

# Biography



## **Robert Winston is Professor Science and Society and Emeritus Professor of Fertility Studies at Imperial College London**

In the 1970s Robert Winston developed gynaecological surgical techniques that improved fertility treatments. He later pioneered new treatments to improve in vitro fertilisation (IVF) and developed pre-implantation diagnosis. This allowed embryos to be screened for genetic diseases and has allowed parents carrying faulty genes to have children free of illnesses such as cystic fibrosis.

He now runs a research programme at the Institute of Reproductive and Developmental Biology at Imperial College that aims to improve human transplantation. Robert Winston has over 300 scientific publications about human reproduction and the early stages of pregnancy.

Robert Winston is also Chairman of the Genesis Research Trust - a charity which raised over £13 million to establish the Institute of Reproductive and Developmental Biology and which now funds high quality research into women's health and babies.

## **Awards**

Professor Winston is a Faraday Medal holder from the Royal Society and has had many other prizes for his work. His awards include a Wellcome Senior Research Fellowship 1973-77, a Blair-Bell Lectureship RCOG, 1978, the Cedric Carter Medal and the Victor Bonney Medal for contributions to surgery, Royal College of Surgeons of London, 1993. He was Gold Medallist for the Royal Society of Health in 1998. He won the Edwin Stevens Medal (the Royal Society of Medicine) in 2003, was the North of England Zoological Society's gold medallist in 2004 and won the Al Hammadi Gold Medal at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, 2005.

Robert Winston is a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences, Queen Mary College, the Royal Academy of Engineering, the Society of Biology, the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. He has received seventeen honorary doctorates from universities across the world and has been a visiting professor at a number of American, Australian and European universities.

He was President of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in 2005 and is currently a member of Council and Chairman of the Societal Issues Panel at the Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council and Chancellor of Sheffield Hallam University.

## House of Lords

Robert Winston speaks regularly at the House of Lords on education, science, medicine and the arts. He was Chairman of the Lords Select Committee on Science and Technology 1999-2002, initiating enquiries into Antibiotic Resistance, Non-Food Crops, Nuclear Waste, Science and Society, Genetic Databases, Aircraft Passenger Environment, and Science in Schools.

He is a board member and Vice-chairman of the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology and was voted “Peer of the Year” by his fellow Parliamentarians in June 2008 for his expertise and work on the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill.

## Science Communication

Robert Winston is committed to scientific education and tries to communicate the excitement of science through his award winning BBC programmes and books. In 2010 he set up an innovative teaching programme for schoolchildren at Imperial College that aims to give children a taste of real science and allow them to do experiments first hand.

He has written fourteen popular science books. One of his children’s books “What makes me, me” won the Aventis Prize in 2005 and has been translated into over 35 languages. ‘Human’ won the BMA First Prize for the Best Popular Medicine Book in 2005. “It’s Elementary” was shortlisted for the Aventis prize in 2008. Robert Winston is also Chairman of the Royal College of Music and a fellow of the Royal Society of Arts.

He is on the Board of the Lyric Theatre and has been involved with a number of UK charities, including Cancer Research UK, the UK Stem Cell Foundation and the Association of Medical Research Charities.