

Biography for Wendy Barclay

Current position: Regius Chair of Infectious Disease, Imperial College London.

After graduating from Cambridge University, Wendy's postgraduate study involved human challenge studies, deliberately infecting volunteers with common cold viruses at the Common Cold Unit in Salisbury. During postdoctoral appointments at the University of Reading and then Mount Sinai Medical Centre in New York, she learned the molecular virology skills to genetically manipulate both positive (poliovirus) and negative strand (influenza) RNA viruses. In 1995 she returned to the UK and set up her research group to study influenza viruses. In May 2007 she moved to Imperial College London where she is now the Head of Department of Infectious Disease and Regius Chair in Infectious Disease.

Her research has been focussed on the mechanisms by which viruses cross from animal sources into humans to cause new pandemics, and strategies to prevent and control pandemic emergence.

During the COVID pandemic Wendy was a member of NERVTAG and SAGE, advising the UK government around the science of the newly emerged coronavirus. She was awarded a CBE for services to virology in the New Years Honours list 2022.