Accessing Cell and Gene Therapy Research Expertise

A Directory to Cambridge, London, Oxford and the Greater South East

CATAPULT Cell and Gene Therapy

MEDCITY CAMBRIDGE | LONDON | OXFORD

NHS National Institute for Health Research

Foreword

The Golden Triangle of Cambridge, London and Oxford is home to world-class scientific research and ground-breaking medical innovations, which benefit not only the surrounding communities but have a global reach. Home to four of the world's top ten universities, five of the UK's seven academic health science centres and world-leading research institutes such as The Francis Crick Institute, Harwell and the Sanger Institute; the region is uniquely positioned to enable the successful translation of pioneering medical treatments, therapies and technological developments.

Fundamental to the research success of the region are the NIHR Biomedical Research Centres (BRCs); the engine rooms that sit at the interface of academic institutions and leading NHS organisations, transforming scientific breakthroughs into life-saving treatments for patients.

Each BRC focuses on key research areas, but often with cell and gene therapy, and the technologies associated with and evolving from them, underpinning a large and growing portion of their biomedical research. Their world-first studies have led to significant breakthroughs, and in turn contribute to the UK's international competitiveness as a major component of our knowledge economy.

Cell and gene therapy is at the heart of the UK government's long-term strategy for life sciences, and as we face significant health challenges, it is more important than ever to accelerate efforts in translational medicine. Great discoveries and treatments are the product of teams with a variety of expertise, experience and perspectives, bringing together the best people from industry, academia and investors, around the world.

Please contact the BRCs to discover the projects and successes they have been involved in, and we invite you to collaborate and drive forward future cell and gene therapy innovations.

Sarah Haywood
CEO, MedCity

NIHR Cambridge BRC

shmm2@medschl.cam.ac.uk

The NIHR Cambridge BRC is based on the Cambridge Biomedical Campus; a single site for scientific research featuring world-class institutes, patient care in NHS hospitals, and drug discovery in pharmaceutical companies including AstraZeneca and GlaxoSmithKline (GSK).

The NIHR Cambridge BRC reaches out to scientists on the campus and beyond to ensure that their discoveries are pulled into the NHS, where clinical researchers can use them, in partnership with the life sciences industry, to improve health.

It creates an environment that engages patients and the public, trains and nurtures the next generation of researchers, promotes equality and is diverse, and encourages all staff working in the NHS to engage in research.

Stewart Fuller

Stewart Fuller is Head Nurse at the Addenbrookes Clinical Research Centre/Cambridge Clinical Research Centre NIHR/Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility. This facility provide state-of-the-art clinical research facilities to support world-class research and early translational experimental medicine in a wide range of clinical conditions in patients of all ages, translating cutting edge science into the medicines and treatments of the future.

Located at the heart of the Cambridge Biomedical Campus, the Cambridge Clinical Research Centre (CCRC) comprises six clinical research facilities located in two linked buildings both with access to Addenbrooke's Hospital.

Two facilities are located in the Addenbrooke's Centre for Clinical Investigation (ACCI) Building, an NIHR/Wellcome Trust Clinical Research Facility for research involving children and young people, an adult outpatient area with investigation and audiology rooms, and a bespoke Metabolic Research Area with body composition measurement facilities.

Sandra Mulrennan

Sandra Mulrennan is Business Development Lead for Cambridge Clinical Research Centre. This facility provide state-of-the-art clinical research facilities to support world-class research and early translational experimental medicine in a wide range of clinical conditions in patients of all ages, translating cutting edge science into the medicines and treatments of the future.

Located at the heart of the Cambridge Biomedical Campus, the Cambridge Clinical Research Centre (CCRC) comprises six clinical research facilities located in two linked buildings both with access to Addenbrooke's Hospital.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE

Cambridge University Hospitals NHS
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NIHR Oxford BRC

paul.whyte@ouh.nhs.uk

The NIHR Oxford BRC is based at the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and run in partnership with the University of Oxford. It is funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) through a competitively awarded grant. In September 2016 it was awarded £113.7m to support translational research. The OxBRC is a partnership that brings together the research expertise of the University of Oxford and the clinical skills of staff of Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust with the aim of supporting translational research and innovation to improve healthcare for patients. Oxford has one of the largest clinical trial portfolios in the UK and considerable expertise in taking discoveries from the lab into the clinic.

Dr Paul Whyte

Paul Whyte is Business Development Manager for the University/NHS partnership in Oxford and represents the University Medical Sciences Division and Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. He is responsible for securing strategic research alliances and partnerships with industry.

Paul has a track record in biopharmaceutical and medical technology development and commercialisation, spanning academia and industry. Previous roles include research at Astra Zeneca and Pierre Fabre Medicament, technology transfer at Cancer Research Technology (CRUK), senior business development roles in UK biotech at Avidex Ltd and Evolutec plc, Head of life sciences innovation consultancy at Oxford University Innovation and more recently CEO of Future Injection Technologies limited, a company developing and commercialising a new medical auto-injector platform. Paul's track record includes; technology licensing deals valued in excess of $100m, strategic development and research alliances, running a business commercialising antibody research and diagnostics tools and successful start-up company fundraising, management and shareholder exit. He holds a PhD in viral immunology from the University of Reading and an MBA.

Dr Vasiliki Kiparoglou

Vasiliki Kiparoglou is the Head of BRC Clinical Research Operations at the NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research Centre (BRC). Vasiliki is a PhD holder in Cardiovascular Physiology and Genetics and is currently studying for an Executive MBA at Oxford University. The NIHR Oxford BRC is based at the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and run in partnership with the University of Oxford. It was one of five centres funded by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) in 2007 through a competitively awarded grant of £57m over five years. In April 2012, as a recognition for its outstanding contribution to healthcare research it was awarded £95.5m to 2017 and in September 2016 was awarded £113.7m for 2017 to 2022 to support translational research. The Director of the NIHR Oxford BRC is Professor Keith Channon.

Oxford University Hospitals NHS
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Oxford Biomedical Research Centre

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD

NIHR Great Ormond Street Hospital BRC

Laura.Turner@gosh.nhs.uk

The NIHR GOSH BRC's mission is to tackle major challenges in children's healthcare by supporting the translation of basic scientific discoveries into 'first in child' clinical studies. Its aim is to accelerate discoveries into the basis of rare and complex childhood diseases, and develop new diagnostics and treatments. Its "Gene, Stem, and Cellular Therapies" theme is developing and refining state-of-the-art GMP infrastructure to enable it to deliver new gene and cell therapies into the NHS. Building on its gene therapy successes in childhood immunodeficiencies and cancer such as leukaemia, it is developing similar approaches for conditions in areas of unmet need including metabolic and neuromuscular diseases.

Dr Laura Turner

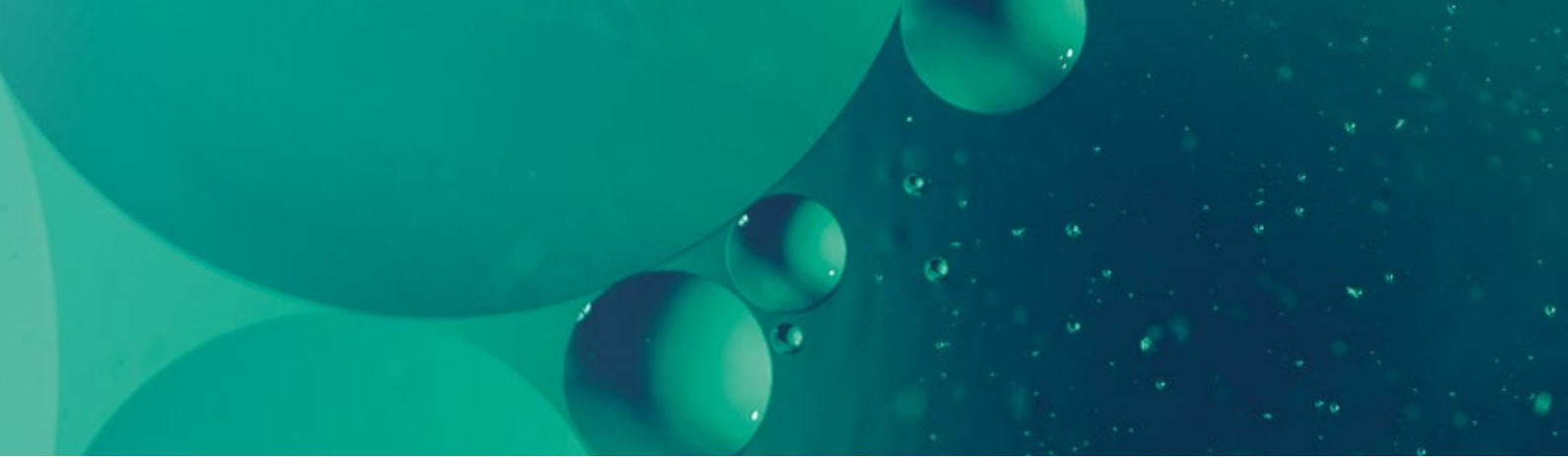
Laura Turner is Deputy Director of Operations at the NIHR Great Ormond Street Hospital BRC. She has a range of experience in basic and translational research and operational management across multiple sectors including academia, charity, industry and the NHS. Laura obtained her BSc in Molecular Cell Biology from the University of Bath and her PhD from the UCL LMCB. After a post-doc position in Cancer Research UK's Keratinocyte Laboratory, Laura moved to Eisai Ltd. where she led projects identifying and validating novel targets for Alzheimer's disease. She then moved to the Cancer Screening and Prevention Research Group at Imperial College London where she managed six nationwide multicentre clinical trials focused on improving early diagnosis and prevention of colorectal cancer. Immediately prior to joining GOSH, Laura was the Research Manager for the Precision Medicine division of the Guy's and St Thomas' BRC.

Dr Sue Swift

Sue Swift has been responsible for Quality Assurance of the Gene and Cell Therapy manufacturing unit at Great Ormond Street since 2007. The majority of products manufactured are based on the transduction of bone marrow, skin or T cells with transduction using either retro or lenti-viruses. The diseases treated include various types of severe combined immunodeficiency and skin defects as well as leukaemia, cancer and treatments to improve the outcome of bone marrow transplantation. Administration includes both children and adults. The manufacturing unit makes about 40 products per year and holds MHRA licences for IMPs (for use in clinical trials) and Specials (for use off-trial). A new facility with increased capacity is due to be completed in early 2019. Sue Swift holds a PhD in Medicine from University of Leicester and is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology.

Prof Paul Gissen

Paul Gissen is the Head of Genetics and Genomic Medicine academic programme at the UCL GOS Institute of Child Health and Honorary Consultant in Paediatric Metabolic Diseases at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) for Children NHS Foundation Trust. Having obtained his medical degree from the University of Glasgow in 1995, Paul completed his Paediatrics training at Manchester, Sheffield and Birmingham Children's hospitals. During his PhD at Birmingham University Paul studied genetics of rare paediatric liver disorders and became interested in molecular and cellular basis of intracellular trafficking disorders such as Arthrogryposis, Renal Dysfunction and Cholestasis syndrome, Niemann Pick type C disease and Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis. Paul moved his lab to the UCL MRC Laboratory for Molecular and Cell Biology in 2011 and his clinical work has since been located at GOSH. His clinical research focuses on development of novel therapies for children with inherited metabolic disorders.



Dr Kimberly Gilmore

Kimberly Gilmour completed her BSc at Duke University in Durham, North Carolina and her PhD in genetics at the State University of New York, where her research focused on cytokine signalling. In 1995 she was awarded a Cancer Research UK Fellowship to study T cell development. In 1999 she was appointed as a Clinical Scientist in the Department of Immunology at Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Trust. Kimberly has developed a number of protein and mRNA based diagnosis of primary immunodeficiency and transduction of cells for gene therapy trials. She has established numerous assays to monitor cell transduction and immune reconstitution post gene and cell therapy. Her research interests include identifying molecular mechanisms responsible for immunodeficiency, establishing new assays for the diagnosis of immunodeficiency, and cell therapy clinical trials. In 2012 she obtained her Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathology. In 2016 she was appointed Clinical Lead for Immunology and Director of Cell Therapy at Great Ormond Street Hospital.

Katie Groves

Senior Neuromuscular Research Nurse, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust.

Dr Alison Niewiarowska

Production Manager, Genes and Cellular Therapy, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation

Prof Thomas Voit

Thomas Voit is Director of the NIHR Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH) BRC, Professor and Honorary Consultant of Paediatrics at GOSH, and Vice-Dean for Enterprise at UCL's Faculty of Population Health Sciences. Thomas is a leader in translational medicine with a focus on genetics, gene therapy and neuromuscular diseases.

Emma Pendleton

Emma Pendleton is Deputy Director of Research and Innovation at GOSH. Emma oversees the provision of research and innovation services at GOSH, which includes the Joint GOSH and ICH Research and Development office the NIHR GOSH Clinical Research Facility and the operational management of the NIHR Great Ormond Street Hospital BRC. Emma has over 10 years' experience in NHS research management.

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Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS
NHS Foundation Trust

NIHR Guy's and St Thomas' BRC

brc@gstt.nhs.uk

The NIHR Guy's and St Thomas' BRC works to develop deliver new medicines and diagnostics to patients, drive research and innovation into the NHS, and provide national systems leadership for maximum impact to patients.

With its research activity organised into nine themes, each holding an individual Athena Swan Silver award highlighting its commitment to equality and diversity, and supported by its interdisciplinary, world leading infrastructure, it is poised to deliver the next step change for the health and wealth of our nation.

Dr Shaun Cochrane

Shaun Cochrane has worked in both academia and industry and across the pharmaceutical development pathway from basic research through to product manufacture. After carrying out post-doctoral research on the human GnRH receptor, he went on to complete an MBA and was subsequently appointed Chief Executive Officer of Genius Biotherapeutics. The company's core focus was on the manufacture and sale of biologicals and R&D into personalised therapies using dendritic cells. He then worked for the South African Heart and Stroke Foundation collaborating with large multi-nationals to raise awareness of heart disease amongst the South African population. Shaun was then appointed Assistant Professor at a University in Saudi Arabia where his research focused on patient adherence to treatment regimens for multi-drug resistant tuberculosis. Shaun Cochrane is now the Advanced Therapies and Experimental Medicine Deputy Research Manager at the NIHR Guy's and St Thomas' BRC.

Dr Archana Ambily

Archana Ambily is the BRC's new Precision medicine (Cluster 2) manager overseeing projects designed to develop genetic, protein, metabolomic, imaging or phenotypic biomarkers for patient stratification to improve treatment decisions and outcomes. Archana's work history spans across industry and academia. Archana undertook her doctoral training at King's College London within the Cardiovascular division, after which she developed her experience within clinical operations posts within AstraZeneca and Roche as well having also worked at the Barts Cancer Institute.

Dr David Oppenheim

David Oppenheim is a Translation Research Portfolio Manager for the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) at Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Trust and King's College London. David has expertise in functional immune monitoring, biomarkers for precision medicine, and advanced therapeutics including biologics and cellular/gene therapy for immune oncology. Prior to this role, David was a scientific data and policy advisor at NHS England working on national data programmes including the Systemic Anti-Cancer Therapies Dataset and the 100,000 Genomes Project.

David was educated at Yale University with degrees in Molecular Cellular Biology. He then received a PhD from King's College London where he conducted research into how the immune system reacts to cancer. His postdoctoral work at King's College London as a Translational Research Fellow and Group Leader provided mechanistic insight into how novel antibodies and immunomodulators activate NK cells in clinical trials for epithelial and haematological malignancies.

Dr Laura Fry

Laura Fry is Head of Advanced Therapy Production at the ATMP GMP Unit of the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust and King's College London. The Unit provides a core facility for users within Kings Health Partners as well as a CMO for external hospitals, universities and commercial organisations. The Unit has three clean rooms and is capable of manufacturing multiple products at the same time.

Following a PhD with the Anthony Nolan Trust, Laura gained GMP experience as a Production Scientist for the University of Oxford working on the ONE Study, a multi-centre Phase I/II clinical trial assessing the use of haematopoietic immunoregulatory cells as clinical therapies in renal transplants. She joined the Trust in 2015 as Senior Production Scientist developing a GMP compliant cell sorter for use in the manufacture of ATMPs, before being promoted to Head of Production in 2017.

Dr Mike Lyne

Mike Lyne is the Senior Translational Research Portfolio Manager for the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) at Guy's and St Thomas' & King's College London. Working closely with the BRC's Research groups, Mike identifies promising translational research opportunities within Guy's and King's and assists with accelerating these projects into clinical testing. This includes helping researchers to secure external funding and outsourcing development activities. He also project manages the BRC's projects with high translational value, particularly advanced therapies.

Prior to working at the BRC, Mike has over 20 years' experience working across academia and industry (predominantly within small and medium-size pharmaceutical companies) where he specialised in drug repositioning and repurposing, especially for rare diseases. Mike holds a PhD in Molecular Genetics awarded from the University of Exeter.

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NIHR Imperial BRC

brcofficer@imperial.ac.uk

The NIHR Imperial BRC is a translational experimental medicine research partnership between Imperial College London and Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust. The BRC provides infrastructure and project funding to develop innovative and 'first-in-human' approaches to diagnostics, treatments and patient care.

its expertise in Cell and Gene Therapies spans development of technology platforms to pre-clinical and clinical studies, with commercialisation via its technology transfer partner, Imperial Innovations. Capitalising on multi-disciplinary collaboration across Imperial's Faculties of Engineering, Natural Sciences and Medicine, its highly entrepreneurial BRC provides comprehensive support and expertise for the rapid translation of innovative ideas into clinic.

Prof Eric Alton

Eric Alton is Professor of Gene Therapy and Respiratory Medicine at Imperial College, London and an Honorary Consultant Physician at theRoyal Brompton Hospital. He was educated at Jesus College, Cambridge and Westminster Medical School, undertook 6 years of general medical training, before focusing on research into Cystic Fibrosis. He devised a diagnostic test for CF, and over the last 15 years has been involved in bringing Gene Therapy to the clinic for this disease. He coordinates the UK CF Gene Therapy Consortium which brings together the three centres in the UK (Edinburgh, Oxford Universities and Imperial College, London) focused on this aim.

Prof Uta Griesenbach

Uta Griesenbach is Professor in Molecular Medicine at the National Heart and Lung Institute, Imperial College London. Her reserach interests are related to the development of gene therapy-based treatments for cystic fibrosis and other respiratory diseases as well as blood clotting disorders and include vector and biomarker development, toxicology and safety as well as GMP-vector production. Uta is Co-Investigator on several gene therapy trials, including a recently completed non-viral Phase IIb study. Uta is a Strategy Group Member of the UK Cystic Fibrosis Gene Therapy Consortium (www.cfgenetherapy.org.uk/), President of the British Society for Gene Therapy (www.bsgct.org/) and is a Gene Therapy advisor (GTAC) on the West London National Research Ethics Comittee. In addition, Uta is interested in teaching and work-force development.

Prof Anastasios Karadimitris

Tassos Karadimitris is a Professor of Haematology at the Centre for Haematology, Department of Medicine, Imperial College, London and Honorary Consultant Haematologist at Hammersmith Hospital, ICHT. His expertise is in Hodgkin and Non-Hodgkin Lymphoma, and chronic lymphoproliferative disorders. His laboratory focusses on 3 areas of research: 1) Molecular and cellular pathogenesis of multiple myeloma and other mature B cell malignancies; 2) The biology of glycolipid specific T cells, their role in haematological disease and their therapeutic potential with a particular interest in the role of invariant NKT cells in allogeneic stem cell transplantation and their therapeutic potential for CD1d-expressing B cell malignancies; 3) Understanding the transcriptional and epigenetic basis of housekeeping gene regulation and its therapeutic implications for autosomal recessive Mendelian disease. As part of his clinical activities Prof Karadimitris participates and leads local phase III clinical trials. In conjunction with the pharmaceutical industry he is working towards developing our capacity for early phase I/II clinical trials for lymphoma and myeloma.

Dr Sadaf Ghaem-Maghami

The focus of Sadaf Ghaem-Maghami's research is immunology and immunotherapy in gynaecological cancers, specifically ovarian cancer. She has identified prognostic immune markers in ovarian cancer and shown the role immune check point molecules play in ovarian cancer immune suppression. Her team has studied the role monocytes and macrophages play in immune cell/tumour cell interaction in ovarian cancer, and has an interest in identifying finger prints that predict tumour immunogenicity. Currently, Sadaf is devising cell based immune therapeutic approaches in ovarian cancer and investigating the role of combination therapies (using chemotherapy or DNA methylation altering drugs) order to sensitise tumours to immune cell killing. Translation of the scientific findings into clinical benefit has been a particular focus. In addition, Sadaf has clinical responsibility as a Subspecialist Surgical Gynaecological Oncologist in the Regional West London Gynaecological Cancer Centre where over 350 new cancer patients a year are treated.

Dr Jon Wilkinson

Jon Wilkinson joined Imperial Innovations in 2004 and is a senior executive with responsibility for the medicine faculty with a particular focus on therapeutics and diagnostics. Jon has over 10 years' experience in the sector working in a number of roles ranging from overseeing the launch of two new products for a biotech company Abgene to managing the exploitation of intellectual property from a consortium of UK Universities.

Charlotte Milnes

Charlotte Milnes joined the Corporate Partnerships team at Imperial College in January 2017, to engage commercial partners with academic colleagues in the Faculty of Medicine.

Charlotte joins us from the Cell and Gene Therapy catapult where she worked as a Business Development Executive. During her time there, she was focused on developing opportunities with universities and companies in the North of England. Prior to this Charlotte has spent time in both higher education and industry in roles spanning business development, marketing and intellectual property law. Charlotte holds a BSc in Zoology from University of Durham, a MRes in Molecular Physiology from the University of Liverpool, an MSc in Intellectual Property Management from QMUL and most recently an MBA from Henley Business School with a thesis "The Formation of Trust in Collaborative Partnerships between Academia and Industry".

Charlotte is keen to speak to any potential partner interested in developing a relationship with her academic colleagues and Imperial College London.

Dr Susie Gray

NIHR Imperial BRC Programme Manager (Brain Sciences, Infection and AMR, Immunology and Informatics & Biobanking)

Dr Irina Babina

NIHR Imperial BRC Programme Manager (Cancer, Gut Health, Surgery & Technology, Molecular Phenomics)

Dr Aadil Kazi

NIHR Imperial BRC Programme Manager (Cardiovascular, Metabolic Medicine and Endocrinology, Genetics & Genomics, Imaging)

NIHR Imperial BRC

Imperial College London

Imperial College Healthcare NHS NHS Trust

NIHR Moorfields BRC

julian.hughes@moorfields.nhs.uk

The NIHR Moorfields BRC, together with the NIHR Moorfields Clinical Research Facility, is supporting the delivery of new diagnostic methods and therapies in ophthalmology, developed both internally and in partnership with companies and charities entering at any stage of development. They are developing gene therapy as a treatment for a range of eye diseases, including rare forms of inherited diseases along with common eye disorders (AMD and diabetic retinopathy) as well as advancing novel stem cell therapies to prevent blindness and/or restore vision caused by AMD, ocular surface disease, glaucoma and diabetes.

Dr Julian Hughes

Research Performance and Alliance Manager, Research and Development, Moorfields Eye Hospital

Dr Roxanne Crosby-Nwaobi

Head of Clinical Research Nursing
NIHR Clinical Research Facility
Moorfields Eye Hospital

Moorfields Eye Hospital NHS
NHS Foundation Trust

NIHR Royal Marsden BRC

cancerbrc@rmh.nhs.uk

The Royal Marsden and The Institute of Cancer Research form the largest comprehensive cancer centre in Europe, and its NIHR BRC is the only one specialising in cancer. The BRC maximises its translational research by harnessing experience, expertise and infrastructure across the pathway from discovery and design, through early phase clinical trials, to translation of its research discoveries into patient benefit. The wealth of its know-how, model systems and analytical tools create many opportunities for companies to interact with them as they seek to accelerate development of novel products and services through to market.

Prof Alan Melcher

Alan Melcher graduated in medicine from the University of Oxford in 1989, and trained in Clinical Oncology (Radiotherapy and Chemotherapy) in Cardiff, London and Leeds. Following completion of his PhD at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund (now Cancer Research UK) in London, he was a post-doctoral research fellow at the Mayo Clinic, Minnesota, before returning to the UK, where he became Professor of Clinical Oncology and Biotherapy in Leeds in 2007.

In April 2016, he moved to The Institute of Cancer Research, London, as Professor of Translational Immunology and Honorary Consultant Oncologist at The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust. He combines a clinical practice in head and neck cancer and melanoma with laboratory and translational research focused on oncolytic viruses and immunotherapy for the treatment of cancer.

Dr Emma Nicholson

Emma Nicholson is a Consultant Haematologist with a specialist interest in stem cell transplantation, acute leukaemia and teenage and young adult patients with haematological malignancies. She graduated from Glasgow University in 2002 and undertook her postgraduate haematology specialist training in Glasgow and London. She was awarded a PhD in 2013 from UCL and her research focused on the transduction of CD4+ T cells with class I restricted TCRs and improving avidity by co-transduction of CD3. She was appointed as a Consultant Haematologist at Royal Marsden Hospital in 2016. She is clinical lead for stem cell transplant clinical trials and for CAR-T therapies for haematological malignancies.

Dr Juanita Lopez

Juanita Lopez is a Consultant Medical Oncologist in the Phase I Drug Development Unit at the Royal Marsden and the Institute of Cancer Research specialising in early phase translational drug development and the treatment of patients with brain tumours.

Dr Lopez graduated from the University of Cambridge with a double first class in 2001 obtaining numerous prizes and completing an intercalated laboratory research year in development neurosciences. She then completed her general medical training in London, and was awarded the MRCP in 2004. She was then awarded a four year Clinical Research Training Fellowship from Avon-Breakthrough Breast Cancer to carry out laboratory research at the ICR which led to the award of a PhD.

Her main research interests lie in understanding the interplay between inflammation, immune-responses and cancer, and rationally developing novel treatments and combinations. She has served as UKCI for a number of early phase clinical trials including first-in-human trials; including several for brain tumours.

NIHR Royal Marsden BRC

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Dr Monica Ritco Vonsovici

Monica Ritco Vonsovici is the Manager of the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre at The Royal Marsden and The Institute of Cancer Research. She trained initially as a protein biochemist at the University of Paris XI, Orsay, France followed by postdoctoral training at The Institute of Cancer Research, London and the London Centre for Nanotechnology, UCL, where her research interests focussed on molecular recognition process of important targets for cancer drug design. While at UCL, she acted as a facilitator for industry-related activities within London Centre for Nanotechnology, helping identifying and promoting business opportunities. She then joined the Health Innovation Challenge Fund, a translational funding partnership between the Department of Health and the Wellcome Trust, where she was a senior member of the team responsible for the set-up and management of the scheme.

Her role provides strategic management and implementation of the clinical, academic and business objectives of the Biomedical Research Centre.

The ROYAL MARSDEN NHS Foundation Trust | ICR The Institute of Cancer Research

NIHR University College London Hospitals BRC

t.osadolor@ucl.ac.uk

The UCLH BRC is a partnership between one of the UK's leading hospitals and one of the leading universities in the world. This partnership ensures that advances in medical science led by UCL scientists are translated, developing more effective treatments for patients.

Our strengths in cell and gene therapies including CAR-T and TCR T-cell engineering, in utero gene therapy and tissue engineering are highlighted along the therapy development pathway; including cell and gene therapy portfolio, clinical delivery and commercialisation. UCLH now has the largest CAR-T cell clinical trial portfolio in Europe with some of our spin-outs attracting some of the largest venture capitalist investment in Europe.

Prof Bryan Williams

Chair of Medicine at University College London (UCL), Director of the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) University College London Hospitals Biomedical Research Centre, Director of Research for UCL Hospitals (NHS) and a Consultant Physician at UCL Hospitals.

His research and clinical practice is in the field of hypertension, in which he is recognised as one of the world's leading authorities. His research in the sphere of human experimental medicine has focussed on developing clinically applicable models for the human non-invasive assessment of aortic pressure and hemodynamics, treatment for resistant and complex hypertension, hypertension in diabetes and hypertension in the young.

Dr Nick McNally

Dr Nick McNally is Managing Director, Research at University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and UCL. Nick has extensive experience of research in the NHS and University sectors having held senior management and leadership roles in biomedical research for the last 18 years. In his current role as Managing Director at UCLH/UCL he oversees the UCLH/UCL Joint Research Office, which he led the establishment of in 2005, as well as all NIHR infrastructure at UCLH/UCL including the NIHR Biomedical Research Centre and Clinical Research Facility. Alongside clinical academic leaders at UCLH/UCL Nick has co-led many NIHR and other funding bids including 3 successful BRC bids (>£300M). Nick has extensive experience of research leadership and senior management in the NHS and University sectors.

Prof Emma Morris

Emma Morris is the Infection, Immunity & Inflammation (III) Programme Director of the NIHR UCLH BRC. She is Professor of Clinical Cell and Gene Therapy at UCL and a Honorary Consultant in Haematology/Stem Cell Transplantation at UCLH and the Royal Free Hospital.

In 2002 she was awarded the LLR Senior Bennett Fellowship in Experimental Haematology and established her own Research Group, working alongside Professor Hans Stauss.

Her research team is developing novel gene and cell therapies for the treatment of haematological malignancies and has led key FIM trials. These studies involve the testing of genetically modified immune cells and stem cells in patients with haematological malignancies.

She is a Board Member of the British Society for Gene and Cell Therapy, on the Editorial Board of the British Journal of Haematology, Immunotherapy Theme Lead of the UCL Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre, and is Chair of the UCL Gene Therapy Safety Committee for Clinical Trials.

Ms Tina Osadolor

Tina Osadolor has worked as a Biomedical Scientist for over ten years. Prior to joining the Biomedical Research Centre, she was managing a laboratory delivering histology services to industry and academics. Tina manages a portfolio of BRC research programmes including some of the largest programmes at the UCLH BRC. She holds an MSc in Biomedical Science and is currently studying towards an MBA at Warwick Business School.

NIHR University College London Hospitals BRC

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Dr Claire Roddie

Claire Roddie is a Consultant Haematologist and Honorary Senior Lecturer in Haematology at University College London with a particular interest in Chimeric Antigen Receptor (CAR) T-cells for Cancer. She completed a PhD in Cellular Immunotherapy at UCL in the laboratory of Professor Karl Peggs and subsequently undertook a Clinician Scientist post in Dr Martin Pule's Laboratory to work on the UCL CAR T-cell program. Her current role involves pre-clinical development of novel CAR projects, GMP CAR T-cell manufacture and Clinical Trial design for academic CAR T-cell studies at UCL. She is also responsible for the development of a clinical service at UCLH to support patients recruited to CAR T-cell studies.

Prof Massimo Pinzani

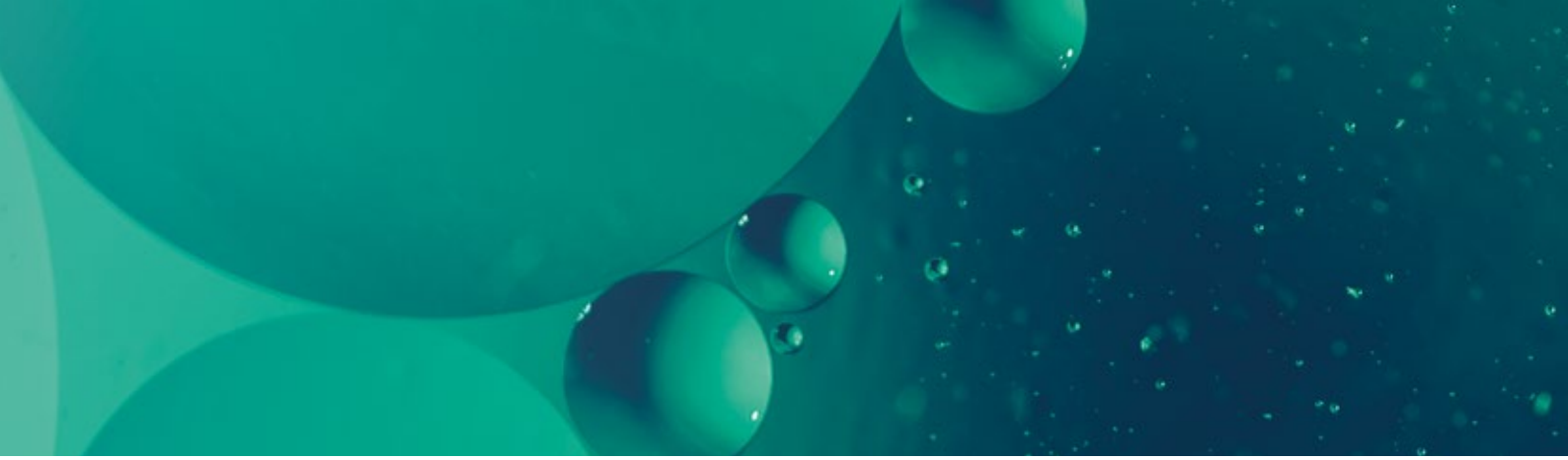
Massimo Pinzani is Professor of Medicine at University College London (UCL), London, United Kingdom. He is a clinical and translational hepatologist, Sheila Sherlock Chair of Hepatology and Director of the UCL Institute for Liver and Digestive Health, Division of Medicine. He is one of the pioneers in the research dedicated to cellular and molecular mechanisms of liver fibrosis and relative diagnostic and therapeutic approaches. Current research is centred on regenerative medicine and in particular on the development of extracellular matrix scaffold of liver, pancreas and small intestine for cell bioengineering and 3D disease modelling. Professor Pinzani research activity is summarised in more than 200 original peer-reviewed publications (H Index of 81, Scopus). He has served in the governing and scientific boards of major international organization in the area of Hepatology and Gastroenterology, and as Editor in Chief and Associate Editor of top peer reviewed international journals in the area of Gastroenterology and Hepatology. He is Educational Councilor and member of the governing board of the European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL). He is currently chairman and co-founder of Engitix Ltd, an UCL spin-off company dedicated to tissue engineering and regenerative medicine with particular focus on the liver and digestive tract.

Prof Anna David

Anna David is Director of the Institute for Women's Health, University College London (UCL). She is also Professor and Honorary Consultant in Obstetrics and Maternal Fetal Medicine at UCL Hospital. She qualified in medicine from St Andrew's University in Scotland and Manchester University in England, followed by specialty training in obstetrics and gynaecology in London. Anna leads UCL as a partner in a European Commission Horizon 2020 funded consortium BOOSTB4, conducting the first clinical trial of in utero stem cell transplantation for severe congenital disease of the newborn. She also works with UCL engineers and medical image computing experts in the GIFT-Surg project developing novel imaging and surgical procedures for the fetus. This 6 year programme has explored the bioethics of gene therapy in pregnancy and completed pre-clinical efficacy and reproductive toxicology studies leading to a first-in-woman clinical trial.

Jade Dyer

Jade Dyer obtained a Master's of Science Degree in health psychology from London Metropolitan University in 2009 and has worked in Clinical Trials since 2011 in the NHS and universities, working for the old Cancer Research Network. Jade works at the Comprehensive Clinical Trials Unit at UCL as a Clinical Trials Manager and, part of her role is to work on the EVERREST Project with Prof. Anna David. In managing the recruiting prospective study across 4 sites, (3 international) involves Jade setting- up the ATIMP clinical trial arm of EVERREST and, she also works in other areas of the project which has recently included the validation of a modified translated questionnaire for assessing participant experience in Spain & in the UK EVERREST prospective study cohort. A continuation of this validation in women taking part in interventions in pregnancy in the UK is in the process of being set-up.



Dr Paul Maciocia

Paul Maciocia is an Academic Clinical Lecturer in Haematology at University College London Cancer Institute. Dr Maciocia completed undergraduate degrees in medicine and pharmacology at the University of Edinburgh, and postgraduate clinical training in Edinburgh, Bristol and London. He obtained his PhD in Cancer Immunotherapy in the laboratory of Dr Martin Pule at UCL, where he developed a new approach for the treatment of T-cell lymphomas using chimeric antigen receptor (CAR) T-cells. This strategy will shortly enter phase 1 clinical trials. His research interests are in the use of synthetic biology to redirect T-cell function and basic T-cell immunology, and his clinical interest is in lymphoma. He is currently working as a clinician-scientist developing novel engineering approaches for allogeneic 'universal' CAR T-cells, as well as new strategies to treat haematological malignancies.

Dr Giuseppe Mazza

Giuseppe Mazza is a Research Associate at the UCL Institute for Liver and Digestive Health, with an interest in tissue engineering and regenerative medicine. Dr Mazza pioneered the decellularisation procedure for whole human liver as well as the development of novel decellularisation procedures for small scale tissue scaffold development. He is currently responsible for Tissue Engineering and Regenerative Medicine at UCL, ILDH. Dr Mazza is co-founder, CEO and CSO at Engitix ltd, a UCL spin-off company dedicated to tissue engineering and regenerative medicine with particular focus on the liver and digestive tract. Engitix is the first in the world to provide engineered human tissues (e.g. liver, intestine, pancreas) for disease models, drug screening, biomarkers discovery and regenerative medicine. Engitix human 3D platform has a key USP related to the preservation of natural human extracellular matrix (ECM) which is a key factor in modulating cell phenotype for functional tissue engineering.

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About MedCity

MedCity exists to promote and grow life sciences investment, entrepreneurship, collaboration and industry in Cambridge, London, Oxford and the greater south east. From drug discovery to devices, diagnostics and digital health, MedCity supports life sciences and healthcare companies, large and small, to do business in the golden triangle.

Launched in April 2014, MedCity is a collaboration between the Mayor of London, Imperial College Academic Health Science Centre, King's Health Partners, UCL Partners, Cambridge University Health Partners and Oxford Academic Health Science Centre.

MedCity promotes life sciences in the region by:

- Providing a single front door and concierge service for industry and investors looking for partners, infrastructure and expertise
- Facilitating and supporting collaboration across all parts of the sector to turn innovation into commercial products and services
- Fostering an environment that supports and encourages entrepreneurialism
- Raising awareness globally of the region's rich life sciences ecosystem

Find out more at MedCityHQ.com or on Twitter @MedCityHQ

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About the NIHR

The National Institute for Health Research (NIHR): improving the health and wealth of the nation through research.

Established by the Department of Health and Social Care, the NIHR:

- Funds high quality research to improve health
- Trains and supports health researchers
- Provides world-class research facilities
- Works with the life sciences industry and charities to benefit all
- Involves patients and the public at every step

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comms@ct.catapult.org.uk

About The Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult

The Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult was established as an independent centre of excellence to advance the growth of the UK cell and gene therapy industry, by bridging the gap between scientific research and full-scale commercialisation. With more than 160 employees focusing on cell and gene therapy technologies, it works with partners in academia and industry to ensure these life-changing therapies can be developed for use in health services throughout the world. It offers leading-edge capability, technology and innovation to enable companies to take products into clinical trials and provide clinical, process development, manufacturing, regulatory, health economics and market access expertise. Its aim is to make the UK the most compelling and logical choice for UK and international partners to develop and commercialise these advanced therapies. The Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult works with Innovate UK.

Matthew Durdy
Chief Business Officer

Part of the team that created the Catapult, he is also an Executive Director. He is responsible for strategy, and finding, funding and transacting the business of the Catapult. He has been a champion of the early integration of healthcare economics and reimbursement expertise into decision- making and clinical product design in the sector. He began his career in international investment banking and has successfully managed a number of biotechnology SMEs. His first degree was from Oxford University in Biology and he has an MBA (High Honors) from Chicago Booth. He is a non-executive director of an immune-oncology company and periodically assists the UK Government and international organisations in the development of initiatives in healthcare innovation.

Dr Panos Kefalas
Head of Health Economics and Market Access

Panos Kefalas, Head of Health Economics and Market Access at the Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult, and team provide health economics, pricing, reimbursement and market access expertise to accelerate and maximize cell and gene therapy uptake across major healthcare markets. He brings over 15 years' experience in pharmaceutical pricing, reimbursement and health economics gained both from senior roles with major HEOR and market access consultancy firms (IMS Health plc, PriceSpective/ICON plc, United BioSource Corporation/Evidera plc) and from managing NICE guidance development. He obtained a PhD in Molecular Medicine from King's College London, an MBA from Cranfield University and professional training in health economics from the University of Oxford and the Centre for Health Economics in York.

Contact us

MedCity can help you navigate and access different parts of the academic, NHS and industrial life sciences and healthcare environment across the golden triangle of Cambridge, London, Oxford and the greater south east region of England.

office@medcityhq.com
0203 179 8100
medcityhq.com

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