



# Royal College of Physicians

## Professor Wisia Wedzicha's Biography

National Heart and Lung Institute  
Imperial College London

Wisia Wedzicha is Professor of Respiratory Medicine at the National Heart and Lung Institute, Imperial College, UK and Head of the Respiratory Clinical Science Division. She qualified from Somerville College, Oxford University and St Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College, University of London. She was elected as Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences (FMedSci) in 2013 and is an National Institute of Health Research (NIHR) Senior Investigator. She received the Helmholtz International Fellow Award in 2014. Professor Wedzicha has a major interest in the causes, mechanisms, impact and prevention of chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) exacerbations, and in the role of bacterial and viral infection in COPD exacerbations. She directs an active research group specialising in COPD exacerbations, and has published extensively on this topic.

Professor Wedzicha chaired the English Department of the Health Home Oxygen Clinical User Group, and was a member of the Guideline Development Group for the revision of the National Institute for Healthcare and Clinical Excellence COPD Guidelines. In 2016, she has been appointed as an Expert Adviser to the NICE Centre for Clinical Practice.

Professor Wedzicha was Editor-in-Chief of Thorax from 2002 to 2010, and is a member of the BioMed Central advisory board. She is currently Editor in Chief for the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine. In addition, she is on the editorial boards of a number of international journals. She was the Lancet Ombudsman till 2014, Publications Director for the European Respiratory Society (ERS) and has also previously been ERS Guidelines Director.

## Presentation Blurb

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a major cause of global morbidity and mortality and costly to healthcare services. In recent years, there has been increasing awareness of the complexity of the condition and also of the need to stratify therapy based on phenotypes. The basis of COPD management is symptomatic control with bronchodilators. COPD exacerbations are important causes of hospital admissions and readmissions and exacerbation prevention is a key strategy for COPD management. A variety of pharmacological and non-pharmacological therapies can prevent exacerbations. However greater impact would be development of anti-viral therapies or vaccines as viruses are key triggers of exacerbations. There are few interventions for COPD disease progression and these will need to be developed based on a personalised strategy.