

Sir John Gurdon, DPhil DSc FRS

2012 Nobel Prize in Medicine

Distinguished Group Leader in the Wellcome Trust / CRUK Gurdon Institute,
Cambridge, UK

Dr John Gurdon did his undergraduate work in Zoology in the University of Oxford and later a one-year postdoctoral position at CalTech in USA. He returned to Oxford and became a university lecturer in Embryology. In 1971 he moved to the MRC Molecular Biology Laboratory in Cambridge, continuing his work on Amphibian developmental biology. In 1983 he moved to the University of Cambridge as John Humphrey Plummer Professor of Cell Biology. He co-founded a research Institute of Developmental and Cancer biology with Professor Laskey as co-chairman and was Chairman of this Institute until 2002. During his career Dr Gurdon concentrated on nuclear transplantation in the frog *Xenopus*. He has also carried out a range of experiments with this material, discovering the value of messenger RNA microinjection, mechanisms of response to morphogen gradients, and, most recently, mechanisms of nuclear reprogramming by *Xenopus* oocytes and eggs. Dr Gurdon served as Master of Magdalene College Cambridge from 1995-2002, and has received various recognitions, including, most recently, the Lasker Award for Basic Medical Science, and the Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine in 2012.