Association for Inherited Cardiac Conditions

2021 AICC HYBRID CONFERENCE

Updates and innovations in ICCs

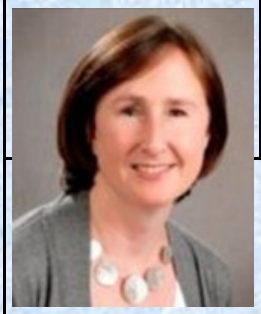
Speaker and Chair Biographies

Dr Jan Till

Consultant Cardiologist and Congenital Electrophysiologist at the Royal Brompton Hospital, London

AICC President and AICC Conference Organising Committee

Jan is current president of the AICC, having served as a council member for over 10 years and is passionate about raising awareness and identifying ways in which we can improve care of patients and families living their lives with ICCs. Her major interest is device treatment, genetics and management of channelopathies in young people. Jan works at the Royal Brompton Hospital where she helped build the inherited cardiac conditions unit as a consultant in congenital electrophysiology, caring for adults and children and families with channelopathies. She leads in Channelopathies and is Director of Childrens' services at the Trust.



Dr Catherine Mercer

Consultant Clinical Geneticist at University of Southampton NHS Foundation Trust and Lead for Cardiac Genetics, Wessex

AICC Secretary and AICC Conference Organising Committee

Dr Mercer is a Consultant Clinical Geneticist at University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust and is the lead clinician for Cardiac Genetics across the Wessex region. Dr Mercer has developed the Cardiac Genetics Service across the region to increase clinical capacity and ensure equity of patient access across the region. In addition, Dr Mercer was the Rare Disease Lead for the 100,000 Genomes Project in Wessex, involved in driving the delivery of this NHS transformational project. While most passionate about service delivery, she also has a research background with a PhD in the molecular genetic causes of congenital heart disease, specifically left ventricular outflow tract obstruction. She was elected as Secretary for the AICC in July 2019

Dr Eleanor Wicks MBChB, BSc (hons), MRCP (UK), PhD

Consultant Cardiologist and Clinical Lead of Inherited Conditions Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and Senior Clinical Lecturer University of Oxford

AICC Conference Organising Committee and AICC Council Member

Eleanor is Clinical Lead of the Inherited Cardiac Conditions (ICC) service and the former Heart Failure (HF) lead in Oxford with longstanding specialist interests in acquired and inherited conditions, genomics, heart failure and multimodality imaging. She studied Medicine at the University of Edinburgh, UK. After qualifying in 2004, she trained in General Medicine, gaining membership of the Royal College of Physicians in 2009 and completed her general cardiology training in London. She was appointed as a Consultant Cardiologist with dual accreditation in General Medicine in 2015 and moved to Oxford to become clinical lead of the HF and ICC service in 2017. In 2019 she became an Honorary Senior Clinical Lecturer at the University of Oxford and she was elected to the Council for the Association of Inherited Cardiovascular Conditions (AICC) in 2020. Her fiercely ambitious commitment to patient care led to her receipt of the Ronald Raven award for clinical excellence by the Cardiomyopathy UK charity in 2019 and to two clinical excellence awards in 2019 and 2020.

Over the past 6 years Eleanor has established a national and international reputation in the field of HF and heart muscle disease. She has authored peer-reviewed papers, is an Editor of the Oxford Handbook of Inherited Cardiovascular Disease, she lectures widely to promote education and she sits on a number of national and international committees. She was instrumental in delivering the European Outcomes Research Programme (EORP) registry on cardiomyopathies. She combines energy and enthusiasm with clinical leadership and service delivery to manage a UK flagship, large multidisciplinary, multi-professional specialist team providing integrated, holistic cardiomyopathy evaluation alongside DNA diagnostics as one of the UK's genomic hubs to improve diagnoses, therapy and risk stratification of people with HF and cardiomyopathies. She harnesses collaborative clinical and academic synergy to work with others to define disease mechanisms and ensures the translation of pioneering novel molecular biological and clinical research approaches into clinical practice which has transformed care for families. She utilises state-of-the-art genomics and imaging for rich phenotyping to help reveal the molecular, imaging and genetic basis of heart diseases in search of improved diagnoses, streamlined clinical screening, risk stratification and the exploration of potential therapeutic targets aiming to deliver personalised therapy with substantial benefits for patients.

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Prof Perry Elliott

Consultant Cardiologist, Barts Heart Centre & Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine, UCL Institute of Cardiovascular Science

Professor Elliott is Research Lead of the Inherited Cardiovascular Disease Unit at the Bart's Heart Centre, London, UK, and Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine at University College London (UCL). He studied medicine at St. Thomas's Hospital Medical School, London. After qualifying in 1987 he trained in general medicine, gaining membership of the Royal College of Physicians in 1991, and completed his general cardiology training at St. George's Hospital Medical School, London. He was appointed as Senior Lecturer first at St. George's Hospital in 1999 and then at UCL in 2003. He was promoted to Reader in Inherited Cardiac Disease in 2005 and became a full Professor at UCL in 2012. He is cardiovascular lead for the North Thames NHS Genomic Medicine Centre, and a member of the Cardiovascular GeCIP [Cardiomyopathy subgroup] and Genomics England Pilot Steering Committee. Over the past 20 years, he has established an international reputation in the field of heart muscle disease, authoring more than 300 peer-reviewed papers on the subject. He was elected as a Fellow of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) in 2005, is past Chairman of the ESC Working Group on Myocardial and Pericardial Diseases (2010–2012), and chairs the ESC Guideline Task Force on Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy and the Executive Committee for the European Outcomes Research Programme registry on cardiomyopathies. He has edited two books: Principles and Practice of Clinical Cardiovascular Genetics (Kumar & Elliott) ISBN13: 9780195368956. Mar 2010, Oxford University Press & Inherited Cardiac Disease (Oxford Specialist Handbooks in Cardiology) Elliott, Lambiase, Kumar. Oxford University Press. ISBN-13: 978-0199559688. July 2011. (Shortlisted BMJ Medical Books Award, 2012). From 2009 to 2013, he was Deputy Editor of The Heart Journal and is currently Deputy Editor for the International Journal of Cardiology and an associate editor for the Journal of American College of Cardiology. He is President of the Cardiomyopathy UK.

Prof Pier Lambiase

Consultant Cardiologist, Barts Heart Centre & Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine, UCL Institute of Cardiovascular Science

Professor Lambiase graduated from Oxford University in 1992 and trained initially in General Medicine and Cardiology at St Georges Hospital, London and the Hammersmith Hospital. He undertook a PhD to study the processes which protect the heart from lack of blood supply at St Thomas' Hospital where he was awarded the Young Investigator Award of the British Cardiac Society for his research in 2002. At this stage he also developed an interest in heart failure pacing and was a finalist in the NASPE (North American Society of Pacing and Electrophysiology) Young Investigator competition in the same year. Between 2002-2004 he completed clinical cardiology training at St Thomas' specialising in arrhythmia treatment (Electrophysiology) and Pacing. Pier then became the Lecturer in Electrophysiology at The Heart Hospital, UCL where he completed his specialist training and initiated the Electrophysiology research programme at the Heart Hospital. He became a Consultant Cardiologist and Senior Lecturer in Electrophysiology at the Heart in 2006 being promoted to Reader in 2012 where he conducts specialist arrhythmia clinics and a nationally recognized clinic studying families with inherited arrhythmia syndromes and SADS (Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome). He has co-written Heart Rhythm UK Guidelines on genetic testing and the management of these conditions and has published over 80 peer-reviewed papers in Cardiology. He is an Editor of the Oxford Handbook of Inherited Cardiovascular Disease & the Panel Lead for the Royal College of Physicians Map of Medicine Pathways in arrhythmia management. He became a Professor of Cardiology, UCL in October 2015

Professor Nigel Wheeldon

Honorary Professor of Inherited Cardiac Conditions, University of Sheffield
Clinical Director for Cardiothoracic Services and Lead for Inherited Cardiac Conditions, South Yorkshire Regional Cardiothoracic Centre, Sheffield, UK

Professor Wheeldon founded the AICC and is a Past-President & Secretary. His interest in ICCs started 30 years ago and he went on to set up the Regional ICC Service for South Yorkshire. He is Honorary Professor of ICCs at the University of Sheffield and Clinical Director for Cardiothoracic Services at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals. He has been heavily involved in ICC Service development over the years, working with the Department of Health, Charities and Professional Bodies to champion the cause. He has also had a major international commitment to education and training across Asia where he has been a visiting Professor for 20 years & was awarded International Fellowship of the Hong Kong College of Cardiology. He leads the South Yorkshire Regional ICC service, one of the largest clinical ICC services in the UK and he leads a national EDS diagnostic services He is a member of the International Vascular EDS Consortium that wrote the International EDS classification. In parallel to medicine, Nigel trained as a Commercial Pilot and is also a Flight Instructor and Examiner.

Valérie Honoré

Membership and Affiliates Coordinator at the British Cardiovascular Society and AICC Conference Organising Committee

Valerie is the main contact for AICC administrative support. She has over 25 years' experience in the charity sector, including 10 at the BCS. She supports several BCS affiliate societies, including the AICC, with their membership schemes, council meetings, communications, conference organising and elections.

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Dr Ed Blair

Consultant Clinical Geneticist, Oxford University

Dr Blair trained in clinical genetics at Oxford University Hospitals where he is now a consultant. He became interested in the genetics of ICC 25 years ago and has worked with specialist cardiologists, clinical scientists, patient organisations, charities and NHSE to develop clinical and genomic laboratory services for ICC across the UK. He was a founding board member of the AICC. He is now, in addition to his clinical role in ICC, the medical director of the Central and South Genomic Laboratory Hub, where he works with colleagues to deliver equitable, world leading laboratory genomic testing for patients with genetic disease. Dr Blair has published widely in the field of ICC and genomics more generally.

Prof Saidi (Sam) Mohiddin MBChB, BSc, MRCP, MD

Cardiologist Consultant Cardiologist in Inherited and Acquired Heart Muscle Disease and in Cardiac Magnetic Resonance Imaging, Barts Health NHS Trust.

Professor Mohiddin trained in Edinburgh, in the USA at the National Institutes of Health and in London. He completed his training in Cardiology in 2010 and is a Consultant and Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer at the Barts Heart Centre. Sam was a lead author of the national training curriculum for Inherited Cardiac Conditions and has an active role in sub-specialty education. He has active research interests in inflammatory (myocarditis) and inherited heart muscle diseases and in the use of Cardiac resonance imaging (Cardiac MRI) in the assessment of these & other conditions.

Miss Alyssa Armsby

Former Principal Genetic Counsellor, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust

Alyssa joined the Oxford Inherited Cardiac Conditions Service in 2017 where she specialised in cardiac genetics (cardiomyopathies and inherited arrhythmia conditions). She is now a Genetic Counsellor at Igenomix UK.

Prof Gerry Carr-White

Consultant Cardiologist in Inherited and Acquired Heart Muscle Disease and joint Medical Director of the cardiovascular, respiratory and critical care unit, St Thomas' Hospital and King's Health Partner's clinical network lead

Professor Gerald Carr-White was the clinical lead for heart failure, and inherited diseases at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust for 14 years. He is now the joint medical director of the cardiovascular, respiratory and critical care unit. After qualifying from St George's Hospital with University of London honours in Medicine, Gerald trained in general medicine at the Brompton, Hammersmith and St Mary's hospitals before becoming a member of the Royal College of Physicians in 1996. He then finished a PhD in the mechanics of ventricular function from the Brompton Hospital in 2000, working with Professor Sir Magdi Yacoub and Dr Derek Gibson. His specialist cardiology training was at the Brompton and Guy's and St Thomas' hospitals. He finished his higher certification in both cardiology and general medicine in 2006.

Gerald has sat on the 2 main national leadership groups for cardiology, helping develop regional and national guidelines and service specifications for NHS England. He is currently one of 2 cardiologists sitting on the pan-london oversight board for strategy, patient pathways and covid management and recovery. Gerald is the vice president for Cardiomyopathy UK, leading patient education events across the country, and is an elected member of the national association of inherited cardiac diseases. He is the network clinical lead for both King's Health Partners and the NHS England South London Cardiac Network, coordinating patient pathways across a population of 8 million people. Alongside his clinical work, Gerald is a Professor in heart failure and inherited diseases at King's College London, and lectures both nationally and internationally. He has published over 120 peer-reviewed articles in medical journals in the fields of heart failure, inherited cardiac diseases, cardiac imaging and valve disease, and has been granted over 7 million pounds in research grant income.

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Dr Oliver Watkinson

Consultant Cardiologist, Royal United Hospital, Bath

Oliver is a consultant cardiologist in Bath where his main interest is heart failure. In the last 18 months he has has set up a local inherited cardiac conditions & cardiac genetics service, run in conjunction with the regional ICC teams in Oxford and Bristol. He previously undertook many years of ICC training in major centres including The Heart Hospital, Barts, and Oxford.

Dr Nora Shannon

Consultant Clinical Geneticist, Nottingham University Hospitals

Nora Shannon is a Consultant Clinical Geneticist in the Nottingham Clinical Genetics Service. She was involved in setting up Inherited Cardiac Conditions Clinics in both Birmingham and Nottingham and is the Genetics Lead for the Nottingham ICC Service covering Nottinghamshire, Lincolnshire and Derbyshire. She has an interest in service delivery and design and has particularly worked to improve access to genetic testing for families with SADS in the region. Her current research interests include factors which affect access to screening in families with aortic aneurysms.

Tootie Bueser

Director for Nursing & Midwifery, South East Genomic Medicine Service Alliance
NIHR 70@70 Nurse Research Leader, Guy's & St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust

Tootie has recently taken up the post of Director of Nursing & Midwifery at the Southeast Genomic Medicine Service Alliance and is undertaking projects to support the mainstreaming of genomics. She is a National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) 70@70 Senior Nurse Research Leader based at Guy's & St Thomas' Hospital and as part of this programme is currently an intern at NHS England & Improvement with the Chief Nursing Officer's Research & Transformation Team. Prior to this she was Associate Director for Clinical Research for Nursing & Allied Professionals at St Bartholomew's Hospital. Tootie is completing a PhD at King's College London where she was an NIHR/Health Education England Clinical Doctoral Research Fellow. Her work is focused on developing a new intervention to improve psychosocial and educational support for patients who have a new diagnosis and/or carrier status for an inherited cardiac condition (ICC). She was lead nurse for ICC services at King's College Hospital and Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital.Tootie was President of the British Association for Nursing in Cardiovascular Care and is the current Chair of the Research Forum. She is an active member of the AICC; and the Cardiovascular and the Ethics & Social Sciences Genomics England Clinical Interpretation Partnership for the 100,000 Genomes Project. She is on the editorial board of the British Journal of Cardiac Nursing as well as a Trustee and member of the Clinical Expert Advisory Group for Cardiomyopathy UK.

Dr Nigel Lewis MBChB PhD FRCP CCDS

Consultant Cardiologist, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals

Nigel is a clinical cardiologist who practices at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals and has specialist interests in Inherited Cardiac conditions, Devices and Lead Extraction and Heart Failure. He completed his cardiology training in Leeds and underwent fellowships at The Royal Melbourne, Australia, The Heart Hospital, London and AMC, Netherlands. He joined the team in Sheffield in 2014 and has extensive experience in assessing patients' risk of arrhythmia and sudden cardiac death and implanting both transvenous and subcutaneous devices.

Dr Tessa Homfray

Consultant in Medical Genetics with specialist interests in Fetal and Cardiac Genetics at St George's University Hospital, The Harris Birthright Unit and The Royal Brompton Hospital, London UK.

Dr Homfray 1st developed an interest in Cardiac Genetics as a Registrar at St George's University Hospital under Professors' Bill McKenna and Perry Elliot in the 1990's. Cardiac Genetic testing was in its infancy and phenotyping by the cardiologist was the only real familial testing. Over the last 2 decades this has changed radically and there is now a strong partnership between Cardiology and Genetics. Dr Homfray has been at the forefront of clinical testing and has developed services first at St George's and then at the Royal Brompton Hospital for the cardiomyopathies and Primary arrythmia syndromes. She has seen the successes and limitations of the service since it began. Hence she has an extensive knowledge of the subject on which she has lectured widely in the UK and abroad.

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Prof Amitava Banerjee

Professor of Clinical Data Science, UCL Institute of Health Informatics, and Consultant Cardiologist, Barts Heart Centre and UCL Hospitals NHS Trust, London

Amitava Banerjee is Professor of Clinical Data Science, University College London, and Consultant Cardiologist at University College London Hospitals and Barts Health NHS Trusts. He is a researcher, educator and clinician with interests spanning data science, cardiovascular disease, global health, training and evidence-based healthcare. He has been active clinically and academically throughout the pandemic.

After qualifying from Oxford, he trained in Oxford, Newcastle, Hull and London, completing a Masters in Public Health at Harvard(2004/05), internship at World Health Organisation(2005) and DPhil in epidemiology from Oxford(2010). He was Clinical Lecturer in Cardiovascular Medicine in Birmingham, before moving to UCL in 2015.

Ms Kathryn Lubasch

Principal Genetic Counsellor, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust

Kathryn is a new member of the Inherited Cardiac Conditions team in Oxford. She previously worked as a genetic counsellor for the Guy's Clinical Genetics service, Oxford Clinical Genetics service and the Peninsula Clinical Genetics service. Kathryn has a background in paediatric nursing and as a research nurse. As a genetic counsellor she has developed expertise in supporting families affected by genetic condition in making decisions about their reproductive options. She registered with the Genetic Counsellor Registration Board in 2016 and has an MSc in Genomic Medicine.

Dr Stephen Page

Consultant Cardiologist & Electrophysiologist at Leeds General Infirmary

Steve trained in Newcastle before moving to London to train as a cardiologist. His MD in hypertrophic cardiomyopathy at The Heart Hospital introduced him to the world of inherited cardiac conditions, before training in electrophysiology and inherited arrhythmia syndromes at Barts. He now leads the Inherited Cardiovascular Conditions Service in Leeds. His main focus is on clinical service development but is research active with established links with Imperial College and St George's University.

Dr Caroline Coats

Consultant Cardiologist, Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow

Dr Caroline Coats is a Consultant Cardiologist at Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow and Honorary Senior Lecturer at Glasgow University. She graduated from St Marys, Imperial College School of Medicine in 2002 and was awarded a PhD from University College London in 2016. Dr Coats leads the West of Scotland Inherited Cardiac Conditions Service.

Dr John Dean

Consultant Geneticist

John Dean is a Consultant in Clinical Genetics for NHS Grampian, based in Aberdeen. He is also Joint Lead Clinician for the Network for Inherited Cardiac Conditions Scotland. His special interests include Long QT syndrome, Marfan Syndrome and the molecular investigation of Sudden Cardiac Death. He is Emeritus Reader in Medicine at the University of Aberdeen.

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Dr Claire Turner

Consultant Clinical Geneticist

Claire is a consultant clinical geneticist, appointed to the Peninsula service in 2010, and the genetics lead for the regional Inherited Cardiac Conditions service. Her MD, awarded in 2013, reflected a laboratory based molecular project on imprinting disorders. She has a Postgraduate Certificate in Medical Education, awarded in 2009 and is the lead for teaching clinical genetics at the University of Exeter Medical School. She has numerous publications in the field of clinical genetics, including in inherited cardiac conditions.

Rachel Walker

Inherited Cardiac Conditions Nurse Specialist, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals

Rachel has 23 years' experience working in within cardiology, most recently as ICC nurse specialist in the South Yorkshire Regional ICC service for the last 13 years. Her long experience of running nurse-led clinics has given her an intimate understanding of the needs of ICC patients and their families and the unique nature of the care they need. Her role was initially funded by Cardiomyopathy UK and subsequently had the opportunity to work for their helpline for a number of years. This gave her an appreciation of the variations in the availability of ICC care throughout the country and the need for national approach to its management. Although Rachel works with all ICCs, she has a particular interest in heart muscle disease.

Dr Juan-Pablo Kaski

Associate Professor of Paediatric Inherited Cardiology at the UCL Institute of Cardiovascular Science & Consultant Paediatric Cardiologist at Great Ormond Street Hospital (GOSH), London, UK.

Dr Kaski is an Associate Professor of Paediatric Inherited Cardiology at UCL and lead of the UCL Centre for Paediatric Inherited and Rare Cardiovascular Disease. He is Director of the GOSH Centre for Inherited Cardiovascular Diseases, which sees over 6000 children with, or at risk of, inherited cardiac conditions from around the UK every year. Dr Kaski's clinical and research interests are focused on the clinical and genetic characterisation of inherited cardiovascular disease and sudden cardiac death in childhood and he won the Young Investigator Award for Clinical Science from the European Society of Cardiology in 2008 for his work on the genetic basis of pre-adolescent hypertrophic cardiomyopathy (HCM). He is the current Chair of the Association for European Paediatric Cardiology (AEPC) Working Group on Genetics, Basic Science and Myocardial Disease and sits on the Executive Board of the European Society of Cardiology (ESC) Cardiomyopathy and Myocarditis Registry Programme and the ESC Council on Cardiovascular Genomics. He leads an international paediatric HCM consortium of over 45 centres, which was responsible for the development of the first sudden death risk prediction model for childhood HCM.

Professor Mary Sheppard

Cardiac pathologist with a national and international reputation

Mary is the director of a unit that undertakes examination of the heart in cases of sudden cardiac death in UK. She has established a national cardiac pathology database, with funding from UK charity Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY), which now has over 7,000 cases on file. The unit has built up a large biobank of heart tissue and genetic material for research. Professor Sheppard's main area of interest are the cardiac conditions that cause sudden death in young people which are mainly inherited, such as sudden arrhythmic death, cardiomyopathies including dilated cardiomyopathy, hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, arrhythmogenic cardiomyopathy and idiopathic hypertrophy . She works closely with cardiac genetics to examine phenotype/genotype expression. She also has an interest in cardiac development, anatomy and congenital heart disease. The unit is a multiuser facility using histological techniques for diagnosis of heart disease. Scanning techniques are used to quantify changes which are diagnostic of specific cardiac diseases. The unit uses quantification and immunocytochemistry with a digital scanner for image analysis. Professor Sheppard's main focus is on the pathological diagnosis of sudden cardiac death. She collaborates with cardiologists who screen the families for these cardiac conditions throughout the UK. She works with scientists, as well as clinicians in understanding the pathophysiology underlying these conditions

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Melanie Watson

Treasurer, AICC

Melanie Watson is a Consultant Genetic Counsellor (lead) & Honorary Senior Clinical Lecturer at University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust and is genetic counsellor lead for ICC across the Wessex region. She trained at Kings College, London, specialising in Cardio - thoracics at the Royal Brompton. She went on to study Psychology & joined the Psychology & Genetics research group at KCL, where she was awarded a Wellcome Trust PhD studentship in biomedical ethics: Genetics in Society. This sparked an interest in genetics that has led to her career in Genetic counselling.

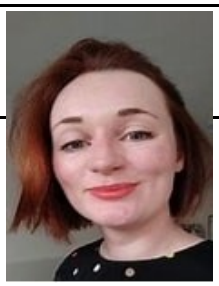
Melanie served on the ICC and Familial Hypercholesterolaemia National Steering groups. She is currently Joint National Clinical Lead for the GMSA Familial Hypercholesterolaemia Transformational Project. She was elected Treasurer for the AICC in July 2020.

Mrs Louise Hunt

HM Coroner for the City of Birmingham and Solihull

Mrs Hunt started her career training as a Registered General Nurse at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham. After qualifying, she undertook a law degree and practiced as a Specialist Clinical Negligence Lawyer. She also completed a Master Degree in Medical Ethics and Law from Manchester University. She started her Coronial career in May 2008 working as a Deputy Coroner in Coventry and Warwickshire. She took up a full time Coroner post in South Wales in January 2012. She subsequently took up a post as Senior Coroner in Birmingham in November 2013.

In her spare time Louise enjoys keeping fit and has competed in 3 triathlons and a half marathon. She has two golden retrievers who get walked well every weekend! She lives in the Midlands with her husband and her 2 grown up children live nearby.



Ellie Quinn

Genetic Counsellor, Royal Brompton & Harefield Hospital, London

Ellie trained in Human Sciences at University College London (UCL), before gaining a Master's in Genetic Counselling at the University of Manchester. She has since worked in a research role at Great Ormond Street Hospital before specialising in Inherited Cardiovascular Conditions (ICCs); firstly at Barts Heart Centre, and then moving to the Royal Brompton Hospital. She has recently expanded her role to include providing genetic counselling for patients with inherited respiratory conditions, establishing a new service within this directorate. Ellie's research interests include the genetics of ICCs, with particular focus on cardiomyopathies. She is also a proponent of the modernisation of the genetic counselling profession through utilising technologies such as videoconferencing, apps and online platforms.

Dr Dimitra Antonakaki

Post-CCT fellow in Cardiovascular Imaging and Cardiomyopathies at Bart's Heart Centre, UK, London

Dr Antonakaki graduated with honours from the University of Athens in Greece. She then moved to London where she completed her Medical and Cardiology training. She further subspecialised in Multimodality Cardiovascular Imaging which she combined with specialist clinics in Inherited and Acquired Cardiac Conditions at St Bartholomew's Hospital. During this time, she obtained a competitive scholarship from St George's University of London to study Sports Cardiology MSc.

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Professor Hugh Watkins

Radcliffe Professor of Medicine and Director of the BHF Centre for Research Excellence, University of Oxford, and Honorary Consultant in Cardiology.

Professor Watkins' expertise is in molecular genetic analysis of cardiovascular disease as a tool to define disease mechanisms and therapeutic targets. He is best known for his work on inherited heart muscle diseases, in particular hypertrophic cardiomyopathy. His work on genetic causes of this, and other, 'sudden cardiac death' syndromes has been translated into clinical practice, with adoption in international clinical guidelines and commissioning of DNA diagnostic services for the NHS. Current efforts focus on understanding the polygenic contribution to cardiomyopathy and exploring the potential for genetic therapies that aim to correct the underlying genetic disorder. He also investigates susceptibility genes for coronary artery disease and contributes to leadership of large international collaborations in this area. He is a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences and a Fellow of the Royal Society.

Professor Elijah Behr

Professor in Cardiovascular Medicine and Honorary Consultant Cardiologist specialising in Electrophysiology at St George's, University of London and St George's Hospital, London

Professor Behr is a recognised national and international expert and researcher in the field of arrhythmias. He is Professor in Cardiovascular Medicine and an Honorary Consultant Cardiologist specialising in Electrophysiology at St George's, University of London and St George's Hospital, London. He runs an Arrhythmia service and co-leads the Inherited Cardiac Conditions clinic at St George's, coordinating a multi-disciplinary team that provides a single one-stop service to families including children. Professor Behr was educated at the Manchester Grammar School and studied medical sciences at St John's College, University of Cambridge and clinical medicine at Guy's Hospital, London where he graduated with distinction. He completed cardiology and academic training at St George's Hospital, London. Professor Behr is past-president of the Association for Inherited Cardiac Conditions (AICC). He is an editorial board member of the Heart Rhythm journal and co-wrote international guidelines for diagnosis & management of arrhythmia syndromes. He is a Health Care Partner lead for the European Rare Disease Reference Network GUARD-HEART and co-chairs the South London ICC (SLICC) network. Professor Behr has founded the European Cardiac Arrhythmia Genetics (ECGen) Group of the European Heart Rhythm association. Professor Behr's research interests include prediction of sudden death risk pathology, genomics and epidemiology linked to electronic health records; drug-induced arrhythmia; families with unexplained sudden deaths, the Sudden Arrhythmic Death Syndrome (SADS) and Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS); ion channel diseases including the long QT and Brugada syndromes; and cardiomyopathies including arrhythmogenic right ventricular cardiomyopathy (ARVC).

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