



DR ADAM JOHN RITCHIE

Class of 1995

Adam Ritchie is a scientist and academic at the University of Oxford. Adam's current focus is on vaccine development, and he is part of the team developing the COVID-19 vaccine at Oxford.

After graduating from Sydney Technical High School, Adam studied Microbiology and Immunology at the NSW University. He completed a PhD in Immunology in 2005, at which point he moved to the UK to further his research.

Adam's research focuses on infectious disease, and the battle between humans as a host and the microorganisms that make us their home. He has worked on a range of diseases, including HIV/AIDS, malaria, variant CJD, rabies and COVID-19.

A key aspect of Adam's research is the translation of science and research into positive impacts on people's lives. At the moment, this involves developing and manufacturing new vaccines, designing and carrying out clinical trials, and analysing vaccine safety and efficacy. As well as COVID-19, Adam is currently working on a new vaccine against rabies that will be cheaper than current vaccines and will allow for mass-vaccination campaigns that are currently not possible for economic reasons.

Alongside his research, Adam also teaches students at the University of Oxford. He is a Lecturer in Human Science (medical genetics) and from 2011 to 2017 was also the Lecturer in Science and Public Policy. Adam also runs one of Oxford's largest graduate admissions programs for the Master of Public Policy.

During his time lecturing in public policy, Adam developed and taught a course focused on preparedness for pandemics, which was taken by numerous individuals involved in government, business, and NGO responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. He also advised officials from several governments during the West African Ebola outbreak in the mid-2010s. The mix of science, policy, and politics can be very difficult, and across the world we've seen this play out poorly in many locations during COVID-19.