

Professor Sir John Burn Kt MD FRCP FRCPE FRCPCH FRCOG FMedSci
Professor of Clinical Genetics, Newcastle University, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

Sir John was knighted in the 2010 New Year's Honours list for services to Medicine and Healthcare. A consultant clinical geneticist for 30 years, he was head of the department of Newcastle's Department of Human Genetics 1991-1998 then Medical Director (2000-2004) and then Director of the Institute of Human Genetics (IHG) from 2005-10. During this period, the tenured staff rose to 33, 18 of them professors, earning a 3rd place behind Oxford & Cambridge for Quality in the RAE2008.

He conceived and helped bring to fruition the Millennium Landmark Centre for Life in Newcastle opened by the Queen in 2000. In addition to housing the IHG and the region's Fertility and Genetics services, the Centre attracts a quarter of a million paying visitors to its science centre and provides practical science education to 40,000 schoolchildren per annum. Extensive media involvement includes being scientific advisor and participant in the BBC/Discovery series How to Build a Human in 2001.

In 2008 he was appointed chair of the newly created Clinical Genetics Specialty Group of the National Institute of Health Research. In 2009 he became Director of the national Collaborative group on Genetics in Healthcare. He is an ACCEA Platinum award holder and a member of the appointments committee for NIHR Senior Investigators. He became Lead Clinician for the NHS in the North East of England in 2009 and has helped design the new Clinical Networks structure in the restructured NHS. In 2010 he was appointed to chair the Innovation strand of the new UK Human Genomics Steering Group. He is Chair of the British Society for Human Genetics.

Sir John, an author on over 250 peer reviewed articles (H index 56), leads the international CAPP consortium investigating cancer prevention in those at high genetic risk. Publication of the results of CAPP2 demonstrating a 60% reduction in hereditary cancers with regular aspirin following a 4 year lag period attracted a global media response (Burn, J. et al. *Lancet*, **378** (9809), 2081 – 2087). CaPP3 was approved by the national trials committee (CTAAC) in late 2012 and will involve a 7 year dose inferiority study of low dose aspirin in 2000 carriers of hereditary colorectal cancer funded by Cancer Research UK and Bayer Pharma..

Sir John is Medical Director and part owner of QuantuMDx Ltd, a biotechnology company with worldwide rights to the diagnostic use of nanowires in medical diagnostics. It has attracted over £8 million in international grants and angel investment and expects to launch its first low cost high speed DNA testing device in 2013.