The Speakers

Professor Alan Silman



Professor Alan Silman trained in rheumatology and in epidemiology and had academic post at London University, headed arthritis research at Manchester University before becoming the first Medical Director of the Arthritis Research UK. Since 2015 he has been Professor of Musculoskeletal Health at Oxford University and Senior Research Fellow at Green Templeton College Oxford. He has authored over 700 research papers and a number of textbooks. He is amongst the top 10 published medical scientists in Oxford and top 60 in the UK. He was elected Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences and has honorary doctorates from the Universities of Keele and East Anglia. He has been an advisor to the UK government in several areas of medicine and health. Most recently his research has focused on the issues arising from multi-morbidity in both ‘high’ and in ‘low and middle’ income countries. Professor Alan Silman is the Course Director of the OXCEP Academic Medicine Courses 2025 & 2026.

Professor Stephanie Dakin



Professor Stephanie Dakin is Professor of Musculoskeletal Sciences and Senior Research Fellow at Green Templeton College Oxford. Her Lab Group at the Nuffield Department of Orthopaedics, Rheumatology and Musculoskeletal Sciences (NDORMS), University of Oxford undertakes translational research focusing on identifying the cellular basis of inflammatory fibrosis in soft tissue joint disease, with research programmes on tendinopathy, frozen shoulder and knee arthrofibrosis. Understanding the cellular and molecular basis of these diseases will inform new therapeutic approaches targeting tissue resident stromal cells of the joint, to promote resolution of chronic inflammatory fibrosis. Stephanie served as Director of Postgraduate Taught Studies for the MSc in Musculoskeletal Sciences at the University of Oxford for 8 years. Professor Stephanie Dakin is the Deputy Course Director of the OXCEP Academic Medicine Courses 2025 & 2026.

Professor Charalambos Antonaides



Professor Charalambos Antonaides is the British Heart Foundation Chair of Cardiovascular Medicine and Director of the Acute Multidisciplinary Imaging And Interventional Centre (AMIIC) in the Radcliffe Department of Medicine at Oxford. He undertakes major research on crosstalk between adipose tissue and the cardiovascular system: From target discovery to advanced imaging and risk prediction, such as the vascular wall and myocardium. His group uses state-of-the-art non-invasive imaging techniques, both advanced ultrasound and CT imaging techniques, to study the structure and function of the cardiovascular system and explore its interactions with the adipose tissue. They are at the forefront of using artificial intelligence to design precision imaging diagnostics and discover novel therapeutic targets.

Professor David Clifton



Professor David Clifton is the Royal Academy of Engineering Chair of Clinical Machine Learning at the University of Oxford, and leads the Computational Health Informatics (CHI) Laboratory which focuses on "AI for Healthcare". He is OCC Fellow in AI & ML at Reuben College, a Research Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, and a Fellow of the Alan Turing Institute. Since 2008, he has focused mostly on the development of AI-based methods for healthcare. His research has been commercialised via university spin-out companies OBS Medical, Oxehealth, Biobeats, and Sensyne Health, in addition to collaboration with multinational industrial bodies. In 2022, the Pandemic Sciences Institute opened at Oxford, of which he is an investigator and where CHI Lab provides its AI theme. His research has won over 40 awards; he is a Grand Challenge awardee from the UK Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council, which is an EPSRC Fellowship that provides long-term strategic support for nine "future leaders in healthcare." He was joint winner of the inaugural "Vice-Chancellor's Innovation Prize", which identifies the best interdisciplinary research across the entirety of the University of Oxford.

Mr James Howarth



Mr James Howarth has been the Librarian at the Hall since 2018. He came to St Edmund Hall from Balliol College where he was Assistant Librarian from 2015. Previously he has worked at the International Institute of Strategic Studies and at Lambeth Palace Library in London, as well as the Taylorian Library in Oxford. He holds MAs in Library and Information Studies from UCL and Medieval Studies from the University of York, as an undergraduate he read English at Exeter College Oxford. As Librarian, Mr Howarth strives to make the Library the intellectual hub of Hall life and a welcoming place to study. He is responsible for maintaining and developing the library's collections and particularly welcomes book requests (on almost any topic) from students. He is also responsible for the Hall's historic and special collections that live in the 17th century Old Library and is keen to promote their use in research, study and outreach.

Professor David Church



Professor David Church is a Cancer Research UK Senior Research Fellow and Honorary Consultant in Medical Oncology in the Nuffield Department of Medicine. He studies the mechanisms underpinning the growth and suppression of bowel and womb cancers, focusing particularly on the immune response tumours induce and evade. The research aims to identify new biomarkers and targets to better prevent and treat these common cancers.

Dr Andrew Soltan



Dr Soltan is an National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Academic Clinical Lecturer in the Department of Oncology, a Junior Research Fellow in Engineering at Jesus College and a Medical Oncology Specialty Registrar at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. He graduated with distinction from the University of Cambridge's medical school, moving to Oxford in 2018 for postgraduate training within the NIHR joint academic clinical training pathway. His PhD in Clinical Machine Learning was awarded by the University of Cambridge based upon published works. Dr Soltan's research develops and evaluates multi-agent AI systems and federated techniques for cancer care. He designed and lead development of 'TrustedMDT', an agentic AI system to support multidisciplinary decision making in oncology. The project is a collaboration with Oxford University

Hospitals, Microsoft Health & Life Sciences, and is supported by awards from Microsoft Research and Oxford University Innovation.

Professor Simon Newstead



Professor Simon Newstead is David Phillips Chair of Molecular Biophysics, whose research work focuses on the mechanisms of pH-driven drug and metabolite transport systems relevant to human health and disease. He leads the structural biology research theme within Oxford Biochemistry. Professor Newstead is internationally recognised for establishing the mechanisms underlying peptide, amino acid, vitamin, and hormone transport through SLC transporters. His recent research has expanded to examine the roles of SLC proteins in cellular communication and protein trafficking, with a focus on neurodegeneration, inflammation, cancer, and chronic pain. He uses techniques such as protein crystallisation, single-particle cryo-electron microscopy (cryo-EM), and a range of biochemical and functional assays to study these transporters at a molecular level. His work contributes to understanding how drugs are absorbed and distributed in the body, with potential implications for healthcare and treatment strategies.

Professor Paul Brennan



Professor Brennan is Professor of Medicinal Chemistry and Director of the Centre for Medicines Discovery and Director of Chemistry in the Nuffield Department of Medicine. Professor Brennan’s research group works at the interface of chemistry and biology to design probes and inhibitors to investigate the intricate workings of human proteins and cells, with particular interest in epigenetic proteins, small GTPases, and dementia. Research interests include medicinal chemistry, fragment- and structure-based drug design, computational chemistry, organic synthesis, and biochemistry. The group is part of the Alzheimer's Research UK Oxford Drug Discovery Institute (ODDI), and Centre for AI in Precision Medicine at the University of Oxford.

Professor Paul Leeson



Professor Leeson is Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine at the University of Oxford, Fellow at Wolfson College and the Academic Lead for Innovation within the Medical Sciences Division. He is also a Consultant Cardiologist at the John Radcliffe Hospital, where he provides expertise in Cardiovascular Imaging, as well as General Cardiology and Cardiovascular Prevention, through the Oxford Specialist Hypertension Clinic.

Professor Leeson heads the Preventive Cardiology Research Group, based in the Oxford Cardiovascular Clinical Research Facility, which aims to improve how we identify and prevent heart disease in young people. His research group works in 3 areas: (i) *Novel markers of early disease* - Using imaging and laboratory studies to identify early cardiac and vascular changes in young people at risk of cardiovascular disease. In particular, those predisposed to hypertension, such as families with a history of preeclampsia or preterm birth. (ii) *Young adult cardiovascular prevention trials* - Running trials to understand how novel approaches to lifestyle and clinical management can modify early risk cardiovascular phenotypes to prevent the development of later disease. (iii) *Artificial intelligence* - Pioneering use of artificial intelligence within preventive cardiology and imaging to better identify and manage those at risk; with innovations now having been patented, spun out from the group, and turned into medical devices.

Professor David Eyre



Professor David Eyre is Professor of Infectious Diseases at the University of Oxford's Big Data Institute. His research aims to understand who gets different infections and why, and how best to prevent, treat and monitor these infections. He also works on developing artificial intelligence tools to help diagnose and treat hospital patients, and to help hospitals run better. He uses a range of approaches spanning epidemiology, statistics, causal inference, and machine learning. He works with detailed deidentified healthcare record data at both regional and national scales. He also has extensive programming and database expertise. His other research interests include the use of whole-genome sequencing as a tool for understanding the epidemiology and transmission of bacteria, viruses and fungi, and mathematical modelling of infectious disease transmission. Professor David Eyre is also interested in using sequencing technologies as a novel tool for culture-independent microbiology diagnostics. These technologies offer the prospect of same-day diagnosis of infection, rather than having to wait several days for bacteria to grow in the lab as is common now.

Professor Sophie Yacoub



Professor Yacoub is the Dengue Research Theme lead at the Pandemic Sciences Institute, University of Oxford. She's a Physician in Infectious Diseases and General Medicine and holds an honorary Consultant appointment at London NorthWest University Healthcare NHS Trust. She holds a PhD from Imperial College and an MSc from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine.

She is a Member of the Royal College of Physicians in London. She led the dengue research group at the Oxford University Clinical Research Unit (OUCRU-Vietnam) from 2017-2025 where she set up a large translational programme of dengue research, focusing on clinical trials, pathogenesis studies and innovative technology centered on wearable devices, physiological monitoring and utilizing AI for medical imaging and clinical decision support systems. She is now leading a global platform trial across 10 countries to investigate multiple therapeutics for patients hospitalised with dengue (DEN-Host Trial).

Professor Simon Knight



Professor Knight is Associate Professor of Transplant Surgery, Honorary Consultant Transplant and Vascular Access Surgeon and Director of the Centre for Evidence in Transplantation. He undertook undergraduate studies at Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, gaining a BA in medical science in 2000 before studying clinical medicine at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge. He qualified as a doctor in 2002 and moved to Nottingham for my Basic Surgical Training. He moved to Oxford in May 2006 to take up a position with the Centre for Evidence in Transplantation (CET) as a clinical research fellow in transplant surgery, during which time he completed his Master of Surgery (MChir) thesis with the University of Cambridge. After completion of surgical training, he took up a post as an Honorary Consultant Transplant Surgeon and Senior Clinical Research Fellow at Oxford in 2017 and is now Director of the CET. Professor Knight's research interests lie in evidence-based transplant surgery, transplant clinical trials, trial methodology and health informatics. He completed and supervised a large number systematic reviews relating to the optimisation of post-transplant immunosuppression and other topics in transplantation. The CET has worked closely with the European Society for Organ Transplantation and British Transplantation Society, providing input into clinical practice guidelines, consensus statements and trial design for members. He Co-PI and investigator for a number of national and international clinical trials. He was part of the design committee for of the Consortium for Organ Preservation in Europe (COPE) trials of novel organ preservation techniques, all three of which are now complete and published. He is a member of the BTS Organ Donation and Transplant Research Network Board and an associate editor for European Surgical Research. ProfessorKnight also has an interest in health informatics and clinical decision support tools. In his clinical role, he Divisional

Medical Informatics Lead for Surgery Women's and Oncology Division (SUWON). He is currently working with the AI for Digital Heath lab, investigating the use of machine learning models in aiding clinical decision making around organ offers.

Dr Tingyan Wang



Dr Wang started doing postdoctoral research in the Barnes Liver group in October 2018 after getting her Ph.D. degree at Tsinghua University. She recently became a Principal Investigator (PI), establishing her own group in Healthcare Data Science and Intelligence. She is currently supervising both DPhil and predoctoral students. Most of her work has been focused on patients' electronic health records analysis and predictive modelling by leveraging machine learning, deep learning, and statistics techniques. Her research interests include healthcare data science, medical informatics, disease risk prediction, longitudinal electronic health records analysis. Research in her group focuses on Hepatitis B and Liver Cancer. She applies advanced data analytics such as machine learning, deep learning, natural language processing (including large language models), and statistical techniques to large-scale real-world clinical data (both structured and unstructured). The goal is to generate insights into disease trajectories, predict clinical outcomes, and support data-driven improvements in patient care.

Professor Paresh Vyas



Professor Paresh Vyas is a clinical academic haematologist. He is Professor of Haematology at the University of Oxford and Deputy Director of the MRC Molecular Haematology Unit (MHU), Weatherall Institute of Molecular Medicine (WIMM) at the University of Oxford. He is clinical lead for AML (Acute Myeloid Leukaemia) and high risk MDS (Myelodysplasia) for the Oxford region and helps lead Phase I-III clinical trials in AML and MDS for the UK AML Trial Group. He formed the EVOLVE consortium, composed of HOVON, AMLSG and the UK AML Trial Group that now jointly plan pivotal Phase III AML/high risk MDS trials. He trained in Cambridge, Oxford and London. He did his PhD with Doug Higgs on globin gene regulation and his post-doctoral research with Dr Stuart Orkin at Children's Hospital Boston. His research focuses on the molecular and cellular biology of normal and leukaemic haemopoiesis, AML therapy, clonal haemopoiesis and allo-immune responses to leukaemia.

Professor Sir Adrian Hill



Professor Sir Adrian Hill is the Lakshmi Mittal Professor of Vaccinology and Director of the Jenner Institute at Oxford University. In 2005 he founded the Jenner Institute at Oxford, which is now one of the largest academic vaccine centres globally with clinical-stage vaccine programmes against fifteen diseases. His current lead malaria vaccine, R21 in matrix-M adjuvant, has shown high efficacy in clinical trials in the UK and Africa (Lancet. 2021;397:1809-1818) and could be the first widely used vaccine to impact on the great disease burden of malaria in Africa. In 2020, the Jenner Institute initiated a major effort towards rapid development of a COVID-19 vaccine which in collaboration with AstraZeneca is now in world-wide pandemic deployment. He has published over 600 research papers with 60,000 citations and co-founded several spin-off companies. He is a Fellow of the UK Academy of Medical Sciences, the Royal College of Physicians, and the Royal Society.

Dr Ben Attwood



Dr Attwood is a Consultant in Intensive Care and Anaesthesia and Chief Digital and Information Officer at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. He is Senior Responsible Owner for the Thames Valley and Sussex Secure Data Environment and oversees this ambitious programme comprising data from over 5 million patients across health and care settings. He works with academic and commercial partners in developing novel approaches to translational research and clinical applications, utilising AI and other modalities that aid diagnosis, treatment and outcomes.

He has previously been awarded a Clinical Trials Scholarship by a NIHR Clinical Research Network and is an Honorary Researcher at the University of Warwick. He has been local Principal Investigator for many ICU trials and is a member of Data Monitoring and Trial Steering Committees for international critical care studies. He has been a Chief Clinical Informatics Officer and Associate Medical Director for Technology and Transformation, leading evaluation, procurement and deployment processes for several large scale clinical applications at system level.

Professor Naomi Allen



Naomi Allen is a Professor in Epidemiology, based in the Clinical Trial Service Unit and Epidemiological Studies Unit (CTSU). She joined UK Biobank as Senior Epidemiologist in 2011, and became Chief Scientist in 2019, where she is responsible for following-up participants both through linkage with routine health-related datasets, and through web-based questionnaires. She is also involved in developing the scientific strategy for future enhancements for the study. Her research interest is largely in the role of diet, obesity and circulating biomarkers in cancer development. She is co-Principal Investigator of the Endogenous Hormones, Nutritional Biomarkers and Prostate Cancer Collaborative Group, which aims to conduct individual pooled analyses of the relationship between circulating biomarkers and prostate cancer risk from cohort studies from around the world.

Professor Michael Pavlides



Professor Pavlides is the head of liver imaging at the Oxford Centre for Clinical Magnetic Resonance Research (OCMR), and an honorary consultant hepatologist and gastroenterologist at the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. He leads the hepato-biliary imaging work in the imaging theme of the Oxford NIHR Biomedical Research Centre, aiming to develop and validate quantitative imaging biomarkers of liver and biliary disease. His work focuses on the clinical application of MRI techniques for diagnosis of liver disease and its complication like portal hypertension.

Dr Olga Koslova



Dr. Olga Kozlova is the Director of Innovation and Engagement at the University of Oxford. She specialises in technology commercialisation, start-ups, investment, economic development and innovation ecosystems. Previously Dr. Kozlova established and led Innovation and Industry Engagement Directorate at the University of Strathclyde and was a Founder and CEO of Converge, Scotland's national company creation and entrepreneurship development program. Dr. Kozlova is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Royal Society of Arts. She is an experienced Board member and advisor. Her current positions include board membership of James Hatton Institute where she chairs Scientific Excellence and Impact Subcommittee. She also acts as a mentor for start-up founders at the Higgs Centre for Innovation and as an Advisor for the Photonics& Quantum Innovation Accelerator.

Professor Rachael Bashford-Rogers



Professor Rachael Bashford-Rogers uncovers how the immune system changes across diseases. She has developed widely adopted experimental and computational tools, including B/T cell receptor sequencing, single-cell multi-omics, functional assays and imaging processes, to reveal how immune cells develop, function, and respond to therapy in health and disease. She is also co-founder of two companies: 'Alchemab Therapeutics', which is developing drugs targeting a wide range of diseases in an unmatched and novel manner; and 'Theraimmune', which is dedicated to developing the first-generation of post-menopausal therapeutics through decoding how individual cells age and interact after menopause to uncover the mechanisms driving disease.

Professor Alex Novak



Professor Novak is Consultant in Emergency Medicine and Ambulatory Care at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, having previously worked as a General Practitioner, and had nearly 20 years experience of experience working across three clinical specialties. His non-clinical time is spent working to develop research in the acute healthcare sector, which has historically been underrepresented and underexplored in academic terms, and his strategic work seeks to offer an alternative paradigm to the disease/organ centered outlook which has hitherto dominated clinical research. His research interests are based primarily around the use and development of diagnostic technology in acute healthcare settings, in particular the evaluation of Artificial Intelligence-enhanced imaging, and the broad and varied scope of presentations combined with the high intensity of the Emergency Department workflow provide a fertile ground for innovation within this vast sphere of clinical activity.

Professor Novak has been the Consultant lead for Emergency Medicine Research Oxford (EMROx) since early 2020 and holds a number of strategic research roles across the national, regional and local acute healthcare sector, including Chair of the Thames Valley Emergency Medicine Research Network, and Acute Critical and Emergency Care Research Oversight Committee. He is a member of the Royal College of Emergency Medicine (RCEM) Research Committee and was awarded RCEM Principal Investigator of the Year in 2020. He has a broad portfolio of research projects, including a strong interest in the development and evaluation of AI-enhanced imaging in acute healthcare settings, and am Chief Investigator for the both the GE Critical Care Suite Reader Studies and Simulation Training in Emergency Department Imaging (STEDI) trials.

Professor Jane Kaye



Professor Jane Kaye is the Director of the Centre for Law, Health and Emerging Technologies (HeLEX) in the Faculty of Law at the University of Oxford and Professor of Health Law and Policy at the University of Melbourne. She is Senior Convenor of AI in Research and Research Training at the University of Melbourne. She established the Centre for Health, Law and Emerging Technologies at Melbourne Law School, University of Melbourne, Australia, which is now co-directed by Professor Mark Taylor and Dr Megan Prictor. She obtained her degrees from the Australian National University (BA); University of Melbourne (LLB); and University of Oxford (DPhil). The main focus of her research is on digital innovation with an emphasis on AI, digital privacy and dynamic consent, public involvement and engagement in research, biobanks, genomics, data-sharing infrastructure, global governance and translational research.

Professor Kaye is on a number of international expert committees and scientific advisory boards and has been on the Nuffield Council Bioethics Working Group on Biodata and Rapporteur for the EC Expert Report, Biobanks for Europe - A Challenge for Governance, June 2012. Most recently she was on the UN Taskforce on Health Data Privacy, appointed to the Scientific Advisory Board of the European biobanking platform BBMRI-ERIC, and is on the WP8 Advisory Group of the Joint European Action TEHDAS 'Towards a European Health Data Space'. She also holds Associate Professorships at the Faculty of Law, University of Tasmania and at the Bioethics Centre, led by Professor Kazuto Kato at the Osaka Medical School, Japan. She is also on the editorial boards of Genomic Medicine, Law, Innovation and Technology, the Journal of Law, Information and Science.

Professor Gary Ford



Professor Ford is Professor of Stroke Medicine, Chief Executive Officer of the Oxford Academic Health Science Network and Consultant Stroke Physician at Oxford University Hospitals. His work focuses on developing and evaluating treatments that can reduce brain damage in the first few hours after stroke and developing better processes of care to deliver for stroke patients. Professor Ford developed and evaluated the performance of stroke recognition instruments such as the Face Arm Speech Test (FAST) and Recognition of Stroke in the Emergency Room Scale (ROSIER) to improve early diagnosis of stroke by the public, ambulance paramedics and Emergency Department teams. His work has evaluated the risks and benefits of thrombolysis in very elderly stroke patients 80 years or older, who are the population at highest risk of stroke. In addition to research in stroke, his work more broadly seeks to understand the risks and benefits of drug therapies in older people.

Professor Qiang Zhang



Professor Qiang Zhang is a deep learning (machine learning) scientist, with cross-domain knowledge of cardiovascular disease, MR physics and scan protocols. His research programme focuses on advancing cardiac imaging and enriching clinical research, with AI: (i) Advancing cardiovascular MRI with Generative AI. A representative work is Virtual Native Enhancement imaging, where he developed AI techniques that could serve as "virtual contrast" in enhancing MR images, without the need for contrast injections. This may lead to more informative, needle-free, faster and safer heart MR scans. (ii) Developing automated image processing pipeline for cardiac imaging big data, and AI-enhanced cardiac biomarkers to drive new discoveries in clinical research.

Dr Satheesh Prabhu



Dr Satheesh Prabhu is a Consultant Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeon at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. He has subspeciality interest in Head & Neck Cancer and Reconstruction. He is the Co-Chief investigator for the MANdibular TRauma and Antibiotic (MANTRA) Trial (NIHR152682), which is a multicentre RCT. He is also the Secretary General of the European Association for Cranio-Maxillofacial Surgeon and represents Europe in the International Association of Oral & Maxillofacial Surgeons. He has clinical interests in nerve repair, minimally invasive surgery and subascapular system based reconstruction.

Dr Ana Angelova Volponi



Guest Speaker Dr Ana Angelova Volponi is a Reader in Regenerative dentistry and the Director of the Postgraduate Programme in Regenerative Dentistry at the Faculty of Dentistry, Oral & Craniofacial Sciences, King's College London. She was an elected Academic Board member (2020-2023) at King's College London, and is the Associate Editor of the 6th Edition of the highly acclaimed textbook "Oral Anatomy, Histology and Embryology " which has been the reference point and recommended essential reading within many dental curricula across the globe for over 45 years. In 2024, her work on tooth regeneration and creation of "lab-grown teeth", using advanced biomaterials as scaffolds to further develop bioengineered teeth, had paved the way for a potentially disruptive technology in regenerative dental medicine.

Professor Alvaro Mata



Guest Speaker Professor Alvaro Mata is Professor in Biomedical Engineering and Biomaterials in the School of Pharmacy and the Department of Chemical and Environmental Engineering at the University of Nottingham. His research group works at the interface of supramolecular chemistry, structural biology, biofabrication, and engineering to develop bioinspired approaches to design and fabricate innovative materials and devices for tissue engineering and regenerative medicine. For example, by utilizing biological processes such as protein disorder-to-order transitions, compartmentalization, or diffusion-reaction processes as predictive steps of biofabrication methods, it is possible to grow functional structures that exhibit structural and functional properties of biological systems. His research work has opened the door, for the first time in dental medicine, to the possibility of regenerating dental enamel.