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Professor Bell completed his PhD at London University, in 1987, developing MR techniques to assess biological processes, with special focus on lipoprotein metabolism and went on to work as a post-doctoral researcher in metabolism and obesity. In 1990 he joined the Royal Postgraduate Medical School as a Lecturer. He then moved to work in the team led by Professor Graeme Bydder, one of the pioneers of medical MRI. Worked extensively on the development and application of *in vivo* methodologies for the study of disease development, demonstrating for the first time, the importance of gene-environment interaction in obesity. Joined the MRC Clinical Sciences Centre (Hammersmith Hospital Campus; Imperial College London) in the mid-90', where he was appointed Professor and Head of the Metabolic and Molecular Imaging Group.

Research Interests:

The main focus of our research is to elucidate the mechanisms underpinning the development of obesity and insulin resistance, examining the interaction between genes, internal homeostatic mechanisms and the environment. We have established a multidisciplinary methodical concept for translational science that goes from molecular events to clinically relevant research end-points. By integrating biochemical, molecular biology and magnetic resonance techniques we are defining the influence(s) of candidate genes and specific environmental factors on health and disease, particularly those associated with adipose tissue metabolism and function. My group has worked intensively in the development of non-invasive methods, using *in vivo* magnetic resonance imaging (MRI/MRS) techniques, to assess cellular and physiological function *in vivo*. This is helping us to delineate molecular differences between pathologic and normal tissues, which in turn will serve as targets for novel emerging therapies. These methods are currently being applied to the study of obesity, nutrition, endocrinology and appetite control and modulation.