



FPH Distinguished Lecture Series Professor Sir Frank Atherton

Friday 4 April 2025, 10:30 - 12:00

Speaker biographies

Professor Sir Frank Atherton Immediate past-CMO for Wales

Professor Sir Frank Atherton took up post as Chief Medical Officer, Medical Director NHS Wales in August 2016. Frank graduated in medicine from Leeds University and worked in hospital and primary care posts around the North of England for a number of years before undertaking voluntary work as a District Medical Officer in Malawi.

On his return to the UK, he completed specialist training in Public Health Medicine in the Yorkshire Region and then worked on international health and development issues for WHO and the UK Department for International Development in various locations including the Former Yugoslavia, Tanzania, and Bangladesh.

From 2002 to 2012 Frank worked as a Director of Public Health in Lancashire and from 2008 to 2012 he also served as President of the UK Association of Directors of Public Health (ADPH). In 2012 Frank moved to Canada to take up post as the Deputy Chief Medical Officer of Health in the Department of Health and Wellness, Nova Scotia.

Frank was knighted in the 2022 New Year Honours list for his services to public health following the leading role he has played in Wales throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. He was appointed as visiting Professor at Leeds University in 2023.

Sir Frank stepped down from the CMO Wales role at the end of January 2025.





Professor Kevin Fenton **President, Faculty of Public Health**

Kevin Fenton is the President of the Faculty of Public Health. He is a senior public health expert and infectious disease epidemiologist who has worked in a variety of public health executive leadership roles across government and academia in the United Kingdom and internationally. His specialist interests are in tackling health inequalities, infectious disease prevention and control, climate justice and urban health.

Professor Fenton is the Regional Director for London in the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) within the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC). Within this role, he is also the statutory public health advisor to the Mayor of London and the Greater London Authority and the Regional Director of Public Health for NHS London. He is also the government's Chief Advisor on HIV and Chair of the HIV Action Plan Implementation Steering Group for England.



Professor Peter Kelly **Regional Director for Public Health for the North East and Yorkshire, OHID**

Peter is Regional Director for Public Health for the North East and Yorkshire for the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) within the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and is also a joint appointment as the NHS Regional Director of Public Health. Peter had previously been Director of Public Health for Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council for four years (2012-2106). Before this he was a Director of Public Health for 11 years in various NHS posts on Teesside and the North East of England. Peter has a PhD in statistics and for the first 12 years of his career he was a lecturer in Medical Statistics at Newcastle University, and then director of a health research unit at Teesside University.



Peter is a long-standing advocate for identifying and addressing health inequalities and has led major public health programmes in all his roles. He was responsible for the public health response to the Covid-19 pandemic for the North East and Yorkshire region and received the President's medal from the Faculty of Public Health for his leadership throughout this period.

His current responsibilities include the provision of public health policy advice to ministers and DHSC and leading an expert public health service to support the work of the Local Authorities and NHS partners in the North East and Yorkshire. He received a CBE in the Kings Honours list for services to public health in June 2023.



Professor Nicola Steedman **Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Scottish Government**

Nicola is Deputy Chief Medical Officer for Scotland, a post she has held since April 2020 at the outset of the Covid-19 pandemic. She is lead for a variety of mainly health protection topics including infectious diseases, vaccination, blood safety, CBRN and public health microbiology.

Nicola undertook medical training at both Cambridge and Oxford Universities and is a Consultant Physician in Genitourinary and HIV Medicine by specialism. She has previously held the role of Senior Medical Officer in the Scottish Government in health protection, and has also held posts in NHS National Services Scotland.

Since 2021 Nicola has held an Honorary Professorship from Glasgow Caledonian University with whom she has worked closely on SHBBV research over many years. She holds membership of the Faculty of Public Health through distinction.



Dr Clare Oliver-Williams **Public Health Registrar**

Dr Clare Oliver-Williams is a Public Health Registrar in her final year of training, with a strong focus on addressing complex health challenges and advancing medical education. She is the co-chair of the Faculty of Public Health's Specialty Registrars Committee, where she advocates for and supports public health trainees across the UK. She is also the co-chair of the FPH Global Violence Prevention Special Interest Group, reflecting her dedication to reducing violence as a critical public health issue.

During her training, Clare has led impactful projects tackling antimicrobial resistance in the secure estate, developed a fuel poverty programme, and investigated regional differences in breast cancer screening outcomes. These initiatives highlight her commitment to addressing diverse health inequalities and improving health outcomes at both local and national levels.

Beyond her training, Clare contributes to the academic development of future public health professionals as an honorary member of Cambridge University's Public Health Education Group. In this capacity, she helps shape the educational experiences of students, bridging academic theory and public health practice.

