

Professor Patricia Woo CBE

Professor of Paediatric Rheumatology and Head of the Centre for Paediatric and Adolescent Rheumatology at University College London since 1994. Her medical education was at Charing Cross Hospital, University of London, obtained her MBBS in 1972, PhD at Cambridge University in 1979, and carried out postdoctoral studies at Childrens' Hospital, Harvard, Boston, USA 1983-5. She founded the tertiary referral service for children 13 and under at Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital for Children, and the adolescent and young adult referral service at University College London Hospital in 1995. Her research teams undertake clinical, genetic and immunological research on paediatric rheumatic diseases. Some of the research work has been translated into clinical trials.

Contributions to clinical research include being on many editorial boards and review boards of research councils and charities. She negotiated approval for paediatric rheumatology as a training paediatric specialty within RCP, RCPCH, and UEMS, formulated training syllabi with colleagues, and has trained many paediatric rheumatologists in UK and worldwide. She founded the Paediatric Rheumatology European Society in 1999 and was its first president for the first 6 years. It now has >400 members and is the premier international professional society for paediatric rheumatology. Her own research was mainly funded by MRC and ARC from 1985. She has published over 160 original publications on clinical research in paediatric rheumatology and more basic immunological and genomic research in inflammation, 68 reviews and book chapters, edited three editions of the Oxford Textbook of Rheumatology, and is the senior author of the recently published handbook: Paediatric Rheumatology in Clinical Practice.

She is currently on the UK MCRN/ARC Clinical Strategy Group for Paediatric Rheumatology to co-ordinate and facilitate clinical trials. She co-founded the Paediatric Rheumatology International Trials Organisation in 1998, and remains as its councillor. She has been a trustee of the Paediatric Rheumatology European Society since 2000, and the Paediatric Rheumatology Discretionary Fund since 1994, both of which are registered with the charity commission in UK.

Past involvement with the RSM has been as council member of the clinical immunology section as speaker/organiser of meetings/vice president of this section, as well as being invited speaker for the rheumatology and paediatric section meetings. She has been a fellow of the RSM in excess of 20 years.

Areas of interest within the council where she hopes to contribute would be the facilitation of research and educational links between the sections, as well as encourage more the national and international profile of the Society.