

The Honorary Graduate: Eileen Roberts

The Orator: Aniko Varadi

Eileen Roberts is to be awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science

Eileen is a Consultant Clinical Scientist and Head of Bristol Genetics Laboratory, Southmead Hospital, North Bristol NHS Trust (NBT) and also Lead Scientist for North Bristol NHS Trust.

Eileen has led the Genetics team at NBT since 2010 and has worked at NBT since 2005 as a consultant scientist. In her role she is responsible for delivery of a comprehensive genetics laboratory service and has overseen many developments in genetic testing, particularly in cancer and common genetic conditions. In addition she is responsible overall for the training and development of a team of 100 staff. As Lead Scientist for NBT Eileen is responsible for advising and sign-posting on education and training activities for healthcare scientists (of which NBT has over 600).

Prior to this Eileen was a Principal Scientist in the West Midlands Regional Genetics Laboratory, and was part of the team responsible for its growth from a staff of about 25 people in 1990 to over 100 in 2005 (currently the largest diagnostic lab in Europe with over 200 staff).

Eileen completed her early life and education in Llangollen, North Wales and her Honours Degree in Biology at the University of Manchester. She became a Member of the Royal College of Pathologists in 2004, and a Fellow in 2008. She also holds a certificate in Health Services Management.

Throughout her career Eileen has been passionate about training the workforce of the future and has been a member of several working parties, including the National Occupational Standards working group, and the Modernising Scientific Careers pilot working group which led the development of scientist and practitioner training programmes including the BSc courses in Biomedical Science at UWE. She is an Examiner for the Royal College of Pathologists and for the National School of Health Care Science. She has contributed to a number of research studies and publications including the 100,000 Genomes Project and other large scale genomic projects which hold great promise for further gene discovery and improved diagnosis and treatment. She co-chairs (with Professor Varadi) the Workforce and Development Group of the West of England Genomics Medicine Centre (WEGMC), which is responsible for the local contribution to the 100,000 Genomes Project, and sits as a member of WEGMC partnership board.

The Honorary Degree is awarded in recognition of Eileen Roberts' commitment to providing genetics and genomic service to the UK and internationally, for delivering the 100,000 genomes project as our partners in the WoE Genomics Medicine Centre and for supporting UWE's genetics and genomics education and research.