

The Medics Speak: Future Cancer Research Demands

Speaker Biographies

Professor Jeff Evans

Professor Jeff Evans is Professor of Translational Cancer Research at the Centre for Oncology and Applied Pharmacology, University of Glasgow, Honorary Consultant in Medical Oncology at the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre, Glasgow, and Group Leader (Translational Cancer Therapeutics Group) at the Beatson Institute for Cancer Research, Glasgow. He is also Deputy Head of the Division of Cancer Sciences and Molecular Pathology, University of Glasgow.

His initial medical training was at St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical School, University of London, training in Medical Oncology at Charing Cross and St. George's Hospitals, London. Clinical interests are in Upper GI Cancers and Melanoma, and research interests are in the pre-clinical and clinical development of novel anti-cancer agents including molecular targeted therapies and gene therapy. He leads the Phase I clinical trials and drug development team in Glasgow, and runs the Analytical Services Unit. The Translational Cancer Therapeutics Group is supported by Cancer Research UK and is developing novel laboratory models to determine how novel molecularly-targeted anti-cancer agents might best be evaluated in subsequent clinical trials, and is developing bio-markers of anti-tumour activity to specific agents that can be applied to biological samples collected from patients in clinical trials of novel anti-cancer agents.

Professor Evans is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians (London), a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, and a Member of the Association of Physicians of Great Britain and Ireland. He is a member of the Scholarship Committee of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, a member of the National Cancer Research Network Upper GI Cancer Clinical Studies Group, Cancer Research UK New Agents Committee, AICR (Association for International Cancer Research) Scientific Advisory Committee, and a member of the Editorial Board of the British Journal of Cancer and of The Open Cancer Journal. He is a former member of the Cancer Research UK Feasibility Studies Committee, of the Executive Committee of the British Association for Cancer Research, of the MRCP (UK) Part II Examination Board, and a former member of the UICC (International Union against Cancer) American Cancer Society Beginning Investigators Fellowships Committee, and the UICC Translational Cancer Research Fellowships Committee.

Professor Tessa Holyoake

Professor Holyoake is Professor of Experimental Haematology at University of Glasgow and Director of the Paul O'Gorman Leukaemia Research Centre and West of Scotland Cancer Centre, Gartnavel Hospital, Glasgow.

Her research focuses on the cancer stem cell. Cancer stem cells sustain cancers and leukaemias, are inherently resistant to many cancer therapies, including novel targeted agents and ultimately cause relapse in patients following therapy. She is most interested in the blood cancers, in particular chronic myeloid leukaemia (CML). Her work includes developing laboratory methods to purify the cells of interest from leukaemia patients and from normal donors, allowing side by side comparisons of leukaemic versus normal stem cells. These comparisons include global analyses of gene expression and protein expression. Any differences can then be fully investigated and exploited through drug discovery. On the clinical side she runs clinical trials of novel agents for patients with CML Scotland wide.

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| 1980 - 1985 | Medicine University of Glasgow |
| 1985 - 1986 | House jobs at Stobhill and Victoria Hospital |
| 1986 - 1989 | General medical training at Inverclyde Hospital, Greenock |
| 1989 - 1992 | Haematology, Western Infirmary, Glasgow |
| 1992 - 1996 | PhD, Beatson Institute for Cancer Research, Glasgow Specialist Haematology Training, Glasgow Royal Infirmary |
| 1996 - 1998 | LRF Senior Lecturer, Terry Fox Laboratories, Vancouver |
| 1999 - 2001 | Senior Lecturer, Academic Transfusion Medicine Unit, Glasgow Royal Infirmary |
| 2001 - 2004 | Reader, Section of Experimental Haematology, Glasgow Royal Infirmary |
| 2004 to present | Professor, Section of Experimental Haematology, Glasgow Royal Infirmary |
| 2008 | Director of Experimental Haematology to the Paul O'Gorman Leukaemia Research Centre and West of Scotland Cancer Centre, Gartnavel Hospital |