



Fiona Powrie

Independent Director

Board member since January 2026 (appointed in April 2025)

Member of the Scientific Committee

Year of birth: 1963

Nationality: British

Gender: Female

End of term: 2029

Introduction & Professional experience

Dame Fiona Powrie is Director of the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology and a Professor of Musculoskeletal Sciences. She leads the Mucosal Immunology research group.

Her research interests include characterisation of the interaction between the intestinal microbiota and the host immune system and how this mutualistic relationship breaks down in inflammatory bowel disease.

Fiona's work has identified the functional role of regulatory T cells in intestinal homeostasis and shed light on their development and mechanism of action. She has also shown that both adaptive and innate immune mechanisms contribute to intestinal inflammation and identified the IL-23 pathway as a pivotal player in the pathogenesis of chronic intestinal inflammation.

Her current work seeks to translate findings from model systems into the clinic in inflammatory bowel disease patients.

Fiona received the Ita Askonas Award from the European Federation of Immunological Societies for her contribution to immunology in Europe, the Louis-Jeantet Prize for Medicine 2012 and an Honorary Lifetime Membership of the British Society of Immunology in 2021.

She was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 2011, EMBO in 2013, the Academy of Medical Sciences in 2014 and an International Fellow of the National Academy of Sciences in 2020. In 2022 she received the honour Dame Commander of the British Empire for services to Medical Sciences.

Fiona joined the Wellcome Trust Board of Governors in 2018 and was appointed Deputy Chair in 2022.

Education

Fiona Powrie holds a BSc (hons) in Biochemistry from the University of Bath (1985) and a D.Phil in Immunology from the University of Oxford (1990)

Main external appointments

2018-present Governor Wellcome Trust, Deputy Chair since 2021

2014-present Director, Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology and Professor of Musculoskeletal Sciences, University of Oxford, UK