



**BRITISH  
PHARMACOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY**

By Email: Arantxa Sancho <asancho.hpth@gmail.com>

The Schild Plot, 16 Angel Gate,  
City Road, London EC1V 2PT  
United Kingdom

T: +44(0)20 7239 0177

F: +44(0)20 7417 0114

info@bps.ac.uk

[www.bps.ac.uk](http://www.bps.ac.uk)

15 February 2021

Dear Dr Arantxa Sancho Lopez,

On behalf of the British Pharmacological Society (BPS) we are delighted to nominate Professor David Webb CBE for the 2021 EACPT Lifetime Achievement Award in Clinical Pharmacology. Prof Webb has made a significant contribution to the discipline in terms of advancement of scientific knowledge and education. He has continued to demonstrate his dedication to the need for clinical pharmacology expertise in national and international healthcare.

#### *Research and clinical career*

Prof Webb has been a clinically active consultant physician, clinician scientist and clinical pharmacologist, running a European Society for Hypertension (ESH)-accredited Hypertension Excellence Centre in Edinburgh. His main clinical and research interests are in hypertension and cardiovascular risk management, but also include lipid disorders, type 2 diabetes, chronic kidney disease and clinical toxicology.

Prof Webb established the University of Edinburgh's Clinical Research Centre in 1990 and Centre for Cardiovascular Science in 1998. He has made other contributions to the development of safe and effective medicines, as a non-executive director and Deputy Chair of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and as Chair of the Scientific Advisory Committee for the National Institute of Biological Standards and Control (NIBSC, playing a leading national and international role in assuring the quality of biological medicines and diagnostics, including for COVID-19).

Supported mainly by the British Heart Foundation (BHF), Medical Research Council and Wellcome Trust, Prof Webb's research focuses on the pathophysiology of hypertension and renal disease, particularly arterial structure and function, with work that has guided subsequent understanding of arterial stiffness, and the therapeutic potential of phosphodiesterase 5 inhibitors and endothelin receptor antagonists. He has published >500 peer-reviewed papers, and 5 books, on clinical pharmacology and cardiovascular disease. His work has received >45,000 citations (current h-index 109).

Prof Webb is a principal investigator in Edinburgh's BHF Centre of Research Excellence (CoRE) and run its Hypertension and Renal Theme (HART), having won a competitive Wellcome Trust Cardiovascular Research Initiative (£7M (€7.9M) grant; 1998-2001) with which he established Edinburgh's Centre for Cardiovascular Science in 2002 (since supported by a series of large BHF CoRE Awards). He was also a member of the core group responsible for raising funds to move research to the new Queen's Medical Research Institute at Little France: £5M (€5.65M) BHF; £22.4M (€25.3M) Wellcome Trust; £27M (€30.5M) UoE). Previously, he ran Edinburgh's University Department of Medicine (1997-2001) and have been President of the Scottish Society of Physicians (2010-11).

**TODAY'S  
SCIENCE  
TOMORROW'S  
MEDICINES**

### *Education*

Prof Webb teaches and trains undergraduate medical, pharmacy and Masters' students, along with postgraduate scientists and physicians (lead/primary supervisor for >30 PhD and 14 MD degrees) and has done successfully for over five decades. He led two Translational Medicine & Therapeutics (TMT) PhD programmes for clinicians: the Scottish TMT initiative (STMTI; Wellcome Trust) and Scottish Clinical Pharmacology and Pathology Programme (SCP3; MRC). These were integral components of a UK-wide strategy to increase research power in clinical pharmacology and translational science. Many of his trainees have gone on to successful careers in medicine, academia and the pharmaceutical industry, including Profs David Newby, Duke of Edinburgh BHF Chair of Cardiology, Edinburgh; Michael Eddleston, Chair of Clinical Toxicology, Edinburgh; Bill Haynes, Vice President, Novo Nordisk Research Centre, Oxford; Brian Walker, Pro Vice Chancellor for Research & Chair of Medicine, Newcastle; and Ian Wilkinson, Director of Clinical Trials Unit, & Chair of Therapeutics, Cambridge.

Prof Webb co-wrote with Prof Simon Maxwell, a Commentary on the risks to UK clinical pharmacology (Lancet 2006;367:799), aimed at improving the NHS delivery of safer and better targeted medicines by medical graduates. This led, through a review chaired by Prof Sir Robert Lechler (Medical Schools Council Safe Prescribing Working Group: see Aronson J. Br J Clin Pharmacol 2010;69:111-7), to a revision of the GMC's advice on undergraduate medical prescribing skills, and the delivery by BPS (with the UK Medical Schools Council) of the Award winning Prescribing Safety Assessment examination, now taken by all 8000+ UK medical students and overseas medical graduates entering the UK, which must be passed to enter FY2 training (Lancet 2019;394:283-5). In addition, the Lechler review led to the creation of UK translational medicine training programmes (SCP3 from MRC; STMTI from WT), with awards for both of which Prof Webb was a leader in Scotland.

### *National impact*

Prof Webb is a non-executive director of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and chairs the Scientific Advisory Committee at National Institute for Biological Standards and Control (NIBSC). He has previously been Chair of the Scottish Medicines Consortium, President of the Scottish Society of Physicians, and worked on reports from the Academy of Medical Sciences on Safer Medicines, Regulation and Governance of Medical Research and Evidence. Prof Webb has acted as advisor to Lord O'Shaughnessy on Brexit and medicines regulation, on behalf of MHRA.

Prof Webb has been awarded the BPS's SKB Silver Medal for research in 1994, and Lilly Prize and Gold Medal for contributions to clinical pharmacology in 2003. Prof Webb's contribution over the years as a BPS member is considerable, having led or supported numerous committees including: Clinical Section, Clinical Committee, Meetings Committee (where he was Vice-President for Meetings) and former Chair of the PSA Executive. In addition, Prof Webb has played a lead role in raising the profile of clinical pharmacology and therapeutics through publication (co-authoring a 2006 Lancet paper: *Clinical Pharmacology – too young to die*), supporting the Society's campaign to demonstrate the value of clinical pharmacology in

the NHS, leading our delivery of the Prescribing Safety Assessment in the UK, and regularly contributing to press articles on health and medicines.

Prof Webb was awarded Commander of the British Empire (CBE) in the Queen's Birthday Honours 2020, for services to Clinical Pharmacology Research and Education.

*International impact*

David has been Honorary President of the European Society for Clinical Pharmacology & Therapeutics (EACPT) and a member of the Executive Committee of the International Union of Basic and Clinical Pharmacology (IUPHAR). He will be President of the World Congress of Pharmacology in 2022.

We highly commend him to the EACPT for this prestigious award.

Signed



Professor Sir Munir Pirmohamed, MB ChB (Hons), PhD, FRCP, FRCP(E), FFPM, FRSB, FBPhS, FMedSci  
President, British Pharmacological Society



Rachel Lambert-Forsyth CBIol FRSB  
Chief Executive, British Pharmacological Society  
Managing Director, BPS Assessment Ltd