

Interventional Oncology Workshop: Speaker Biographies

Friday 15th October 2021

Dr Sonam Ansel



Dr Sonam Ansel is a medical oncology STR5 based at the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre.

Ali Arshad



Mr Arshad is a Consultant Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic surgeon at University Hospital Southampton. This centre manages patients with resectable pancreatic cancer from across the south central coast of England, Isle of Wight and Channel Islands. He has particular expertise in the multimodal management of borderline resectable pancreatic cancer, and is a key member of the only team in the UK delivering intraoperative radiotherapy for any tumour site.

Mr Arshad graduated with honours from Cambridge University and pursued surgical training in the East Midlands culminating in a fellowship at the Birmingham liver and pancreatic unit. He was awarded MD by the University of Leicester for his work in novel biological therapies for advanced pancreatic cancer.

Dr Steve Bandula



Dr Steve Bandula is an Interventional Oncology Consultant and Associate Professor in cancer intervention at University College Hospital, London. He trained at Cambridge University, completed Radiology training at UCLH, and was awarded a National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) doctoral fellowship to develop non-invasive tissue characterisation.

Dr Bandula is an expert in the focal treatment of cancer using minimally invasive therapies. He maintains a busy clinical practice treating a range of tumours - including those of the lung, liver, soft tissue, bone and prostate. He is a member of the Interventional Oncology UK (IOUK) national committee, and regularly lectures at national and international meetings.

Dr Bandula's research interests include minimally invasive tissue characterisation; and clinical translation and validation of novel focal therapies. He also runs the Foundation for Interventional and Oncology Research (FOIR) - part of University College Hospital Charitable Trust.

Prof Afshin Gangi



Afshin GANGI is graduated from the Medical School of the University Hospital of Reims (France). After his residency at the University Hospital of Strasbourg in Radiology, he specialized in Interventional Radiology and obtained his Master of Science in Medical Biology and his PhD in Laser Physics.

Professor of Radiology since 2000 at the University Hospital of Strasbourg, he is also Chairman of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine since 2007 and interventional Radiologist, specialized in Oncology, MSK and Spine. He is currently responsible for the Department of Interventional Radiology of the University Hospital of Strasbourg.

He published over 300 scientific papers, contributed to 40 books and presented more than 500 lectures and scientific paper presentations.

Afshin GANGI is invited Professor at Kings College of London.

He is member of several societies : CIRSE (Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiological Society of Europe), RSNA (Radiological Society of North America), ECR (European Congress of Radiology), SIR (Society of Interventional Radiology), ASSR (American Society of Spine Radiology), ARRS (American Roentgen Ray Society), SFR (Société Française de Radiologie), also member of the National Academy of Surgery and current President of CIRSE 2019.

Amy Greenwood



Amy Greenwood is a final year Interventional Radiology Trainee, currently based at Southmead Hospital in Bristol.

Dr James Good



James is a consultant clinical oncologist at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham, where he has a clinical focus on head/neck and gastro-intestinal cancer. He has a particular interest in advanced radiotherapy techniques for liver and pancreatic tumours, and has lead their implementation on the MRIdian MR-linac platform in the UK.

Dr Nimit Goyal



I am a consultant interventional and diagnostic radiology working at the Grange University Hospital in South Wales. I trained in South Wales and did a year of fellowship at the Royal Free Hospital, London.

I provide a range of Interventional radiology and interventional oncological procedures. We are a regional ablation centre for liver, lung, renal and osteoid osteomas providing ablation services to entire South Wales. I lead on the lung ablations service. In addition, we also provide endovascular arterial interventions, TACE, UFE, PAE etc.

My area of interest is lung ablation, cardiac CT, ergonomics in IR and how to make IR procedures more comfortable for the patients.

Dr Phil Haslam



Dr Haslam is a Consultant Interventional and Uroradiologist based at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle upon Tyne and is currently Vice President of the British Society of Interventional Radiology. He qualified at the University of Newcastle upon Tyne in 1989. He was Lecturer in Interventional Radiology at the Royal College of Surgeons and Beaumont Hospital Dublin then returned to the Freeman Hospital Newcastle in 1999 as a Consultant Interventional and Uroradiologist. He has interests in interventional and urology, with experience in a wide variety of imaging techniques for the kidneys, bladder, prostate gland, arteries and veins.

Dr Haslam was one of the founders of the British Society of Urogenital Radiology and has been the society's Chairman. He is also a founder of IOUK (Interventional Oncology UK) dedicated to improving cancer outcomes using minimally invasive techniques. He is the founder and Editor in chief of Which Medical Device, an independent review website for medical devices providing information to clinicians to help them make decisions on the best devices to use for their patients.

Dr Guy Hickson



Guy is an interventional radiologist in Gloucestershire Hospitals which is a large DGH that is also a tertiary cancer centre and vascular unit. He trained to subspeciality level in IR in Wessex, learning core interventional oncology skills in Southampton and Bournemouth, followed by a post CCT fellowship in Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham. Guy took up a permanent job in Gloucestershire initially continuing IO work in Birmingham, but is now setting up interventional oncology services for Gloucestershire and the surrounding areas with his colleagues. Guy has a particular interest in renal ablation and is a member of the Interventional Oncology UK committee, with a specific goal of increasing the availability of IO treatments for patients throughout the UK.

Dr David Kay

Consultant Radiologist in the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital in Glasgow. I am current chair of the Interventional Oncology Committee within BSIR. My specialist interest is Hepatic ablation.

Dr Peter Kennedy



Peter obtained his degree in Medical Sciences from Cambridge University and then continued to Oxford University for his clinical degree; housejobs in Belfast and Oxford were followed by a year as an anatomy demonstrator in Cambridge. He started a surgical rotation in Oxford and finished it in Belfast obtaining his Surgical Fellowship from the RCSI; his planned move into Radiology training started in 1994, culminating in an IR fellowship at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston under Professor Eric van Sonnenberg. He took up his consultant job in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast in 1999 and has been lead for Interventional Radiology at the Belfast Trust for the past 8 years. He obtained his EBIR accreditation (European Board of Interventional Radiology) in 2011 and was President of the Irish Society of Interventional Radiology 2016-2018. He performs procedures across all parts of the Interventional Radiology spectrum, with a particular interest in Interventional Oncology, predominantly liver and lung.

Nagappan Kumar



Nagappan Kumar is the lead HPB Surgeon at the Cardiff Liver unit. He set up this unit in 2002 after training in London, Ontario, Canada, Birmingham and King's College, London. The unit was approved as the only centre of excellence in Wales in 2010. There are 4 consultants and the unit provides all Liver surgical care for a population of 2.2 million. Mr Kumar has published and presented on various aspects of Liver surgery. He developed the Mini-ALPPS procedure to allow liver resection in patients with bilateral liver metastases. This is the modification of the original ALPPS procedure developed in Germany. He is the Clinical Lead for the Regional HPB MDT at Cardiff, Lead for HPB cancer in the Welsh Cancer Network and Research lead for the Surgical Directorate at the University Hospital of Wales. He is an examiner for MRCS and FRCS (General Surgery).

Dr Alistair McLaren



Alistair is an ST4 in Medical Oncology at the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre in Glasgow. He is also a TRACC (to Train and Retain Academic Cancer Clinicians) Clinical Research Training Fellow at the University of Glasgow, due to start his PhD in August 2022. Drawn to Glasgow (mostly for the weather) from Gloucestershire by way of foundation training in London, he is still in touch with his West Country roots so is delighted to be coming to Bristol for the ACP Trainees Weekend.

Dr Rebecca Muirhead



Rebecca Muirhead is a Consultant Clinical Oncologist and SABR Lead in Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. She treats patients with Lower GI cancer and HCC. Oxford has an active SABR service treating around 100 patients yearly for all indications, offering mentoring to a number of centres within our network in the process of setting up their service. She also sits on the committee for the UK SABR consortium.

Dr Pavan Najran



Dr Najran graduated from the University of Birmingham medical school, training in surgery before undertaking clinical radiology training in the west midlands.

He completed a fellowship in interventional oncology at The Christie before his appointment as a Consultant in diagnostic and Interventional Radiology. He has a keen interest in research gaining a number of publications in both interventional and diagnostic oncology.

Dr Séan M. O’Cathail



Séan is currently appointed as a Clinical Senior Lecturer at the Institute of Cancer Sciences at the University of Glasgow & Honorary Consultant Clinical Oncologist at the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre. He graduated from the School of Medicine, University College Cork, Ireland, with honours in 2008. In 2012 he moved Oxford to begin training in Clinical Oncology, passing the Fellowship of the Royal College of Radiologists in 2015. He holds an MSc in Oncology from the Institute of Cancer Research. In 2016 he was awarded a CRUK Clinical Research Fellowship at the Oxford Institute of Radiation Oncology and was subsequently awarded a DPhil from the University of Oxford for his research into mechanisms of radioresistance in rectal cancer. He has published numerous papers in the field of SBRT for oligometastatic disease. He is currently the Glasgow Principal Investigator of the CEDAR Phase I trial & PRIME-RT Phase II trial rectal cancer trials.

Dr Ben Pickwell-Smith



Ben Pickwell-Smith is an ST5 Medical Oncology Trainee from the West Yorkshire Deanery although he is currently out of programme. He is studying for a PhD at Hull York Medical School about the socioeconomic inequalities in ovarian and colon cancer diagnoses and treatments. Ben is conducting a systematic literature review and a data linkage study using cancer registry data and linking to other routinely collected datasets. He is interested in inequalities in the time to diagnosis and in the treatments received. Ben is currently working at York hospital one day a week helping in the breast cancer clinics. Ben is interested in gynaecological and breast cancers and acute oncology. Ben is an ACP-ESMO ambassador for the West Yorkshire region. Ben enjoys teaching and is actively involved with teaching undergraduate students. Ben enjoys keeping fit and the outdoors, especially when the two are combined! He successfully completed his first triathlon in June this year.

Nick Railton



Nick Railton is an interventional radiologist based in Essex in the UK. He completed surgical training in London, followed by diagnostic radiology training on the Wessex training scheme and interventional radiology fellowships in Southampton and in the USA. He is the IR lead at Broomfield Hospital (Mid and South Essex NHS Foundation Trust) where he pursues specialist interests in renal cryoablation, IR for vascular malformations and medical education. He is the incoming chair of IOUK, the national interventional oncology specialist interest group of the BSIR/RCR.

Dr Ibrahim Rajput



I recently completed higher surgical training in Yorkshire, and have been appointed as an HPB surgical consultant at Royal Blackburn Hospital in Lancashire. I work in all aspects of HPB surgery with an emphasis on surgical oncology for both the liver and pancreas. I have a strong passion for HPB surgery and have been trained in 2 high volume units in Leeds and Sheffield. I have also been trained in Kidney and Liver Transplantation.

Dr Adel Samson



I lead the Translational Cancer Immunotherapy Group. My research group focuses on harnessing the immune system to treat solid malignancies, optimising the efficacy and delivery of immunotherapies to tumours, and understanding the immunological effects of cancer therapies. My research spans multiple key steps in clinical immunotherapy development, including pre-clinical laboratory conceptualisation and optimisation, early phase clinical trials, and translational studies using clinical trial samples. In 2019 I was awarded a translational laboratory CRUK Clinician Scientist Fellowship. I am a Consultant Medical Oncologist specialising in liver tumours. I additionally lead a portfolio of translational both local and international oncolytic virus clinical trials.

Dr Shishir Shetty



Shishir Shetty is Consultant Hepatologist at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham (QEHB) and a Cancer Research UK Advanced Clinician Scientist at the University of Birmingham. He is a key member of the HCC multidisciplinary team at QEHB, a regional tertiary referral centre.

Shishir graduated in Medicine from the University of Leicester in 1999 and specialised in gastroenterology/hepatology. In 2007 he obtained a BRET-CORE fellowship to undertake a PhD in the field of immune cell trafficking and liver inflammation. On completing his specialist training he was awarded a Wellcome Trust Intermediate Fellowship to set up his independent laboratory in 2012 and appointed as Honorary Consultant Hepatologist at the Queen Elizabeth Liver transplant unit in Birmingham. His basic science research aims to study the factors which promote cancer growth in the setting of chronic inflammation with a focus on immune cell/endothelial interactions. His translational work includes the MATINS trial, an early phase clinical trial of a novel immunotherapy in the setting of advanced cancer for which he is UK Chief Investigator. Shishir is also clinical lead for the Tumour Microenvironment research theme at the Cancer Research UK Birmingham Centre and Academic Lead for liver medicine.

Dr Ashley Thorpe



Ashley Thorpe is an ST5 Interventional Radiology trainee from the Severn Deanery. Currently based at the Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust he has a broad range of interests but is particularly interested in developing skills in Interventional Oncology.

Maxine Tran



Miss Maxine Tran is an Associate Professor in Renal Cancer at UCL and Honorary Consultant Urological Surgeon at the Royal Free NHS Foundation Trust Hospital, London. She went to medical school at Guy's and St Thomas' hospitals and was awarded an MRC funded fellowship for her PhD at Imperial College London. She completed specialist urology training as an NIHR clinical lecturer at Cambridge University Hospitals. Her clinical interest is in minimally invasive (laparoscopic and robot-assisted) and complex open kidney surgery. Miss Tran is a member of the Specialist Advisory Committee in Urology with a key role in the development and improvement of postgraduate surgical training by providing guidance to trainees and trainers, the Joint Committee on Surgical Training, and the Surgical Royal Colleges of the UK and Ireland. Miss Tran is PI on 6 NIHR portfolio adopted clinical trials and is passionate about clinical practice changing research.

Dharmadev Trivevi



I am a general surgeon with special interest in hepato-biliary and pancreatic surgery. I have received specialist HPB surgical training at Basingstoke, Bristol, Guildford, Southampton, and at Leeds under some of the best surgeons in the country. Alongside, I am a keen educationalist with special interest in learning within multi-disciplinary environment. My special interests are general surgery, hernia surgery, management of colorectal liver metastases, and neuro-endocrine tumours. I enjoy music, cricket, and philosophical literature outside surgery.

Prof Nick van As



Professor Nicholas van As was appointed Medical Director of The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust in January 2016. He has been a Consultant Clinical Oncologist in the Urology Unit at The Royal Marsden since 2008 and is the hospital's Clinical Lead for stereotactic body radiotherapy (SBRT) and CyberKnife. Nicholas is also a Professor of The Institute of Cancer Research.

Professor van As is Chair of the UK SBRT Consortium and the national clinical lead for NHS England's Commissioning through Evaluation Programme for SBRT. His main research interests are in stereotactic and image-guided radiotherapy, risk prediction in early prostate cancer, and functional MRI, and he has published numerous papers on these subjects and delivered presentations at international meetings. He is the Chief Investigator for the PACE trial – an international, randomised controlled trial comparing SBRT to image-guided radiotherapy (IGRT) and surgery for treating prostate cancer.

Dr Andrew Viggars



Andrew is a clinical oncology registrar in the West Yorkshire deanery and currently completing ST5 less than full time alongside the RCP Chief Registrar programme at Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust. Whilst slowly meandering his way through training, Andrew completed an OOP leadership fellowship with health education England Yorkshire and Humber last year. Clinically he is interested in Acute Oncology whilst also campaigning to reduce incivility in the workplace, particularly in ensuring junior doctors feel a sense of belonging at work. Outside of work, he is interested in running and open water swimming, and has been known to dance in Strictly NHS in June 2021.

Dhakshina Vijayanand



Mr. Vijayanand is an experienced Consultant Surgeon specialising in liver, gall bladder, and biliary (HPB) Surgery at Leeds. He was appointed a Consultant Liver Transplant and Hepatobiliary Surgeon at the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS trust in 2014.

He graduated from JJM Medical college in India and undertook specialty General, HPB, and Transplant surgery training in Northeast England and Yorkshire. During his training at the renowned Liver unit at Leeds, he developed expertise in performing complex liver, gall bladder, and biliary surgery in adult and paediatric patients.

Mr. Vijayanand is the clinical lead for Hepatobiliary and Transplantation Services at Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust.

He performs around 150 major liver surgeries, including laparoscopic liver resections, transplants, and bile duct resection/reconstruction each Year.

He is actively involved in clinical research and co-authored several peer-reviewed publications and written book chapters. He presents at national and international meetings regularly. He is also a reviewer for surgical journals in his fields of interest.

Prof Tze Min Wah



Prof Wah is a senior consultant interventional radiologist with specialist interest in both imaging and interventional oncology treatments. Interventional Oncology (IO) is an emerging clinical discipline and beginning to establish as the 4th pillar of cancer care alongside surgical, radiation and medical oncology. Since 2003, she has led and developed the IO programme at the Leeds Teaching Hospitals Trust (LTHT) using various technologies e.g. radiofrequency (RFA), microwave ablation (MWA), cryoablation (CRYO) and irreversible electroporation (IRE) for a range of cancers such as liver, lung, renal, pancreas, adrenal, spleen etc. Today, Leeds is one of the leading national and international IO centres with reputable clinical outcomes and provides a full complement of innovative technologies such as RFA, MWA, CRYO and IRE for cancer treatment. She is one of the pioneers and leading interventional radiologists in the UK with a vast amount of clinical experience in renal ablative therapy. She has participated in grant funding research and lectured extensively on IO related topic in order to help to promote awareness and providing mentoring schemes to many trainees and consultants in IO on national and international levels since 2003.

In addition, she is a passionate champion for female leadership and love to inspire more women into Interventional Radiology. She has strived to inspire all male and female IRs to help in closing the IR gender gap issue in Europe. She is keen to share the publication on IR Gender Gap work that she has collaborated with CIRSE in 2017 and published in CVIR 2018 titled- The Interventional Radiology (IR) Gender Gap: A Prospective Online Survey by the Cardiovascular and Interventional Radiological Society of Europe (CIRSE) and the publication can be downloaded at <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29789874>.

Dr Alison Young



Alison Young graduated from the University of Leeds in Medical Oncology. She undertook her specialist training in Yorkshire and during training obtained her MD studying the VHL gene in Renal Cancer.

Having gained a Consultant post Alison designed and developed the Acute Oncology service for Leeds teaching Hospitals trust. She currently specialises in Gynaecological cancers and Lung cancer and is Lead clinician for Medical Oncology at LTHT.

Alison is the Yorkshire representative on the ACP Executive committee and has been previously involved in several of the Problem solving series workshops and books including Problem solving in Acute Oncology (1st and 2nd editions).

The Ken Bagshawe Lecture is dedicated to Professor Kenneth D Bagshawe



Reading economics at Cambridge resulted in his premature entry into the Royal Navy aged 17. It also allowed him to enter St Mary's Hospital Medical School in 1946. In the 1950's he treated two women with advanced metastatic gestational choriocarcinoma with a combination of 6-mercaptopurine and methotrexate, the first reported cases of combination chemotherapy. Both patients survived more than 50 years. He and colleagues developed the first radioimmunoassay for hCG at Charing Cross Hospital which was used to provide a national scale screening service for women following hydatidiform mole and for trophoblastic tumours in both sexes. Data collection allowed the stratification by predicted risk of drug resistance so that low risk patients were treated with methotrexate alone but those with risk of resistance received drug combinations. The introduction of etoposide in 1975 improved the success rate from around 65% to >90%.

For this disease he found solutions to the problems of case ascertainment, personalization of therapy, monitoring of treatment and addressing drug resistance. The Medical Oncology unit at Charing Cross Hospital London has become the international lead for the management of trophoblastic diseases.

In developing the epitome of a centralized, specialised service for optimal treatment of an uncommon cancer Ken Bagshawe also gave thought to the development of medical oncology services for the wider community as Chair of a Government working party on Acute Cancer Services which reported in 1983. He also went on to explore methods of using antibody enzyme conjugates to activate prodrugs selectively within tumours as a means of improving conventional chemotherapy. This was the topic of the very first Bagshawe Lecture which was delivered by Ken Bagshawe in 1989.

The Robert Bardsley Lecture is dedicated to Robert Bardsley



Robert Bardsley was a well-known and much-loved figure in Interventional Radiology circles dating back to the early 1980's. He trained as a radiographer in Manchester and moved to industry in 1984. He was a real character with an infectious sense of humour and a passion for all things interventional. He was deeply conscientious, and patient orientated in his work and would think nothing of driving hundreds of miles at the crack of dawn to attend cases if it was needed. He had a vast procedural knowledge too and liked nothing better than to pass on his knowledge to his colleagues. He is fondly remembered by his family, friends and colleagues through the Robert Bardsley Educational Fund which is proud to support this exciting project in Interventional Oncology.