

IHS External Seminar
1-2pm, 6 September 2017

Professor Dame Anne Johnson



“Improving the Health of the Public by 2040: Challenges and Opportunities for Universities in Research and Education”

CV synopsis

Professor Dame Anne Johnson is Professor of Infectious Disease Epidemiology at UCL, and Vice Dean International in the Faculty of Population Health. She trained in medicine at Cambridge and Newcastle Universities. After training in General Practice in the North East, she specialised in Epidemiology and Public Health in London. She has carried out research on the epidemiology and prevention of HIV and sexually transmitted infections and other infectious diseases for over 30 years. She co-directed the Medical Research Council, UK Centre for Co-ordinating Epidemiological Studies of HIV and AIDS from 1985 until 1999. She was principal investigator on the 1990 first National Survey of Sexual Attitudes and Lifestyles (Natsal 1990), Natsal 2000 and on MRC/Wellcome Trust funded Natsal 2010. She has served on many national and international advisory committees. She is currently a Governor of Wellcome Trust and is a member of the Adaptation Sub-Committee of the Committee on Climate Change. She Chaired the Academy of Medical Sciences Working Group on Improving the Health of the Public by 2040. She was awarded the DBE for services to infectious disease research in 2017 and the Alwyn Smith Prize by the Faculty of Public Health in 2017.

Synopsis

In the coming decades, the UK population will face a wide range of complex health challenges and opportunities. Many of these can only be fully addressed through strategies to secure and improve the health of the public as a whole, and will involve novel transdisciplinary research as well as clinical innovation.

In September 2016, the Academy of Medical Sciences published the report of a multidisciplinary Working Group entitled 'Improving the Health of the Public by 2040'. The report explores how to organise our research environment to generate and translate the evidence needed to underpin such strategies. The presentation will focus on the role of the Universities in generating evidence for translation into practice and the critical role of multi-disciplinary education in optimising the research environment for a healthier and fairer future. The Working group was chaired by Anne Johnson, who is an alumna of the University. She decided to make her career in population health in part as a result of the innovative teaching in Medical School in the 1970s. She was influenced by her experience of working in deprived parts of the North East, where she saw at first hand the impact of environmental and social conditions on people's health.