

Sebastian Amyes graduated in Biochemistry from University College London in 1970 and obtained a Masters in Virology from the University of Reading a year later. He went to the School of Pharmacy in the University of London to study for his doctoral degree under the supervision of Professor Johny Smith, obtaining his PhD in 1974. He moved to the Medical Microbiology department of the University of Edinburgh in 1977, where he became Full Professor of Microbial Chemotherapy in 1992. He is a fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists. Professor Amyes was head of the Medical Microbiology department in Edinburgh from 1997 until 2001 and became a visiting Professor of the University of Concepcion in Chile in 1999. He has become a project leader within the Pathology Interdisciplinary Doctoral School, at the Semmelweis Medical University in 2000 and has also taught a Bioinformatics course yearly. He was awarded the degree of Doctor *honoris causa* by the Semmelweis Medical University in 2004.

He has obtained 56 research grants, published more than 430 papers and major conference communications and supervised 39 PhD students.

His initial research identified the plasmid-encoded mechanism of the dihydrofolate reductase. He started working on plasmid-encoded β -lactamases, identifying a series of new enzymes in clinical bacteria. In the 1980s, he described the highest incidences of bacterial antibiotic resistance ever recorded in any situation in southern India. His work included the ESBLs. He identified the first plasmid-encoded *amp* β -lactamase in Europe, the chromosomal β -lactamases responsible for cephalosporin and carbapenem resistance. He demonstrated that variation of the *vanA* operon of vancomycin-resistant enterococci occurred depending on teicoplanin usage. One of his most recent projects has been the study of penicillin and macrolide resistance in *Streptococcus pneumoniae* isolated in Hungary. The results of this collaborative project became a crucial contribution to the understanding of the spread of resistance in these bacteria.

His current research focuses on four areas: i. zoonotic infections caused by *E. coli* O157. ii. Community-acquired infections, with *Helicobacter pylori* and *Streptococcus pneumoniae*. iii. hospital-acquired infections caused by *Acinetobacter baumannii*, and iv. the bactericidal action of antibiotics.