

Ruth Plummer

Professor of Experimental Cancer Medicine

Newcastle University

TPAC member since 2025

Ruth Plummer is Professor of Experimental Cancer Medicine, Newcastle University and an honorary consultant medical oncologist in Newcastle Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. She directs the Sir Bobby Robson Cancer Trials Research Centre and lead the Newcastle Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre and CRUK Newcastle Cancer Centre until October 2025. The focus of her research is first in human clinical trials, running a busy early phase trials practice which includes studies with novel small molecules, antibodies, immunotherapies and cellular therapies. She has taken multiple agents targeting DNA repair into the clinic, including the first-in-class PARP and ATR inhibitors. Nationally she has sat on multiple grant funding committees for NIHR, CRUK and the MRC, chairing the MRC Experimental Medicine Panel and CRUK New Agents Committee.

In September 2025 she took up the role of National Clinical lead for Cancer Drugs for NHS England, supporting access to innovative therapies in the NHS.

She is Managing Director of the Cancer Drug Development Forum, a not-for-profit organisation based in Brussels. The CDDF's mission is to facilitate collaboration between stakeholders, to increase efficiency in cancer drug development and accelerate the delivery of effective oncology treatment to patients.

She was elected a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences in 2018 for her work developing PARP inhibitors as novel cancer treatments for patients. In 2021 she was awarded the ESMO-TAT Lifetime Achievement award for her work in early phase trials and in 2022 an MBE in the Queen's Jubilee Birthday Honours for Services to Medicine.