

HRH The Duchess of Cornwall accolade for outstanding contribution to osteoporosis

HRH The Duchess of Cornwall, President of the National Osteoporosis Society, today presented Professor Cyrus Cooper with the inaugural Duchess of Cornwall Award for his outstanding contribution to the field of osteoporosis.

The Duchess of Cornwall presented Professor Cooper with the Award at the charity's headquarters in Camerton, during the official opening of their recently extended headquarters and new Information Centre.

The Duchess of Cornwall Award recognises an individual for their outstanding contribution to the field of osteoporosis. Professor Cooper was chosen as the beneficiary of the inaugural Duchess of Cornwall award in recognition of his research, advocacy and leadership.

Professor Cooper holds a number of posts including Professor of Rheumatology and Director of the MRC Epidemiology Resource Centre at the University of Southampton; and Norman Collisson Chair of Musculoskeletal Science at the University of Oxford.

He leads an internationally competitive programme of research into the epidemiology of musculoskeletal disorders, including osteoporosis, where he has made key research contributions.

Professor Cooper commented on his award: "*Since becoming involved with the charity, HRH The Duchess of Cornwall has carried out tremendous work to raise the profile of osteoporosis. To be recognised with this award is an incredible honour, and I only hope that my work in the field has made a practical difference to people whose lives are affected by osteoporosis.*"

“I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the tireless work of the thousands of people who campaign every day to raise awareness of osteoporosis; as well as those who live with the disease every day.”

Professor Cooper, who chaired the National Osteoporosis Society Board of Trustees from 2003 to 2007, first met HRH The Duchess of Cornwall when she became the charity’s president in the late 1990s. He has since met HRH on several occasions, including *functions for the National Osteoporosis Society and events at the Medical Research Council unit. Professor Cooper and his wife Margie were guests at the Royal wedding when The Duchess of Cornwall married HRH The Prince of Wales.*

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Further biographical details on Professor Cooper:

1. Cyrus Cooper is Professor of Rheumatology and Director of the MRC Epidemiology Resource Centre at the University of Southampton and Norman Collisson Chair of Musculoskeletal Science at the University of Oxford. He graduated from the University of Cambridge and St Bartholomew’s Hospital, London in 1980, and completed his residency in 1985 at the Southampton University Hospitals.
2. In 1990, he won an MRC Travelling Fellowship to the Mayo Clinic, USA, where he continued his research in osteoporosis. He returned to the UK in 1992 to take up a position as Senior Lecturer in Rheumatology and MRC Senior Clinical Scientist. He was promoted to the foundation Chair in Rheumatology at the University of Southampton in 1997 while continuing as an MRC Senior Clinical Scientist at the MRC Environmental Epidemiology Unit. In 2003, he was appointed Director of the MRC Epidemiology Resource Centre, University of Southampton.
3. He leads an internationally competitive programme of research into the epidemiology of musculoskeletal disorders, most notably osteoporosis. His key research contributions have been: 1) discovery of the developmental influences which contribute to the risk of osteoporosis and hip fracture in late adulthood; 2) demonstration that maternal vitamin D insufficiency is associated with sub-optimal bone mineral accrual in childhood; 3) characterisation of the definition and incidence rates of vertebral fractures; 4) leadership of large pragmatic randomised controlled trials of calcium and vitamin D supplementation in the elderly as immediate preventative strategies against hip fracture.
4. Professor Cooper is currently President of the Bone Research Society of Great Britain and Chairman of the Committee of Scientific Advisors,

International Osteoporosis Foundation. He has previously served as Chairman of the National Osteoporosis Society and has worked on numerous Department of Health, European Community and World Health Organisation committees and working groups. He is a member of the MRC Population and Systems Medicine Board; and Chair at the MRC Population Health Sciences Network. He is Associate Director of Research at the University of Southampton Medical School, and Associate Editor of Osteoporosis International. He has published extensively (over 350 publications) on osteoporosis and rheumatic disorders and pioneered clinical studies on the developmental origins of peak bone mass.

The National Osteoporosis Society is the only UK wide charity dedicated to improving the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of osteoporosis. The charity provides a wide range of services to help people learn how to prevent osteoporosis or to manage living with the disease and the fractures it causes.

For more information contact the National Osteoporosis Society press office on 01761 473 101 or email s.hallmark@nos.org.uk