

VIS 2022 Special Event - Inaugural Lecture

“Reflections on Leading Through The COVID-19 Pandemic” by Professor Sir Jonathan Van-Tam, Honorary Chair of VIS UK and Ireland

Date and time: 13.30 – 18.00 (main programme), 6th May 2022.

Location: Macmillan Room and Crush Hall, Senate House, University of London, Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HU (map link [here](#))

Registration link: <https://forms.gle/t7WhdnkbjczUi5D96> (for attendees)

Format: In-person and online (Zoom/Teams link will be sent to registered participants later)

Speaker: Jonathan Van-Tam Kt, MBE, FMedSci, was born and educated in Lincolnshire and trained as a physician in Nottingham. He is a public health specialist with a background in emergency medicine, and served as Regimental Medical Officer to Lincolnshire ACF from 1988-2000. Jonathan has a specialist academic interest in respiratory virus pandemics and is Pro Vice-Chancellor, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Nottingham. His career has also taken him to academia, Public Health England, the World Health Organization, and the pharmaceutical and vaccine industries. Jonathan was seconded to the Department of Health and Social Care in 2017 as Deputy Chief Medical Officer (England) and stood down in March 2022. He has played a key role in dealing with several national incidents including the Novichok attacks, Monkey Pox, MERS and Ebola. However, he is most well-known for his leadership role during the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly the acquisition and rollout of vaccines and antiviral drugs. Proud of his Vietnamese heritage, he has reluctantly acquired public recognition for his direct and no-nonsense communication style at the podium of No.10 Downing Street. He is a Non-Executive Director on the NHS Lincolnshire Integrated Care Board.



Abstract: The SARS-Cov-2 pandemic, that is still underway, has represented the biggest public health infectious diseases crisis in a generation. Given, the ever-closer interaction between the agency of humans and the animal kingdom, it is inevitable that there will be more similar crises in the years to come. I will tell the story of the main ways in which humans have begun to control this virus and limit its consequences, drawing mainly on the UK experience. I will reflect on the some of the major decision-making and leadership challenges that have presented themselves to the government system during this difficult chapter, and on some personal angles related to leadership in a crisis and public prominence.

About the event: Professor Jonathan Van-Tam has recently agreed to serve as the [Honorary Chair of the Vietnamese Intellectual Society in the UK and Ireland](#). In order to mark the occasion and to celebrate the success of his role as the Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Professor Jonathan Van-Tam will deliver an inaugural lecture to the society and its guests on the 6th of May 2022.



Tentative Programme

13:30 – 14:00	Register and welcome coffee/tea
14:00 – 14:05	Welcome and Introduction by Professor Huan Xuan Nguyen , Chair of VIS UK & Ireland)
14:05 – 14:10	Opening speech by the Ambassador of Vietnam, H.E Mr Nguyen Hoang Long
14:10 – 14:15	Opening speech by Professor Mary Stiasny OBE, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of London
14:15 – 15:30	Lecture by Professor Sir Jonathan Van-Tam : “Reflections on Leading Through The COVID-19 Pandemic”
15:30 – 17:00	Q&A, networking, and refreshment
17:00 – 18:00	In-person meeting for VIS members at the venue
18:00 onwards	An informal evening gathering outside of the venue for VIS members and other participants (optional)