

Dr Rob Lambkin-Williams

Independent Virologist

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In 2001, Dr. Rob Lambkin-Williams designed and implemented the first Human Viral Challenge Study to be conducted in Europe in the 21st century. He designed the first series of pilot studies, accommodating the regulatory challenges that this presented. He wrote the original protocols, ethics committee submissions, and oversaw the GMP quality standards for the virus used, the conduct of the studies in temporary quarantine facilities and the analysis of the data.

In addition, Rob has published extensively on multiple respiratory viruses, including influenza, RSV, rhinovirus and Urbani-SARS. His PhD focussed on the mutability of influenza and its ability to drift antigenically, requiring yearly vaccination. He has more recently worked on the development of a universal (broad) vaccine against influenza and vaccines on RSV.

Rob joined Queen Mary, University of London in 1995 and was the founding employee of the Retroscreen Virology Ltd, which was spun out from the university and eventually listed on the UK stock market (AIM) as hVIVO PLC and is now part of Open Orphan PLC.

Rob left hVIVO in the summer of 2019 to set up his own consultancy (VirologyConsult Ltd) advising on vaccine and antiviral development from pre-clinical to late stage clinical studies. Focussing, but not limited to, the use of the Human Viral Challenge model (HVCM).

The HVCM allows targeted research whilst minimizing risk. It also maximises the benefit of the scarce research resources available.

The breadth of data generated from challenge studies allows for exploration of a wide range of variables and endpoints that can then be taken through to pivotal phase 3 studies. Dr Robert Lambkin-Williams and his team worked on the HVCM model for almost two decades.

Multiple publications generated included, amongst other important areas of research.

- Viral pathogenesis
- Development of novel diagnostics based on gene switching, allowing for very early detection of infection.
- Correlates of immune protection including serum IgG, mucosal IgA and T cell responses.
- Novel vaccine development, including mucosal and DNA based vaccines
- Monoclonal antibodies
- Novel antivirals.

The journals included Nature Medicine, BMC Respiratory Research and the New England Journal of Medicine. In addition, there have been many oral and poster presentations over the years.



CORE COMPETENCIES

Pharma & Biotech	Market Strategy	Stakeholder Engagement
Start-Ups & Scale-Ups	PR & Communications	Governance & Compliance
Strategic Business Growth	Media appearances	
Virology	Risk Management	

AREAS OF SUBJECT MATTER EXPERTISE



Strategic Scientific and Business Growth and Development

- Developed a strong scientific team to support pre-clinical and clinical studies.
- Supported the board of hVivo (formerly known as Retroscreen Virology) to achieve their core business objective of being listed on the Alternative Investment Market in multiple roles including Chief Scientific Officer and Chief Executive Officer.
- Built and retained a talented team, attracting and retaining key members of staff to contribute to the growth of the business
- Engaged extensively with the regulators, including the MHRA and local ethics committees in order to ensure compliance and advise on the implementation of robust governance frameworks ensuring robust data was generated.

Technical Expertise and Industry Leadership

- Led the development process for a new product and wider product portfolio which incorporated the infrastructure for the Human Viral Challenge Model as the Executive Scientific Advisor at hVivo
- Successfully achieved governmental approval for the new product, as well as attaining the quality mark of Good Laboratory Standards.
- His scientific experience extends to Coronaviruses (including SARS), HIV, influenza and other respiratory illnesses. He has published extensively, and the complete list of his publications can be found here via the link at the bottom of this CV.
- Chaired the Publications and Conferences Strategy Group which led to improved communication across teams as well as a more productive peer-reviewed publishing process

Supporting and Advising Boards

- As CEO, he developed and supported the executive and non-executive boards of Retroscreen Virology to improve corporate governance frameworks and ensure a sustainable foundation for growth
- Has been a member of several scientific advisory groups for a variety of companies.

EXECUTIVE CAREER HIGHLIGHTS



Virology Consult, Independent Consultant and Advisor	2019 – Present
hVivo Group, Chief Scientific Officer/ Executive Scientific Advisor	2016 – 2018
Retroscreen Virology, Chief Scientific Officer	2014 – 2016
Retroscreen Virology, Founding Scientist through to Chief Executive Officer	1995 – 2014



EDUCATION & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

European Respiratory Society, Member

Royal Pharmaceutical Society, Member

Royal Society of Medicine, Fellow

World Society of Virology,

1994 – 1997

HIV Network, Trustee

Medical Journalists' Association, Associate Member

International Society for Influenza and Other Respiratory Virus Diseases, Member

International Alliance for Biological Standardisation, Member

The University of Warwick, Doctor of Philosophy in Avian Influenza

The University of Brighton, Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy

For a full list of academic publications, please visit my page on [Research Gate here](#)