

## New Director for PHG Foundation emphasises application of science for health

The PHG Foundation is delighted to announce the appointment of Dr Hilary Burton (MA, FPPHM) as Director.

A public health physician, Hilary has been a lead player in the development of public health genomics in the UK and was a founding member of the PHG Foundation's predecessor body, the original Public Health Genetics Unit. She is a firm believer in the potential of genomics to improve the health of populations and individuals.

Hilary has led numerous substantive and acclaimed projects at the PHG Foundation, and pioneered the use of formal needs assessment as part of the strategic development of genetic applications within mainstream clinical medicine. She assumes the position of overall Director at an exciting time as the PHG Foundation works with the World Health Organization and develops other key international relationships.

Commenting on her new role, she said: *"Over the last ten years we have seen genomics increase in its potential, whilst at the same time becoming ever more aware of the underlying complexities both in science and society. I am proud to lead our talented PHG Foundation team in trying to unravel these complexities and helping to realise the benefits for health both in the UK and worldwide"*.

PHG Foundation Chairman Dr Ron Zimmern said: *"I am delighted to welcome Hilary as Director, bringing as she does internationally acknowledged expertise in public health genomics, a distinguished track-record of health service and policy development, and unrivalled insight into the purpose and aims of the PHG Foundation"*.

Hilary succeeds the previous Chief Executive, Dr Mukesh Kapila CBE, who has resumed his career in international development.

- Ends -

### For more information please contact:

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### Notes to Editors

- The PHG Foundation is an independent, not-for-profit, policy think-tank and service development NGO based in Cambridge, UK, but working internationally.
- Our mission is *making science work for health*. We find the best ways to exploit genomic and biomedical science to improve health, and work to accelerate the effective, responsible and equitable use of bioscience in healthcare.
- We are the leading UK centre for public health genomics, with a multi-disciplinary staff team.
- We provide expert research, analysis and change management services for governments, health systems and non-profits, as well as contributing ideas and stimulating professional and public debate on the potential and pitfalls of scientific innovations for health.

*The PHG Foundation is the working name of the Foundation for Genomics and Population Health, a charitable company registered in England and Wales, charity no. 1118664 / company no. 5823194.*

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