



Professor Fran Balkwill OBE FMedSci

Frances Balkwill is Professor of Cancer Biology at Barts and The London, School of Medicine & Dentistry and lead the Centre for Cancer and Inflammation in its Institute of Cancer. She studies the links between cancer and inflammation being especially interested in translating knowledge of cancer biology into new biological treatments for cancer, and in the role that inflammatory cytokines play in cancer promotion. Fran runs a research centre of approximately 25 scientists, postgraduate students and clinicians. The Centre is divided into groups, Cytokines and Cancer led by Fran, and Tumour Microenvironment led by MRC clinician scientist Thorsten Hagemann.

Fran is an author on over 200 scientific papers and reviews and has written and edited a number of academic books on her subject. In 2006 she was made a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences, being elected a member of its Council later in the same year. Fran is a frequent keynote and plenary speaker at international meetings such as Gordon and Keystone conferences and the American Association for Cancer Research, AACR.

Fran is also actively involved in communication of science to non-specialist audiences, especially young people. Together with illustrator/designer Mic Rolph, she has written thirteen science books for children on cell and molecular biology with titles such as *Enjoy Your Cells* and *The Egg and Sperm Race*. These books have been translated into at least twelve foreign languages with over half a million copies sold worldwide. Her latest book project with Mic Rolph and Siamon Gordon is *You, Me and HIV*, a book for young people in Sub-Saharan Africa. For 2010/11 she is writing a children's book on evolution.

Fran is Director of the Centre of the Cell, a £4 million biomedical science centre for children, educational website and outreach in Whitechapel; the website was launched in March 2007 with over 10 million hits so far, and the physical centre will officially open in September 2009. Fran's science communication work has been recognised by the award of the 2004 EMBO prize for communication in the Life Sciences and the 2005 Royal Society Michael Faraday Prize, in recognition of Fran's 'outstanding work in communicating the concepts, facts and fascination of science in a way that appeals to children of all ages backgrounds and nationalities, while at the same time maintaining a distinguished research career'. In 2009 she was awarded an Honorary Fellowship of the British Science Association.

Fran is a non-parliamentary board member of POST, she chairs the Breakthrough Intramural Research Committee, and is Chair of the Public Engagement Strategy Committee at the Wellcome Trust, and a member of the Royal Society Faraday Award Committee.

Fran was awarded an OBE in the 2008 Queen's Birthday Honours list.