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Prof. Dot Bennett is Professor of Cell Biology and (from 2016), Director of the Cardiovascular and Cell Sciences Research Institute at St George's, University of London. She has been interested throughout her career in cancer cells and their common differences from normal cells, especially cell immortality. Her early career research in London and California was on stem cells in the breast and breast cancer. She has worked on the genetics of pigmentation and its disorders, using cultured immortalized normal and mutant melanocytes, and has co-authored a book on this subject.

However her group's current and strongest interests are in cell senescence, a major mechanism for tumour suppression, especially in relation to cutaneous melanoma progression where senescence is highly relevant and well-studied. A number of melanoma susceptibility genes encode regulators of cell senescence. The group studies how common mutations enable cancer cells to escape from senescence and immortalize; and now also the role of cell senescence in skin ageing. They enjoy working with many others, locally and around the world, on these topics.

Prof. Bennett is President of ICSA, the International Cell Senescence Association, and Past President of the IFPCS (International Federation of Pigment Cell Societies). She has received three international awards for her group's research.

Web: <http://www.sgul.ac.uk/research-profiles-a-z/dorothy-bennett>