



UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA - UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON MEDICAL SCHOOL  
RESEARCH AND TRAINING PROGRAMME



HDT-NET



Pandora  
ID-NET



UNZA-UCLMS Programme  
University Teaching Hospital 'D-Block'  
RW1X, Lusaka  
Zambia  
Web: <http://www.unza-uclms.org/>

## **PRESS RELEASE**

(Embargoed until Friday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2230hrs)

### **Professor Alimuddin Zumla honoured with a Knighthood by Her Majesty The Queen**

We are extremely proud and pleased to announce that Professor Alimuddin Zumla, Professor of Infectious Diseases and International Health at University College London (UCL), Consultant Infectious Diseases Physician at UCL Hospitals, and co-director of our UNZA-UCLMS Programme, has been honoured with a Knighthood (KBE) by Her Majesty The Queen in her 2017 Birthday Honours List. **The honour is for exceptional Services to Public Health and Infectious Diseases.** (UK government Gazette: <https://www.thegazette.co.uk/all-notices/content/101133>. A brief bio of Sir Alimuddin Zumla is attached to this press release).

Responding to the news of the Knighthood, Sir Alimuddin Zumla said:

*"I am absolutely delighted to be accorded this wonderful honour! It's awe-inspiring and a great privilege to be together with exceptional people who have distinguished themselves, serving humanity in different ways with great commitment and impact."*

*"I would like to share this honour with the numerous selfless and committed people across the world, who I work with effectively on a range of academic, capacity development, advocacy and charity activities on poverty-related diseases. I am blessed with a very supportive family, excellent research teams and awesome talented friends who have shown 'unity of purpose' for improving the lives and health of disadvantaged populations worldwide."*

The UNZA-UCLMS Programme teams and our collaborators from across all continents, convey our warmest congratulations and felicitations to Professor 'Sir' Alimuddin Zumla, Lady Farzana Zumla and the entire Zumla family for this richly deserved accolade.

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## Brief Biography

### Professor Sir Alimuddin Zumla



#### Current posts:

Professor Sir Alimuddin (Ali) Zumla GCDS, FRCP(Lond&Edin), FRCPATH(UK), PhD(Lond), FRSB(UK), holds the positions of Professor of Infectious Diseases and International Health in the Division of Infection and Immunity, University College London, UK, and Consultant Infectious Diseases Physician at University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. He serves as honorary and visiting Professor at several institutions in Africa and Europe.

*UCL Website:* <https://iris.ucl.ac.uk/iris/browse/profile?upi=AZUML60>

*Overseas projects' website:* <http://www.unza-uclms.org/>

#### General background:

Developing life threatening, crippling meningitis while working as a junior doctor in London in 1982 did not stop Sir Ali Zumla from making outstanding and health policy relevant contributions in the field of killer infectious diseases. Sir Ali Zumla is a global leader in the field of killer infectious diseases and has made very significant contributions to the fields of TB, TB/HIV co-infection and other infections with epidemic potential. He has excelled in assisting sub-Saharan African countries in developing research, capacity development and training programmes.

#### Early career:

Sir Ali Zumla was born in 1955 in Fort Jameson (now Chipata), Zambia (British colonial Northern Rhodesia). He is dually qualified in Medicine and Science. He is an honours graduate (BSc and MBChB) of the University of Zambia. In 1981 he obtained his MSc in Clinical Tropical Medicine at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, University of London for which he was awarded a Distinction and the Mugarroyd Prize. In 1983, whilst working as a junior Doctor in London, he became seriously ill with life-threatening, crippling tuberculous meningitis, and was informed that he would never walk normally again. Defying this poor

prognosis, he made a remarkable recovery and returned to work, (coping daily with a lifelong persistent disabling painful neuropathy), progressing to a star-studded career.

### **Specialist training**

In 1987 Sir Ali Zumla obtained his PhD at the London School of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene, UK, for which he was awarded the Alan Woodruff Medal. Whilst working as a specialist infectious diseases registrar at Rush Green Hospital, Romford, UK, he received international acclaim for rapidly identifying and notifying to the UK CDSC the first cases of the 1988 Legionnaires' Diseases outbreak which he traced back to Broadcasting House, central London. He worked for four years as Senior Registrar at the UK's premiere institute, the Hammersmith Hospital, Royal Postgraduate Medical School in London, UK, and obtained specialist clinical accreditation in infectious diseases, internal medicine and clinical immunology. Subsequently he spent two years as Associate Professor at the University of Texas Health Science Centre at Houston, Texas, USA.

### **Commitment to improving lives and health of disadvantaged populations**

Sir Ali Zumla has a deep and altruistic commitment to improving health services for poor and disadvantaged populations globally. This has allowed him to skilfully combine his wide-ranging academic, research, capacity development, advocacy and charity roles with huge impact on priority global health issues. He has made very significant contributions to building research, capacity development and training in sub-Saharan Africa and uniting a global faculty to work together on poverty related diseases and emerging and re-emerging infections. He is renowned for moving Africa away from colonial models of parachute research and annexed sites. He has championed very successfully 'Equitable north-south partnerships model of research twinned to local capacity development'

(<http://www.unza-uclms.org/history-of-unza-uclms>).

Website: <http://www.unza-uclms.org/partners>

Website: <http://www.unza-uclms.org/pandora-id-net>

He supports several charities. Together with Prof John Grange (late), Prof Peter Davies he was Founder member and Trustee of the first and largest TB charity 'TB Alert' in 1998, and he continues bringing together scientists, politicians, advocates, civil society groups and others to unite together.

### **Academic and training outputs**

Sir Ali Zumla's leadership of multi-country R&D programs over the past 25 years has proliferated to 67 institutions across 35 countries in 4 continents, achieving very high quality, health services-relevant research, capacity building & advocacy deliverables. He has mentored and enhanced the careers of numerous scientists and healthcare workers worldwide.

Professor Zumla has published over 500 peer reviewed articles listed on PUBMED (<http://www.unza-uclms.org/publications>). He is Editor of 20 medical textbooks, three of which are globally acknowledged classics: Manson's Tropical Diseases (co-edited with Gordon Cook), Tuberculosis: A Comprehensive Clinical Reference (co-edited with Simon Schaaf) and Granulomatous Disorders (co-edited with his late mentor Prof Geraint James).

### **Education and CME through state of the art journal 'theme' series**

As a committed educator Sir Ali Zumla was Trustee of the charity Bookpower through which hugely discounted books were made available and sent to developing country institutions. To make journal articles with latest information available quickly and free of charge Sir Ali Zumla has initiated as guest editor and led several journal Theme Series with a global authorship. Website: <http://www.unza-uclms.org/tb-theme-series>

Series on TB and TB/HIV include: 1) Lancet TB series of 7 commentaries in 2006; 2) Lancet TB Theme Series of 7 articles and 6 commentaries launched in Geneva, Switzerland, in 2010; 3) Journal of Infectious Diseases supplement volume on 'Tuberculosis and TB/HIV/AIDS-controversies and unanswered questions' in 2012; 4) Lancet Infectious Diseases TB series of 6 articles in 2013; 5) Lancet Respiratory Medicine/Lancet Infectious Diseases joint volume on TB, 2014;

He also played a major lead role in: 6) The Lancet Mass Gatherings Medicine Series, launched at the World Health Assembly of Ministers of Health, in May 2014 in Geneva; 7) The Lancet Infectious Diseases Series of 5 articles on Emerging Respiratory Tract Infections, September, 2014, 8) International Journal of Infectious Diseases TB and TB/HIV series 2015 and 2017.

### **International Advisory and Specialist Groups/Committees**

Sir Ali Zumla has served on numerous international advisory groups. He currently serves on the Board of the Global Centre for Mass Gatherings Medicine, the Scientific Advisory Group to the European Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP). He was Member of Court of Governors of the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (2007-2014). He was vice president of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene 2004-2006.

### **Awards, medals and prizes**

Sir Ali Zumla has received numerous prestigious awards, medals and prizes (for full list on website <http://www.unza-uclms.org/prof-zumla-awards-honours>) including the Karolinska Institutet 2016 Science Prize, the University of Amsterdam Spinoza Leerstoel Award, the WHO STOP TB Partnership Kochon Prize and Medal, the 2013 Times Higher Education Award, the Albert Chalmers Medal (2000) and the Donald Mackay Medal (2014) of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene. 2013 Times Higher Education Award for the best international collaboration, and 2017 UK-NIHR senior investigator award. In 2017

he was elected Fellow of the African Academies of Sciences a special honour for a non-Africa based academic.

### **Accolade from the President of Zambia**

On October 24th 2012, Sir Ali Zumla was conferred the highest civilian award, THE ORDER OF GRAND COMMANDER OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICES-FIRST DIVISION, by the President of Zambia, H.E. Dr Michael Sata, in recognition of ‘Exceptional contributions to Medicine, Science & Health Services in Africa’. He also received the LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD from the Zambia Ministry of health in 2014.

Sir Ali Zumla is well known for his mottos which state:

*‘Everyone should hold hands together and move forward together united in the fight against infectious diseases’.*

*‘One does not need a Rolls Royce to make a journey - it is the committed and altruist driver that is important’*

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### **For more information on Sir Ali Zumla visit web-sites:**

(Global R&D networks): <http://www.unza-uclms.org/>

(UCL): <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/amr/about/people/zumla> and <https://iris.ucl.ac.uk/iris/browse/profile?upi=AZUML60>

(UCLHospitals): [https://www.uclh.nhs.uk/OurServices/Consultants/Pages/ProfAlimuddin Zumla.aspx](https://www.uclh.nhs.uk/OurServices/Consultants/Pages/ProfAlimuddinZumla.aspx)

Profile: <http://www.unza-uclms.org/ali-zumla-profile>

Wikipedia: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alimuddin\\_Zumla](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alimuddin_Zumla)

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