



# SUZANNE BARTINGTON

*Industry: Public Health and Academia*

## CURRENT ROLE

- Clinical Associate Professor & Honorary Consultant in Public Health
- Part-time Councillor in Local Government (6 years)

## EDUCATION & CAREER PATH

- **BA Hons in Medical & Veterinary Sciences** – University of Cambridge (3 years)
- **MSc in Modern Epidemiology** – Imperial College London (1 year)
- **Research Assistant** – University College London (1 year)
- **PhD in Infectious Disease Epidemiology** – University College London (3 years)
- **Career Break** – 1 year
- **Clinical Medicine Training** – University of Cambridge & University College London (4 years)
- **Foundation Doctor** – North Thames (2 years)
- Public Health Training Scheme – West Midlands (4 years)
- **Clinical Academic Career & Consultant Appointment** – University of Birmingham

## CAREER INSIGHTS AND REFLECTIONS

- "Overall, I really enjoy my clinical academic career. The science really motivates me, and I find satisfaction in advancing knowledge to benefit population health."
- "I enjoy working with a broad variety of individuals and organisations inside and outside academia, particularly in translating research findings into policy and practice."
- "Leading the Institute for Global Innovation Clean Air Theme at the University of Birmingham has been particularly rewarding, strengthening interdisciplinary expertise and securing funding for large-scale, multi-centre studies."

## HOW HER PATH DIFFERED FROM EXPECTATIONS

- "I never thought I would train in medicine—I originally started training as a vet!"
- "My undergraduate dissertation on BSE transmission in sheep sparked my interest in infectious disease epidemiology, leading me to pursue further study in epidemiology and eventually medicine."
- "It was a long journey to a clinical research career, requiring medical training, a PhD, and the Foundation Programme before specialising in public health."
- "Public health training has been a fantastic experience, offering diverse competency-based skills across local government, UKHSA, and NHS bodies."
- "After completing my Membership Examinations, I became a Consultant and secured a permanent Clinical Consultant role at the University of Birmingham."

## FUTURE PLANS

- "I am keen to gain further public health experience in local government."
- "There are a wide range of consultant appointments available both in the UK and overseas, and I am open to exploring these opportunities."

## ADVICE FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS (ECRS)

- ✓ Seek advice from a wide range of people – There is no single 'right' answer when making career decisions.
- ✓ Every role has trade-offs – Your dream job may not always be ideal in every situation.
- ✓ Don't be afraid to change – If something doesn't feel right, be open to new paths.
- ✓ Be patient – It may take time to get where you want to be, but persistence is worthwhile.
- ✓ Value your colleagues – You will remember the people you work with just as much as the work you do!