Prof Barnes is a neurologist and rehabilitation physician and cannabis physician. He was the first to prescribe cannabis in the UK for a little boy with resistant epilepsy - Alfie Dingley. He then campaigned for a law change and the campaign, with Hannah Deacon, Alfie's mother, was successful and the UK law changed in November 2018 to allow doctors to prescribe cannabis. He set up the UK Medical Cannabis Clinicians Society and more recently the Cannabis Industry Council which represents over 100 UK companies and other entities and lobbies for greater awareness and better legislation for cannabis medicine and hemp. He now is a director of the Maple Tree Medical Cannabis Consultancy and Chief Medical Officer of the UK Twenty 21 project run by Drug Science.