

COVID-19 pandemic: lessons learned and future directions

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Position and Honorary Appointment

- September 2021 –: Associate Professor, Nuffield Department of Medicine, University of Oxford
- October 2015 –: Head, Emerging Infections Group, Oxford University Clinical Research Unit, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam
- April 2017 – September 2022: Wellcome International Intermediate Fellow
- October 2013 – March 2017: Wellcome International Training Fellow

Personal Statement

I am a virologist with a specific interest in the characterisation of emerging pathogens and novel diagnostics. My early work on pathogen discovery led to the discovery of a novel cyclovirus in 4% of patients with meningoencephalitis in Vietnam. My current research focuses encompass hand, foot and mouth disease, infectious and non-infectious causes of central nervous system infection syndromes (including autoimmune encephalitis), COVID-19 and disease X. To achieve my research objectives, I have run several clinical studies and established strong collaborative relationships with local/international collaborators. I have also developed local capacities in Vietnam and the region for studying infectious diseases. These are whole-genome sequencing pipelines, metagenomic assays for routine diagnosis and pathogen discovery, neutralization and T-cell assays, and methods for isolation of containment level 3 viruses (including SARS-CoV-2). Collectively, as an independent investigator, my aim is to develop sustainable research capacity within Vietnam and the wider region so that on-going and future infectious disease challenges can be addressed from within the affected regions and communities.