

## CURRICULUM VITAE

**Name** PROFESSOR HELEN PICTON

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**Current Position** Chair Of Reproduction and Early Development, and Head of Division of  
Reproduction and Early Development, LICAMM, School of Medicine  
University of Leeds  
Scientific Director, Leeds Centre For Reproductive Medicine,  
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust

### DEGREES/PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

1981-1985 B.Sc. Hons. 1st class University of Edinburgh  
1985-1989 Ph.D. University of Edinburgh  
2011- Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology

### CAREER SUMMARY

- Head of Division of Reproduction and Early Development , University of Leeds, with responsibility for a team of 20 scientists, postdoctoral research fellows, postgraduate and undergraduate students, technicians, and admin/clerical staff, 2009-present.
- Scientific Director (and Honorary Consultant) for the Leeds Centre For Reproductive Medicine within the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, with responsibilities for the research supervision of 14 Clinical Embryologists 1999-present.
- 120 original papers, reviews or book chapters published, in press or submitted/under review by October 2016. Plus ~ 300 published abstracts/ conference proceedings and free communications at meetings.
- International profile in reproductive research as evidenced by 126 invited lectures, seminars, symposium papers or prize lectures at national and international conferences and workshops.
- Winner of 17 national and international prizes and awards for research and conference presentations including the Medipex Yorkshire and Humberside NHS Innovations winner in 2007 for medical devices and diagnostics development for “*female fertility loss diagnostic in cancer patients*” .
- Referee for 14 international journals.
- Referee for national and international grant applications including the BBSRC, MRC, Wellcome Trust, Wellbeing/RCOG, Israeli Research Council, and NHMRC-Australia.
- Total research income generated as PI or co-applicant to October 2016 exceeds £6.9M from funding bodies including BBSRC , MRC, Wellcome Trust, CRUK, UK charities and industry.
- Supervision of 14 Ph.D students, 9 MD fellows, 2 MPhil students, 100 MSc projects and 25 undergraduate project students.
- Programme Director for the MSc in Clinical Embryology- 2 year part time programme by distance learning, at the University of Leeds, 2002-2012
- Programme Director for the MSc in Clinical Embryology and Assisted Reproduction Technology, by distance learning at the University of Leeds, 2002-2012

- External Ph.D. and M.D examiner at the Universities of Edinburgh, Nottingham, London, York, and Dublin.
- External MSc. examiner at the University of Aberdeen from 2001-2004, University of Warwick 2009-2012; University of Malta 2016-2018.
- Member of Council Of Management for the Society for Reproduction and Fertility council 2004-2009
- Chair of the Society for Reproduction and Fertility 2005-2009
- Member of UK Fertility Societies Joint Executive Committee 2004-2007, Chair- 2007-2009
- Member of the international committee for the World Congress of Reproductive Biology 2005-2009
- Coordinator of ESHRE Task Force on “Fertility preservation in severe diseases” 2010-2015
- Member of the scientific committee for Alpha- (scientists in reproductive medicine), September 2006
- Organisation of 19 international symposia and conferences and numerous local meetings.
- Member of International Advisory Board for the clinical development of Follicular Fluid-Meiosis Activating Sterol (FF-MAS), Novo Nordisk, Denmark. The outcome of this association for Leeds was investment of ~ £720,000 for a phase I clinical trial in Leeds.
- Consultant to Novo Nordisk Denmark and Quest Diagnostics, USA, for the development and application of SKY technology to oocyte karyotype evaluation.
- Consultant for serum-free *in vitro* maturation and fertilisation of bovine oocytes, Cattle Tech Ltd., Selby, W. Yorks, UK.
- Senior researcher panel representative at the Westminster Health Forum keynote seminar: Assisted Reproduction – Regulation with Compassion? Westminster, 2007
- Contributor to the Hinxton Group- an international consortium meeting on stem cells, bioethics, reproductive medicine, regenerative medicine and law, 2008.
- WHO temporary technical adviser 2001

## **SUMMARY OF CURRENT RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Building on a background in ovarian physiology and the use of large animal models for human reproduction, my current research programme at Leeds has focused on investigating different aspects of the cellular and molecular biology of human oogenesis, folliculogenesis and embryogenesis. This research has helped to shed light on how human oocytes and embryos grow and develop in health and how they are compromised during human infertility. The insight I have gained into the biology of human oocyte and embryo development been used to help design and test new infertility treatments. By combining advances in cryobiology and reproductive technology with an in-depth understanding of human oocyte biology my work has also underpinned the development of strategies to preserve female fertility.