Curriculum Vitae

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Signed 19/07/2026 by Professor Deborah Anne Lawlor

Signature: 

Personal details

Full name: Professor Deborah Anne Lawlor
Present position: Professor of Epidemiology
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Qualifications

Academic

2004 PhD, Epidemiology, University of Bristol
2003 MSc, Medical Statistics, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK
1999 MSc Public health (with distinction), University of Leeds. UK
1967 MB ChB, degree in Medicine, University of Bristol, UK

Professional

199 MFPH M, Member of the faculty of public health medicine, Royal college of Physicians
1993 MRCGP, Member of the Royal College of General Practice
1990 DOG, Diploma of the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology
1987 MB ChB, Medicine, University of Bristol

Professional positions

2006-pesent Professor of Epidemiology, University of Bristol
2004-present Honorary Consultant North Bristol NHS Foundation Trust
2013-present Deputy Director MRC Integrative Epidemiology Unit at the University of Bristol
2014-present Visiting Professor at the University of Bradford
2003-06: Consultant Senior Lecturer in Epidemiology and Public Health, University of Bristol
2000-2003 MRC Clinical Research Fellow and Lecturer in Public Health, University of Bristol
1998-1999 Lecturer in Public Health, University of Leeds

Selected Grants as Principal Investigator

1. **Lawlor DA** (PI), Borges M-C. Using molecular and genetic data to determine efficacy and safety of drug targets in pregnancy .
2. **Lawlor DA** (PI), Borges -C-C. Molecular drivers and predictors of pregnancy complications and future health. UK Medical Research Council Programme grant. 2023-28. £1,379,000.
3. **Lawlor DA** (PI and sole applicant). European Research Council Advanced Grant. 2021-26 €2,499,951.
4. **Lawlor DA** (PI and sole applicant). British Heart Foundation Chair 2021-2026. £508,351.

5. **Lawlor DA** (PI), Poole A, George S, Caputo M, Angelini G. British Heart Foundation Accelerator. 2019-24 £1,500,000.
6. **Lawlor DA** (PI) , Pickette K, Wright J, West J, Borges C-M, Gaunt T. cohort 'omics enhancement Grant 2021-25. £771,566.
7. **Lawlor DA** (PI), Wright J, West J, McEachan R, Barber S, Whincup P, Sattar N. Early life determinants of pre-adolescent differences in cardiometabolic health between South Asian and White British children. BHF. 2018-23. £1,016,398.
8. **Lawlor DA** (PI and sole applicant), Reproductive and Cardiometabolic Health. Medical Research Council Programme grant. Integrative Epidemiology Unit programme. 2018-23. £1,800,000.
9. **Lawlor DA** (PI), Pickett K (co-PI), Wright J, Mon-Williams M, Bird P, McEachan R, West J. Born in Bradford: An international resource for life course determinants of health, development, and social wellbeing. Medical Research Council. 2016-23. £2,700,000.
10. **Lawlor DA** (PI) European Research Council Advanced Grant. 2015-21. €1,800,000.
11. Lawlor DA, Wright J, Ring S, Relton C, Pickett K, McEachan RC. Born in Bradford Study: an international resource for genetic and early life determinants of health and development in a deprived multi-ethnic population. Wellcome Trust. 2014-19. £1,481,389.
12. Lawlor DA, Relton CL, Tilling K, Ring SM, Ala-Korpela MJ, Suderman MJ, Wright J, Fraser A, Catov JM. Metabolomic and Epigenomic Mechanisms in Developmental Overnutrition. US NIH. 2014-21. $2,330,865.
13. Lawlor DA, Nelson S, Sattar N, Tilling K, Tobias J, Relton C, Donovan J, Kuh D, Ring S, Davey Smith G, Propper C, A. The menopausal transition and healthy ageing and wellbeing. Joint UK Research Councils 2011-2017, £1,502,949.
14. Lawlor DA, Kipping RR, Jago R, Campbell R, Peters T. Active for Life Year 5: A cluster randomised controlled trial of a primary school-based intervention to increase levels of physical activity and improve diet. NIHR Programme. 2011-2016. £1,464,457.
15. Lawlor DA, Fraser A, Davey Smith G, Tilling K, Ring S, Sattar N. Menopausal transition, healthy ageing, and chronic disease risk. Wellcome Trust. 2011-18. £1,226,786.
16. Lawlor DA, Callaway M, Davey Smith G, Sattar N, Day CP, Fraser A, Sterne JAC. Biomarkers for non-alcoholic fatty liver disease in adolescents. MRC. 2009-14. £548,636.
17. Lawlor DA, Fraser W, Sattar N, Evans DMF, Timpson N, Hypponen ET. Intrauterine and lifetime vitamin D effects on vascular health. MRC 2008-13. £1,382,920.
18. Lawlor DA, Sattar N, Deanfield J, Tilling K, Day INM. Obstetric, lifestyle and genetic determinants of middle-age cardiovascular health. BHF. 2008-12. £882,350.
19. Lawlor DA, Davey Smith G, Molloy L, Tilling K. Enhancement of obstetric data in the ALSPAC cohort. Wellcome Trust. 2009-12. £185,583.
20. Lawlor DA, Davey Smith G, Tilling K, Day INM, Frayling T. Maternal overnutrition and offspring health. US NIH. 2006-11. US$1,080,000.
21. Lawlor DA (Personal fellowship). A life course approach to coronary heart disease and inequalities. UK Department of Health. 2003-2008. £520,900.
22. Lawlor DA (Personal Fellowship). The epidemiology of coronary heart disease in women. MRC Clinical Research Training Fellowship. 2002-205. £167,214.

Professional Distinctions

2024 2024 Richard Doll prize in Epidemiology
2022 Honorary DSc in Clinical Epidemiology from the University of Glasgow
2021 Named as one of the most influential women in Science in the UK by Clarivate/Web of Science
2017 Made Commander of the British Empire (CBE) for services to Social Medicine research
2015-present Web of Science/ Clarivate Highly Cited (top 1%) Scientist in my field
2012 Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences (FMedSci)
2012 NIHR Senior Investigator award (renewed in 2017 and emeritus since 2022

Invited Named Lectures

1. The Neonatal Society McCance Lecture 2020: Early life determinants of cardiometabolic health; separating cause from association. Delivered at the 50th Annual Neonatal Society Scientific Conference.

2. The 2020 Philip Brachman Memorial Lecture: Triangulating evidence from different methods to improve causal understanding. Delivered at the University of Michigan.
3. The 2018 Ipsen Lecture 2018: How can we determine what causes some women to have a healthy pregnancy and others not? Delivered at the Danish Epidemiology conference, University of Aarhus
4. The John Pemberton Lecture: Developmental overnutrition – an old hypothesis with new importance? Delivered at the 54th Society of Social Medicine Scientific Meeting, 2011
5. The Beryl Corner Lecture 2010: The role of the paediatrician in preventing chronic complex disease – early origins of cardiovascular disease. Delivered to the University of Bristol Annual Paediatric symposium.

Selected contributions to Research Funding Boards/Panels

2022-2024	Member of the Academy of Medical Sciences Starter Grant panel
2019-present	Member of the European Synergy Grant Panel; Chair from November 2024
2017-2023	Member of the Medical Research Council (MRC) Africa Leadership Research Panel
2017-2020	Member of the Diabetes Research UK George Alberti Research Fellowship Panel
2015-2020	Chair of the MRC Population Health Strategy Group
2015-2020	Chair of the MRC Cohort Strategy Review Group
2015-2020	Member of the MRC Strategy Boord
2012-2014	Chair of the Joint UKRC Lifelong Health and Wellbeing (physical activity in older age) panel
2010-2012	Member of the Indian Committee of Medical Research -MRC joint chronic disease panel
2010-2013	Member of the Joint MRC National Institute of Health Research (NIH) Methodology Panel
2009-2012	Member of the MRC Population and Systems Medicine Board
2008-2009	Member of the MRC Molecular and Cellular Medicine Board
2007-2009	Member of the Research Council for the Academy of Finland Programme Grant Board

Selected Contributions to Advisory and capacity building groups

2023-present	Member of the International advisory group to the Christchurch birth cohort
2022-present	Chair of the NIHR-BHF partnership Maternal Cardiovascular Health group
2023-present	Member of the NIHR-BHF partnership steering group
2017-present	Member of the UK Biobank Member UK Biobank Strategic advisory group
2016-2021	Member of International Advisory Board for the Usher Institute, University of Edinburgh
2015-2019	Member of the Genomics England Access Review Committee
2015-2017	Member of the Academy of Medical Sciences group on Methods for Evaluating Evidence
2015-2018	Member of the UK Academy of Medical Sciences Council
2014-2017	Member of the UK Biobank Ethics and Governance Advisory Board
2013-2016	Member of Fellows Selection Committee (Committee 6) for Academy of Medical Sciences
2007-2010	Member of the Governing Board for the UK Household Longitudinal Study

Contributions to conference and Scientific meetings

1. Member of the Organising Committee for the 2024 World Congress of Epidemiology.
2. Chair of the Organising Committee for Wellcome Connecting Science Women's Health: Genes, Data and Advancing Approaches Conference (The first conference January 2025; next one January 2027).
3. Member of the scientific organising committee for the 2007 European Association for Cardiovascular Prevention and Rehabilitation Annual Scientific Congress.
4. Member of the International Scientific Advisory Committee for the 9th (20150) World Congress on Developmental Origins of Health and Disease.
5. Member of the organising committee for the 2003 UK Society for Social Medicine Conference

Overview of Career

My research focuses on improving causal inference to understand the causes and consequences of variation in women's reproductive health. I have used robust methods to address patient and clinician concerns related to IVF and in answering these had patient benefits. I have triangulated evidence that robustly shows higher maternal pregnancy adiposity does not result in higher offspring adiposity, adverse metabolic outcomes and hence does not perpetuate the obesity epidemic across generations, as had been suggested. With a large Joint Research Council grant and a Wellcome grant, led research determining the social,

economic, clinical, and molecular causes and consequences of the menopause and its timing, including determining the relative contributions of chronological and reproductive aging on cardiovascular health, metabolic profiles, and social, physical and connive function. My current research focus is on addressing key patient and clinician questions relating to the long-term causes and consequences of infertility and its treatments, and on how to improve prevention, early prediction and treatment of adverse pregnancy and perinatal outcomes.

I played a key role in establishing the Born in Bradford cohort, including being PI of the first two grants to providing core funding for it, and managing the biobank and collection of molecular data. I also obtained funds to lead the enhancement of the ALSPAC cohort, through follow-up of the original mothers recruited during their pregnancy, and of the children of the original children. I practice open science by supporting access to these cohort's data, as well as summary data from large collaborations I lead and analytical code.

I have supported 20 PhD students to completion, with 13 remaining in academia, including clinical academics (6 are now professors), 3 full-time clinicians, and 4 working with industry, funders or policy makers. Two midwives who I have supervised were among the first aligned health care professionals to obtain prestigious MRD / NIHR fellowships. I support a diverse group of researchers from different disciplines, socioeconomic and country of birth origins. I am an Academy of Medical Sciences mentor and have mentored seven secondary school students from Bradford (5) and Bristol (2) from families that would not usually go to university or remain in higher education.