davies DBE, FRS, FMedSci

Professor Dame Sally Davies is a distinguished authority and international leader in the development of research policy and infrastructure, and a prominent, influential activist on a broad range of public health initiatives. Her contributions to re-developing research policy and infrastructure have refocused medical research in the United Kingdom on patient outcomes, and her commentary and advice on critical public health initiatives is influencing policy and practice both in the UK and internationally.

Her major contributions include establishing the UK Clinical Research Collaboration, the UK National Institute for Health Research and Genomics England Ltd; her influential advocacy for policy initiatives on public health issues such as obesity, alcohol consumption and access to precision medicine; and her global leadership of a strategy to combat anti-microbial resistance (AMR). These initiatives are proving transformational, speeding medical research collaboration and translation, changing public discourse on healthy behaviour, bringing the benefits of genomic medicine to the UK public health system, and generating international collaboration on a 'One-Health' approach to AMR.

She has warned of a 'post-antibiotic apocalypse' that poses a triple threat to modern medicine, food production and the international economy if the global surge of AMR is not exposed and stopped. In her campaign against AMR Dame Sally engages widely with the public, with international NGOs and governments and across a wide range of healthcare, pharmaceutical and agricultural industries throughout the world to lobby for changes to policy and practice. Her powerful advocacy extends to traditional and digital media channels and the Penguin special publication, *The Drugs Don't Work: a global threat*, written with Dr Jonathan Grant and Professor Mike Catchpole.

Using her great capacity for influence Dame Sally has amassed support across the world for a multi-agency approach to this problem. She chaired the World Health Organization Strategic & Technical Advisory Group on AMR for three years, the AMR forum at the inaugural World Innovation Summit for Health in 2013 and was appointed co-convenor of the United Nations Inter-Agency Coordination Group on AMR, set up in response to the AMR declaration made at the United Nations General Assembly in 2016.

The European Commission has estimated that AMR already kills approximately 700,000 people worldwide every year. Dame Sally Davies' determined campaign to change medical and agriculture practices and stimulate the discovery of new antibiotic agents is vital if we are to preserve fundamental medical treatments, such as modern cancer treatment, routine surgery and neonatal care, that are impossible without effective antibiotics.

The first woman to hold the post of Chief Medical Officer in the UK, Dame Sally's high public profile reflects her great capacity for communication and her powerful influence on the development of policy. In addition to being made a DBE in 2009 and a fellow of a long list of distinguished organisations, recognition of her contributions includes the 16th Lister Medal and Lecture of the Royal College of Surgeons in 2016 and no less than 24 honorary doctorates from universities across Great Britain.

Dame Sally Davies is nominated for the Doctor of Laws (honoris causa) in recognition of her far-sighted initiatives in health policy and medical research, and her formidable international advocacy and influence that is connecting agencies across the world in a coordinated effort to combat anti-microbial resistance, one of the most insidious and perplexing threats to the future of humanity.