



## Experimental Cancer Medicine Centres (ECMC)

Junior Investigator Network Group (JING)  
Training the Next Generation

### Chairs, Faculty and Speakers

*Summary & bios*

Theobalds Park , Lieutenant Ellis Way , Cheshunt, Waltham Cross ,  
Hertfordshire , EN7 5HW  
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## 1. Chairs

Sessions will be chaired by members of the **Junior Investigator Network Group (JING) Steering Committee** who have developed the program for the event.

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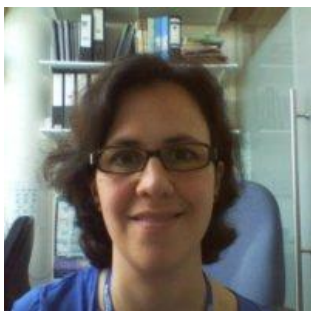


**Dr Stuart Williamson**

Chair of the JING Steering Committee and Post-Doctoral Researcher, Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute

Stuart was appointed chair of the Junior Investigator Network Group Steering Committee in June 2013. Stuart's work focuses on the mechanisms of cancer progression and relapse, with a particular focus on small cell lung cancer.

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**Dr Diana Romero**

JING Steering Committee Member and Research Associate, Imperial College London

Diana's research focuses on tumour suppression and signaling with a particular focus on prostate cancer. Her recent work includes the study linking Dickkopf-3 (Dkk-3) and TGF- $\beta$  signalling.

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**Dr Richard Turkington**

JING Steering Committee Member and Clinical Senior Lecturer in Medical Oncology

Richard's research interests include oesophago-gastric cancer and the analysis of genomic datasets to discover biomarkers and mechanisms of resistance to chemotherapy. He is involved in translating these discoveries into advances in patient care through biomarker-led clinical trials.

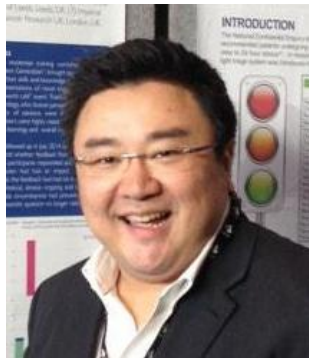
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**Dr Harriet Walter**

JING Steering Committee Member and Medical Oncology Trainee, Leicester

Harriet is a medical oncology trainee at Leicester having graduated from Birmingham University. She is currently undertaking a 3 year Clinical Research Fellowship in Haematology with Professor Dyer at the University of Leicester where she is looking at the mechanisms of resistance of Bruton's Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitors and is involved with early phase clinical trials in haematological malignancies.



**Dr Tim Yap**

JING Steering Committee Member and Clinician Scientist and Consultant in Medical Oncology in the Drug Development and Lung Cancer Units, the Royal Marsden Hospital and The Institute of Cancer Research

Tim's translational and clinical interests are in drug development and lung cancer. His main research involves the design and conduct of early phase clinical trials, and the development of predictive and pharmacodynamic biomarkers involving tumour, plasma DNA and circulating tumour cells. He has been involved in the preclinical development of Akt inhibitors and early trials of novel targeted therapies, including PARP inhibitors in BRCA1/2 mutant cancers and agents targeting HER2/EGFR, MET and the PI3K–Akt–mTOR pathway.

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## 2. Speakers

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### **Dr Aoife Regan**

Head, Experimental Cancer Medicine Centres Secretariat

Aoife leads the team responsible for the running of the ECMC network and the delivery of the ECMC Networking Strategy developed in 2012 to help the ECMCs achieve faster set up of multi-site studies, improve staff training, share expertise and resources within the network and improve communications about ECMC activities to the community, industry and funders.



### **Professor Robert Brown**

ECMC Lead and Chair in Translational Oncology,  
Department of Surgery and Oncology, Imperial College  
London

Bob's work focuses on epigenetics and drug resistance, with a particular focus on ovarian cancer. He and his team have shown that aberrant DNA methylation and epigenetic silencing of genes in tumours can predict response to chemotherapy and patient survival.

His current work facilitates the development of compounds, which can reverse epigenetic silencing, and is using molecular biomarker assays to aid the clinical use of these compounds and has initiated studies on identifying and targeting cancer specific epigenetic changes in ovarian tumour stem cells. Bob is also Vice-Chair of the the Cancer Research UK New Agents Committee.



### **Dr Karen Noble**

Head, Research Training and Fellowships, Cancer Research  
UK

Karen's team runs the research training and fellowship schemes for Cancer Research UK, which supports cancer researchers at the start of their careers. Her team help identify the best people, manage their funding, and support them as their careers develop, which includes providing training and networking opportunities.



**Professor Jeff Evans**

ECMC Lead and Professor of Translational Cancer Research, Head of Experimental Therapeutics Unit and Director of the Institute of Cancer Sciences, University of Glasgow

Jeff's clinical interests are in upper GI, pancreatic cancer and melanoma. He focuses on the pre-clinical and clinical development of novel anti-cancer agents including molecular targeted therapies. Jeff also leads the Phase I clinical trials and drug development team in Glasgow and is a member of the AZ – ECMC Combinations Alliance Steering Committee.

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**Dr Simon Pacey**

Clinical Senior Research Associate and Academic Consultant in Cancer Therapeutics, Cambridge Cancer Centre and Cambridge University Hospitals

Simon's clinical focus is urological cancers (bladder, prostate and renal) and his research focuses on early phase and experimental therapeutics in these cancers. He is currently involved with the TOTEM study for urothelial cancer and VanSel1 looking at VEGFR and EGFR inhibitors in advanced solid tumours.

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**Professor Karen Brown**

ECMC Lead and Professor of Translational Cancer Research, University of Leicester

Karen's research interests focus on two overlapping themes in the prevention of cancer: elucidating carcinogenic mechanisms and the risks associated with exposure to genotoxic chemicals, and the development of chemopreventive agents. For both areas, she is also involved in the identification and development of novel biomarkers of cancer risk, prognosis and efficacy. Her recent work involves the development of resveratrol, curcumin and anthocyanins. Karen is also the co-Chair of the UK Therapeutic Cancer Prevention Network Group.

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**Professor Vicky Goh**

Professor of Clinical Cancer Imaging, King's College London and Honorary Consultant Radiologist at Guy's & St Thomas' Hospitals

Vicky's research focuses on multimodality imaging methods to improve cancer assessment, image biomarker development and image heterogeneity. Her clinical focus is on gastrointestinal, urological and lung cancer. She is President of the European Society of Oncologic Imaging, member of the European Society of Radiology and RCR research committees, and ECMC imaging steering group.

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**Dr Anthony Williams**

ECMC Lead and Reader in Clinical Immunology and Allergy and Head of the Regional Clinical Immunology Laboratory, Southampton University Hospital

Anthony's research encompasses basic science, translational assessment and clinical adoption of diagnostic and therapeutic interventions that stem from the adaptation of discovery science in Human Immunology. His work includes the evaluation of antigen specific CD4 and CD8 responses by tetramer, intracellular cytokine, secreted protein array and phenotypic enumeration and how some might be utilised as biomarkers of vaccine responsiveness.

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**Dr Brian Sheehan**

Head of Project, Clinical Study, and Portfolio Management at the Cancer Research UK Centre for Drug Development

Brian is responsible for the oversight and delivery of the CDD's core portfolio of ca. 30 early-phase drug development projects. Brian joined Cancer Research UK in 2010, having previously worked in both the academic sector and the pharmaceutical industry.

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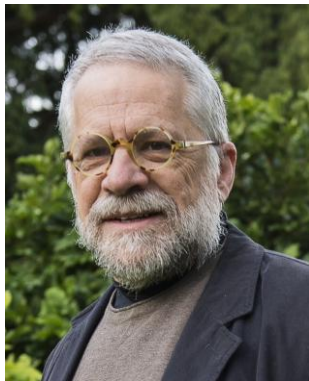




**Dr Bridget Wilkins**

ECMC/ NCRI Pathology Lead and Histopathologist, Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

Bridget is a haematopathology specialist with additional roles in molecular diagnostics, R&D, service improvement and biobanking. Bridget's research interests include bone marrow and lymphoid tissues in combination with molecular diagnostic pathology.



**Professor Richard Kaplan**

Associate Director of the NIHR CRN, Senior Clinical Scientist with the Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Unit and Honorary Consultant in Oncology at University College London Hospital

Rick's research interests are in biologically stratified clinical trials designs, biomarker development/validation with clinical research interests in colorectal and prostate cancer. Rick was responsible for scientific coordination of NCI-funded or sponsored treatment trials in gastrointestinal, urological and brain malignancies, and has served on advisory committees and panels for NCI, NIH, FDA and for other government agencies and professional organisations, as well as for clinical trials organisations in North America, Europe and Australia.

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**Mr Stephen Thomas**

Involvement Coach, Cancer Research UK

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**Mr Tom Haswell**

Involvement Coach, Cancer Research UK

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### **Professor Herbie Newell**

Professor of Cancer Therapeutics, Northern Institute for Cancer Research, Newcastle University

Herbie's research expertise covers cancer pharmacology, pharmacokinetics, DNA repair modulation and kinase inhibitors. He has over 40 years experience of the discovery and development of conventional and novel cancer chemotherapies. His current work includes cyclin dependent kinases, DNA damage related kinases and receptor tyrosine kinases.

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### 3. Faculty

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#### **Dr Richard Baird**

Academic Consultant in Breast Cancer Therapeutics,  
Cambridge University Hospitals

Richard's research focus is in first-in-human and drug combination trials including work with new small molecule and antibody therapeutics, development of pharmacodynamic and predictive biomarkers, and novel clinical trial designs including Bayesian / adaptive approaches. Richard's clinical focus is breast cancer.

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#### **Ms Caroline Bray**

Senior Statistician, Cancer Research Clinical Trials Unit,  
Glasgow / Institute of Cancer Sciences, University of  
Glasgow

Caroline plays a key role in the biostatistics of a number phase I and II trials at the CR-UK CTU, Glasgow. Her published work includes studies in renal cancer, melanoma, non-Hodgkin lymphoma and head and neck cancers. She is a member of the NCRI Renal Cancer Clinical Studies Group and sits on a number of IDMCs for national studies.

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#### **Professor John Chester**

ECMC Lead and Cancer Research UK Professor of  
Medical Oncology, Cardiff University and Honorary  
Consultant, Velindre Cancer Centre

John's clinical research interests are in trials for bladder and head/neck cancers, including trials of oncolytic viruses and molecularly-targeted therapies. His laboratory research interests include virus-mediated gene therapy and molecular biomarkers of response to cancer therapy.

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### **Mr Jim Elliot**

Involvement Coach, Cancer Research UK

Jim has been a carer for close family with a range of health conditions (cancer, depression and chronic fatigue syndrome) for many years. His career has been spent in health research management across the commercial, public and voluntary sectors following his early academic career to post doctoral level in biochemistry and microbiology. His combined experiences have led to an interest in facilitating effective patient and public involvement in health research. Jim now works part time as the public involvement lead for the Health Research Authority and has a number of other occasional public involvement roles including: Public Involvement Coach for Cancer Research UK; Associate Member of INVOLVE; senior facilitator for the Macmillan / NIHR Building Research Partnerships [public involvement] workshops; lay reviewer for the NIHR Evaluation Trials and Studies Coordinating Centre (NETSCC); public co-chair of the NETSCC Patient and Public Involvement Reference Group; member of Independent Cancer Patients' Voice; and member of the editorial board of Research Involvement and Engagement, the open access journal launched by Biomed Central in November 2014.

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### **Dr Michelle Ferguson**

ECMC Lead and Consultant in Medical Oncology,  
Ninewells Hospital, Dundee

Michelle's clinical research interest is in ovarian cancer and drug-resistance.

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### **Dr Martin Forster**

Clinical Senior Lecturer and Consultant in Medical  
Oncology, University College London Hospital

Martin is involved in the management of patients with both lung and head and neck cancers. He is interested in drug development and in using the increasing understanding of cancer biology to design studies that distinguish patient populations most likely to gain benefit from new drugs and new drug combinations. He has a particular interest in the cancer biology that leads to the development of both lung and head and neck cancers.

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**Dr Claire Harrison**

Consultant and Deputy Clinical Director of Cancer and Haematology, Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

The focus of Claire's work is to improve diagnosis, risk definition and therapy of myeloproliferative disorders (MPDs). Her research interests are myeloproliferative neoplasms, understanding of pathogenesis, causes of thrombosis and transfusion-based research.



**Professor Richard Kennedy**

ECMC Lead and McClay Professor of Medical Oncology and Head of the Stratified Medicines Research Group at the Center for Cancer Research and Cell Biology, Queen's University Belfast

Richard's research interests are in molecular biology, biomarker development/validation with clinical research interests in colorectal, prostate, breast and ovarian cancer.



**Dr David Manton**

Involvement Coach, Cancer Research UK

Dave is a former lymphoma patient and is co-chair of a consumer research (public and patient involvement) panel working out of Hull, East Yorkshire. He also has twenty years' experience as a post-doctoral cancer research scientist (quantitative in vivo magnetic resonance techniques) and is just finishing a period of re-training as a clinical radiotherapy scientist.



**Professor Paul Marsden**

Professor of PET Physics, King's College London

Paul's works on a wide range of projects related to the methodology and applications of PET scanning, and has a particular interest in simultaneous PET-MR and clinical and research applications of PET in oncology. His current research includes methodology for multi-centre trials using PET, characterisation of novel PET tracers and production of non-standard radionuclides.



**Professor Malcolm Mason**

ECMC Lead and Professor of Clinical Oncology, , College of Biomedical and Life Sciences, Cardiff University

Malcolm’s research interests are in immunology and cancer metastases with clinical research interests in prostate cancer. Malcolm is Chair of the NCRI Prostate Cancer Clinical Studies Group, and Director of the Wales Cancer Bank, the UK’s first population-based tumour and blood sample collection, which to date has recruited over 6,500 patients.



**Dr Paul Nathan**

Consultant Medical Oncologist, Mount Vernon Cancer Centre

Paul’s major interests are in the use of targeted therapies to treat advanced renal carcinoma, the development of imaging biomarkers in the management of this disease, and in the development of selective treatments for genetically defined subtypes of melanoma.



**Mr Jim Paul**

Senior Research Fellow, Cancer Research UK Clinical Trials Unit, University of Glasgow

Jim is Head of Biostatistics at the Cancer Research UK Clinical Trials Unit (CTU) based in the Beatson West of Scotland Cancer Centre and is currently involved with in a range of studies (phase I-III) across a range of cancers. He is a member of a number of Data Monitoring and Trials Steering Committees and has a particular interest in phase II studies of molecularly targeted agents

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**Dr Nuria Porta**

Senior Statistician, Clinical Trials and Statistics Unit (ICR-CTSU), The Institute of Cancer Research (ICR)

Nuria is a statistician providing oversight to trials in metastatic prostate cancer, breast cancer and bladder cancer. Her research areas of interest are biomarker-driven designs, prognostic modeling, stratified medicine and the challenges

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of incorporating imaging data to clinical trials.

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**Professor Ruth Plummer**

ECMC Lead and Professor of Experimental Cancer Medicine, Northern Institute for Cancer Research, Newcastle University and Freeman Hospital

Ruth leads the Newcastle Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre and also the CR-UK Newcastle Cancer Centre. Her clinical focus is melanoma and her recent research includes early phase trials of PARP and monocarboxylate transporter 1 (MCT1) inhibitors. Ruth also chairs the Cancer Research UK New Agents Committee.

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**Ms Diana Robinson**

Involvement Coach, Cancer Research UK

Diana joined the NIHR CRN Consumer Liaison Group (CLG) in 2003 as a member of the NCRI Prostate Cancer Clinical Studies Group and later joined the NCRI Primary Care CSG. From 2007-11 she was the consumer rep with CR-UK CTAAC. Now an associate member of the CLG she currently advises the IMPACCT study (palliative care) and works with UK-DUETs and the RCR in a PPI capacity as well CR-UK.

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**Mr John Rouse**

Involvement Coach, Cancer Research UK

John became interested in Cancer Research when his wife was diagnosed with melanoma. He has since served as a lay representative on the North Trent Network Site Specific Group for Skin Cancer, and the NCRI Melanoma Clinical Studies Group. He has provided lay input to research at the Experimental Cancer Medicine Centre at Weston Park, Sheffield, and is currently on the NICE Melanoma Guideline Development Group

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**Professor Nigel Russell**

Professor of Haematology, Nottingham University Hospital (City Campus)

Nigel heads up a team in Nottingham, which encompasses both clinical and laboratory research, to learn more about

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the biology of the haematological malignancies, discover and characterise new drug targets, and test new drugs, to identify better treatments for people with blood-related disorders. He is Chair of the NCRI AML Working Group is Chief Investigator of the AML17, AML18 and AML19 trials.

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**Dr Debashis Sarker**

Consultant and Senior Lecturer in Medical Oncology, Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

Debashis' research interests are in the development of signal transduction inhibitors, and the application of novel predictive and pharmacodynamic biomarkers, especially using molecular imaging. His clinical interests are in liver, pancreatic and biliary cancers.

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**Dr Mark Saunders**

Consultant Clinical Oncologist, The Christie NHS Foundation Trust

Mark's specialty is in trials for GI malignancies and his main area of interest is running clinical trials evaluating novel agents with associated response/toxicity biomarkers and radiology. He recently published a phase III FOLFOX/CAPOX versus placebo plus FOLFOX/CAPOX in patients with previously untreated metastatic colorectal cancer

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**Mr Matt Sydes**

Senior Scientist and Senior Medical Statistician, Medical Research Council Clinical Trials Unit (MRC CTU), London

Matt is a medical statistician leading trial teams conducting research in prostate cancer and osteosarcoma (including STAMPEDE and EURAMOS-1). He has an interest in improving clinical trial conduct and reporting and was involved in the DAMOCLES project which set standards for (independent) Data Monitoring Committees and led to the widespread use of charters for trial committees. Matt sits on a number of IDMCs and is interested in applying multi-arm multi-stage adaptive designs in the phase II/III setting.

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**Professor Anne Thomas**

ECMC Lead and Professor of Cancer Therapeutics, University of Leicester and Director of the Hope against Cancer Clinical Trials Unit at the Leicester Royal Infirmary

Anne's research interests are design and delivery of early phase clinical studies including chemoprevention strategies and improving information exchange in oncology consultations through the multi-disciplinary 'Better Consultations in Cancer Care' which she leads in collaboration with Imperial College. Anne's clinical interests are in upper- and lower-gastrointestinal cancers including neuroendocrine and GIST tumours.

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**Dr Fiona Thomson**

Director of Analytical Services Unit/Senior Research Fellow, University of Glasgow

Fiona provides scientific leadership for cancer biomarker discovery in the Glasgow ECMC to support clinical development of novel therapeutics and for optimising and individualising treatment aiming to improve the design and information obtained from clinical trials. Fiona is a pharmacologist who has research interests in neurodegenerative and psychiatric diseases.



**Professor Chris Twelves**

ECMC Lead and Professor and Honorary Consultant in Medical Oncology, Biomedical Health Research Centre, University of Leeds

Chris' research interests are in new drug development and clinical pharmacology and his clinical interests are in colorectal and breast cancer. Chris has sat on a number of committees including being an ex-member Cancer Research UK New Agents Committee, was ex-chair of the EORTC New Drug Development Group and has helped to champion the ECMC Trial Harmonisation Programme.

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**Professor Keith Wheatley**

Professor of Medical Statistics, University of Birmingham

Keith is a medical statistician leading trial teams conducting research in children's cancers, skin cancer and haematological malignancies. Keith is also a member of three NCRI Clinical Studies Groups for Children's Cancer and Leukaemia and Skin Cancer.