



**Bournemouth
University**

PROFESSOR ALICE ROBERTS

Pro-Chancellor,

Professor Alice Roberts is an anatomist, author and broadcaster. She qualified as a medical doctor with a Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery and an intercalated Bachelor of Science in Anatomy from the University of Wales College of Medicine (now part of Cardiff University). Later she took a PhD in paleopathology, the study of disease in ancient human remains. After graduating in 1997 she worked for a year in clinical medicine as a junior doctor in South Wales. In the following year she moved to the University of Bristol, first as a demonstrator in the Anatomy Department and then, a year later, as a lecturer. Later, as Senior Teaching Fellow at the University's Centre for Comparative and Clinical Anatomy, she taught clinical anatomy, embryology, and physical anthropology, as well as researching in osteoarchaeology and paleopathology. She left the University in 2009 to become a freelancer, but remained a Visiting Fellow in both the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology and the Department of Anatomy.

Alice has been Director of Anatomy for the National Health Service Severn Deanery Postgraduate School of Surgery since 2009. Last year she took up her present post as the University of Birmingham's first Professor of Public Engagement in Science. She is also an Honorary Fellow of the British Science Association and of the Society of Biology, but Alice is most widely known for a remarkably eclectic range of TV programmes in which she has indeed promoted public engagement in science to great effect. Her broadcasting career began with Channel 4's Time Team in 2001; she later appeared in the Coast series, and went on to present (and in some cases to design) a range of series and individual documentaries on BBC2. The titles demonstrate the range of her work; they include Don't Die Young, The Incredible Human Journey, Wild Swimming, Digging for Britain, Ice Age Giants, Origins of Us, Woolly Mammoth, and Prehistoric Autopsy.

In addition to her very extensive academic output Alice has produced a number of publications designed to stimulate public interest in science, including four popular science books, articles for the Observer and a column in the Guardian. 'I want science to be accessible to everyone', she says, 'not just those who are happy to label themselves as geeks'. And her own gifts and skills extend beyond science and medicine to the arts; thus she was able to fund her way through university partly by designing and selling her own range of dinosaur cards.

The drive to engage the public in science takes Alice into a wide variety of organisations. She is a member of the Advisory Board of the Cheltenham

Festival of Science, and a judge for the annual Wellcome Image Awards which celebrate art in science. She is also Patron of the Association of Science and Discovery Centres, and a Trustee of Oxford University Museum of Natural History. Amazingly, she also finds time to support charities such as For Ethiopia, the British Heart Foundation (where she is a member of Council), and Sustrans, which promotes sustainable travel behaviour.

Alice is a longstanding friend of this University; she has given public lectures here, and members of our School of Applied Sciences have appeared with her in *Coast and Digging for Britain*. So today BU is proud to honour such a very distinguished polymath, communicator of science, and role model for graduates.

Pro-Chancellor, I have the honour to present Professor Alice Roberts, and I ask you to confer upon her the degree of Doctor of Science, *honoris causa*.