



# Defeating Pandemic Viruses

## Professor Ravindra Gupta

**6.30pm – 8.30pm Thursday 27 April 2023, Blake Studio, Norwich School**

*Tickets £15, discounted to £12.50 for all purchases completed by Tuesday 28 February, £10 for senior citizens and £5 for sixth formers and teachers accompanying them. A small additional charge is made to cover transaction costs through Ticket Tailor. To purchase tickets visit <https://norfolkcambridgesociety.org.uk>*

Over the past three years, the speed with which highly infectious strains of pathogenic viruses can be transmitted across the modern world and the difficulty of identifying and isolating cases before they infect others, has been amply demonstrated by Covid-19. In spite of the immense sophistication of modern medicine, communications and production systems, the disease has caused the deaths and long-term illness of many millions of people worldwide. Nevertheless without modern medicine and systems, the toll would have been far, far higher. Vaccines were developed at astonishing and unprecedented speed, citizens of most countries were persuaded or forced to comply with draconian lockdowns and the medical profession across the world responded with extraordinary commitment and sacrifice.



However, mistakes inevitably were made because the disease was new and the learning curve for all exceptionally steep. It is essential that these lessons are fully absorbed by both politicians and citizens across the world and are cemented into future international and national structures and processes. New viruses will inevitably arise which may be even more deadly. This is a unique opportunity to hear the views of one of the world's leading infectious disease researchers on what needs to be done.

**Professor Ravindra Gupta** MA, MPH, BMBCh, PhD, FRCP, FRCPATH, FMedSci, was named as one of the 100 most influential people in the world by TIME Magazine in 2020 and appeared frequently on television during the Covid crisis. He made major contributions to the fight against COVID-19, reporting the first genotypic-phenotypic evidence for immune escape of SARS-CoV-2 within an individual and defining the biological basis for the immune escape and transmissibility advantage of the Delta variant. He has been Professor of Clinical Microbiology at the Cambridge Institute for Therapeutic Immunology and Infectious Diseases since 2019. Having completed his medical undergraduate studies at Cambridge and Oxford Universities, he pursued a Masters in Public Health at Harvard as a Fulbright scholar. He has worked extensively in HIV drug resistance, both at molecular and population levels, and his work demonstrating escalating global resistance led to change in WHO treatment guidelines for HIV. Whilst Professor at UCL, he led the team demonstrating HIV cure in the 'London Patient' – the world's only living HIV cure, and the second recorded in history (Gupta et al, Nature 2019).

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