

Speaker biographies

Cellular pathology and genomics: Partnering for precision medicine

Date: Monday 25 - November 9.30–5pm

Location: Elizabeth Room,
The Royal College of Pathologists,
6 Alie Street, London E1 8QT



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Dr Muhammad Aslam

Consultant Pathologist,
Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board,
North Wales Board

Dr Muhammad Babar Aslam, MBBS, FRCPATH, MBA (Healthcare) is a consultant pathologist at Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board. He has a special interest in using digital pathology and AI platforms to improve the services across all the specialties and has led innovative projects, like an all-Wales AI deployment in prostatic pathology followed by a breast AI project. He has held various management roles in the NHS. Currently, he is also the national clinical lead for Wales to support digital pathology and AI implementation projects.

Joanne Brinklow

Director of Learning, The Royal College of
Pathologists



Jo has worked at the College since 2001, having previously worked at the Royal College of Ophthalmologists and the Royal College of Psychiatrists. Jo was originally appointed to establish what is now the Training team and support the development of the College's postgraduate medical curricula. This included piloting histopathology as a run-through curriculum under Modernising Medical Careers in 2005 and, working with the Joint Royal College of Physicians Training Board, supporting the development of combined infection training as the initial stage of the medical microbiology, medical virology, infectious diseases and tropical medicine curricula, which were launched in 2015.

In 2008, Jo became Head of Educational Standards, now Director of Learning, and obtained her Masters in Medical Education from the University of Bedfordshire in 2009. Since 2010 she has overseen the training, examinations, assessment and international workstreams of the College, including directly managing the College's International team.



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Dr Tom Butler

Chair, British Society for Haematology Laboratory Specialist Interest Group, Consultant Haematologist & Haematopathologist, Barts Health NHS Trust. Clinical Director, NHS East and Southeast London Pathology Partnership Clinical Director, NHS East and South East London Pathology Partnership

Dr Tom Butler's specialist interests include laboratory and diagnostic haematology, general haematology, and medical education.

Dr Butler established and chaired the British Society for Haematology's Laboratory Specialist Interest Group (Lab SIG). He also coordinates the national Haematological Malignancy Diagnostic Service network.

Professor Rachel Butler MBE

Consultant Clinical Scientist, NHS England Genomics Unit



Rachel Butler is a consultant clinical scientist. She supports the NHS England Genomics Unit in the Cancer Genomic Improvement Programme, which seeks to improve the end to end turnaround times for the genomic analysis and reporting for cancer patients. Rachel is working with regional Quality Improvement teams (including colleagues in cell pathology, genomics laboratories, GMSAs, cancer alliances, Pathology Networks and clinical teams), and also tumour-specific experts, to seek to implement innovative working practices that improve turnaround times. Rachel is also leading on the routine analysis and reporting of genomic targets that support emerging treatments and clinical trials.

Rachel has previously led on Cancer Research UK's Stratified Medicine Programme and has been a grant holder for a number of stratified medicine clinical trials. She is a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists in molecular genetics and was the Lead Examiner for Molecular Pathology. She was previously the co-chair of the NHS England Cancer Test Directory Evaluation Group and sat on the Clinical Reference Group for Genomics. She was awarded an MBE in 2017 for services to genomics in Wales and the UK.



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Professor Sarah Coupland

Consultant Histopathologist, University of Liverpool and RCPATH Registrar

Professor Sarah Coupland is a senior consultant histopathologist at the Liverpool University Foundation Hospital Trusts, UK, with expertise in ophthalmic pathology, haematopathology, molecular and digital Pathology, and biobanking.

In 2006, Professor Coupland established the Liverpool Ocular Oncology Research Group. She is the George Holt Chair of Pathology at the University of Liverpool (UoL) and leads digital pathology at UoL and has been involved in several multicentre digital pathology and AI-related projects, particularly in eye cancers.

Professor Coupland is the current President of the Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland and is also Registrar of the Royal College of Pathologists.

She has published ~350 scientific articles, has written ~150 chapters, including some within the UICC/TNM Staging system and the WHO 'Blue' Tumour Volumes. She has won several awards for research and teaching, including the International Council of Ophthalmology's Eye Pathology Award and the 2019 RCPATH Excellence Award. She was included in the Pathologist Power Lists of 2019, 2020, 2021 and 2023 and was also listed in the Top 100 Influential Women in Ophthalmology in 2021 and 2024.



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Dr Bernie Croal

RCPATH President and Consultant Chemical Pathologist



Dr Bernie Croal is an NHS chemical pathologist from Aberdeen specialising in intravenous nutritional support. He also oversees laboratory services at the Cleveland Clinic in London via TDL. He is a science and medicine graduate, and has trained in general medicine, chemical pathology and health services/public health research. 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 was the President of the Association for Clinical Biochemistry and Laboratory Medicine. He is a fellow of both the Royal Colleges of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow and the Institute of Biomedical Science.

Within RCPATH he has chaired many committees and was Scotland Regional Council Chair for 9 years and a Trustee for 13 years. He also served as College Vice President from 2011 to 2014. He is the current College President.



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Dr Matthew Evans

, Consultant Cellular Pathologist, University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust, Black Country Pathology Services, Central & South GLH South GLH

Dr Matthew Evans is a consultant cellular pathologist specialising in thoracic, gynaecological, gastrointestinal and biomarker pathology, working at University Hospital Southampton and Black Country Pathology Services.

Dr Evans is pathology lead for Central and South GLH, where he leads the CPGC project, and also pathology lead for Wessex CPGC. Matthew sits on the NHS England Genomics Unit's Test Evaluation Working Group and is the national pathology lead for the Cancer Genomics Improvement Programme.

Dr Evans's main day-to-day interest is in predictive immunohistochemical biomarkers. He has worked extensively with industry in the roll out of PD-L1 and other similar biomarkers, and trained several hundred pathologists in the UK and internationally in their interpretation.



Dr Alastair Greystoke

Medical Oncologist, Newcastle Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Professor Greystoke joined Newcastle University and the Northern Centre for Cancer Care in 2014 after 8 years spent at the University of Manchester/Christie NHS Trust. He is 1 of 4 consultants that run the Sir Bobby Robson Early Clinical Trials Centre at the Freeman hospital in Newcastle, and has a special interest in the development of new anti-cancer drugs for patients with lung cancer. He leads systemic therapy research for NSCLC in the North-East, with a portfolio of Phase I-IV studies.

In addition, he is the Clinical Director for Cancer for the Yorkshire, Hull and North East England Genomic Medicine Service and led the NHSE pilot assessing the cost-effectiveness of cfDNA in patients presenting with advanced lung cancer. He is the Joint Chief Investigator of the CONCORDE platform (adding in new drugs to radical radiotherapy in lung cancer), and leads the Pharmacodynamic Biomarker team at Newcastle University Cancer.



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Professor Mike Hubank

Head of Clinical Genomics (Research) at The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust

Dr Mike Hubank has worked in genomics for over 20 years. Following a PhD at UCL, he worked at the University of Sussex and Yale University before returning to the UCL Institute of Child Health in 2000 to found and run UCL Genomics.

In 2016, he moved into clinical diagnostics at the Royal Marsden Hospital, London, to lead a translational laboratory focused on the development and clinical application of genomic assays for cancer diagnostics. Since 2018, he has been Scientific Director at the NHS England North Thames Genomic Laboratory Hub.

Dr David Hughes

Consultant Histopathologist and National Specialty Advisor for Histopathology



Dr Hughes qualified in medicine from the University of Sheffield and has a PhD in bone cell biology. He trained in histopathology at Edinburgh, Texas and Sheffield and has held various consultant posts.

He has worked as a general histopathologist in a district general hospital, a mono-specialist in musculoskeletal pathology at a national bone and soft tissue tumour centre, and currently practices in haematopathology and musculoskeletal pathology with a special interest in metabolic bone disease. He has published papers on bone cell biology, pharmacodynamics and pathology.

He has held trust board positions as Medical Director at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals and Non-Executive Director at Hull University Teaching Hospitals. He was formerly Chair of the Cellular Pathology National Quality Assurance Advisory Panel at the RCPATH. He is currently the Pathology Clinical Advisor for the North East and Yorkshire NHS England Diagnostics Programme and National Specialty Advisor for Histopathology Transformation and Recovery at NHS England.



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Dr Charlotte Jennings

Research Fellow in Digital Pathology & Multimodal AI and Histopathologist Registrar, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, University of Leeds

Charlotte is a histopathology registrar and is currently out of programme studying for a PhD at the University of Leeds. Her research is in multimodal AI, which combines pathology whole slide images and genomic data.

A focus of her work is the datasets that underpin this field. In her roles at the National Pathology Imaging Cooperative and Genomics England, she coordinates work to digitise the pathology slides of the 100,000 Genomes Project's cancer participants.

Dr Richard Mair

Assistant Professor and Honorary Consultant Neurosurgeon, University of Cambridge



This talk is pre-recorded.

Richard Mair is a CRUK Advanced Clinician Scientist Fellow, Assistant Professor of Neurosurgical Oncology at the University of Cambridge and Honorary Consultant Neurosurgeon at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge.

He is co-lead of the UK Brain Cancer Precision Oncology Consortium and the 5G clinical trial, co-director of the CRUK Minderoo Brain Cancer Virtual Institute, lead for the Minderoo Precision Brain Tumour Programme and director of the ICARUS tissue bank and Brain Tumour Liquid Biopsy Programme.

He is lead investigator for multiple clinical trials and runs a lab group exploring the interaction between tumour and microenvironmental factors in determining tumour heterogeneity, with a view to identify novel tumour treatment targets. He is interested in developing non-invasive tests to explore the dynamic patient response to precision therapy.



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Craig Maxwell

Chief Commercial Officer (CCO)
Six Nations Rugby

Craig Maxwell's journey is a testament to courage, determination, and an unwavering commitment to making a difference. Beginning as the Commercial Director at the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) and Six Nations. However, Maxwell's path took an unexpected turn when he was diagnosed with terminal stage 4 lung and bone cancer at the age of 40.

Maxwell embarked on a series of extraordinary challenges to raise vital funds for families facing similar battles, including marathons, cycling and conquering 15 mountains over 3,000 feet in just 24 hours. Maxwell pushed the boundaries of physical endurance to support families like his, while in active treatment for his cancer.

He has raised over £1.5 million to support the cancer pathway in Wales. No matter the circumstances, life is an extraordinary gift, and one's destiny remains within their control. His aim is to be a beacon of hope and inspiration for his children, ensuring that his legacy of strength, compassion, and love endures and supports them long after he's gone.

Jake Miller

Head of Technical Programme
North West Genomic Laboratory Hub



Jake is the technologist co-chair of the Workforce and Development Sub-Committee for the Association for Clinical Genomic Science (ACGS) and Head of Technical Programme at the North West Genomics Laboratory Hub in Manchester. With nearly 20 years of experience in genetic technologist roles, he has been a dedicated advocate for advancing the profession through structured training, education, and statutory regulation.

Jake is committed to the drive towards genetic technologist registration, joining the first Voluntary Registration Council register in 2008 and later serving as Secretary of the Associated Genetic Technologists Committee. He was subsequently co-opted to the Modernising Scientific Careers project. Jake is proud to have recently attained the IBMS Certificate of Competence by Equivalence, registering with the HCPC as a biomedical scientist.

Passionate about professional recognition and enhancing the workforce, Jake advocates for nationally recognised training routes, robust career pathways, education standards and, ultimately, statutory regulation for genetic technologists.



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Dr Sian Morgan FRCPath

Consultant Clinical Scientist and All Wales Medical Genomics Service Laboratory Director. Chair of RCPATH Genomics and Reproductive Science Specialty Advisory Committee. Chair of RCPATH NQAAP Genomics

A consultant clinical scientist and laboratory director of the All Wales Medical Genomics Service (AWMGS), Sian is responsible for the rapidly expanding diagnostic genomic service. The AWMGS is a tertiary service, hosted by Cardiff and Vale University Health Board and commissioned by the Joint Commissioning Committee to deliver rare disease, cancer and pharmacogenetics services for Wales.

With 33 years of experience, Sian has overseen and led on strategic relationships and alliances leading to improved diagnostic pathways across all services. Sian also holds an honorary senior research fellow with Cardiff University. Sian is also Chair of the RCPATH Genomics and Reproductive Science Specialty Advisory Committee and Chair of RCPATH NQAAP Genomics.

Sian is a co-lead of the multi-award winning QuicDNA project. The project focuses on integrating non-invasive ctDNA testing into the lung cancer diagnostic pathway. Through analysing a simple blood sample, liquid biopsies offer a less invasive and faster alternative to traditional tissue biopsies genomic testing. This method speeds up diagnosis and treatment decisions, aiming to improve patient outcomes and survival rates.

Vivienne Parry OBE

Writer and broadcaster



Vivienne Parry is a science writer and broadcaster. Since the inception of the 100,000 Genomes Project, she has also had a part-time role as Head of Public Engagement at Genomics England. She hosts many high level events, including for the G7 and European Parliament.

In the past, she has been a board member of UKRI and was a council member at the MRC and of UCL. She has been a columnist for the Times, Guardian and News of the World, has made hundreds of programmes for BBC Radio and was a presenter of BBCTV's iconic science show, Tomorrow's World.



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Dr Oluwatosin Taiwo PHD

Senior Clinical Scientist Molecular Diagnostics Scientist
Training Lead Clinical Genomics, The Centre for Molecular Pathology, The Royal Marsden

Oluwatosin Taiwo is a HCPC-registered senior clinical scientist with over 10 years of combined experience in research and clinical genetics laboratories. Currently, Oluwatosin works as a senior clinical scientist and scientific training lead in clinical genomics, specialising in cancer genomics and molecular pathology. She also serves as the scientific co-chair for the Workforce Development Committee of the Association for Clinical Genomics Science (ACGS).

Oluwatosin is deeply passionate about workforce development and training, working closely with local stakeholders within the North Thames Genomic Laboratory Hub, as well as with national organisations such as ACGS, the National School of Healthcare Science, the RCPATH, the Academy for Healthcare Science, the Association of Clinical Scientists and the Genomics Training Academy.

In her roles as scientific training lead and co-chair of the ACGS Workforce Development Committee, she aims to support the national agenda of developing and sustaining a highly skilled genomics workforce, ensuring that these professionals are well-equipped to deliver the NHS Long-Term Plan and improve outcomes for cancer patients.

Patrick Tarpey

Lead Scientist for Solid Cancer, East Genomic Laboratory Hub
Representing Illumina



Patrick trained as a clinical scientist in London and Cambridge before moving to the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute to pursue research focused on cancer gene discovery. As part of the Sanger Cancer Genomics Group, Patrick contributed to the discovery of multiple novel cancer genes in sarcoma, renal and breast cancers.

Patrick moved back into clinical science as the 100,000 Genomes Project was active, looking to translate research experience into an evolving clinical service. As lead scientist in the East Genomic Laboratory Hub, Patrick works with colleagues to embed genomic assays into routine service and harvest the potential of cancer genomics to advance patient care.



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Katherine Timms

Director of Professional Practice
Royal College of Pathologists

Katherine is Director of Professional Practice at the College and oversees member engagement, workforce planning, professional guidelines, insights and intelligence, and equality, diversity and inclusion. Katherine joined the College in 2021 from the Health and Care Professions Council (HCPC). Prior to working at the HCPC, Katherine worked in Fitness to Practise Policy at the General Medical Council (GMC) and in grant funding at Cancer Research UK.

Katherine is keen to improve patient safety and has developed strong standards, policies and guidance to inform the work of healthcare professionals. Katherine also has a strong interest in the wellbeing of healthcare professionals, having managed the GMC's vulnerable doctors review and led work at the HCPC to develop and establish its Registrant Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

While at the College, Katherine re-established its member engagement function, initiated a programme of reform to improve the College's approach to workforce planning, and established a new insights and intelligence function.

Lee Welch

Diagnostics Lead
AstraZeneca



Lee Welch is dedicated to advancing personalised medicine through innovative biomarker testing. Originally trained as a biomedical scientist in histopathology and specialising in immunohistochemistry, Lee works on biomarker testing in personalised medicine.

Lee played a key role in implementing the first rabbit monoclonal antibodies, including Her2 in breast cancer, significantly improving diagnostic accuracy and treatment outcomes nationwide. He has also supported testing services for BRAF, EGFR, PD-L1, BRCA and HRD across multiple disease areas and testing platforms.

As the diagnostics lead at AstraZeneca for the past 7 years, Lee has led efforts in precision medicine and genomics, contributing to the development of advanced cancer diagnostics and therapies. His work has been instrumental in enhancing cancer diagnostics and treatment, helping to implement innovative therapies.

Outside of his professional endeavours, Lee is an advocate for patient-centric care and enjoys mentoring the next generation of scientists. His commitment to improving cancer diagnostics and treatment continues to make a positive impact in the field, paving the way for future innovations in personalised medicine.



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David Wells

Chief Executive

Institute of Biomedical Science

In June 2021, David Wells was appointed as the IBMS Chief Executive. David previously led the NHS England and NHS Improvement Pathology consolidation programme. David is recognised as one of the most powerful advocates for pathology in the global community by The Pathologist magazine, featuring in their Power List Top 100 every year since 2018.

As Head of Pathology at NHS England, David led the laboratory response to COVID-19. He advised ministers by providing policy and strategic direction, and helped the government deliver 100,000 COVID-19 tests per day in April 2020.

In recognition of his COVID-19 response work and for transforming England's pathology services, the RCPATH awarded him an Honorary Fellowship in 2020 and Anglia Ruskin University presented him with the Alumni Frontline Service Award in 2021.

He became the first person to hold the post of lead healthcare scientist at Great Ormond Street Hospital, which saw him in charge of their entire healthcare science workforce. Later, David became Director of Operations at Viapath, one of the UK's largest networked pathology services, covering King's College Hospital and Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals.



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