Samira Lakhal-Littleton

Samira Lakhal-Littleton is Professor of Cell Physiology. She is also tutorial fellow in Medicine at Brasenose College Oxford, where she leads teaching of Preclinical Medicine. Samira completed her DPhil at the University of Oxford in 2007, then she joined the laboratory of Prof Sir Peter Ratcliffe as a postdoctoral researcher, where she discovered molecular intersections between iron homeostasis and hypoxia signalling. She then developed a more specialist interest in iron within cardiomyocytes, and went on to secure a BHF Intermediate Research Fellowship in 2013. Between 2013 and 2020, her laboratory established the mechanisms and physiological importance of local iron homeostasis in the heart, kidney, fetal liver and pulmonary vasculature. In 2020, she secured an MRC Senior Research Fellowship, which she is using to translate her discoveries into the clinic. Recent notable discoveries include demonstration that intravenous iron therapies deliver iron directly to the heart (Eur Heart J, 2024). Samira has received many awards including the International BioIron Society's Gunshin Levy Award and the Physiological Society's Bayliss Starling Prize Lecture. She is member of the Royal Society Biological Sciences Board, MRC Experimental Medicine Board, and the BHF Clinical Fellowships panel.