

The Honorary Graduate: Maggie Williams

The Orator: Aniko Varadi

Maggie is to be awarded the Honorary Degree of Doctor of Science

Maggie Williams is a Consultant Clinical Scientist, and Deputy Head of Department at the Bristol Genetics Laboratory at North Bristol NHS Trust, with over 30 yrs experience of NHS Clinical Science in the field of laboratory genetics. She is a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathology.

Maggie is the lead for rare disease genomic testing, designing and implementing tests to aid in the diagnosis and management of patients with inherited diseases. Her team developed the first comprehensive high throughput Next Generation Sequencing panel test for Familial Hypercholesterolaemia, now used by multiple lipid teams and cardiologists across the UK and abroad, enabling patients and relatives at risk of a life threatening cardiac event to be diagnosed early and treated. Her team have received multiple awards from Heart UK for scientific innovation.

Maggie is the laboratory lead for the West of England Genomics Medicine Centre, and has developed the laboratory processes underpinning the 100,000 genomes project including sample processing and analysis of whole genome sequencing data. This project is collaboration between Genomics England, NHS Regional Centres, UWE and other Academic Partners in the SW and will transform delivery of patient care for patients with inherited disease and cancer.

North Bristol NHS Trust were announced in October as hosts of the South West Genomic Laboratory Hub, one of the 7 NHSE designated centres, appointed to provide and develop genomic laboratory testing for the UK as part of a prestigious 5 year investment programme to integrate Whole Genome Sequencing into NHS patient care. This successful bid is built on the collaborations established through the 100,000 genomes project.

As Research and Innovation lead Maggie is responsible for academic collaborations and research studies and the implementation of innovative technologies to genetic healthcare, resulting in a number of publications in leading journals.

Maggie has worked in a long standing partnership with UWE in genomic education, lecturing on undergraduate and postgraduate courses, supervising project students and most recently delivering the Masters Course in Genomics Medicine.

The Honorary Degree is awarded in recognition of Maggie's 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.