

Next Breath & WFF 2021

From Water to Air; Scientific Pathways towards a Clearer, Cleaner Future.

Michael Barer

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Talk Title — The beasts we breathe
out: studies on directly sampled
exhalations

"I have been astonished by the likely scale of our microbial exchange through the air revealed by sampling with face masks. Just breathing, let alone talking, singing, and shouting, releases thousands of organisms every minute from different parts of our respiratory systems. The beasts we breathe out spread infection, but do they influence our lives in other ways?"

Michael Barer

Mike Barer graduated in medicine and immunology from [University College London](#) then undertook postgraduate training at the [London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine](#) before taking up a faculty position at the [University of Newcastle upon Tyne](#). He moved to his present position in 2000. His current research concentrates on COVID-19, Tuberculosis and Microbiome studies. He has used both cough aerosol sampling and face masks to study exhaled microbes over the past ten years and his work is currently funded by the [UK Medical Research Council](#) and the [UK National Core Study on COVID transmission](#) ('PROTECT').

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