

## **Freda Kathryn Stevenson DPhil FRCPath FMedSci**

Freda Stevenson obtained a DPhil degree from the University of Oxford. She is a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences, which includes the leaders in medical science in the UK. She is currently a Professor of Immunology at the University of Southampton UK.

Her main research area is in the immunobiology of B-cell associated diseases, with a particular focus on the immunoglobulin (Ig) molecule. She designed genetic fusion vaccines first to target Ig and then to attack other defined tumor antigens. These are in current trials for a range of tumors. Immunogenetic expertise then facilitated investigation of the pattern of Ig genes in B-cell tumors providing insight into the pathogenesis and progression of lymphomas and leukemias. In 1999, she published a paper in *Blood*, cited >1500 times, which described how the Ig gene status in cases of CLL acts as a major prognostic factor. Since then she has published widely on B-cell receptor signalling in CLL, revealing pathways which are now targets for new drugs.

In 2015, she was awarded the *Rai-Binet medal* by the International Workshop on Chronic Lymphocytic Leukaemia.

Another major finding was that the Ig variable regions of follicular lymphoma cells carry unusual truncated glycans in the antigen-binding sites, able to interact with environmental lectins, again demonstrating the multiple functions of surface Ig. Her current research is focused on investigating novel and potentially targetable tumor-specific interactions between the glycan and receptors on microenvironmental macrophages.

In 2014, she won the European Haematology Association *Jean Bernard Life Time Achievement Award* for contributions to the advancement of haematology.

In 2018, she was awarded the *Henry M Stratton Medal* by The American Society of Hematology for her pioneering work on the biology of B-cell malignancies.

Professor Stevenson is an Associate Editor of the top international hematology journal, *Blood*.

