The Richard Doll Seminars
in Public Health & Epidemiology

Prof Sir John Burn

Institute of Genetic Medicine,
University of Newcastle

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"Aspirin prevents cancer: proving the obvious"

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Tuesday 9th Oct 2012
1-2 pm

Lecture Theatre, Richard Doll Bldg, Old Road Campus
http://www.ceu.ox.ac.uk/seminars
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All welcome

Professor Sir John Burn Kt MD FRCP FRCPE FRCPCH FRCOG FMedSci

Professor of Clinical Genetics, Newcastle University

Professor Sir John Burn completed his clinical training at Newcastle in 1980 and at the Great Ormond Street Hospital in 1984 before moving to the Royal Victoria Infirmary Newcastle in 1984 to become the first clinical geneticist in the region. He led the *Northern Genetics Service* and became Professor of Clinical Genetics in 1991 and Director of the *Institute of Human Genetics* in 2005 – 2010 at the Newcastle University. He was a founding member of the Human Genetics Commission, and helped set up the *International Centre for Life*. He was the Public Orator for Newcastle University from 2002 to 2007. He held various positions including Chair of the Clinical Genetics Specialty Group of the *National Institute of Health Research* and the innovation strand of the *UK Human Genomics Steering Group*. Professor Burn was knighted in 2010 for services to Medicine and Healthcare. In Aug 2012, he became the interim Clinical Director of the newly created *NHS Clinical Networks Northern England*.

Professor Burn is widely regarded in the field of monogenic disorders particularly in establishing the genetic basis of a neurodegenerative disorder called *neuroferritinopathy*, and the major form of hereditary colorectal cancer called the *Lynch syndrome*. He led the study that demonstrated the use of aspirin in reducing the risk of colorectal and other cancers in persons with *Lynch syndrome*, and leads an international consortium investigating chemoprevention in persons with hereditary non-polyposis colon cancer. He is currently exploring cell-based vaccines for colorectal cancer, and is involved in a startup company which aims to develop the use of nanowires, nanotubes and nanoribbons in genotyping and gene sequencing.

He plays as a drummer in a band called the "*Famous Last Words*."