

## **Athol Wells**

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Athol Wells is a Professor of Respiratory Medicine, Senior Consultant and the Academic Lead of the Interstitial Lung Disease Unit at The Royal Brompton Hospital. He completed his undergraduate training at Otago University where he was awarded his M.D. with distinction. Following his undergraduate training, he trained as a postgraduate and later practised as a respiratory physician in New Zealand. From 1989 to 1994, he was a research fellow at the Royal Brompton Hospital.

Professor Wells has research interests in clinical and translational science focusing on computed tomography and pulmonary function tests, both in staging disease and in the examination of disease behaviour (for clinical purposes and in studies of pathogenesis). He was previously the chair of the British Thoracic Society guidelines for interstitial lung disease, a co-chair of the 2013 American Thoracic Society/European Respiratory Society (ATS/ERS) update of the classification of the idiopathic interstitial pneumonias, and a participant in a number of ATS/ERS expert groups. He created and developed the disease behaviour classification which was endorsed in the 2013 classification of the idiopathic interstitial pneumonias. He is the author/co-author of over **300** peer-reviewed articles and over 100 editorials, chapters and review articles. He currently serves on the editorial board of the *American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine*.

Professor Wells believes strongly in the need for an independent European voice in the field of interstitial lung disease (to complement international consensus initiatives) and has led/co-led four European perspectives in recent years. He is currently the chair of European consensus statements on idiopathic pulmonary fibrosis and on lung disease associated with connective tissue disease.