

## Thomas Kirkwood

Associate Dean for Ageing, Institute for Ageing and Health,  
Newcastle University



**Professor of medicine and biologist, Director of the Institute for Aging and Health (IAH), Newcastle University (United Kingdom), Co-holder of the AXA-Paris Descartes Chair in “A systems approach to individual differences in longevity”**

Pr. Thomas Kirkwood is a graduate of Oxford and Cambridge in the fields of biology and mathematics. A former researcher at the National Institute for Medical Research, in 1993 he became professor of biological gerontology at the University of Manchester. He is currently director of the Institute for Aging and Health at Newcastle University.

### Specific fields of interest and expertise

Pr. Kirkwood's work is primarily focused on the evolution and molecular genetics of aging, age-related diseases and the establishment of a bio-mathematical model of cellular senescence. In particular, he developed the theory of disposable soma whose central precept is that animals evolved to sacrifice the potential for indefinite longevity in favour of enhancing their reproductive capacity. Pr. Thomas Kirkwood has served as Advisor to the British Parliament and European President (Biology) of the International Association of Gerontology. He is a member of the Editorial Boards of numerous scientific journals.

### Selected Publications

**"Systems biology of ageing and longevity",**  
Phil. Trans. R. Soc. B – January 2011



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**"Why can't we live forever?",**  
Scientific American – September 2010.



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**"A systematic look at an old problem",**  
Nature – February 2008.



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**"The mental wealth of nations",**  
Nature - October 2008 (Collective)



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**"Understanding ageing from an evolutionary perspective",**  
J Intern Med – 2008.



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**All the publications of Professor Thomas Kirkwood:**

**<http://www.ncl.ac.uk/iah/research/publications/staff/tom.kirkwood>**

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