



## **Bruce Ponder**

Bruce Ponder is Li Ka Shing Professor of Oncology at Cambridge and Director of the Cancer Research UK Cambridge Research Institute, and Co-Director of the Hutchison/MRC Research Centre and of the Strangeways Research Laboratory for Genetic Epidemiology. His interests are in inherited susceptibility to cancer, and in the effective application of basic science to cancer treatment, detection and prevention.

He trained in medicine in London and then did a PhD at ICRF in molecular biology. He trained in medical oncology at the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School. Subsequently during a Cancer Research Campaign Career Development Award he developed new methods to reveal the mosaicism in tissues of chimeric mice, with the aim of understanding the normal clonal cellular organisation of tissues, and how this breaks down in cancer. He also provided some of the first data on the stem cell organisation of the new intestinal crypt, showing (among other things) that intestinal crypts are clones.

During this time he developed a clinical interest in cancer genetics, establishing one of the first clinics for familial cancer. His laboratory identified *ret* as the gene for MEN 2 syndrome, and he was the first Chair of the International Consortium which ultimately underpinned the finding of the BRCA1 and BRCA2 genes. His research efforts are now focussed on common genetic variation and susceptibility to cancer, and his group recently completed the first successful genome scan for breast cancer, which has identified 7 new loci for predisposition. They have also demonstrated the potential application of this information to targeting screening and prevention.

Over the past 10 years Bruce Ponder has led the development of a new laboratory and clinical centre for cancer research in Cambridge, culminating in 2007 with the opening of the new CRUK Cambridge Research Institute. He was knighted in 2008 for services to medicine.