

14th to 15th November 2022



Speaker and Panel Member Biographies

Wellcome Collection, Euston Road, London, UK



Professor Gary Abel
Associate Professor, University of Exeter, UK



Gary Abel is an Associate Professor statistician and health services researcher at the University of Exeter. He has a broad range of interests and specialises in the use of routinely collected health data from primary and secondary care, as well as other sources such as cancer registration data and national patient experience surveys. He leads a number of projects on the early diagnosis of Cancer including the NIHR funded SPOTting Cancer among Comorbidities (SPOCC) programme grant, which is aiming to understand the role of pre-existing comorbidities in the cancer diagnostic process with the aim of diagnosing cancer faster in these patients. He is also the statistical lead on a number of projects including the evaluation of FIT testing in patients with symptoms of colorectal cancer and the ERICA trial of electronic risk assessment tools and a co-applicant and statistical lead for the CRUK funded CanTest Collaborative. Gary also acts as research lead for the University of Exeter's activities within the NIHR School for Primary Care Research.

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Dr Sarah Bailey
Senior Research Fellow, University of Exeter, UK



Sarah Bailey is a Senior Research Fellow in the DISCO Cancer Diagnosis research group at the University of Exeter. She leads a portfolio of research focussed on cancer diagnosis in primary care, and the development and implementation of new cancer detection strategies for symptomatic patients. She has published practice-changing research on the use of blood-based markers of cancer, the use of faecal immunochemical tests for symptomatic patients, and the integration of genetic risk scores into suspected cancer pathways. Dr Bailey holds an NIHR Advanced Fellowship and has attracted over £5m of funding from organisations including the NIHR and Cancer Research UK. Her fellowship will develop a series of cancer risk assessment tools for patients with chronic health conditions.

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Dr Georgia Black
Reader in Applied Health Research, Queen Mary University of London



Georgia Black has recently joined Queen Mary University London as Reader in Applied Health Research within the Wolfson Institute of Population Health. Georgia is a social psychologist whose research has two main foci: patient safety in primary care and across cancer pathways and the effect of socioeconomic inequalities and specifically exclusion from healthcare. In 2019, Georgia was awarded a Postdoctoral Fellowship by The Health Improvement Studies (THIS) Institute. Georgia's fellowship examines diagnostic safety culture in non-specific symptom pathways for cancer (previously Rapid Diagnostic Centres), using a case study design. Georgia's work supports healthcare improvement locally and nationally, including strong relationships with cancer charities, cancer alliances, and executive membership of the Policy Research Unit in Cancer Awareness, Screening and Early Diagnosis. She co-founded the UCL Qualitative Health Research Network to create a community of health services researchers dedicated to pushing the boundaries of qualitative methods and reflexivity in healthcare improvement. She has experience in a wide range of applied qualitative methodologies including interview studies, ethnography, case studies, policy analysis and literature reviews.

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Dr Stephen Bradley
Clinical Research Fellow, Leeds CCG Clinical Lead, Cancer, University of Leeds, UK



Stephen Bradley is a NIHR Academic Clinical Lecturer researching cancer diagnosis, having completed a PhD on lung cancer diagnosis earlier this year. Dr Bradley's other academic interests are on addressing health inequalities and on promoting measures to improve the transparency and quality of medical research. Stephen is also GP for Bevan Healthcare CIC, which is a practice which focuses on inclusion health serving populations including people who are homeless as well as refugees and asylum seekers. In addition, Stephen is the clinical lead for cancer for Leeds Integrated Care Board, representing a population of approximately 850,000.

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Professor Sir Michael Brady

Emeritus Professor of Oncological Imaging, University of Oxford, UK



Sir Michael Brady was Senior Research Scientist in the Artificial Intelligence Laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology 1980-5, then Professor of Information Engineering in the University of Oxford 1985-2010, since when he has been Emeritus Professor of Oncological Imaging in the Department of Oncology. He is also Adjunct Distinguished Professor of the Mohamed bin Zayed University of Artificial Intelligence, Abu Dhabi. Mike has a strong commitment to technology transfer and entrepreneurship, having founded 11 companies. He is currently Chair of Perspectum; ScreenPoint Medical; and Optellum; a Director of Naitive Technologies; and Founder of Volpara Health Technologies and Mirada Medical. Mike is the author of over 600 articles and 30+ patents in computer vision, robotics, medical image analysis, and artificial intelligence, and the author or editor of ten books. Dr Brady received his BSc and MSc in Mathematics from the University of Manchester and PhD in Mathematics from the ANU. He was awarded the IEE Faraday Medal for 2000, IEEE Third Millennium Medal for the UK, Henry Dale Prize by the Royal Institution in 2005, and the Whittle Medal by the Royal Academy of Engineering 2010. Mike was knighted in 2003.

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Professor Kate Brain

Professor of Health Psychology, Cardiff University School of Medicine, UK



Kate Brain is a Professor of Health Psychology in Cardiff University School of Medicine. Her research focuses on behavioural aspects of cancer screening, prevention and early diagnosis, with a particular emphasis on addressing socioeconomic inequality. Since 2015 Kate has led a programme of behavioural science research spanning the Wales Cancer Research Centre and Primary and Emergency Care Research Centre, funded by Welsh Government. She is Chief Investigator on the COVID-19 Cancer Attitudes and Behaviours funded by UK Research and Innovation (cabs-study.yolasite.com) and co-leads the TIC TOC study funded by Cancer Research Wales (TIC-TOC - Centre for Trials Research - Cardiff University). Her research portfolio includes studies on public awareness of cancer, lung cancer screening and smoking cessation, behaviour change and shared decision-making interventions. Kate is Associate Director of Population Health in Cardiff University's College of Biomedical and Life Sciences. She is also a member of Cancer Research UK's Early Detection and Diagnosis Research Committee and advises NHS England on the Targeted Lung Health Check programme. She has recently joined the Multi-Cancer Early Detection Consortium as UK Deputy Chair of the Health Equity work group.

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Dr Natalia Calanzani

Research Associate, University of Cambridge, UK



Natalia Calanzani is a post-doctoral health services researcher with a background in Business, Psychology and Population Health Sciences. Over the past twelve years she has carried out qualitative, quantitative and mixed-methods research in palliative care and early diagnosis of cancer. Natalia also has experience with process and outcome evaluations of government programmes and has carried out several systematic reviews across a range of topics. Natalia's written outputs include peer-reviewed publications and evidence-based reports for policymakers and charities. Recent CanTest projects include a study investigating the use of the faecal immunochemical test (FIT) in primary care in Eastern England, and systematic reviews on the suitability of biomarkers for the detection of cancer in primary care. After CanTest, Natalia plans to continue working on two of her passions: early diagnosis research and teaching (preferably integrated).

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Professor Mat Callister

Consultant Respiratory Physician, Leeds Teaching Hospitals, University of Leeds, UK



Mat Callister is a Consultant Respiratory Physician at Leeds Teaching Hospitals, and Honorary Professor of Respiratory Medicine at the University of Leeds. His research interest is in the early detection of lung cancer through both symptom awareness and CT screening. He was clinical lead for the Leeds Early Lung Cancer Campaign, co-leads the Yorkshire Lung Screening Trial and Yorkshire Enhanced Stop Smoking Study, and is co-chair of the British Thoracic Society Pulmonary Nodule Guideline Development Group.

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Professor Emma Crosbie

Professor of Gynaecological Oncology, University of Manchester, UK



Emma Crosbie is an NIHR Advanced Fellow, Professor and Honorary Consultant Gynaecological Oncologist at the University of Manchester. Her research focuses on screening, prevention and early diagnosis of gynaecological cancers. She is Chair of the NCRI Endometrial Workstream and Deputy Chair of the NCRI Screening, Prevention and Early Diagnosis Group. She is Chair of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) Academic Board and member of the RCOG Blair Bell Research Society, roles that enable her to pursue her keen interest in nurturing the next generation of clinical academics.

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Sue Duncombe

PPI representative, UK



Sue Duncombe's interest in oncology research developed when her husband was diagnosed with prostate cancer in his early fifties and ultimately died of the disease. This experience motivated her to utilise the skills and experience she had gained during her career to add value to organisations which were working to improve cancer outcomes. She became an active PPI contributor, focusing particularly on early diagnosis of cancer as well as prostate cancer. Sue is a member of the NCRI Consumer Forum and Prostate Group, is a PPI representative on a CRUK funding panel for Prevention, Early Detection and Diagnosis and is on the Steering Committee for the GRAIL Galleri study. In addition she is involved in research with a range of academic

institutions, NIHR and charities to ensure the patient and public view is integral and adds value to research. Her passion for contributing to improving cancer outcomes involves campaigning as a volunteer member of CRUK's Cancer Campaigns Ambassador program to influence government to create the right environment to support improvement in cancer outcomes.

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Professor Jon Emery

Herman Professor of Primary Care Cancer Research, University of Melbourne, Australia



Jon Emery is the inaugural Herman Professor of Primary Care Cancer Research at the University of Melbourne, and the Victorian Comprehensive Cancer Centre (VCCC) Primary Care Research and Education Lead. He is a National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) Leadership Fellow, and Director of the Cancer Australia Primary Care Collaborative Cancer Clinical Trials Group (PC4). Following medical training at Cambridge and Oxford, he has had a successful career in academic primary care, initially at Oxford, where he obtained his DPhil on cancer risk assessment tools, then as a Cancer Research UK Clinician Scientist at Cambridge before taking up a Chair at the University of Western Australia. His research focuses on the application of advances in genetic medicine, primary care oncology and the development and evaluation of complex interventions including computer decision support systems, and new cancer diagnostic and screening technologies. He is currently leading eight randomised controlled trials covering genomic testing, interventions to increase bowel cancer screening, and cancer diagnostic decision support. He leads the VCCC data linkage program bringing together general practice data, hospital administrative and clinical cancer registry data to study patterns of care across the cancer continuum.

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Dr Garth Funston

Senior Clinical Research Fellow, University of Cambridge, UK



Garth Funston is an NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow in General Practice and a Senior Clinical Research Fellow in the primary care cancer group at the University of Cambridge. His research focusses on optimising cancer diagnostic pathways and improving the early detection of cancer in primary care. Garth recently completed a Cancer Research UK (CanTest) funded PhD evaluating the ovarian cancer biomarker CA125 in primary care and developing prediction models to improve its performance and clinical utility. He currently leads charity and government funded studies to evaluate biomarkers and develop and validate novel diagnostic prediction models to improve early detection across a range of cancers. In 2021 he was awarded the World Ovarian Cancer

Coalition Inaugural Transformational Research Prize and the Royal College of General Practice Clinical Research Paper of the Year award for his work on cancer detection.

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Professor Willie Hamilton

Professor of Primary Care Diagnostics, University of Exeter, UK



Willie Hamilton is professor of primary care diagnostics at University of Exeter. The major part of his work is in cancer diagnostics in the symptomatic patient – the one sitting in the GP's consulting room. He leads the DISCOVERY team, with staffing varying from 6-10, plus 8 PhD students, all supported by his grant awards. These grants total over £67m, including CRUK's first Catalyst award. He has over 360 publications, including the 2010 and 2015 overall Research Paper of the Year for studies on ovarian cancer and on the public appetite for cancer testing. He also was the cancer category winner in 2013, 2014, 2016 and 2017. He was clinical lead on the NICE guidance on suspected cancer, NG12, published in 2015. This governs around £1bn of annual NHS spending. He was awarded a CBE in the 2019 New Years' Honours List for services to improving early cancer diagnosis.

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Samantha Harrison

Head of Strategic Evidence & ICBP Lead, Cancer Research UK



Sam Harrison is Head of Strategic Evidence and Lead for the International Cancer Benchmarking Partnership (ICBP) at Cancer Research UK (CRUK). She trained and worked in epidemiology and public health before joining CRUK and the ICBP in 2011. Since then she has built expertise and developed and led teams within the charity in evidence synthesis, critique and translation, whilst building strong networks across the cancer community nationally and globally. Sam leads CRUK's involvement in the ICBP (including the design of the research and knowledge mobilisation programme) and CRUK strategy development for early diagnosis and treatment, the latter of which includes a more recent focus on the adoption of innovations and innovative approaches in the cancer services.

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Dr Charles Helsper

Assistant Professor, University Medical Centre, Utrecht, NL



Charles Helsper (MD, PhD, MSc) has a clinical background in primary care and is a clinical epidemiologist. After finishing his PhD on infectious diseases (case finding of hepatitis C), he became the principal investigator in primary care oncology in the University Medical Centre Utrecht in the Netherlands. Research projects in his group focus on the role of the GP in cancer, mainly around early diagnosis, shared decision making and survivorship care. He combines his research efforts with teaching GPs and GP trainees about using research in daily practice (evidence based medicine) in the GP faculty training, Utrecht.

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Professor Julia Hippisley-Cox

Professor of Clinical Epidemiology & General Practice, University of Oxford, UK



Julia Hippisley-Cox qualified with distinction from Sheffield University Medical School in 1989 where she was awarded the Prize in Medicine, Surgery, General Practice and Obstetrics and Gynaecology. In 1995 she was awarded a distinction in the MRCGP examination and awarded FRCGP in 2005. She became a Member of the Royal College of Physicians in 1994, and a Fellow in 2013. She was appointed as Lecturer at the University of Nottingham in 1995, Senior Lecturer in 1999, Reader in 2004. She was promoted to Professor of Clinical Epidemiology & General Practice in 2005 where she stayed until her appointment to a Chair at the University of Oxford in 2019.

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Margaret Johnson

CanTest Patient & Public Involvement Lead, c/o University of Cambridge, UK



Margaret Johnson has been passionately involved as a patient, carer and lay representative in cancer services and research since 1997. Her experience of a wide variety of cancers continues to increase, sadly, with further diagnoses in close friends and family. This only encourages her continuing interest in and dedication to Patient and Public Involvement (PPI) in cancer research, membership of the NCRI Consumer Forum and of useMYdata. She is the Patient and Public Involvement lead for CanTest, involved from its inception, supporting the stakeholder group's involvement in study design and delivery.

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Professor Peter Johnson

National Cancer Director, NHS England, University of Southampton, UK



Peter Johnson is Professor of Medical Oncology at the University of Southampton and National Clinical Director for the NHSE cancer programme. He qualified in medicine from Cambridge and St Thomas's Medical School and trained in internal medicine in London. He completed oncology training and doctoral research at St Bartholomew's Hospital as an ICRF Clinical Research Fellow and was a Senior Lecturer in the Leeds Cancer Centre. His research interests are in applied immunology and immunotherapy; lymphoma biology and precision medicine, and clinical trials. He has been the Chief Investigator for clinical trials ranging from first in human novel antibody therapeutics to international randomised studies, including the Cancer Research UK Stratified Medicine programme. He has published extensively on cancer biology and treatment, on novel biomarkers and their clinical evaluation. His other appointments include Director of the Southampton Cancer Research UK Centre; Chair of the RCGP Joint Specialty Committee for Medical Oncology, and the Scientific Committee for the International Conference on Malignant Lymphoma. He was previously Chief Clinician for Cancer Research UK, and a Trustee of the National Cancer Research Institute.

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Dr Daniel Jones

Academic Clinical Lecturer in Primary Care, University of Leeds, UK



Dan Jones is an Academic Clinical Lecturer in Primary Care at the University of Leeds. His research has focused on the recognition and referral of cancer symptoms in older and frail adults. Dan has used systematic reviews, big data interrogation and qualitative interviews to explore the effect of increasing age and frailty on the management of cancer symptoms in primary care. Dan works as a GP on a frailty ward in Cumbria and is a team doctor for Patterdale Mountain Rescue team.

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Dr Owain Jones

Clinical Research Fellow, University of Cambridge, UK



Owain Jones works as a clinical research fellow in the Cancer Group in the Department of Public Health & Primary Care at the University of Cambridge. He is also a practicing GP, having completed his GP training in 2016. Owain's research is focussed on improving the early diagnosis of cancer in primary care, in particular skin cancer. Previous research projects looked at the potential of dermoscopy use in UK primary care for the diagnosis of melanoma. He is currently studying for a PhD, funded by Cancer Research UK, looking at the use of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning technologies to facilitate the early diagnosis of skin cancer in primary care clinical settings.

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Professor Larry Kessler

University of Washington, USA, Deputy Chair of the MCED Consortium



Larry Kessler serves as a Professor in the Department of Health Systems and Population Health, School of Public Health, University of Washington. He has over 40 years of experience in health services research. He previously served as director of the Office of Surveillance and Biometrics and Office of Science and Engineering Laboratories at the US FDA Center for Devices and Radiological Health. His work in cancer surveillance leading the Applied Research Branch (ARB) at NCI from 1984-1995 substantially changed the way the US performs cancer surveillance, with the Cancer supplements to the National Health Interview Survey, SEER-Medicare data system, Breast Cancer Screening Consortium, and the Breast Cancer Surveillance Consortium. His extensive research record in health services research includes 160 peer reviewed publications. As chair of the Department of Health Services (UW) from 2009-2015, he directed the teaching program of a department that included eight separate teaching programs at the master's and doctoral level. His recent work has concentrated on comparative effectiveness studies, developing solutions to improve the quality of life of patients with end stage kidney disease, and studies on the validity and reliability of cancer screening questionnaires, and on cost and cost-effectiveness of treatments for cystic fibrosis.

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Dr Lennard Lee

Academic Clinical Lecturer in Medical Oncology, University of Oxford, NHS England, UK



Lennard YW Lee is an Academic Clinical Lecturer in Medical Oncology at the University of Oxford and senior clinical research fellow at the University of Birmingham. He is a Medical Oncologist at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. He works at the NHSE Cancer Programme as clinical advisor for cancer innovations and diagnostics.

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Professor Yoryos Lyratzopoulos

Professor of Cancer Epidemiology, University College London, UK



Yoryos Lyratzopoulos is foundation Professor of Cancer Epidemiology at UCL, leading the Epidemiology of Cancer Healthcare and Outcomes (ECHO) Group, and CanTest's UCL component. His research focuses on diagnostic healthcare pathways and intervals in cancer patients, and related inequalities and patient experience; and on assessing cancer risk in symptomatic patients. He was NIHR Post-Doctoral Fellow 2012-14, and is Cancer Research UK Advanced Clinician Scientist Fellow. He has represented his discipline (cancer epidemiology) in the development of NICE's "Suspecting Cancer" referral guidelines (2015), a milestone in early diagnosis policymaking. He has published 214 papers to-date, >55% as first or last author. He was Cancer Research UK Future Leaders Prize awardee in 2016. His research has been cited in key policy documents, including: "Improving Diagnosis in Health Care" (US Institute of Medicine, 2015); "Report on cancer" (WHO, 2020); "Cancer Strategy for England" (DH, 2015); "Cancer in the UK: Socio-economic Deprivation" (CRUK, 2020); and "Early Detection and Diagnosis Roadmap" (CRUK, 2020).

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Dr Sam Merriel

Clinical Senior Research Fellow, University of Exeter & University of Manchester, UK



Sam Merriel is an academic GP, recently appointed as Academic Clinical Lecturer in General Practice at the University of Manchester. Sam's research focuses on improving the early diagnosis of cancer in primary care and implementing and evaluating diagnostic tests. He recently completed his CRUK funded PhD focused on the potential role of magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) for prostate cancer diagnosis in primary care. The PhD incorporated evidence synthesis, qualitative research methods, and economic evaluation to evaluate the acceptability of prostate MRI, associated patient centred outcomes, and implications for patients and health services if prostate MRI was integrated into primary care for prostate cancer detection. Sam is leading several studies funded by the NIHR focused on prostate cancer detection in primary care and he has served on expert reference groups for Prostate Cancer UK, Movember, the National Cancer Research Institute, and NICE.

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Michelle Mitchell OBE

Chief Executive Officer, Cancer Research UK



Michelle Mitchell OBE has been responsible for the overall leadership and management of Cancer Research UK, the world's leading charitable funder of research, since November 2018. Since taking the helm, Michelle has steered the charity through the COVID-19 pandemic, and set it on an ambitious new course with its long-term strategy, which sets out how it will bring about a world where everyone can lead longer, better lives, free from the fear of cancer. Michelle is an experienced leader in UK not-for-profit and healthcare sectors, and has transformed a number of not-for-profit organisations to better their purpose and global impact. She believes that through collaborating across sectors and borders, we can accelerate progress against our mission of beating cancer. Before joining Cancer Research UK, Michelle was CEO of the MS Society and led the UK's largest charity for older people. She has extensive non-executive experience, serving on the Board of NHS England, which sets the priorities and direction for the health service in England. She has also been a Trustee of the King's Fund, a leading health policy think-tank, the Young Women's Trust and the Fawcett Society. Michelle was awarded an OBE in 2016 for services to the charity sector.

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Professor Richard Neal

Professor of Primary Care, University of Exeter, UK



Richard Neal is Professor of Primary Care at the University of Exeter and a GP. He is Deputy Head of the Department of Health and Community Sciences and Co-Director of APEx (Exeter Collaboration for Academic Primary Care). He has 20 years of experience of researching cancer diagnosis and screening, and is increasingly interested in the application of new technologies in this area. He has published over 200 peer reviewed papers. He chairs the Scientific Foundation Board of the Royal College of General Practitioners, is Co-Chief Investigator NHS-Galleri Trial, Co-Investigator of the Yorkshire Lung Screening Trial and Co-Chief Investigator of the ThinkCancer! Trial.

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Professor Steve Pereira

Professor of Gastroenterology & Hepatology, University College London, UK



Steve Pereira is a consultant gastroenterologist with special interests in diseases of the pancreas and biliary tree, and advanced endoscopy including ERCP and endoscopic ultrasound. He works at University College Hospital and the Royal Free Hospital in London, and was appointed Professor at UCL in 2015. The research interests of his group centre on the pathogenesis, early diagnosis and novel treatments for biliary tract cancer and pancreatic tumours, as well as benign pancreaticobiliary diseases. He currently leads a number of multicentre clinical endoscopy trials and translational research studies, including an early pancreatic cancer and neuroendocrine neoplasm biomarker discovery pipeline.

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Professor Shonit Punwani

Professor of Magnetic Resonance and Cancer Imaging, University College London, UK



Shonit Punwani is Professor of Magnetic Resonance and Cancer Imaging and Consultant Radiologist at UCLH. He completed post-graduate training in Medicine at Northwick Park, before training as a radiologist at University College London Hospital. He was awarded a Walport NIHR Clinical Lectureship, before being appointed as a Senior Lecturer at UCL and Consultant Radiologist at UCLH. He leads the 3T MRI research facilities that provide the infrastructure for imaging trials at UCLH. He is the research and development lead for radiology at UCLH, responsible for the provision of imaging services for clinical trials at UCLH. He is Director of Clinical Imaging at the UCLH Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) and also directs the BRC Medical Imaging Trials Unit (the first unit of its kind dedicated to the support of clinical trials involving new/novel imaging methods). He co-chairs the UCLH Cancer Collaborative Diagnostic Expert Reference Group with a remit to facilitate the spread of clinically proven imaging technologies within the region. He has a specialist clinical and research interest in the application and development of local and whole-body quantitative and functional MRI methods for imaging prostate cancer.

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Dr Meena Rafiq

Academic GP/Clinical Research Fellow, University College London, UK
& University of Melbourne, Australia



Meena Rafiq is an Academic GP and Clinical Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne and University College London (UCL). She has a specialist interest in research using linked Electronic Health Records to improve early cancer diagnosis, with a particular focus on identifying early markers of cancer using data from GP blood tests. Alongside working as a GP in Australia and the UK, she is completing a PhD, has an MSc in Epidemiology and expertise in conducting 'big data' research using a number of Primary Care datasets worldwide.

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Professor Sir Mike Richards

Diagnostics Clinical Advisory Group, NHS England



Sir Mike Richards was a hospital physician for more than 20 years. After a variety of training posts, he was a consultant medical oncologist between 1986 and 1995, and Professor of Palliative Medicine at Guy's and St. Thomas' Hospitals between 1995 and 1999. In 1999 Sir Mike was appointed as the first National Cancer Director at the Department of Health. He led the development and implementation of the NHS Cancer Plan in 2000, the Cancer Reform Strategy in 2007 and Improving Outcomes: A strategy for cancer in 2011. He became CQC's first Chief Inspector of Hospitals in July 2013 and led the development and implementation of a new approach to hospital inspection. Sir Mike retired from this role at the end of July 2017. Sir Mike was awarded a CBE in 2001 and appointed a Knight Bachelor in 2010. He has recently led two major reviews for NHS England: a review of adult screening services (published 2019) and A review of diagnostic services (published October 2020). This recommends a major expansion of diagnostic capacity and a new model of service delivery. He is currently working with NHS England to help implement his report. He is also a trustee of Cancer Research UK. In April 2022 he was appointed as Chair of the UK National Screening Committee.

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Dr Richard Roope

Primary Care Adviser and Portfolio GP, Cancer Research UK



Richard Roope has been a GP for over 30 years and is currently working for the Wessex Rapid Investigation Service. Richard studied at Gonville & Caius College, Cambridge, and The Royal London Hospital, qualifying in 1987. He completed his GP training in Oxford. He was awarded a Masters in Occupational Medicine at the University of Manchester in 2008. He has had leadership roles within cancer services in Hampshire and Wessex since 2001. He was the Cancer Champion for the Royal College of GPs and Cancer Research UK from 2014 to 2020 and has had additional advisory roles with Cancer Research UK and the RCGP since 2015, and is currently their Primary Care Adviser. He has been on several UK national steering committees, including the National Cancer Advisory Group. In 2015, he was elected to Fellowship of the RCGP for contributions to Cancer Management. He is a member of the Primary Care Sub-group of the NHSE Cancer Programme and of the Multicancer Early Detection Consortium Executive Committee. He sings in a choir, and enjoys long distance cycling, sometimes raising money for Cancer Research UK.

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Professor Greg Rubin

Emeritus Professor of General Practice and Primary Care, University of Newcastle, UK



Greg Rubin was a GP in the North East of England for 35 years and is Emeritus Professor of General Practice and Primary Care at Newcastle University UK. With over 200 peer-reviewed publications, his research is in the diagnosis and management of cancer in primary care and at the interface with secondary care, and the configuration of health services to enable this. He chairs the Cancer Research UK-funded CanTest Collaborative. He has provided advice to DH and CRUK on the implementation of cancer strategy, was the Royal College of General Practitioners' first Clinical Lead for Cancer (until 2014) and is the clinical lead for the English National Cancer Diagnosis Audit. In 2017 he was awarded the Cancer Research UK Jane Wardle Prevention and Early Diagnosis Prize for world-leading research in the field of prevention and early diagnosis of cancer.

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Dr Elizabeth Sarma
Program Director, National Cancer Institute, USA



Elizabeth Sarma is a Program Director in the National Cancer Institute's Health Systems and Interventions Research Branch of the Healthcare Delivery Research Program. In this role, she manages a portfolio of grants and conducts research on early cancer detection and healthcare delivery. Her interests and research focus on early diagnosis of symptomatic cancers, including defining and operationalizing cancer diagnostic pathways in the United States and developing multilevel strategies to promote earlier diagnosis of symptomatic cancers. Prior to joining the branch as a Program Director, Dr Sarma was a Cancer Prevention Fellow conducting research focused on better understanding psychosocial, sociodemographic, and healthcare delivery factors influencing the timeliness of diagnosis for symptomatic cancers. She completed her doctorate in Social Health Psychology from Stony Brook University and her MPH, with a concentration in Quantitative Methods, from the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health.

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Professor Peter Sasieni
Professor of Cancer Prevention, King's College London, UK



Peter Sasieni is Director of King's Clinical Trials Unit and Professor of Cancer Prevention at King's College London. He is also Vice Director of the NIHR Policy Research Unit in Cancer Awareness, Screening and Early Diagnosis and Director of the Cancer Research UK & King's College London Cancer Prevention Trials Unit. Peter has a BA in mathematics and a PhD in biostatistics. After graduating, he worked with Jack Cuzick at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund and later at Queen Mary University of London. He has over 30 years' experience as an applied statistician and cancer epidemiologist. Professor Sasieni's research focuses on using an epidemiological approach to cancer early diagnosis and designing and running clinical trials of early detection and prevention interventions. He has published extensively on cervical screening and HPV vaccination. He is currently collaborating with Professor Rebecca Fitzgerald to evaluate her oesophageal Cytosponge both in screening and surveillance; and is one of the lead investigators on the NHS-Galleri Trial evaluating GRAIL's multi-cancer early detection blood test in population screening. Peter Sasieni is a member of several trial oversight committees and national advisory boards and is Chair of the NCRI Screening, Prevention and Early Diagnosis Group.

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Dr Sibel Saya
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Melbourne, Australia



Sibel Saya is a genetic counsellor with >10 years' research experience in cancer screening research, in particular genomic assessment of cancer risk in primary care. She completed her PhD in May 2021. Dr Saya is now a postdoctoral research fellow at the Department of General Practice and the Centre for Cancer Research at The University of Melbourne. Her current work focusses on translation of new genetic and genomic tests for use in primary care, with a speciality in development of complex interventions to result in behaviour change. Dr Saya's main interest, funded through a postdoctoral fellowship from Cancer Council Victoria, is implementation of targeted population cancer screening using genomic risk tests.

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Professor Suzanne Scott
Professor of Health Psychology & Early Cancer Diagnosis, Queen Mary University of London, UK



Suzanne Scott is Professor of Health Psychology and Early Cancer Diagnosis in the Wolfson Institute of Population Health at Queen Mary University of London. Her research focuses on symptom perception and help-seeking behaviour and involves using psychological theory to understand why people wait before consulting healthcare professionals and uses this to design and evaluate interventions to encourage appropriate and timely healthcare use for symptoms of cancer. Professor Scott is the behavioural science lead on several international collaborations including an NIHR Global Health Group on timely diagnosis of breast, cervical and colorectal cancer in Sub-Saharan Africa and the CanTest collaborative focusing on cancer diagnostic testing in primary care.

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Professor Bethany Shinkins
Associate Professor of Health Economics, University of Leeds, UK



Bethany Shinkins is an Associate Professor in Health Economics. She leads the Leeds Diagnosis and Screening Unit at the University of Leeds, a multi-disciplinary group of researchers who specialise in evaluations of medical tests. She is Associate Director of the NIHR Leeds In Vitro Diagnostics Co-operative, a UK National Screening Committee member, and leads the University of Leeds CanTest hub.

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Professor Hardeep Singh
Chief, Health Policy, Quality and Informatics Program, Baylor College of Medicine, USA



Hardeep Singh is a Professor of Medicine at the Center for Innovations in Quality, Effectiveness and Safety based at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center and Baylor College of Medicine, Houston. He leads a portfolio of multidisciplinary patient safety research related to measurement and reduction of diagnostic errors in health care and improving the use health information technology. His research has informed several national and international patient safety initiatives and policy reports, including those by the OECD and the WHO. He serves as a nominated member of National Academies' Board of Health Care Services and is an elected Fellow of the American College of Medical Informatics for significant and sustained contributions to biomedical informatics.

His contributions include co-developing the "ONC SAFER Guides" which provide national recommendations for safe electronic health record use and developing pragmatic resources to promote patient safety and diagnostic excellence in clinical practice. He has received several prestigious awards for his pioneering work, including the AcademyHealth Alice S Hersh New Investigator Award (2012), the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) from President Obama (2014), the VA Health System Impact Award (2016) and John M. Eisenberg Patient Safety and Quality Award for Individual Achievement (2021).

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Professor Anne Spencer
Professor of Health Economics, University of Exeter, UK



Anne Spencer is a Health Economist with a national and international reputation in the application of economic principles to improve decision making in the health care and related areas. She is the Health Economics Lead for CanTest, Head of the Health Economics Group at Exeter University and Associate Editor of the Health Economics Journal (Wiley) and the journal Diagnostic and Prognostic Research (BMC Springer Nature). Anne leads both applied and methodological research, including economic evaluation alongside clinical trial, modelling of cost-effectiveness analyses, assessment and valuation of health outcomes, and econometric analysis of observational data. Professor Spencer leads a portfolio of projects in cancer – developing synergies in methods and evidence base across these projects (CanTest Collaborative; CRUK impact study; HTA NIHR systematic review and modelling study of early cancer diagnostic tools; ERICA – RCT of electronic tool to identify patients; SPOCC – The SPOTting Cancer among Comorbidities). Anne is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy and author of a leading Health Economics textbook book that will shortly launch its 3rd Edition (Economic Analysis in Health Care, Wiley).

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Professor Matthew Thompson
Department of Family Medicine, University of Washington, USA



Matthew Thompson is a General Practitioner/Family Physician who has combined clinical practice with research and teaching in the UK and US over the past 30 years. His research at the University of Washington and formerly at the University of Oxford has largely focused on improving the precision of diagnosis in primary care settings, particularly around challenging 'needle in a haystack' conditions such as cancer and serious infections. Matthew's research in early cancer detection has involved applying natural language processing to identify symptoms and signs of lung cancer and ovarian cancer from the free text of routine electronic health records in the US. This has highlighted intriguing evidence of signals of possible cancer far earlier than previously considered.

In summer 2022 Matthew joined the Digital Health Center of Excellence at Google where his research focusses on developing evidence for the health impact of a range of digital health tools and technologies globally.

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Professor Fiona Walter

Professor of Primary Care Cancer Research, Queen Mary University of London & University of Cambridge, UK



Fiona Walter is Professor of Primary Care Cancer Research and Director of the Wolfson Institute of Population Health at Queen Mary University of London (QMUL), UK. She also holds honorary posts at the University of Cambridge and the University of Melbourne. Her research focuses on the cancer pathway, from prevention, screening, early detection and diagnostics to post-treatment care. Fiona co-leads the CRUK-funded CanTest Collaborative and the NIHR Global Research Group on Advancing Early Diagnosis of Cancer in Southern Africa, and is co-investigator on the NIHR Policy Research Unit in Cancer Awareness, Screening and Early Diagnosis. Fiona has recently become deputy chair of CRUK's Early Detection & Diagnosis Research Committee, and will co-chair the 2023 Early Detection of Cancer Conference, to be hosted by CRUK in London in October 2023.

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Dr Alexis Webb

Research Programme Manager, Cancer Research UK



Alexis Webb is the Research Programme Manager in Early Detection at Cancer Research UK where she leads on several strategic initiatives in early detection and diagnosis research. Alexis has a PhD in neuroscience from Washington University in St Louis and, after finishing her postdoctoral research in Germany and the UK, joined Cancer Research UK in 2016. Alexis is passionate about building a multidisciplinary community of researchers interested in applying their skills to advance earlier detection of cancer and improve outcomes for patients. She is also an advocate for improving diversity in the STEM fields and supporting early career researchers.

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Professor Niek de Wit

Professor of General Practice & Chair of the Julius Centre, University Medical Centre, Utrecht, NL



Niek de Wit has been working as a general practitioner for more than 25 years. In 2009 he was appointed as professor in General Practice at the University Medical Center in Utrecht, the Netherlands. Since 2020 he is chairing the Julius Center of Health Sciences and Primary Care at the UMC Utrecht. (www.juliuscenter.nl). He has a strong interest in health care innovation in primary care. For 10 years he was director of the Julius Health Centers, the academic general practice in Utrecht. More recently he has been working on the development of a regional health care network in the Utrecht region, aiming at optimising primary-hospital care collaboration, and innovating health care pathways. His academic research has focussed on gastro-intestinal disease and oncology in primary care, supervised 30 PhD students and co-authored over 300 scientific papers. He is founding member of the European Society of Primary Care Gastroenterology and co-author of guidelines on IBS, dyspepsia, and colorectal cancer. He co-authored the Future strategy 2022 of the Dutch College of General Practice. and was member of the Quality of care Board of the Dutch Ministry of Health. He was visiting professor at Kings' College, London and at Durham University.

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