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Professor Emery is Arthritis Research Campaign Professor of Rheumatology and Head of the Academic Unit of Musculoskeletal Medicine at the University of Leeds. He is also Clinical Director (Rheumatology) at the Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust in the UK.

Professor Emery graduated in medicine from the University of Cambridge and completed specialist accreditation in internal medicine and rheumatology. He completed his thesis on the immunopathology of rheumatoid arthritis at Guy's Hospital, and then served as Head of Rheumatology at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute in Melbourne, Australia. He was senior lecturer in rheumatology at the University of Birmingham, UK from 1987 to 1995.

Professor Emery has served as a member of several education committees including the Senior Advisory Committees of the Royal College of Physicians, the MRCP Part 1 Board. He is currently the Treasurer for European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR), a past member of the Scientific Committee and he also Chairs the Magnetic Resonance Imaging group. He has served on the editorial boards of several journals, including Rheumatology, Arthritis and Rheumatism, Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases, Clinical and Experimental Rheumatology, Clinical Rheumatology and Modern Rheumatology (Japanese Rheumatology Association Journal).

He is a recipient of the Roche Biennial Award for Clinical Rheumatology, the Rheumatology Hospital Doctor of the Year in 1999 and the EULAR prize in 2002 for outstanding contribution to rheumatology research.

Professor Emery's research interests centre around the immunopathogenesis and immunotherapy of rheumatoid arthritis and connective tissue diseases. He has a special interest in the factors leading to persistent inflammation and is a founder member of the Early Rheumatoid Arthritis Study (ERAS), LEAP (Leeds Early Arthritis Project), YEAR (Yorkshire Early Arthritis Register) and the Leeds Musculoskeletal Imaging Group. He has published over 450 peer reviewed articles.