

RCPATH and SHOT Advances in Transfusion Symposium – 20th and 21st Nov Chair & Speaker Biographies

Day 1 Wednesday 20 November 2024

9.30 Welcome – Dr Bernie Croal, President, Royal College of Pathologists



Dr Bernie Croal

Dr Bernie Croal is the current President of the Royal College of Pathologists. He is a Consultant Chemical Pathologist working in Aberdeen, specialising in intravenous nutritional support. He has spent a long career in various leadership roles within NHS Scotland, including clinical director and regional lead for pathology, NHS Scotland demand optimisation lead and chair of the Scottish Clinical Biochemistry Network. He is also a past President of the Association for Laboratory Medicine (known as LabMed) and is a fellow of the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, Physicians of Edinburgh, Academy of Healthcare Science and the Institute of Biomedical Science.

Session 1:

Clinical transfusion challenges Chairs: Professor Cheng-Hock Toh and Dr Shubha Allard

9.35 Tackling blood shortages – Dr Lise Estcourt

11.05 Open questions

9.55 Haematology and transfusion challenges – Dr Katie Hands

11.15 Break

10.25 Perioperative patient blood management – Dr Samantha Warnakulasuriya

10.45 Hospital cyberattack challenges – Dr Sue Robinson



Prof Cheng-Hock Toh

Professor Cheng-Hock Toh is Chair of the National Blood Transfusion Committee. He has extensive experience across clinical, academic, educational, entrepreneurial and professional leadership domains in haematology and medicine. He was elected Academic vice president of the Royal College of Physicians (2018-2021) and President of the British Society for Haematology (2018-2020). He has also been Chair of the NIHR Clinical Research Network in Haematology, Chair of the European Hematology Association (EHA) Curriculum Committee and Chair of the International Society on Haemostasis and Thrombosis (ISTH) Scientific and Standardization Sub-Committee in disseminated intravascular coagulation. In 2023, he drew upon years of pioneering research into haemostatic dysfunction in sepsis to propose a new “convergent” model of coagulation, which was published in *Blood* – the highest impact factor journal in haematology.



Dr Shubha Allard

Dr Shubha Allard is Consultant Haematologist at NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT). Clinical Adviser for Transfusion 2024 plan and Transfusion Transformation for NHSBT and National Blood Transfusion Committee (NBTC). Actively promoting education, guidelines/standards and patient involvement in Transfusion Medicine via several previous and current roles. These include RCPATH Clinical Director Publishing and Engagement, NHSBT Clinical Tutor and Clinical Lead Patient Blood Management, NBTC Secretary, past chair of BSH Guidelines Committee, past ISBT Regional Director and ongoing Steering Group member of the UK Serious Hazards of Transfusion Haemovigilance Scheme. Now appointed RCPATH co-opted Trustee in 2024.



Dr Lise Estcourt

Lise Estcourt is the Medical Director for Transfusion and a Consultant in Haematology and Transfusion Medicine at NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT), and Associate Professor in Haematology and Transfusion Medicine at the University of Oxford. Clinical Lead for the Systematic Reviews Initiative and Director of NHSBT Clinical Trials Unit. Co-ordinating editor of Cochrane Haematology and an editor of the journal Transfusion Medicine and has authored/co-authored more than 150 papers in peer-reviewed journals. She led the convalescent plasma transfusion trials on behalf of NHSBT (transfusion aspects of RECOVERY and REMAP-CAP trials) with Professor David Roberts. Her other interests include: the safe and appropriate use of blood components; alternatives to blood transfusion; risk factors for bleeding in haematology patients; and systematic reviews.



Dr Katie Hands

Dr Katie Hands is a Consultant Haematologist and Associate Medical Director with the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service. She studied medicine at the University of Dundee and later undertook a PhD at the College of Life Sciences, University of Dundee during her haematology training. She is based at Ninewells Hospital in Dundee, where she is lead Consultant for Blood Transfusion. Katie also has a number of national roles with SNBTS, providing clinical input to blood supply chain management and resilience planning, and clinical leadership for SNBTS blood banks. She is keen to promote evidence-based transfusion practice and is currently deputy chair of the British Society for Haematology Transfusion Task Force. Katie is involved in the planning and delivery of SNBTS transfusion training for haematology registrars and is an examiner with the RCPATH.



Dr Sam Warnakulasuriya

Dr Samantha Warnakulasuriya is a Consultant in Anaesthesia and Perioperative Medicine at University College London Hospital specialising in orthopaedic, bariatric and major cancer surgery. She is the Quality Improvement Lead for the Royal College of Anaesthetists. Following completion of training in Anaesthesia in South East Scotland she joined the Perioperative Quality Improvement Programme (PQIP) Project Team as a Health Services Research Centre Fellow at the RCOA. Her research interests are in high-risk surgery, guideline implementation and perioperative patient blood management. She has ongoing research collaborations with the Centre for Perioperative Medicine at University College London and the NIHR Blood and Transplant Research Unit (BTRU) in data driven transfusion practice, where she is a co-lead for work package 3.



Dr Susan Robinson

Dr Susan Robinson graduated from King's College London and became a consultant at the Guy's and St Thomas Hospital (GSTT) in 2010, where she is now the GSTT pathology lead, clinical director haematology, haemostasis, cellular pathology, oncology & haematology clinical trials and clinical lead in obstetric haematology and transfusion medicine. Wider roles include clinical lead for the sustainability and transformation partnership South East London Pathology Programme, NICE Transfusion guideline group, Quality Standards and British Society for Haematology Transfusion Task Force. She helps improve blood for patients (UK Blood Services' Standing Advisory Committee on Blood Components) and analyses adverse outcomes, providing recommendations (National haemovigilance scheme: SHOT).

Day 1 Wednesday 20 November 2024

Session 2- Evidence based transfusion Chairs: Professor Dave Roberts and Dr Shruthi Narayan

- 11.25 Obstetric transfusion – Dr Sue Pavord
- 11.45 Trauma– Professor Laura Green
- 12.05 Paediatrics – Dr Anne Kelly Education resources
- 12.30 Transfusion hub – Jill Caulfield
- 12.40 Pathology Portal – Dr Sarah Wheeldon
- 12.50 Transfusion and sustainability – Dr Stephen Hibbs
- 13.00 Percy Oliver Award
- 13.15 Close

Prof Dave Roberts

Prof Dave Roberts Photo and biography awaited



Dr Shruthi Narayan

Dr Shruthi Narayan is the Medical Director of Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT, UK). It is the independent, professionally led haemovigilance scheme covering the whole of UK. Additionally, she has a role as a Donor Consultant at NHS Blood and Transplant. Shruthi also chairs the Royal College of Pathologists Transfusion Specialty Advisory Committee, is a member of the leadership team of International Society of Blood Transfusion Haemovigilance Working Party and is the current President of the International Haemovigilance Network. Shruthi is passionate about improving transfusion safety, is actively involved in transfusion education and improvement initiatives.



Dr Sue Pavord

Sue Pavord is President of the British Society for Haematology and consultant hematologist and honorary senior lecturer at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. She specializes in all areas of medical haematology, including anaemia and iron management, immunohaematology and transfusion medicine. She has a background in haemostasis and thrombosis and was Director of the Leicester Comprehensive Care Haemophilia Centre in 2004-2014. Pioneer in Obstetric Haematology, having helped shape this as a formal subspecialty through research and education over 25 years. Additionally, she has established services for the management of iron deficiency to enhance health and wellbeing and reduce avoidable transfusion. During the pandemic she secured novel treatment pathways for patients with immune haematology conditions and through the vaccination roll-out, chaired the UK expert haematology panel, defining the clinical features of VITT as a new syndrome. She was awarded national clinical practitioner in the 2020 Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnerships. She has over 200 publications in haematology, including the leading textbook in obstetric haematology.



Dr Laura Green

Laura is Professor of Haemostasis and Transfusion Medicine at Queen Mary University of London and a Consultant Haematologist at NHS Blood and Transplant and Barts Health NHS Trust. She leads clinical research in haemostasis and blood transfusion with a focus on improving the evidence on the appropriate use of blood components for the treatment of a range of bleeding disorders (trauma, cardiac surgery etc.) and developing new blood components and products that can improve the management of bleeding. She has led several national studies that have made significant impact on management of patients who are bleeding. Laura is a recipient British Blood Transfusion Society's Kenneth Goldsmith Award (2024), Royal College of Pathologist Achievement Award (2021) and NIHR/British Society for Haematology Researcher of the Year (2018).



Dr Anne Kelly

Dr Anne Kelly is a Consultant Paediatric Haematologist at Great Ormond Street Hospital where her main clinical expertise is in Paediatric Haemostasis and thrombosis and Transfusion. She is clinical co-director for the Great Ormond Street Haematology Laboratory. Prior to this role she was a Consultant Paediatric Haematologist at Addenbrookes' Hospital in Cambridge. Since 2018 she has held an honorary teaching role within the University of Cambridge (currently Affiliated Assistant Professor). Her national roles include co-author of SHOT paediatric chapter, RCPCH representative on UK National Transfusion committee. She is an Associate Editor of Archives of Disease in Childhood. Her PhD in Transfusion Medicine was completed at the University of Cambridge in 2015.



Jill Caulfield

Jill has been a Biomedical Scientist for over 20 years and was previously a Blood Transfusion Laboratory manager for 3 sites in the North-East of England, until 2021, when she moved across to NHSBT to take on the role of Lead Specialist for the Blood Stocks Management Scheme. She has recently started her new role, following a brief secondment, as Education development lead for Transfusion 2024, a role targeted towards reviewing and improving scientific training and education to support our scientific workforce and increase transfusion laboratory safety. She sits on the IBMS Specialist Advisory Panel for Transfusion Science, where she holds the role of Chief examiner for the Higher Specialist Diploma as well as being the IBMS representative for the UK Transfusion Laboratory Collaborative.



Dr Sarah Wheeldon

Dr Sarah Wheeldon is an ST7 Haematology Specialty Training Registrar in Exeter, Peninsula Deanery. In 2023/2024 Sarah held a one-year post with NHSBT as a Transfusion Education Fellow, responsible for populating the RCPATH Pathology Portal. Her main interests include transfusion, general and liaison haematology, and medical education.



Dr Stephen Hibbs

Dr Stephen Hibbs is a Wellcome-funded doctoral research fellow at Queen Mary University of London, focusing on improving care for underrepresented populations, and he works as a haematology registrar at St Bartholomew's Hospital. His doctoral research aims to illuminate constitutes good sickle cell crisis care, and how to achieve this. He worked with others to complete a life cycle assessment of the carbon footprint of red blood cell transfusions in England. He is interested in how methods of carbon emissions measurement might be extended to other blood providers, other blood products, and other practices across haematology and pathology – especially where they can generate change.

Day 2 Thursday 21 November

Session 1- Transfusion safety – Chairs: Dr Subarna Chakravorty and Vivienne Parry OBE

9.30 The patient's perspective – Vivienne Parry OBE

9.40 Lessons from the Infected Blood Enquiry – Dr Su Brailsford

10.00 SHOT update – Dr Shruthi Narayan

10.20 Learning from haemophilia – Professor Mike Makris

10.40 RCPATH Cameron Lecture: Advances in haemoglobinopathy – Dr Farrukh Shah MBE

11.00 Open questions

11.10 Break



**Dr Subarna
Chakravorty**

Dr Subarna Chakravorty is a Paediatric Haematologist with an interest in non-malignant blood disorders of childhood, including sickle cell and thalassaemia; rare anaemia and bone marrow failure syndromes. Since 2021, she has been involved in bone marrow transplantation in adults with sickle cell disease at King's College Hospital. She is currently serving as the National Specialty Adviser and chair of the Clinical Reference Group for Haemoglobinopathy in NHS England. She is also the clinical lead for the Sickle Cell Centre of Excellence project in King's Health Partner's Haematology. She led the UK Haemoglobinopathy Peer Reviews from 2018-2020. Subarna is an elected trustee of the British Society for Haematology and the UK Forum on Haemoglobin Disorders. Subarna is interested in clinical and molecular research in sickle cell disease and regularly publishes on these topics.



Vivienne Parry

Ms Vivienne Parry is a science writer, broadcaster and facilitator. She also has a part-time role as Head of Public Engagement at Genomics England. In the past, Vivienne has presented Tomorrow's World for BBC television, made hundreds of programmes for Radio 4 and been a columnist for The Times, The Guardian and the News of the World. In other lives, she was a board member of the Medical Research Council and then of UK Research and Innovation. Vivienne was vice chair of University College London's Council. She currently hosts major events, trains early career academics and makes podcasts. Vivienne was a member of the Organ Donor Taskforce and, like so many people in the UK, her life has been saved by a blood transfusion.



Dr Su Brailsford

Doctor Su Brailsford was appointed to the post of Consultant in Epidemiology and Health Protection at NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) following public health training in London; she is currently the interim Clinical Director for Microbiology and Public Health. She has a PhD in microbiology and is a Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health. Su has an honorary appointment at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) where she leads the joint NHSBT/UKHSA Epidemiology Unit, which runs several surveillance programmes providing data on infections in donors and recipients. She is a member of the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs, the Department of Health and Social Care Expert Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs, and is an honorary professor at the University of Nottingham.



Dr Shruthi Narayan

Dr Shruthi Narayan is the Medical Director of Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT, UK). It is the independent, professionally led haemovigilance scheme covering the whole of UK. Additionally, she has a role as a Donor Consultant at NHS Blood and Transplant. Shruthi also chairs the Royal College of Pathologists Transfusion Specialty Advisory Committee, is a member of the leadership team of International Society of Blood Transfusion Haemovigilance Working Party and is the current President of the International Haemovigilance Network. Shruthi is passionate about improving transfusion safety, is actively involved in transfusion education and improvement initiatives.



Prof Mike Makris

Prof Michael Makris is an Emeritus Professor of Haemostasis and Thrombosis at the University of Sheffield in the UK. He is a past president of the European Association for Haemophilia and Allied Disorders (EAHAD). He is the project lead for the EUHASS bleeding disorder adverse event reporting scheme in Europe. He is Editor-in-Chief of the journal of Research and Practice in Thrombosis and Haemostasis and is on the Editorial Board of the *British Journal of Haematology*, *Journal of Thrombosis and Haemostasis*, *Seminars in Thrombosis and Haemostasis*, and *Blood Transfusion*.

RCPATH Cameron Lecture 2024 to be given by Dr Farrukh Shah MBE

Sir Roy Cameron was the Founder President of the College of Pathologists. The College established the Cameron Lecture in his honour soon after its foundation. The lecture may be given on any pathology speciality and was first given in 1965 by Professor C L Oakley (Medical Microbiology) and given by Prof John Pasi in 2018.

This is part of a series of prestigious named College lectures including the Sir Dacie lecture (given annually at BSH)



Dr Farrukh Shah

Dr Farrukh Shah worked as a Consultant Haematologist at the Whittington Hospital NHS from 2004 to 2021 when she was appointed as Medical Director for Transfusion at NHS Blood and Transplant. She continued to provide clinical service as an honorary consultant at Whittington Hospital until 2024. She has joined as a consultant haematologist at Sheikh Khalifa Medical City, Abu Dhabi in April 2024.

Dr Shah has an active research programme and is currently involved in independent safety monitoring committees for the Mitapivat clinical trials and Pharmacosmos looking at a new iron chelation therapy. Dr Shah has published extensively in peer reviewed Journals as part of her research work. She is currently an associate editor for Hemoglobin.

Dr Shah has helped develop the UK national haemoglobinopathy service delivery framework as part of her role with the Clinical Reference Group of Haemoglobinopathies in the UK (since 2013) and as the Chair of the National Haemoglobinopathy Registry (NHR) since 2017. She has led the redevelopment of the NHR into a single patient record that provides data from multiple sources that impact a patient's care pathway. Dr Shah was the Chair of the UK Forum on haemoglobin Disorders (2019-2023) and prior to this was the treasurer (2012-2019) which is a multiprofessional organisation leading the UK peer review programme for haemoglobinopathies and advocating for improvements in patient care.

She was awarded the Medal of the British Empire (M.B.E) in 2023 for her services to patients living with sickle cell and thalassaemia.

Day 2 Thursday 21 November

Session 2 - Looking forward – Chairs: Dr Gail Miflin and Professor Dee Thiruchelvam

11.20 Transfusion transformation: a national strategy for England – Professor Cheng-Hock Toh

11.40 Towards a new transfusion practitioner framework – Jennifer Rock

11.50 Addressing transfusion laboratory challenges – Joanne Andrew, President, IBMS

Data driven transfusion practice:

12.10 International perspective – Dr Gustaf Edgren

12.30 UK perspective – Professor Simon Stanworth

12.50 Open questions 13.00 Close



Dr Gail Miflin

Gail is the Chief Medical Officer for NHSBT and is the Responsible Officer and Caldicott Guardian. In addition, as Director of Clinical Services, she is responsible for the delivery of R&D, Cell Apheresis and Gene Therapies and Pathology Services in the organisation. During the pandemic she also led the NHSBT Convalescent Plasma Project, as requested by the DHSC, and was a member of the DHSC Therapeutics Taskforce programme board. She is a member of the DHSC advisory body, SaBTO, the Joint Professional Advisory Committee to the UK Blood Services and the Scientific Research and Advisory Committee of the Canadian Blood Services. Gail is also a member of the Alliance of Blood Operators Chief Medical Officer group and sponsor for the UK Stem Cell Strategic Forum on behalf of the DHSC. Gail was responsible for NHSBT's response to the Infected Blood Inquiry. Prior to joining NHSBT in 2010 she was a Consultant Haematologist at UCLH Foundation Trust where she specialised in treating patients with sickle cell disease and thalassaemia.



Professor Dee Thiruchelvam

Professor Dee Thiruchelvam joined NHSBT in October 2023 as Chief Nursing Officer, a new Executive Board position for the organisation. She trained as a Nurse and Health Visitor at the University of Liverpool and then returned to London, where she specialised in accident and emergency, public health and health protection. She worked nationally for the NHS England Chief Nursing Officer on the PM priority 'Health Visitor Call to Action' programme, for which she was awarded a Fellowship to the Institute of Health Visiting. Between 2019 and 2023, she held the position of Executive Director of Nursing and Quality for CSH Surrey, where she was the Executive Lead for Quality, Patient Safety and Safeguarding. Dee also held concurrent posts as Executive Director of Quality for Children and Family Health Surrey and Executive Director for Quality and Governance at NW Surrey Alliance- 11 organisations across a local population. Dee is currently a Visiting Professor at the University of Surrey for nursing leadership.



Prof Cheng-Hock Toh

Professor Cheng-Hock Toh is Chair of the National Blood Transfusion Committee. He has extensive experience across clinical, academic, educational, entrepreneurial, and professional leadership domains in haematology and medicine. He was elected Academic vice president of the Royal College of Physicians (2018-2021) and President of the British Society for Haematology (2018-2020). He has also been Chair of the NIHR Clinical Research Network in Haematology, Chair of the European Hematology Association (EHA) Curriculum Committee and Chair of the International Society on Haemostasis and Thrombosis (ISTH) Scientific and Standardization Sub-Committee in disseminated intravascular coagulation. In 2023, he drew upon years of pioneering research into haemostatic dysfunction in sepsis to propose a new "convergent" model of coagulation, which was published in *Blood* – the highest impact factor journal in haematology.



Jennifer Rock

Jennifer Rock qualified as a state registered Biomedical Scientist in 2001 and has experience of working in haematology, coagulation and transfusion laboratories in Glasgow, Leicester, and Leeds. In 2013 Jennifer joined the Transfusion Practitioner team in Leeds to pursue clinical education. During her 10 years as a TP Jennifer gained a PgCert in Clinical Education from Leeds University. She is working with colleagues in hospitals, universities and NHSBT to develop education programmes that will support healthcare professionals responsible for providing transfusion care and support to patients in healthcare settings. Jennifer is currently collaborating with transfusion practitioners across England to create a nationally recognised professional development framework to support a resilient and skilled transfusion practitioner workforce.



Joanne Andrew

Joanne Andrew is currently the President of the IBMS. In addition, she is the network lead for Blood Sciences at the Scarborough, Hull, York Pathology Service, responsible for managing blood sciences across 4 hospitals. Her background is as a biomedical scientist in Biochemistry and she was a training officer for 11 years. She has worked in York for over 25 years and as a manager for the past 20 years so she has gained considerable experience of dealing with change and people. Her particular interest is in workforce and managing the challenges of ensuring well being and a positive culture in the workplace post pandemic.



Dr Gustaf Edgren

Dr Gustaf Edgren is a clinician-researcher based at Karolinska Institute in Stockholm Sweden. He is an epidemiologist working mostly on issues of transfusion safety – in a wide sense. In his capacity of the PI of the Swedish portion of the SCANDAT project he has pioneered the use of databases in transfusion research.



Prof Simon Stanworth

Prof Simon Stanworth is Consultant Haematologist at the John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford (NHSBT and Oxford University Hospitals Foundation Trust), and Professor of Haematology and Transfusion Medicine, University of Oxford. His research is driven by patient needs, identified by multiple Patient and Public Engagement panels and work for James Lind Priority Setting Partnerships. Highlights include international randomized trials published in high impact publications with an interest in translating research into practice, through research on audit & feedback and contributions on Steering Committees for national/international guidelines (such as on red cell transfusion thresholds and platelets). He is Director of the NIHR Blood Transfusion Research Unit (BTRU) Data Enabled Transfusion Practice which promises not just new data but new methods of assessing and improving transfusion practice. He has national and international leadership roles in transfusion medicine including Chair of the (formerly) National Cancer Research Institute Supportive Care Working Party, the European Haematology Association Transfusion Specialist Working Party, Chair of the International Collaboration for Transfusion Medicine Guidelines and co-Chair for the Biomedical Excellence for Safer Transfusion Collaborative (BEST).