

Lee Innes (Brief Biography 2025)

Lee has an honours degree in Immunology from the University of Glasgow and a PhD in Tropical Animal Health from the University of Edinburgh. Her research interests have involved developing solutions to control infectious diseases of livestock, mainly through vaccine development. She has worked at the Equine Research Station in Newmarket; the Animal Breeding Research Association in Edinburgh; the Institute, Agronomique et Veterinaire in Rabat, Morocco and the International Laboratory for Research on Animal Diseases in Nairobi, Kenya. She continued her research on protozoan parasites at Moredun and became very interested in One Health approaches to tackling zoonotic pathogens transmitted between animals and people.

Following a sabbatical year spent in Hong Kong, 2002-2003, where she studied journalism and photography, Lee became more interested in science communication and education. Lee took up a new post as Director of Communication at Moredun in 2008, although still retaining her research interests. Lee developed many new communications activities and events with the Moredun Foundation to engage people within the farming industry, government and policy and with the public at science festivals and school events. She has won competitive funding for public engagement projects and established collaborations with artists, film makers and podcasters to increase the reach and accessibility of Moredun's work.

She was awarded an MBE in the New Years Honours in 2015 for services to scientific research and science communication and also holds Honorary Professorships at Heriot Watt University, University of Edinburgh and University of Glasgow. Lee received an award for outstanding contribution to knowledge exchange at the Scottish Knowledge Exchange Awards in 2017, was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2017 and an Associate of the Royal Agricultural Societies in 2019.

More recently, Lee successfully negotiated with the NHS and SRUC to set up testing of Covid samples during the pandemic to support the NHS and this was the first veterinary facility to do so showing the power of a One Health approach. To celebrate Moredun's centenary in 2020, Lee led a team to design, fund and deliver a new Moredun Mobile Laboratory and outreach bus to conduct field research, outreach and education activities for the Moredun Foundation and she worked with Simon Cousens to produce the Moredun Centenary film.

Equine Grass Sickness Fund Committee: Lee has developed several new projects with the Equine Grass Sickness Fund including the new Biobank of samples for research and the Research Fellowship project. She has also worked to deliver the Crucible event to generate new research ideas and approaches.

Lee has greatly enjoyed the wonderful opportunities she has had working at Moredun and with such inspiring and talented colleagues, in particular the fantastic Communications team!