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**Principal Investigator**

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**Brief Biography**

Alexandra Butler obtained her MBBS degree from the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in the UK in 1984.

Her postgraduate internship training took place in Newcastle teaching hospitals, after which she was appointed to a training post in the Public Health Laboratory Service in the UK.

In 1987, she moved to the USA, where she undertook residency training in Pathology at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota.

Following further clinical training at the Edinburgh & Lothians Health Care Trust in Scotland,

she moved to Los Angeles, USA, in 2000 to pursue diabetes research, first at the University of Southern California and subsequently at the University of California Los Angeles where she served as Professor of Medicine/Endocrinology for 16 years.

Prof Alexandra Butler’s research has focused on pancreatic islet biology as it relates to the study of Type 1 and Type 2 diabetes.Though a number ofher studies have been performed in animal models, her work has consistently focused on the translation and relevance of those findings to human disease. Her seminal paper, cited over 3,900 times, established that the loss of beta cell mass in humans with Type 2 diabetes is due to beta cell apoptosis and this remains the most highly cited paper in the field of diabetes.

Dr. Butler is focused upon translational diabetes research, her current interests encompassing characterization of the identity and function of induced pluripotent stem (iPS)/human embryonic stem (HES) cells directed towards a beta cell fate; testing an innovative encapsulation method for iPS/HES generated beta cells; and identification of novel biomarkers in type 2 diabetes, insulin resistance and gestational diabetes.