



The skills of our doctors and nurses are arguably the most influential things in London as they save lives. When you add to this the medical research taking place in the capital, and its role in healthcare worldwide, London's influence is remarkable. Here we reveal the names that matter.

THE TOP FIVE

Lord Darzi, 47

IMPERIAL COLLEGE, CHIEF OF SURGERY; HEALTH MINISTER

Tasked with mapping out the next decade of health reform. He's the man personally chosen by Gordon Brown to bring his vision of a modern NHS to the public. The focus includes turning GP practices into new "super surgeries". Has masqueraded as a hospital porter to confirm his belief that frontline staff were ignored and undervalued.

Sir Ian Kennedy, 65

HEALTHCARE COMMISSION, CHAIR

His job is to inspect every health facility in London. Former Health Secretary Alan Milburn once quipped that Sir Ian "runs the NHS". Trained as a lawyer, he turned the medical profession on its head with his report into children who had died during heart surgery, which exposed a secret and arrogant culture.

Lord Winston, 67

IMPERIAL COLLEGE, FERTILITY EXPERT AND BROADCASTER

A pioneer of in-vitro fertilisation who has become a household name presenting science and health programmes including Child of Our Time. Made a life peer in 1995, Baron Winston is a Labour whip, board member of the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology and an outspoken voice in the genetic engineering debate.

See also Society

THE 1000
LONDON'S MOST INFLUENTIAL PEOPLE 2007

Prof Sir Michael Rawlins, 66

NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CLINICAL EXCELLENCE (NICE), CHAIR

Has huge influence in approving what drugs NHS trusts spend their money on - which has caused much controversy, especially with cancer drugs and those for Alzheimer's. The clinical pharmacologist also chairs the Government's drugs advisory panel. Lives in Northumberland, where he is a keen golfer.

Niall Dickson, 53

KING'S FUND THINK-TANK, HEAD

A highly respected policy expert who has the ear of all major health bodies in London. The approachable Scot was formerly a BBC health correspondent and social affairs editor. Important King's Fund exposés have included the failure of the Government to ensure more accountability by foundation hospitals.

Alan Johnson, 57 SECRETARY OF STATE FOR HEALTH

Sharp-suited man of the people and former postman who hides his killer instinct with quiet charm. Once a union baron, now a Brownite footsoldier whose task is to ensure an election win off the back of NHS reform. Has criticised GPs for their "nine to five" attitude and taken on the drugs companies pricing scheme. Must establish his authority after a reluctant move from Education.

See also Politics

Dr Robert Lefever, 70

PROMIS RECOVERY CLINICS, FOUNDER

Pioneered the treatment of multi-addictions when other clinics were focusing on just alcohol and drugs. The staff he has trained over his 20-year career now pepper the industry. A medical doctor, Lefever started out as an opera singer.

Mr Hossam 'Sam' Abdalla, 55

LISTER HOSPITAL, CLINICAL DIRECTOR OF FERTILITY

This bespectacled medic runs one of Britain's largest fertility clinics and is an expert for the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA). His ground-breaking research saw the birth of Britain's first baby conceived from a donated embryo.

Prof Laurence Kirwan, 55

PLASTIC SURGEON

Regularly named in lists of the world's top cosmetic surgeons and is credited as the man who brought Botox to the UK. Has pioneered new techniques in hair transplants for women. Never talks about his clients.

Paul Dacre, 58

THE DAILY MAIL, EDITOR

No other editor has the influence Dacre does over the political process and that is feared by many in the NHS. Relentless in his harrying of the health service, proprietors of "Britain's Third World wards". Whitehall policy officials ask: "But how will it play with the Daily Mail?"

Gillian McKeith, 48

DIET GURU

The red-haired Scotswoman who presents You Are What You Eat has been dismissed as a quack by the profession. Dropped the title 'Dr' from her company's advertising after a complaint to the industry watchdog but her books and health food spinoffs sell in the thousands.

Dr Richard Horton, 45

THE LANCET, EDITOR

This former Royal Free Hospital doctor is not afraid to take controversial decisions which have put him in conflict with the Royal Society. An editorial supporting discredited medical expert Professor Sir Roy Meadow forced the General Medical Council to comment that it would not be swayed by the journal.

Prof Ian Gilmore, 60

ROYAL COLLEGE OF PHYSICIANS, PRESIDENT

Grey-haired expert on liver disease who has already made headlines calling on ministers to bring in a complete alcohol advertising ban. Has also been outspoken about the influence of the drinks lobby on Government policy. A consultant at the University of Liverpool, he was one of first experts to reveal the fact that children were needing treatment for alcohol abuse.

Dr Evan Harris, 41

LIB DEMOCRAT MP

This Oxford-educated politician was the Lib Dems' health spokesman but stood down to care for his sick girlfriend. Still has much influence through his work on numerous parliamentary groups. Harris is strongly pro-choice and has been highly criticised by pro-life and Church leaders for this and his support of euthanasia.

Greg Beales, 30

SPECIAL ADVISOR ON HEALTH TO THE PM

His appointment has been taken as an early sign that the Prime Minister may disappoint those who want him to roll back NHS reforms. Known as a champion of GP practicebased commissioning which indicates he will influence Brown to make greater use of the private sector.

Nick Timmins, 58

FINANCIAL TIMES, PUBLIC POLICY EDITOR

This hugely respected journalist has a formidable reputation as a commentator on the NHS. The author of *The Five Giants*: a biography of the welfare state, essential reading for any minister, Whitehall mandarin or member of the opposition. Known as an "extremely nice man"; envied for his forensic knowledge of his subject.

Dr Brian Gazzard, 61

CHELSEA AND WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL, AIDS CONSULTANT

As head of the hospital's HIV team, he is considered one of the country's leading experts on the treatment of the HIV virus. He was also the founding chair of the British HIV Association which has huge national influence in the care of patients living with HIV.

Peter Bradley, 49

LONDON AMBULANCE SERVICE, CEO

His blueprint for reform of the capital's ambulance services includes 200,000 fewer patients being taken to hospital and a move towards a more tailored approach. This highly regarded paramedic is also a key figure on London's emergency planning for terror attacks and helped mastermind the response to the 7/7 bombings.

Dr Keith Palmer, 60

BARTS, CHAIR

Former director at Rothschild bank Palmer has influenced reconfiguration in south east London as a nonexecutive at St Thomas'. He also helped Guys and St Thomas' to become a foundation trust, giving patients better choice and care. Chaired Action Health, a charity promoting public health in the developing world, for 10 years.

Prof Nick Bosanquet, 65

IMPERIAL COLLEGE, HEALTH POLICY

Has a reputation as a thorn in the Government's side through his links with the Reform pressure group. His report into the Darzi review concluded that it was not affordable and would end up damaging the capital's health service. Knows what is happening within the NHS.

Prof Roger Williams, 75

LIVER RESEARCH INSTITUTE UCL, DIRECTOR

A leading light in liver disease and helped boost its profile as the physician to footballer George Best, speaking (with permission) about the destructive nature of his patient's addiction, which eventually led to Best's death. His breakthroughs include developing a liver dialysis machine.

Ruth Carnall, 51

NHS LONDON, CEO

Has forced struggling trusts into financial balance and now plans a controversial redesign of London's health system. Worked as freelance consultant to Government departments and the NHS and awarded the CBE for her 25 years of service to the NHS in 2004.

Dr Jean-Pierre Garnier, 59

GLAXOSMITHKLINE, CEO

Britain's biggest drugs firm - No2 in the world - is based in Brentford and a major funder of research at Imperial College. The French-born boss describes himself as "no shrinking violet" and is prepared to go against the grain. Has weathered numerous controversies including an outcry over the pricing of HIV-Aids drugs, and called the animal rights lobby "despicable cowards".

David Marshall, 50

EXERCISE GURU

A lifelong West Ham fan, the "Bodydoctor" is physician to the stars of football, Westminster, stage and screen. Sophie Dahl lost two stones on his regime which includes diet, weight training, Pilates and yoga.

Dr Bill Moyes, 57

MONITOR, HEAD

As an independent regulator, he decides which hospitals can become foundation trusts and ensures they are financially strong. He was director general of the British Retail Consortium for three years. Has a PHD in chemistry and likes to wear bright shirts and ties.

Dame Carol Black, 67

ACADEMY OF ROYAL COLLEGES, HEAD

Former president of the Royal College of Physicians, she is now Government national director for Health and Work, overseeing new initiatives including supporting people with health conditions so they can return to work. Her unit at the Royal Free has become the major centre for clinical care and research in Europe.

Sir Jonathan Michael, 62

BT HEALTH, HEAD

Former CEO of Guys and St Thomas' and a kidney specialist responsible for developing the largest kidney unit in Britain. At BT, he is helping to mastermind the introduction of new technology within the NHS.

Paul Corrigan, 59

NHS LONDON, DIRECTOR, STRATEGY

Formerly health adviser to Tony Blair, now responsible for exposing weak NHS managers in London. Known as the quiet revolutionary, he made foundation hospitals a reality. Spent four years at the Department of Health as adviser to the former health secretary, Alan Milburn.

Dr Jane Collins, 52

GREAT ORMOND STREET HOSPITAL FOR CHILDREN, CEO

Heads the country's most influential children's hospital and is leading the fight for it to become a foundation trust. Signed the first agreement in the country for children and families to receive proper psychological support in areas such as play therapy and family support. Passionate about child health.

Jennette Arnold, 58

LONDON HEALTH COMMISSION, CHAIR

Ebullient former nurse and health visitor who advises the mayor on health policy for London, especially on some of the capital's most deprived communities. Is also vice chair of the London Cultural Consortium.

Prof Nadey Hakim, 49

HARLEY STREET KIDNEY TRANSPLANT EXPERT

Hakim is the man in charge of the West London Transplant Unit - one of the largest in Europe, performing more than 200 transplants a year. Made headlines by working on first hand transplant. An outspoken critic on waiting lists for kidney transplants and believes the sale of kidneys should be legalised in the UK.

Dr Duncan Dymond, 47

BARTS, CARDIAC CONSULTANT

Has the reputation of being the busiest heart surgeon in London, and was the first to use balloon technology in heart surgery in the UK. His expertise is using stents to open blocked or narrowed arteries. An eccentric - plays tennis with a knife between his teeth and writes poetry between operations.

Zoe Penn, 48

WOMEN'S AND CHILDREN'S SERVICES AT CHELSEA AND WESTMINSTER HOSPITAL, CLINICAL DIRECTOR

Cherie Blair's obstetrician for Leo who headed the King's Fund inquiry into maternity service safety. A mother of three and Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and gynaecologists.

Geoff Martin, 44

LONDON HEALTH EMERGENCY

Relentless campaigner against NHS cuts, this tough-talking Londoner is a serious irritant to the Department of Health. Has a key role in running the patients' watchdog which has exposed such scandals as patients dying in the capital because of cuts in ambulance services.

Prof Karol Sikora, 51

IMPERIAL COLLEGE, PROFESSOR OF CANCER MEDICINE

The rock-climbing Cambridge graduate with Polish heritage is the leading authority on cancer. He advised on the creation of the London Cancer Group and a new international centre for care, teaching and research. He has influenced Government policy for more patient-centred holistic care.

Professor Chris Thompson, 55

PRIORY HEALTHCARE SERVICES, DIRECTOR

Responsible for ensuring the Priory remains the top provider of mental health services in Britain for NHS patients, not just "tired" celebrities. Trained at the Institute of Psychiatry and author of a huge number of papers on depression.

David Mobbs, 46

NUFFIELD HOSPITALS, CEO

Heads up Britain's largest independent hospital group -44 with 1,700 beds. Last year, it had a £21.5m operating surplus. Nuffield came under the MP scrutiny for legally receiving millions in tax breaks under charity laws.

Prof Anne Greenough, 52

KINGS COLLEGE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, HEAD

Has ultimate responsibility for much of the breakthrough research work in the city. Her expertise includes factors affecting fetal lung growth and neonatal respiratory problems. Wanted to be a paediatrician from the age of four because "[children] can't help themselves".

Dr Hamish Meldrum, 59

BMA, CHAIR

The key figure on the British Medical Association's negotiation team for the new GPs contract. Secured an opt out on providing outofhours care. Meldrum represents the views of 139,000 members.

Robert Naylor, 57

UCL HOSPITAL, CEO

Most vocal and influential of the London teaching hospital trusts. Spent 15 years as chief executive of Birmingham Heartlands and Solihull NHS Trust. Naylor helped lead the development of the new University College Hospital, the largest single building project ever in the NHS.

Dr Wyn Davies, 54

ST MARY'S, CONSULTANT CARDIOLOGIST

Pioneered the robotic arm to carry out life-saving heart procedures. Operated on Blair - who had the procedure, done by hand, at Hammersmith Hospital. Leads a centre of excellence to monitor abnormal heart rhythms, at St Mary's.

Dr Tom Stuttaford, 76 THE TIMES, COLUMNIST

From premature ejaculation to the menopause, Stuttaford's wise words are the source of reassurance for readers. His approach is candid, not judgmental. He has served on the Commons Science Committee.

Malcolm Stamp, 55

LONDON PROVIDER AGENCY, CEO

Performance tsar alongside former health minister Lord Warner. He assesses NHS trusts and their finances. Has over 30 years' experience working in the health service.

Dr Tony Stanton, 67, Dr Stewart Drage, 50

LONDON MEDICAL COMMITTEE, JOINT CEOS

Represent over 5,000 London GPs and are key negotiators on pay and conditions. Unafraid of confrontation, whether with Ken Livingstone over the MMR or the Dept of Health over ambulance cost. Dogged campaign for funds for more NHS hospitals.

Dr Anthony Chow, 41

UCL HOSPITAL, CARDIAC CONSULTANT

The world leader in electro physiology - the treatment of heart rhythm problems. He has made surgery safer and developed specialised pace makers for heart failure.

Dr David Gillan, 39

PFIZER, MEDICAL DIRECTOR

Hugely influential in decisions by Nice on what drugs should be made available on NHS. Pfizer is the largest supplier of pharmaceutical drugs to the NHS and has used that position to influence policy. Gillan, who spent seven years in the NHS, has also led the stand on Alzheimer drugs.

UP AND COMING

Mr Peter Butler, 45

ROYAL FREE, CONSULTANT PLASTIC SURGEON

A self-confessed maverick and "outsider", Butler is expected to carry out the world's first full face transplant at the Royal Free Hospital despite massive opposition from the medical profession. The procedure could help thousands of people win back their lives.

Mr Richard Smith, 47

HAMMERSMITH HOSPITAL, GYNAECOLOGIST

The twinkly-eyed Scot specialises in fertility-sparing surgery for young women with cancer, and surgery to allow IVF clients with abnormal uteri to conceive. Has battled the medical profession to get approval for his ground-breaking work in womb transplantation.

Dr Nish Joshi, 41

OSTEOPATH, METABOLIC DETOX GURU

Britain's leading holistic health practitioner and "the super-immunity man to the stars", he is credited with everything from relieving aches and pains to helping Gwyneth Paltrow find love. Helped Princess Diana through her bulimia.

Tom Hughes Hallett, 52

MARIE CURIE, HEAD

Former banker who trained as a barrister has had a big influence on Government thinking about end of life care with his desire for cancer patients to be allowed to die at home. His only regret is not making the move from the City to cancer care sooner.

Andrew Lansley, 50

TORY MP, SHADOW HEALTH SECRETARY

Son of a medical laboratory scientist, Lansley is regarded as the brain behind John Major's 1992 electoral success. Regarded as highly intelligent and well-informed by those in Westminster. He has already made life uncomfortable for Health Secretary Alan Johnson.

Do you agree with the list above? Who else deserves to be included? Use the reader comments form below to nominate your own influential person and tell us what you think.