

Professor Gareth Williams

Gareth Williams qualified with Honours in Medicine and Pharmacology from Cambridge University in 1977 and trained in London and Geneva. He was Professor of Medicine in Liverpool, where he built up an internationally recognised research group in diabetes and obesity. In 2003, he was appointed Dean of Medicine in Bristol, where he remains as Emeritus Professor of Medicine and Senior Research Fellow in Philosophy. He has written scientific 200 papers and has authored or edited over 20 books, including the prize-winning *Textbook of Diabetes*.

During a sabbatical year in 2009, he wrote *Angel of Death: the story of smallpox*, shortlisted for the prestigious Wellcome Trust Book Prize 2010. He followed this up in 2013 with *Paralysed with Fear: the story of polio*. Both books have led to numerous invitations to speak at literary events such as the Hay and Buxton Festivals and at historical and scientific meetings in the UK and overseas; to interviews on radio including Radio 4's *Today* programme; and to appearances in BBC television documentaries. His latest book, *A Monstrous Commotion: the Mysteries of Loch Ness*, was published by Orion in November 2015.

Gareth is a former President of the Anglo-French Medical Society and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by the University of Angers. He is an Ambassador for the British Polio Fellowship and has been Chair of the Trustees of the Edward Jenner Museum. His main hobby is playing music, both classical and jazz, and has performed at venues ranging from the Royal Albert Hall to the Southport Jazz Festival.