

Sir Jim Smith, Director Wellcome science review, and Visiting Group Leader, the Francis Crick Institute



Jim joined Wellcome in December 2016 as Director of Science, responsible for leading the Science Division, developing Wellcome's science strategy, and managing a broad portfolio of research. In January 2019, he took on the role of Director Wellcome science review and is currently leading an ambitious plan to review how Wellcome supports science, to ensure we get the best possible advances in scientific knowledge and health.

A globally recognised developmental biologist, Jim's research interests include inductive interactions in vertebrate development and applying the principles of developmental biology to stem cell differentiation.

Jim also leads a research group at the Francis Crick Institute which focuses on studying the development of various vertebrate species to find out how the different types of cell in an embryo form at the right time and in the right place.

His previous roles include Director of the WT/CRUK Gurdon Institute and Director of the MRC National Institute for Medical Research (NIMR), Deputy CEO and Chief of Strategy at the MRC, and Director of Research at the Francis Crick Institute.

Jim has a distinguished career in scientific research as a Fellow of the Royal Society (1993), a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences (1998) and a member of the Academia Europaea (2000). He has also been awarded the EMBO Medal (1993) and the Waddington Medal (2013). Jim was knighted in the 2017 Queen's New Year's Honours list.