

Professor David Parr

Consultant Respiratory Physician



I undertook my undergraduate training at Cambridge University and at, what was then, the Royal London Hospital Medical College, qualifying in 1994. After junior hospital positions in the South East of England, London and Nottingham, I entered the West Midlands Respiratory and G(I)M SpR training rotation during which I was invited to undertake a period of full-time research on the ADAPT Programme at the Lung Investigation Unit based at Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. This was a research programme aimed at improving our understanding of the natural history of lung disease in alpha-1 antitrypsin deficiency and which sought to identify a suitable novel outcome measure for drug trials in this rare disease.

My research to explore and validate the use of quantitative CT for the measurement of emphysema led to publications in high impact journals, an MD thesis and, subsequently, international recognition as an expert in the field. This three year period was not only immensely satisfying and enjoyable, but taught me skills which I am otherwise unlikely to have acquired and which have greatly influenced my approach to routine clinical practice. It also opened many avenues which have included attendance and presentations at international conferences, chairing of scientific sessions, organising of scientific and educational programmes at international meetings, membership of international task forces and workshops, participation in national and international research groups, providing expert advice to the FDA, MHRA and NICE, acting as chief / principle investigator in clinical research studies, patient advocacy and political lobbying. I continue to undertake research, to supervise PhD, MD and MSc students and to encourage and support anyone wishing to obtain experience of research or scientific writing for publication. My experience has shown me that research is an integral part of high-quality clinical services but is also something that is stimulating and fun, will lead to introductions and friendships with researchers and clinicians from around the world, and can lead to a vast range of opportunities beyond routine clinical practice. Most importantly, it continues to advance our knowledge with the purpose of improving patient care and outcomes.

