Speaker Profiles

Professor Jonathan Barratt

Jonathan Barratt's research is focussed on a bench to bedside approach to improving our understanding of the pathogenesis of IgA nephropathy a common global cause of kidney failure. I am the IgA nephropathy Rare Disease Group lead for the UK National Registry of Rare Kidney Diseases (RaDaR) and Convener of the International IgA Nephropathy Network. I work closely with pharmaceutical companies interested in new treatments for IgA nephropathy, and I am Chief Investigator for a number of international randomised controlled Phase 2 and 3 clinical trials in IgA nephropathy. I was a member of the FDA and American Society of Nephrology Kidney Health Initiative: Identifying Surrogate Endpoints for Clinical Trials in IgA Nephropathy Work group. I am an Editorial Board member for Kidney International and the American Society of Nephrology journals. I am a co-Chair of the UK Glomerulonephritis Clinical Study Group and am the IgA nephropathy lead for the KDIGO Clinical Practice Guidelines for Glomerular Diseases.

Professor Charmaine Lok

Dr. Charmaine Lok is a Professor of Medicine at the University of Toronto and a Senior Scientist at the Toronto General Research Institute, Toronto, Canada. She is the Medical Director of the multidisciplinary chronic kidney disease and haemodialysis programs at the University Health Network-Toronto General Hospital, Toronto, Canada. Her research interests are in clinical trials and improving outcomes in patients with kidney failure with a focus on dialysis innovation, vascular access, and cardiovascular disease. She has led or participated in many local and international clinical trials. She is a member of the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) randomized clinical trial review committee and recognized for her outstanding contributions. She is an Associate Editor for the American Journal of Kidney Diseases and was the Chair of the most recent KDOQI Vascular Access Guidelines. She has been involved in a variety of local and international scientific and educational programs, such as ASN, DOPPS, NKF, Kidney CARE Network International, and others. She has been the recipient of several international awards for her exceptional contributions to key initiatives/clinical research in the field of kidney disease, including from the US National Kidney Foundation.

Dr Parminder Judge

Parminder K Judge is a Senior Clinical Research Fellow based in the Renal Studies Group at the Clinical Trial Service Unit and Epidemiological Studies Unit (CTSU) and an Honorary Consultant Nephrologist in the Oxford Kidney Unit.

In 2013, she took time out of her nephrology training and joined CTSU to work on clinical trials, primarily the UK HARP-III trial which compared the effects of sacubitril/valsartan with irbesartan in 400 people with chronic kidney disease. The trial formed the basis of her PhD thesis.

After completing her nephrology specialty training, Parminder returned to CTSU in 2020 to work on clinical trials in nephrology and cardiovascular disease, including the EMPA-KIDNEY trial.

She is a co-PI for the EASi-KIDNEY trial testing aldosterone synthase inhibition in people with chronic kidney disease. Parminder's other area of interest is the epidemiology of chronic kidney disease in South Asians.

Professor Louise Bowman

Louise Bowman is Professor of Medicine and Clinical Trials at the Clinical Trial Service Unit of the University of Oxford. Her specialist clinical background is in Diabetes and Endocrinology. She has particular research interests in cardiovascular disease in diabetes, and maintains her clinical practice with regular specialist lipid clinics.

She is Chief Investigator for the ORION-4 trial which will assess the effects of inclisiran on clinical outcomes among 15,000 people with atherosclerotic cardiovascular disease, and for the AMALFI trial, which will assess the value of screening for undiagnosed atrial fibrillation in 5000 high-risk individuals.

Through her work on large-scale trials in cardiovascular disease, she has developed a specialist interest in Clinical Trials Methodology and is Co-course Director of the Nuffield Department of Population Health MSc in Clinical Trials. Her focus is on the development, application and widespread promotion of methods to enhance the design and conduct of trials to ensure high quality outputs and reliable results at low cost.

Dr Christina Reith

Christina studied at The University of Glasgow, gaining an intercalated first-class honours degree in medical biochemistry and a medical degree with honours. She completed her MRCP whilst working in the NHS and subsequently completed speciality training in Pharmaceutical Medicine in 2011. Christina is a Fellow of The Royal College of Physicians and a Fellow of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine.

Since joining the Clinical Trial Service Unit and Epidemiological Studies Unit (CTSU; now part of the Nuffield Department of Population Health) in 2004, Christina has mainly worked on large-scale randomized clinical trials in cardiorenal disease and diabetes, and individual participant data meta-analyses (such as those conducted by the Cholesterol Treatment Trialists' [CTT] Collaboration, and the Antithrombotic Trialists' [ATT] Collaboration). She has a particular research interest in the reliable assessment of drug safety using such large-scale randomized data. She acts as an advisor to the World Health Organization and co-developed the 2024 WHO Guidance for Best Practices for Clinical Trials.

Dr John Kastelein

Dr. Kastelein (1954) is Emeritus Professor of Medicine at the Department of Vascular Medicine at the Academic Medical Centre (AMC) of the University of Amsterdam, where he held the Strategic Chair of Genetics of Cardiovascular Disease. Professor Kastelein has published over 1434 research papers in peer reviewed journals, including Nature Genetics, Lancet, New England Journal of Medicine, JAMA and Circulation and has a Hirsch index of 147 in March 2024. His citations reached in total over 104.000.

John J.P. Kastelein is currently the CSO of New Amsterdam Pharma, a company developing Obicetrapib, a CETP inhibitor, for the prevention of cardiovascular disease. He also holds a Board position in North Sea Therapeutics, a company involved in NASH and cardiometabolic therapeutics. Dr. Kastelein is chief executive officer (CEO) of the Vascular Research Network (VRN), a site maintenance organization comprising over 50 hospitals in the Netherlands, involved in clinical trials for cardiometabolic disease. Next to these functions, Dr. Kastelein is key advisor to a number of biotech and pharmaceutical companies. Last, Dr. Kastelein was honoured with a knighthood in The Order of the Netherlands Lion by his Majesty, the King of the Netherlands, in 2021 for all academic achievements.

Dr Charlie Harper

Charlie is a Trial Data Scientist working in the Clinical Trial Service Unit & Epidemiological Studies Unit (CTSU) at Oxford Population Health and the Data Linkage Lead for the ASCEND-PLUS trial. His work aims to develop new trial methods to streamline large-scale randomised trials that produce reliable answers, including the use of healthcare systems data to recruit and follow-up participants.

Professor Dan Atar

Professor Dan Atar is Head of Research and Professor of Cardiology at Oslo University Hospital in Norway. He graduated from Basel University, trained in internal medicine and cardiology in Switzerland, Denmark, and the US, where he was at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore (1991-94). In 2002, he received a full professorship in cardiology at the University of Oslo and was appointed Head of Cardiology at Aker University Hospital in Oslo. He holds a Visiting Associate Professorship at the Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, USA. Professor Atar has written over 580 articles (H-index 92) and holds the fellowship-titles FESC, FACC, FEHRA and inaugural FAHA. He served as Chairman of the ESC Working Group on Cardiovascular Pharmacotherapy and was on several ESC guideline writing committees. In 2025, he presented the BETAMI trial (published in the NEJM). In 2012 Professor Atar was elected as Councillor of the ESC, in 2014 as Vice President, and in 2018 as Treasurer. He earned a doctor honoris causa in 2015 and in 2016 he appeared on the Clarivate list of “the most cited researchers in the world”. In 2023, he received the “Lifetime Heart Research Award” from the King of Norway. He is currently chairing the European Heart Academy under the ESC.

Dr Rohan Wijesurendra

Rohan studied medicine at Cambridge University, before moving to Oxford to complete specialist training in cardiology. He was awarded a DPhil (PhD) in Cardiovascular Medicine, following a period of research using multi-parametric cardiovascular magnetic resonance techniques to investigate the left ventricular phenotype in patients with atrial fibrillation (AF). For aspects of this work, he received the Young Investigator Award in Clinical Science of the European Society of Cardiology and the Melvin Judkins Young Investigator Award of the American Heart Association. Rohan is now a Senior Clinical Research Fellow in the Nuffield Department of Population Health at the University of Oxford and also works as an Honorary Consultant Cardiologist and Electrophysiologist at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Rohan's research combines large-scale trials in cardiovascular disease with more mechanistic clinical studies; he has particular interests in AF and cardiovascular risk factor modification. He was the joint first author of the AMALFI remote AF screening trial, and the Chief Investigator of the recently completed LOSE-AF randomised trial of weight loss in older patients with persistent AF.

Rohan continues to undertake a wide range of clinical work in cardiac rhythm management, including diagnostic electrophysiology, simple and complex ablation, and device implantation and extraction. Rohan is also a Stipendiary Lecturer in Clinical Medicine at St John's College, Oxford, and is heavily involved in undergraduate and postgraduate teaching.

Professor Naveed Sattar

Naveed Sattar is a clinically active academic at the University of Glasgow whose work has advanced understanding and management of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and obesity. His research spans major epidemiological studies examining the contributions of lipids, glycaemia, liver function markers, and adiposity to disease risk. He has played key roles in lifestyle intervention trials such as DIRECT and STANDBY, as well as pharmacological outcome trials including AMPLITUDE-O and SURPASS-CVOT.

His current research increasingly focuses on intentional weight-loss interventions and on clarifying how obesity contributes to the development or progression of multiple adverse health outcomes, including diabetes, liver disease, cardiovascular conditions, and autoimmune diseases such as psoriatic arthritis. He serves as an Associate Editor for *Diabetes Care* and has received numerous national and international awards recognising his scientific contributions. He has also contributed to multiple national and international clinical guidelines. He is currently Chair of the Obesity Health Care Goals programme for the UK government.

Professor David Preiss

David is Professor of Metabolic Medicine and Clinical Trials at the University of Oxford. His major interest is the prevention of cardiovascular and microvascular disease with a particular focus on lipid modification and diabetes treatments. His current research projects aim to make extensive use of routinely collected healthcare data to conduct large trials.

He led the recently completed LENS trial, a study embedded within the NHS in Scotland, which demonstrated that treatment with the generically available triglyceride-lowering drug fenofibrate reduces the progression of diabetic eye disease, and he is Co-Principal investigator for the ongoing ORION-4 cardiovascular outcome trial of the PCSK9 synthesis inhibitor, inclisiran. Along with Associate Professor Marion Mafham, he leads the ASCEND PLUS trial, a study that aims to determine the effects of the GLP-1 receptor agonist, oral semaglutide, on vascular outcomes and other complications in 20,000 participants with type 2 diabetes and no history of cardiovascular disease.

Dr Kate Shipman

Kate E Shipman, BMBCh, MA (Hons Oxon), MRCP, FRCPath, EuSpLM
Consultant Chemical Pathologist, University Hospitals Sussex NHS Foundation Trust, Worthing Hospital, Worthing, United Kingdom.

Having trained at Oxford University was appointed as consultant in chemical pathology in 2016 in Sussex.

In addition to providing clinical and laboratory support for biochemistry in Sussex Dr Shipman is interested in teaching and research. Currently she is a sub or principal investigator for portfolio trials and an associate editor for Clinical Chemistry. Publications include research papers and educational materials including textbooks, educational case series and online learning resources relating to the field of biochemistry. Main areas of interest for clinical practice are lipidology and nutrition.