



Professor John Watkins

John Watkins is a Consultant Epidemiologist with Public Health Wales, Visiting Professor at the University of South Wales and Honorary Senior Lecturer in Epidemiology at Cardiff University. His main areas of interest include health care quality and the complexity of healthcare delivery, infectious respiratory disease – especially influenza and its prevention. He has been the consultant lead for chronic disease management at Public Health Wales and a specialist adviser to them and the Welsh Government, on Influenza and Pandemic planning, where he has chaired its Influenza Advisory Group. John was a member of the working group set up by the UK Department of Health to update the UK Influenza Pandemic plan. Prior to joining Public Health Wales, he was the Medical Director of a Health Authority, for 11 years where he was responsible for all aspects of primary medical care including prescription medication. Before starting his career in Medicine he completed a first class honours degree in Physics and went on to study for a PhD.

Since 2009 John has been a member of one of NICE's Technology Appraisal committees and is also a member of the All Wales Medicines Strategy Group.

John has an active research programme in a number of areas, particularly Influenza and other respiratory diseases and has published and lectured, home and abroad, on this subject, for the past 30 years. He was responsible, with others, in changing national vaccination policy to an age based approach, resulting in an increase in influenza vaccine usage from 1.25 million doses to the upwards of 20 million doses seen today. In 2009 he was invited by WHO to take part, with 200 scientists from around the world, in a workshop held at their headquarters in Geneva aimed at developing a research agenda for influenza and its prevention. His research has included studies on disease impact, both in adults and children, vaccine effectiveness and usage and the historical impact of pandemic disease.

His hobbies include; skiing, he is a rather 'geriatric' athlete and rugby player, DIY and flying light aircraft and lives in Monmouthshire with his wife and two daughters. John continues in active clinical practice as a GP in Newport, South Wales.