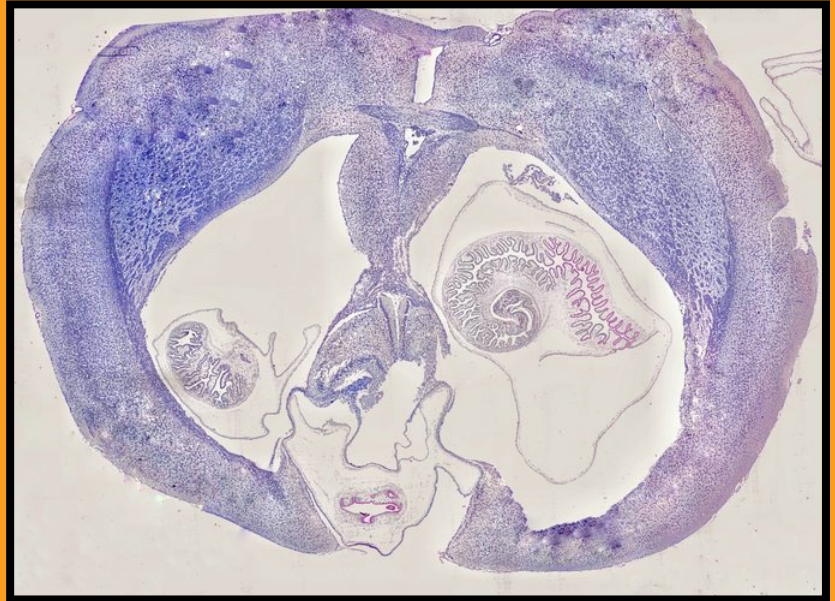


# GAT

George's Academic Training

# Newsletter

Research Image of the Year contender. Luz  
Torbino – A rat brain experimentally infected  
with neurocysticercosis



19th EDITION  
October 2024



**CITY**  
ST GEORGE'S  
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

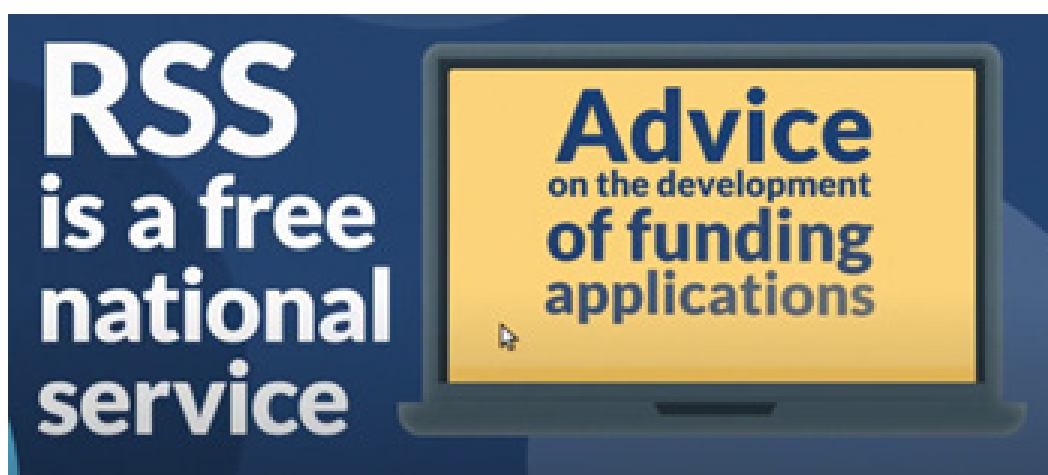
## In this issue

- Events and resources
- August rotation
- New starters
- News from doctors in training
- News from Specialised Foundation Doctors Programme
- Good news items

# Events and resources

**The NIHR Research Support Service (RSS)** provides support to researchers to develop applications to national, peer-reviewed research programmes. This covers all NIHR programmes and UK Research Councils, as well as national health and care charities.

Visit the [RSS website Research Support Service | NIHR](#) to find out how the RSS supports translational, clinical and applied health, public health, and social care research. It can also support applications for fellowships and other personal awards.



## **NIHR funding schemes workshop City St George's**

Date: Tuesday 19 November 2024

Time: 1.00 pm to 3.00 pm

Venue: Michael Heron Lecture Theatre

NIHR Academy members will present information about:

- NIHR Doctoral Fellowships
- NIHR Advanced Clinical and

Practitioner Fellowships (ACAF)

- NIHR Senior Clinical and Practitioner Research Award (SCPRA)
- Research for Patient Benefit grants (RfPB)

Please [register for the event here](#)



# Research Day

This year St George's Research Day will take place on Wednesday 11 December, 10.30am — 7pm in the Curve Lecture Theatre. Research Day is an annual celebration of the world-class research and enterprise that has happened at St George's over the year.

We are delighted that Professor Chris Whitty, the Chief Medical Officer for England and the government's Chief Medical Advisor, will deliver the Thomas Young Lecture this year.



The event also includes a number of short oral presentations from St George's staff, poster presentations and research awards.

Lunch and a drinks reception will be provided.

The categories for poster abstracts and prizes are:

- Chrissie Fenske Research poster prize (£1,000 prize)
- Undergraduate (£100 prize)
- Postgraduate, including MRes and MD (£100 prize)

The deadline for poster abstract submission is Wednesday 30 October.

[Find out more about Research Day here.](#)

**Haier Biomedical**  
Intelligent Protection of Life Science

 **SARSTEDT**

**INTEGRA**

**proton dx**

**MP**

 **BioLabs**  
NEW ENGLAND

 **calibre**  
SCIENTIFIC

 **MEDICE**  
THE HEALTH FAMILY

 **avantor**<sup>™</sup>

**eppendorf**

 **starlab**

**QUANTUM SI**<sup>™</sup>

 **Nikon**

# Resources

## **How-to' guide on writing a Plain English Summary (PES) for NIHR funding proposals**

This [useful 'How-to' guide](#) is a recording of an online training session run by Duncan Barron, PPI Lead and Victoria Hamer, PPI Public Contributor and covers important considerations and current best practice guidance that will be beneficial to researchers when preparing a Plain English Summary (PES) for National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) funding proposals.

The training session is accompanied by the reflections of two St George's based researchers. Mr Aurelien Gueroult

(Abdominal Aortic Aneurism research) and Dr Ella Tumelty (Cardiorenal research) share examples and their experiences of working with members of the public to produce accessible and easy to read Plain English Summaries for NIHR funding proposals.

Duncan can help with any PES queries arising from the video and is available to support and train researchers how best to incorporate PPI into all aspects of their research. Duncan is happy to run other sessions or one-to-ones/ drop-ins if appropriate.

**Please email: [dbarron@sgul.ac.uk](mailto:dbarron@sgul.ac.uk)**



**New resource to help researchers navigate implementation terms:** ARC South London implementation science researchers have developed a [new glossary](#) of terms and concepts used in implementation research.

**Resources to support involvement in research:** ARC South London's involvement team have updated their [useful resources for carrying out involvement in](#)

[research](#).

**Equality Impact Assessment Toolkit**  
**ARC:** East Midlands have developed a [toolkit](#) to help determine and understand how what we do may affect people differently.

**Free guide to using inclusive language in health information:** the Patient Information Forum has published an update to its [Inclusive Language Matters Poster](#).

# August rotation

Every August thousands of medics across the UK move into new posts in hospitals as part of their training. This is known as the August Rotation or 'changeover' period.

The training year commences on the first Wednesday of August and ends on the Tuesday of the following year. **During the August 2024**

## **rotation at St George's, we welcomed:**

- A cohort of 12 Specialised Foundation Programme doctors.
- Seven NIHR/locally funded Academic Clinical Fellows.

The current and future issues of the GAT newsletter will introduce our new clinical academic doctors in training.

## **Two of our NIHR ACFs ended their award in August 2024:**

- Liban Ahmed, ACF Rheumatology, continues with clinical training as an ST4 in the South London rotation. Liban's collaboration with SGUL continues with a project on qualitative research in patients from different ethnic backgrounds and their experience of care.
- Peter Crook, ACF Infectious Diseases has been awarded a Wellcome Trust funded PhD training fellowship through the Africa Health Research Training Programme (CREATE

PhD).

## **SFP doctors have also moved on:**

- Niamh O'Neill – I have started as a clinical teaching fellow at Broomfield Hospital with a funded PgCert in Medication Education.
- Sean Cavanagh – I have started a psychiatry ACF at KCL.
- John McAlinden – Next year I'm moving to Melbourne to work in a surgical SHO job there, to experience another healthcare system (and some Australian beaches and sun!). After finishing in Melbourne I'm aiming to go into surgical training.
- Heidi Lawson – I am starting paediatrics training in Severn deanery. I plan to continue with academic work and the work I did for my SFP (vaccine institute for paediatrics, PGCert in Research Methods, creating online teaching programme) helped me enormously with getting my first choice paediatrics job.
- Laith Evans – I am staying on at SGUL as a junior clinical fellow in the St George's Vaccine Institute for the next academic year. I will be working on paediatric and adult vaccine trials. I plan on applying for a paediatric ACF post after my 'FY3'.

# New starters

## Special Foundation Doctors Programme



Ayesha Saleem, Clinical Pharmacology  
My research interests lie in basic science and bioinformatics-based research, with a focus on clinical pharmacology and rheumatology.

Bernice Sim, Academic Rheumatology  
Research interests: inflammatory arthritis, SLE, vasculitis.



Toby Speirs, Renal  
Research interests: cardiorenal disease, interventional cardiology, sports cardiology.

Nienke Schouten, Infectious Diseases  
Research interests: antimicrobial resistance, antimicrobial failure and critical care.



# New starters

## Ed Antram



NIHR Academic  
Clinical Fellow in  
Clinical Radiology

After completing my undergraduate degree in Physics, where I focused on beam modelling for radiotherapy, I attended medical school at King's College London (GKT). During this time, I contributed to surgical research projects investigating the effectiveness of Mitral Surgery MDTs and patient outcomes following breast cancer surgery. I also developed proficiency in R and Python, natural language processing (NLP), and various modelling techniques.

After graduating, I joined the Academic Foundation Programme in Vascular Surgery at

St George's Hospital, where I researched the epidemiology of aortic dissection using ICD mortality and risk factor data from the WHO. Additionally, I worked on risk stratification tools for patients with vague symptoms at the Rapid Diagnostic Cancer Clinic.

Now, as an Academic Clinical Fellow in Clinical Radiology, I am eager to further explore machine learning methods for optimising imaging selection while expanding my focus and interest in Interventional Radiology.

# New starters

## Matthew Saunders



NIHR Clinical  
Lecturer in Public  
Health

I am a specialist registrar in Public Health Medicine and an epidemiologist, joining as an NIHR Clinical Lecturer at the Institute for Infection and Immunity. After completing my undergraduate medical and public health studies, I started my clinical training as an Academic Foundation Trainee in Liverpool.

My PhD at Imperial College London, funded by the Wellcome Trust, was based in Peru and focused on predicting and preventing tuberculosis among household contacts of people with tuberculosis, informing the integration of biomedical and social protection interventions for tuberculosis-affected

households.

I then began my specialty training and joined the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine as an Academic Clinical Fellow. My work there has explored the intersections between tuberculosis, nutrition, and climate change, and I am collaborating with the WHO on a research agenda in these areas.

At St. George's, I aim to further pursue my interests in the social determinants and consequences of infectious diseases, and in designing and evaluating community-led, complex interventions to address these challenges.



# New starters

## Jared Charlton-Webb



NIHR Academic  
Clinical Fellow in  
Emergency Medicine

Dr Jared Charlton-Webb has joined SGUL as an Academic Clinical Fellow in Emergency Medicine (ST1). Prior to medicine he read Neuroscience and undertook a Masters in Ageing Health and Disease. During his Academic Foundation Programme Jared was involved in developing and teaching on a Major Trauma Life Support Course held at Cardiff University and continued an educational focus developing the acute and emergency medicine online content for the undergraduate medical degree. During his Fy2 year Jared was appointed to the Resuscitation Council (UK) Early

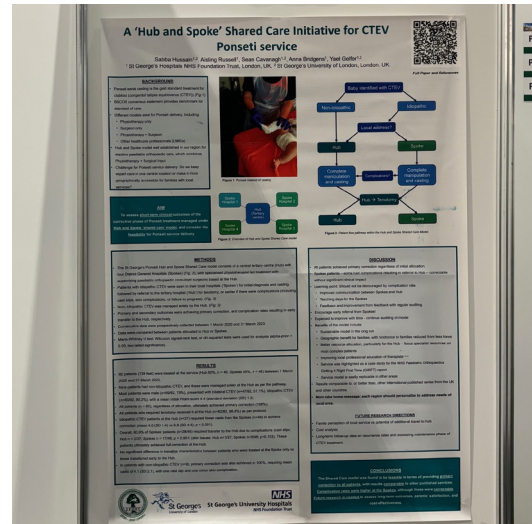
Careers Committee and hopes to develop networks to promote resuscitation science research. Jared has been involved in research outside of the AFP and presented research into pre-hospital out of hospital cardiac arrest registry data at national conferences and presented quality improvement projects focusing on Needlestick Injury grab-boxes for the Royal College of Physicians (Wales) meeting. Jared is keen on developing his research skills and begin undertaking projects in the emergency department and in critical care medicine.

# News from Specialised Foundation Doctors

Thanks to the generous support of the Isaac Shapera Fund and the St George's GAT team, I had the privilege of attending the 25th EFORT Congress 2024 in Hamburg, Germany. This conference was one of the largest in Trauma and Orthopaedic surgery. It provided me a remarkable platform to present and discuss projects I worked on alongside my team and colleagues during my academic rotation. Among these were projects on how to best implement Ponseti service for paediatric clubfoot patients, a review on outcome measures in spina bifida, treatment options for Gustilo-Anderson type 1 paediatric fractures, and mentoring for students with neurodiversity.

This experience was invaluable and greatly insightful, as it enabled me to learn from and share ideas with others globally, gain feedback from leading experts, and broaden my understanding of the latest advancements in the field. I am deeply grateful to GAT and the Isaac Shapera Fund for this opportunity and their support.

– Sabba Hussain



# News from doctors in training



I was excited to be invited as both a speaker and chair at the annual British society for Medical mycology annual conference in Cardiff in June. I was also an invited speaker to Welsh Microbiology Association Annual conference (also held in Cardiff) in May. I had an oral and poster presentation at ECCMID 2024 (now called ESCMID Global) in Barcelona in April. I have listed the names of my talks at the end of this email.

In regards to my planned visiting research fellowship to Vietnam, I will lead a preliminary study on PCR diagnostics for talaromyces and learn techniques like checkerboard and time to kill assays for drug combinations for

talaromycosis. I am grateful to have been awarded a £1000 research grant from the Harold Hyam Wingate Foundation. I have also received the Glyn Evans award from the British Society of Medical Mycology which is another £1000.

I have been invited to join a national guidelines group, working on a panel of UK experts in mycology to devise the "British Society for Medical Mycology Best Practice recommendations for the diagnosis of serious fungal diseases".

In regards to publications, I have had three first author publications in the last few weeks. Most notably, a first author publication in Clinical

# News from doctors in training

Infectious Diseases which was published this week.

– Lottie Brown

## References

• Brown L, Rautemaa-Richardson R, Mengoli C, Alanio A, Barnes RA, Bretagne S, Chen SC, Cordonnier C, Donnelly JP, Heinz WJ, Jones B. PCR on respiratory tract specimens of immunocompromised patients to diagnose Pneumocystis pneumonia (PcP): A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Clinical infectious diseases*. 2024 Apr 9 (<https://doi.org/10.1093/cid/ciae239>)

• Brown L, Colwill M, Poullis A. Gastrointestinal Tuberculosis: Diagnostic Approaches for this Uncommon Pathology. *World Journal of Clinical Cases* (in press - to be published soon).

• Brown, L., Sargent, P., Islam, M., Downie, C., Hassan, A., O'Hara, G., Douthwaite, S., Kulasegaram, R., Robbie, S., Aarons, E. and Milligan, I.D., 2024. Severe ocular Mpox in person living with advanced HIV treated with extended course of tecovirimat. *HIV medicine* (<https://doi.org/10.1111/hiv.13656>).

## Recent talks

• 58th British Society of Medical Mycology (BSMM) Annual Conference – invited speaker and chair (June 2024)

• PCR diagnosis of Pneumocystis pneumonia (30-minute symposium)

• Welsh Microbiology Meeting, Cardiff – invited speaker (May 2024)

• Use of molecular diagnostics and AI for diagnosis of invasive fungal infections (30-minute symposium)

• European Conference for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Disease (ECCMID/ESCMID Global 2024) (April 2024)

• Severe ocular mpox in person living with advanced HIV treated with extended course of tecovirimat (oral presentation)

• Meta-analysis of PCR technique performance for diagnosing Pneumocystis pneumonia (PcP) on respiratory tract samples (poster)

# Good news

**Peter Crook** (NIHR Academic Clinical Fellow in Infectious Diseases) has been awarded a Wellcome Trust funded PhD training fellowship through the Africa Health Research Training Programme (CREATE PhD).

Peter spent the first half of his ACF working with Tom Harrison (SGUL) and Dave Moore (LSHTM) to develop a multicentre cohort study for patients with multidrug-resistant tuberculosis, adapting the WHO's TB ShORRT platform for use in the UK. He then spent the latter part of his ACF award in Rwanda where he developed an interest in the high rates of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) amongst Gram-negative infections

in community and hospital settings in the region.

His PhD will develop this interest further, focusing in particular on the prevalence and transmission dynamics of carbapenemase-producing Enterobacteriaceae in community settings in Kampala, Uganda. He will be supervised by Catrin Moore (SGUL) and Freddy Kitutu (Makerere University). He hopes to utilise this opportunity to expand his network of clinical, educational and research links in the region and to generate locally relevant data to support interventions to reduce the spread of AMR.



Stay up to date with news and events by following us on Twitter [@gat\\_sgu](https://twitter.com/gat_sgu)

# Good news

*Dr Nuria Sanchez Clemente, NIHR CL Paediatrics has been appointed as a Senior Lecturer at City St George's and honorary paediatric infectious diseases consultant at St George's University Hospital. Nuria was also appointed as Paediatric ID consultant at Evelina for 2 PAs so will have a joint role.*

During my senior lectureship I will continue my work in paediatric migrant health working closely with the Migrant Health Research Group; as well as neglected neonatal and congenital infections, within the Vaccinology group in CNPI.

As part of the former, I will continue the project I started during my CL, supported by an Academy of Medical Science (AMS) grant, studying vaccination uptake and infectious diseases outcomes in migrant children using England-wide linked administrative health datasets. I will also continue to support BSc, MSc and PhD candidates, including my MRC-LID PhD student Katy Mackey who is studying sexually transmitted infections in migrants in

Europe using routine health datasets.

Following the publication of my meta-analysis on paediatric and maternal mpox infection in pregnancy and childhood in the Lancet Global Health, I am also building up my work in this field, including the initial design phases of a maternal mpox vaccination trials in Uganda.

I have also joined as a collaborator on the PREPARE project, a large international study which aims to determine correlates of protection and carry out Phase II trials for Group B Strep vaccine candidates, providing support in the Ugandan arm around stakeholder engagement and capacity strengthening.

Alongside this, I will continue my work in the LIFE Zika Study which is a Wellcome funded eight year study following up the children and families affected by congenital Zika Virus infection in Brazil.

# Good news



I am honoured to have been awarded an NIHR Clinical Lectureship in General Practice at the Primary Care Unit, Department of Public Health and Primary Care, University of Cambridge. My research will initially focus on increasing the uptake of maternal vaccinations and addressing maternal health inequalities, a priority for the NIHR, NHS, and the government. Alongside my research, I will maintain my clinical duties and allocate dedicated time to clinical leadership and management. I recently completed my NIHR In-Practice Fellowship (IPF) in General Practice.

The IPF was crucial in my career, enabling dedicated research on increasing vaccination rates in pregnancy and contributing to public health strategies. It enhanced my skills in qualitative research, leadership, and teaching, while leading to multiple publications and presentations. The fellowship fostered collaboration, resulting in an NIHR programme development grant with colleagues from LSHTM and City St George's. During the IPF, I also earned a Fellowship from the Higher Education Academy and completed an MA in Applied Medical Humanities with distinction.

– Mohammad Razai

# Good news

I am looking forward to starting an In-Practice Fellowship based at the Population Health Research Institute. This fellowship will allow me to continue my work within the Artificial Intelligence and Automated Retinal Image Analysis Systems (ARIAS) research group.

I recently completed an Academic Clinical Fellowship, and with a keen interest in patient and public involvement and engagement in research, I have been involved in a project exploring the perspectives of people living with diabetes and healthcare professionals on the potential use of artificial intelligence in diabetic eye screening. The In-Practice Fellowship will provide an opportunity to extend my involvement in this project, enhance my skills in qualitative research methodology, and apply co-design methods in developing educational outreach materials. Throughout the fellowship, I will be supervised by Professors Alicja Rudnicka, Tess Harris, and Chris Owen.

I appreciate the opportunity to continue my work at City St George's, which has been such a supportive and thriving environment.

– Lakshmi Chandrasekaran

