

Nicholas José Talbot: *curriculum vitae*.

Nick Talbot is Professor of Molecular Genetics and Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Impact at the University of Exeter. He received his Bachelors degree in Microbiology from the University of Wales, Swansea in 1986 and received his PhD in Molecular Genetics from the University of East Anglia in 1990. After a period of postdoctoral research at Purdue University in the USA, he moved to the University of Exeter, becoming Professor of Molecular Genetics in 1999, Head of the School of Biosciences in 2005, and Deputy Vice-Chancellor in 2010.

Professor Talbot's research is focused on the biology of plant diseases. In particular, he has studied a devastating disease of rice, call rice blast disease, which is caused by the fungus *Magnaporthe oryzae*. Professor Talbot has authored over 150 scientific papers and has given more than 250 invited presentations in 28 countries. Professor Talbot is currently a European Research Council Advanced Investigator and also holds grants from BBSRC, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and the Halpin Trust. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology (FRSB) in 2010, a member of EMBO in 2013, a member of the Academia Europaea in 2014 and a Fellow of The Royal Society (FRS) in 2014. He is distinguished for his elucidation of the molecular processes of cell differentiation and autophagic cell death in fungi, and their role in diseases such as rice blast. He has shown how these processes are intimately involved in virulence and pathogenicity and are orchestrated to enable the complex cellular processes that enable a filamentous fungus to invade healthy plants. His research is characterized by a combination of molecular, genetic, genomic and cell biological approaches. Professor Talbot is Chair of The Sainsbury Laboratory Council and was Chair of Rothamsted Research from 2009-14. He has chaired numerous research grant panels and international scientific reviews.

In addition to his contributions in research, Nick Talbot has been a senior manager at the University of Exeter since 2005. As Head of the School of Biosciences, he oversaw the rise of biological sciences research and education at Exeter, recruiting 30 academics and seeing the Department rise from 39th to 5th in national league tables. As Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research and Impact, Prof. Talbot currently oversees a total research portfolio of £280 million and is responsible for the University's Research Excellence Framework submission and development and implementation of a research strategy for the University. He has led the establishment of the £33 million Environment and Sustainability Institute and the £52 million Living Systems Institute which opened in 2016, with 20 new group leaders. He also managed the Humanities and Social Sciences Strategy of the University and led the highly successful REF2014 exercise in which Exeter was among the top 3 national performers in increasing Quality Research income and rising research quality. He has overseen a threefold increase in research income by the university, with £99.5 million of awards won in 2017. Prof. Talbot chairs the University Ethics Committee and the Research and Impact Strategy Management Group. Professor Talbot also Chairs the GW4 Board, the regional alliance of the Universities of Bristol, Bath, Cardiff and Exeter.

Professor Talbot is a member of the EU Advisory Group for the Russell Group of Universities. The Group is a key forum for the Russell Group to negotiate for European research collaborations and funding. In 2018, Professor Talbot will become Executive Director of The Sainsbury Laboratory, the world's premier research centre for plant disease research.