OXFORD POPULATION HEALTH
UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD
CTSU

Speaker Profiles
Joint Annual Collaborators' Meeting
Thursday 26 and Friday 27 May 2022
Hilton London Metropole Hotel

Professor Sir Rory Collins

Rory Collins is an epidemiologist who studies how to prevent and treat cardiovascular disease in large population-based studies. He trained in medicine at St Thomas's Hospital Medical School, London University, and statistics at George Washington and Oxford Universities.

During the 1980s and early 1990s, Rory coordinated the ISIS "mega-trials" of the emergency treatment of heart attacks involving more than 130,00 patients. These trials showed that clot-dissolving and clot-preventing treatment could more than halve mortality, and these treatments rapidly became part of routine care (and paved the way for non-pharmaceutical approaches to opening coronary arteries).

Since the early 1990s, he has been involved in conducting large-scale randomized trials of the effects of modifying blood levels of cholesterol. For example, the 20,000 patient Heart Protection Study that he led showed that lowering LDL-cholesterol with statin therapy safely reduces the risk of death and disability from heart attacks and strokes among a much wider range of people than previously thought to benefit from such treatment. As a consequence, statin therapy is now used extensively worldwide.

He became the principal investigator of the UK Biobank study in September 2005. Involving 500,000 participants, it is the largest deeply characterised prospective epidemiological study of disease in the world, and is being made available for any type of health-related research by researchers worldwide.

Rory is the Head of the Nuffield Department of Population Health at the University of Oxford. He was knighted for services to science in 2011 and was elected to the UK Royal Society in 2015. He was awarded the UK Medical Research Council's 2020 Millennium Medal for his national and international contributions to both cardiovascular disease and UK Biobank.

Professor John Wilding

John Wilding leads clinical research into obesity, diabetes and endocrinology at the University of Liverpool, where he has worked since 1996, after training in Southampton and London. His clinical interests focus on caring for people with diabetes and obesity and he leads specialist services for obesity at Aintree University Hospital – designated a Centre for Obesity Management by the European Association for the Study of Obesity.

John's research team focusses on developing and evaluating treatments for obesity and diabetes. He has published over 350 papers, chapters and review articles, including clinical trials in diabetes and obesity, studies of adipocyte biology and metabolism.

He chairs the National Clinical Research Network Metabolic and Endocrine Speciality Group. He is a past Chair of the UK Association for the Study of Obesity, a member of the Royal College of Physicians Advisory Group on Nutrition, Weight and Health and president of the World Obesity Federation.

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 5,000 high-risk individuals.

Louise is also co-principal investigator for the recently-reported ASCEND trial, which studied the effects of aspirin and of omega-3 fatty acid supplementation for the primary prevention of cardiovascular disease in 15,000 people with diabetes, and for the REVEAL study, an international clinical trial that assessed the efficacy and safety of the CETP-inhibitor, anacetrapib, in 30,000 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.

Mr Richard Bulbulia

Richard studied medicine at Cambridge University and The Royal London Hospital, graduating in 1994. Following surgical training in London, Oxford, and the South West of England, he was appointed to his consultant post in 2009.

Richard combines clinical work in Gloucestershire (UK) with research at the MRC Population Health Research Unit (PHRU) and Clinical Trial Service Unit (CTSU), University of Oxford, which conducts internationally renowned research into medical treatments and the factors affecting population health worldwide, with a history of high-impact results.

He is Co-PI of ACST-2, a large international randomised trial comparing carotid endarterectomy versus carotid artery stenting in asymptomatic carotid artery disease. His academic interests also centre around the design, conduct and analyses of large randomised trials and include the use of lipid-lowering and anti-thrombotic therapy to reduce vascular risk.

Dr Guilherme Pessoa-Amorim

Guilherme is a Clinical Research Fellow and DPhil student at the Clinical Trial Service Unit (CTSU), which he joined in 2019.

He is working with professors Louise Bowman and Barbara Casadei in AMALFI, an NIHR-funded randomised trial assessing a remote screening strategy for subclinical atrial fibrillation in elderly patients at high-risk of stroke. He is also part of the clinical teams in the RECOVERY and ORION-4 trials. Following from his initial experience at CTSU, he developed an

interest in merging big data and randomised clinical trials via healthcare record linkage. His DPhil (PhD) project is now exploring and developing the use of nationwide real-world datasets on medications to deliver more efficient and insightful clinical trials in the UK. His other research interests are cardiovascular imaging (particularly in relation to atrial fibrillation) and COVID-19 therapeutics.

Guilherme graduated in 2017 from the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Porto, in Portugal. Afterwards, he a year in clinical training in a tertiary hospital in Northern Portugal, where he gained initial experience in internal medicine, clinical cardiology, and primary care. He is an aspiring clinical academic and continues to develop his medical skills as an honorary junior doctor in the Acute General Medicine Department at Oxford University Hospitals.

Associate Professor David Preiss

David is an Associate Professor at the Nuffield Department of Population Health, University of Oxford. He is chief investigator for the LENS trial (studying the effect of fenofibrate in patients with diabetic eye disease) and Clinical Coordinator for the ORION-4 trial. Together with Associate Professor Marion Mafham, he is also co-leading the forthcoming ASCEND PLUS trial (oral semaglutide in patients with diabetes).

His major interest is the prevention of cardiovascular disease, with particular focus on lipid modification and diabetes, and his current research combines clinical trials, epidemiological studies and meta-analyses of major studies. He studied medicine at the University of Pretoria, South Africa, and qualified as a consultant in Chemical Pathology and Metabolic Medicine in Glasgow. David completed his thesis, examining the links between glycaemia and cardiovascular disease, in 2011/2012 and was awarded the University of Glasgow's Bellahouston Medal for this research. He was a previous recipient of a Rising Star Fellowship from the European Foundation for the Study of Diabetes. He is also a committee member on NICE's forthcoming guideline on cardiovascular risk assessment and lipid modification.

Professor Sir Martin Landray

Martin Landray is Professor of Medicine & Epidemiology at University of Oxford and Chief Executive of Protas, a not-for-profit company focused on the design and delivery of highly efficient randomized trials of treatments for major public health conditions. He has over 20 years' experience of leading large, randomized trials of treatments for cardiovascular and kidney disease. Since March 2020, he has co-led the RECOVERY trial, enrolling over 47,000 patients with COVID-19 and publishing practice-changing results for 9 treatments (including the discovery that dexamethasone, tocilizumab, and neutralising monoclonal antibodies improve survival for selected patients with severe diseases). He leads the Good Clinical Trials Collaborative that is developing and promoting the implementation of better guidelines and regulations for randomized trials. He was a lead contributor to the G7 Clinical Trials Charter and the 100 Days Mission for Pandemic Preparedness. In June 2021, he was knighted for services to public health and science.

Professor Bruce Neal

Bruce Neal is Professor of Medicine at UNSW Sydney and Executive Director of The George Institute Australia. Bruce trained in medicine in the United Kingdom where he practiced for 5 years before switching to a full-time career in research. A recent highlight of his work reflects his longstanding interest in the environmental determinants of chronic disease and the potential for changes in the food supply to deliver large, cost-effective and equitable health gains. With colleagues in China, he recently completed a randomised trial (SSaSS) of 21,000 participants followed for 5 years that showed that a salt substitute (that replaces 25% of the NaCl in regular salt with KCl) could reduce the risk of stroke and premature death by lowering blood pressure.

Professor Vlado Perkovic

Vlado Perkovic is the Dean of Medicine & Health at the University of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia, a leading clinical trialist and is a part time Staff Specialist in Nephrology at the Royal North Shore Hospital. His research focuses on preventing the progression of kidney disease, and its complications. He has led or served on the steering committees of a large number of ground-breaking international clinical trials including CREDENCE, TESTING, CARMELINA, SONAR and CANVAS, and leads several that are ongoing. He has received several international awards and is a Clarivate Highly Cited Researcher (top 0.1% of cited authors).

Associate Professor Will Herrington

Will is a Medical Research Council-Kidney Research UK Professor David Kerr clinician scientist based at the Nuffield Department of Population Health, University of Oxford and a practising Nephrologist at Oxford Kidney Unit.

Dr Herrington co-leads the EMPA-KIDNEY trial, which is testing the effects of empagliflozin 10mg versus placebo on cardiorenal outcomes in 6,609 people with chronic kidney disease with and without diabetes. He also co-chairs the UK Kidney Association guideline working group responsible for recommendations on the use of SGLT-2 inhibitors in adults with kidney disease, and has chaired the UK Renal Trials Network since 2020.

He also aims to better understand the key determinants of kidney disease development and progression using observations from large blood-based prospective cohorts across a wide range of different populations. He has a particular focus on adiposity and its related risk factors, and how these may interlink to also cause cardiovascular disease.

Dr Kirsty Reith

Christina studied at The University of Glasgow, gaining a first class honours degree in medical biochemistry and subsequently her medical degree with honours. Christina completed her MRCP whilst working in the NHS, and subsequently completed speciality training in Pharmaceutical Medicine in 2011. She became a Fellow of The Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow in 2012, and a Fellow of the Faculty of Pharmaceutical Medicine in 2013.

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 clinical trials and individual participant data meta-analyses in relation to cardiovascular disease, 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. Christina is also a keen proponent of streamlined clinical trial methodology, and is a Board Member for the Clinical Data Interchange Standards Consortium (CDISC) which aims to develop and advance high quality data standards.

Professor Peter Sandercock

Peter is Emeritus Professor of Neurology at the University of Edinburgh. He studied Medicine at the University of Oxford. His initial research was on the epidemiology of stroke in Oxfordshire, and in clinical trials of stroke prevention. Has had a career-long interest in Evidence-Based Medicine. In 1988 he set up and ran the first International Stroke Trial (IST-1), the first 'mega-trial' in acute ischaemic stroke with 19,435 patients. It tested aspirin & heparin in patients recruited within 48 hours of stroke onset from 467 hospitals in 37 countries. He was the Co-Chief Investigator of IST-3 (3035 patients), the largest-ever trial of intravenous thrombolytic therapy for acute ischaemic stroke. He has served on the data monitoring and trial steering committees of over 30 academic, investigator-led randomised clinical trials in stroke, cardiovascular and neurological disease, including most recently, chairing the DMC for the large-scale RECOVERY trial of treatments for patients admitted to hospital with COVID-19.

HPS-4
TIMI 65
ORION-4

EMPA-KIDNEY
The study of heart and kidney protection with empagliflozin

AMALFI

British Heart Foundation

UKRI MRC Population Health Research Unit

University of Oxford