Professor Magdalena Zernicka-Goetz carried out PhD work at Warsaw University and the University of Oxford (1989-1994) and post-doctoral studies at the University of Cambridge (1995-1997). In 1997 she began her independent research programme at the University of Cambridge with a major focus on understanding the mechanisms of cell fate and plasticity in mammalian development and self-organisation of stemcells. Recently her group established the first platform allowing mouse and human embryo development through the time of implantation in a dish. She has published more than 100 papers, including articles in Nature, Nature Cell Biology, Nature Communications, Cell, Developmental Cell, Cell Reports. Magdalena's work has been recognised by election to Membership of EMBO and Fellowship of the Academy of Medical Sciences.