

Professor Peter Piot KCMG MD PhD, is the Director of the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, and a Handa Professor of Global Health. He was the founding Executive Director of UNAIDS and Under Secretary-General of the United Nations (1995-2008).



A clinician and microbiologist by training, he co-discovered the Ebola virus in Zaire in 1976, and subsequently led pioneering research on HIV/AIDS, women's health, and infectious diseases, mostly in Africa. He has held academic positions at the Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp; the University of Nairobi; the University of Washington, Seattle; Imperial College London, and the College de France, Paris. He was a Senior Fellow at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and past president of the International AIDS Society. Professor Piot is a member of the US National Academy of Medicine, the National Academy of Medicine of France, the German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, and the Royal Academy of Medicine of his native Belgium, and is a fellow of the UK Academy of Medical Sciences and the Royal College of Physicians.

Professor Piot is the Chair of HMG's Strategic Coherence of ODA-funded Research (SCOR) Board, London; of the King Baudouin Foundation (KBF) USA, New York; and of the African Health Research Institute (AHRI), Durban, South Africa. He is Vice-Chair of the Global Health Innovation Technology Fund (GHIT), Tokyo, and member of the Board of the Novartis Foundation, Basel; the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovation (CEPI), and Sentebale. He is a Special Advisor to the President of the European Commission on research and innovation for COVID-19.

In 1995 he was made a Baron by King Albert II of Belgium, and in 2016 was awarded a UK honorary knighthood KCMG, and in 2018 a Grand Cordon of the Order of the Rising Sun of Japan. Professor Piot has received numerous awards for his research and service, including the Canada Gairdner Global Health Award (2015), the Robert Koch Gold Medal (2015), the Prince Mahidol Award for Public Health (2014), and the Hideyo Noguchi Africa Prize for Medical Research (2013), the Nelson Mandela Award for Health and Human Rights, (2001), and was named a 2014 TIME Person of the Year (The Ebola Fighters). He has published over 600 scientific articles and 16 books, including his memoir, No Time to Lose, translated into 5 languages.

Professor Igor Rudan MD, MSc, DSc, PhD, MPH, HonMFPH, FRSE, is Chair in International Health and Molecular Medicine and Joint Director of the Centre for Global Health Research and the WHO Collaborating Centre at the Usher Institute at the University of Edinburgh, UK.

He graduated from the University of Zagreb Medical School, Croatia, in 1995. He obtained two Masters Degrees and two PhD degrees - in Anthropology (1997), Epidemiology (1999); Public Health (1998) and Genetic Epidemiology (2005). He published more than 500 research papers and 10 books/monographs, which have received more than 130,000 citations to date. In 2007, he was the researcher with the greatest increase in the number of citations in the world within his field, according to the ISI/Thomson Reuters, and later included in the ISI/Thomson Reuters "World's Most Influential Scientific Minds / Highly Cited Researchers" (2015-2019). He has led 29 research grants totalling more than GBP 30 million. He founded the Croatian Biobank "10001 Dalmatians" (in 2001) in isolated populations of Croatian islands in Dalmatia region, which contributed to the discovery of biomedical role for more than 2,000 human genes to date.



In his international health efforts to reduce global child mortality, he served as a consultant of the World Health Organization, UNICEF, The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, The World Bank, Save the Children, and others. He developed the "CHNRI" methodology (in 2007) and EQUIST tool (in 2012) that have been widely used by international agencies to prioritise investments in global health research and development. He founded or co-Founded Croatian Centre for Global Health at the University of Split, Croatia (in 2008), Edinburgh University Global Health Society (2011), "Journal of Global Health" (in 2011; co-Editor-in-Chief), WHO's Collaborating Centre for Population Health Research and Training in Edinburgh (in 2013) and Centre for Global Health at the The Usher Institute (in 2015).

He has been awarded >30 national and international research awards and professional recognitions, including Wellcome Trust's International Research Development Award (2002), "Scientist of the Year" Award from The Croatian Parliament (2005), Visiting Professorship for Senior International Researchers from the Chinese Academy of Sciences (2012), Chancellor's Award for Research (2012) and Principal's Medal for Outstanding service from The University of Edinburgh (2019). In 2016, he was elected Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (FRSE). He was listed among "Croatian Persons of the Year" by all three major Croatian newspapers in 2016. In 2017 he completed a documentary series "Survival: The Story of Global Health" which was broadcasted at the Croatian National TV and seen by more than 1 million people cumulatively, and nearly 100,000 on YouTube. He published four No. 1 national bestsellers in Croatia in popular science: "The Exact Colour of the Sky" (2017), "Evil Air" (2018), "In the Land of Clans"(2019) and "Awaiting the Fires" (2020). He is both Croatian and British citizen, married with two children.