SPEAKER PROFILES

Nick Bishop

Nick Bishop is Professor of Paediatric Bone Disease at the University of Sheffield. He is Co-Chief Investigator on the MOI – A study, looking at repurposing losartan in adults and older adolescents with osteogenesis imperfecta and global chief investigator for the Ultragenyx-sponsored studies of setrusumab in children and young adults with osteogenesis imperfecta. He is Associate Director of the Versus Arthritis Experimental Arthritis Treatment Centre for Children, a Trustee of the Brittle Bone Society, and an Honorary Fellow of the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health.

Mike Briggs

Michael Briggs obtained his PhD at the MRC Clinical Research Centre in Harrow studying the genetic basis of Osteogenesis Imperfecta. He undertook postdoctoral work at UCLA identifying the genetic basis of genetic skeletal diseases. In 1996 he moved to Manchester as an AR-UK Fellow to continue studying disease mechanisms in chondrodysplasias. In 2004 he was awarded a Wellcome Trust Senior Research Fellowship that was renewed in 2009. In 2012 he was appointed Professor of Skeletal Genetics at Newcastle University and continues to work on disease mechanisms in chondrodysplasias with a focus on identifying novel therapeutics for these rare conditions. Michael has been instrumental in establishing several European consortia for the diagnosis and research of rare skeletal diseases. Current efforts are focused on repurposing carbamazepine as a potential therapy for metaphyseal chondrodysplasia type Schmid and an EU Horizon2020-funded clinical trial is currently underway (MCDS-Therapy).

Matthew Brown

Matt Brown is Chief Scientific Officer of Genomics England and Professor of Medicine at King's College London. He is a practicing rheumatologist, focusing on patients with axial spondyloarthritis. Over the past 30 years he has been a leading researcher in genomics of common and rare heritable diseases, particularly with regard to musculoskeletal disorders. He has contributed significantly to the development and application of genome-wide association studies for common disease dissection, and of next-generation sequencing for rare disease research. He was elected to fellowship of the Australian Academy of Sciences in 2014 for his contribution to the development of human genomics.

Christopher Buckley

I obtained a degree in Biochemistry from the University of Oxford (1985) with subsequent undergraduate training in Medicine (MBBS) at the Royal Free Hospital, London (1990). My postgraduate medical training was in General Medicine and Rheumatology at the Hammersmith Hospital, London and John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford. I obtained a DPhil arising from a Wellcome Trust Clinical Training Fellowship at the Institute of Molecular Medicine Oxford. Funded by a Wellcome Trust Clinician Scientist Fellowship, I joined the Department of Rheumatology in 1996 and in 2001 I was awarded an MRC Senior Clinical Fellowship. In 2002 became Arthritis Research UK Professor of Rheumatology.

In May 2017 I took up a new joint academic post between the Universities of Birmingham and Oxford at the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology Oxford to Direct the Arthritis Therapy Acceleration Programme(A-TAP). In September 2021 I moved to the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology Oxford as Director of Clinical Research where I am the Kennedy Trust Feldmann Maini Professor in Translational Medicine

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Owen Davies

Dr Davies completed his education in regenerative medicine at the University of Manchester (MRes) and University of Birmingham (PhD). He currently leads a multidisciplinary research group investigating the applications of extracellular vesicles (EVs) in regenerative medicine and drug delivery, with a primary focus on skeletal applications. He has been awarded multiple external grants from funding bodies including the Academy of Medical Sciences and EPSRC, as well as a fellowship for his work on EV therapeutics. He has a keen interest defining how EV therapies can be taken from bench to bedside.

Morten Frost

Morten Frost is a physician-scientist who studies metabolic bone diseases at the Molecular Endocrinology Laboratory, University of Southern Denmark. Current research activities are focused on the impact of type 1 and 2 diabetes on bone cell metabolism, bone remodeling, and fracture risks as well as short and long-term effects of incretin hormones GIP and GLP-1 on bone in healthy individuals as well as in individuals with type 2 diabetes.

Liam Grover

Liam M Grover is a materials scientist, whose work explores the interactions between materials and biological systems. He has worked with bone since his PhD, during which he developed a potently osteoinductive ceramic which functioned through the codelivery of ortho-/pyrophosphate anions. Ten years ago he was asked to investigate pathological ossification in military amputees. In the time since, his group has explored the structure and chemistry of the tissue and explored therapeutic options. He has also worked on the development of materials that can control scarring and infection, with two products on the market. He has published >200 scientific papers, which have been cited >10k times and has filed 30 patents protecting his innovations. He was elected Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences and is currently the Head of the School of Chemical Engineering and Director of the Healthcare Technologies Institute at the University of Birmingham.

An Hendrix

An Hendrix is full professor at Ghent University and group leader at Cancer Research Institute Ghent in Belgium. She obtained a Master of Science in Bioscience Engineering (2005) and a PhD in Health Sciences (2010). An Hendrix is organizer of the EMBO/EMBL practical course Extracellular vesicles: from biology to biomedical applications and president of the Belgian Society of Extracellular Vesicles (BESEV). During the ISEV2021 meeting she was awarded the Early/Mid-Career Investigator award for her seminal work on EVs providing a supportive ecosystem for their clinical application, including development of the EV-TRACK knowledgebase, SOP for the analysis of EVs in liquid biopsies and reference materials.

Paul Huang

Dr Paul Huang is Head of the Molecular and Systems Oncology Laboratory at the Institute of Cancer Research in London, UK. He received his PhD in Biological Engineering from Massachusetts Institute of Technology. His laboratory focuses on understanding the molecular pathology of soft tissue sarcomas, with the goal of developing biomarkers and new therapies for these diseases. Dr Huang is the Deputy Director of the Joint Royal Marsden-ICR Sarcoma Research Centre, one of the largest sarcoma research centres in Europe. He serves as Vice Chair of the Pathology & Translational Research Committee of the EORTC

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Soft Tissue and Bone Sarcoma Group and on the Board of Directors of the Connective Tissue Oncology Society. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society of Biology in 2020.

Christine Le Maitre

Prof. Christine Le Maitre co-leads the Osteoarthritis and Disc research group in the Division of Clinical Medicine, The University of Sheffield's Medical School. Her research focuses on investigating the pathogenesis of musculoskeletal disorders and novel therapies targeting pathogenesis and regenerative approaches. Working collaboratively nationally and internationally with clinicans, scientists, engineers, industrial partners and patients to pursue an improved understanding of musculoskeletal conditions and utilise this knowledge to develop the next generation of therapies. Her research to date has lead to 2 patents, >115 publications, >£23 million in research income a current H index of 48 and i10 index 88 with over 10,000 citations on her articles.

Munitta Muthana

Dr Munitta Muthana is a professor of Immuno-oncology at the University of Sheffield and leads the NANOBUG oncology team. Her research focuses on using Bugs as Drugs. These bugs can reprogramme cancers so that they respond to immunotherapies. Recently, the team used their knowledge of this area to develop innovative macrophage-based technologies for delivery of a cancer-killing bug to both primary and secondary tumours simultaneously. Prof Muthana's research group is interested in developing innovative approaches to target immunotherapies to cancers in hard to reach locations (e.g.in the bone and brain) whilst ensuring healthy tissue remains unharmed. To do this they have developed a number of novel nanomedicine targeting approaches (https://twitter.com/Nanobug_Shef) and are in the process of setting this up as a spin out company https://nanoncolytics.org/. In 2023 their research featured in CRUKs top 5 new important cancer research stories of the year (https://news.cancerresearchuk.org/2023/12/18/5-important-cancer-research-stories-of-2023/).

Penelope Ottewell

Professor Penelope (Penny) Ottewell completed her PhD at The University of Liverpool, before joining the University of Sheffield as a Research Associate. Whilst being based in Sheffield Penny has carried out international collaborative work spending time at INSERM (University of Lyon), France and at TUFTS Medical School in Boston, USA. She has been awarded a total of 13 national and international prizes for her research including the International Bone and Mineral Society Gregory Mundy Research Fellowship. In 2022 Penny was awarded her personal chair as Professor of Cancer Biology in the Mellanby Centre for Musculoskeletal Research. Penny's work is focussed in the field of cancer metastasis with a particular emphasis on immune cell regulation and the bone microenvironment. Her work in this field is currently funded by AstraZeneca, Beyer, MRC, Breast Cancer Now and Yorkshire Cancer Research. Penny works on the editorial board for multiple per reviewed journals, sits on the former NCRI Bone metastasis strategy working group and is a member of the Cancer and Bone Society Executive Committee. She is also a member of the grant review committees for Breast Cancer Now (UK) and The National Science Centre (Poland).

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Kenneth Rankin

Mr Rankin graduated in 1999 from the University of Dundee. His basic surgical training was in Newcastle followed by an MD investigating the cellular biology of bone metastases. Mr Rankin completed his higher specialist training in Perth and Dundee followed by a return to the North East of England as NIHR Academic Clinical Lecturer.

His current post as Consultant Orthopaedic Surgeon and Honorary Senior Lecturer is comprised mainly of orthopaedic oncology including the surgical management of bone and soft tissue sarcomas and metastatic bone disease. He also carries out hip and knee replacements for arthritis.

Research: As a Clinical Scientist Mr Rankin has developed an international reputation for translational research for the detection of circulating tumour cells in sarcoma patients and carried out the world's first case series of fluorescence guided surgery in sarcoma.

He is the Chief investigator for the multi-centre NIHR funded SarcoSIGHT trial.

Marian Schini

Consultant at the Metabolic Bone centre, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals. Senior clinical research fellow at the University of Sheffield

Marian Schini completed her training in Endocrinology and Diabetes in 2014. She has been working as a clinical research fellow for the University of Sheffield since 2015, with an interest in osteoporosis and calcium metabolism disorders. During this time, she undertook a PhD focusing on the prevalence and natural history of normocalcaemic hyperparathyroidism and hypoparathyroidism.

After completing her PhD in 2020, she was appointed as an NHS consultant at the Metabolic Bone Centre at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals, and continues to work for the University of Sheffield as a senior clinical research fellow.

Marian has published several papers on bone and mineral metabolism and has received awards from various societies for her work.

Mohnish Suri

I did my medical training at the Maulana Azad Medical College in Delhi followed by an MD in Paediatrics at the LNJPN Hospital in Delhi. I was a Registrar in Paediatrics at LNJPN Hospital for 3 years and a Fellow in Paediatric Genetics and Neurology at the All-India Institute of Medical Sciences for 2 years.

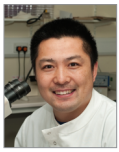
I trained as a Specialist Registrar in Clinical Genetics at the North-West Thames Regional Genetics from 1995-1999 and was appointed Consultant Clinical Geneticist at Nottingham City Hospital in April 1999. I have been an Honorary Professor, School of Medicine, University of Nottingham from August 2023. I am the Clinical Rare Disease Lead for the East Genomic Laboratory Hub and President Elect for the Clinical Genetics Society of UK.

I have been running the Nottingham Skeletal Dysplasia Clinic since 2000. I have co-authored 148 peer-reviewed publications and have an H-index of 38 on Scopus.

Tatiane Vilaca

Dr Tatiane Vilaca is a postdoctoral research fellow at the University of Sheffield. She graduated in medicine from the Federal University of Minas Gerais in Brazil, where she trained in endocrinology and diabetes. She completed her PhD at the University of Sheffield having studied bone health in diabetes. She has a special interest in the effects of chronic diseases and medications on bone and the underlying mechanisms. She has conducted several systematic reviews and meta-analyses with publications on the risk of fractures

in Diabetes, Parkinson's Disease and Chronic Kidney Disease and the effects of intravenous iron infusions on phosphate metabolism. She has also investigated the interplay between fat and bone and the impact of diabetes and diabetic neuropathy on bone health. She is currently investigating mineral metabolism in hypophosphatasia, a rare genetic disease that is often associated with high phosphate levels.



Ning Wang

Dr. Ning Wang is a cancer biologist specializing in cancer-induced bone diseases and cancer cell dormancy. Dr. Wang completed his undergraduate (BSc) and postgraduate (MRes) training in biology at Ocean University of China. After relocating to the UK in 2004, he completed his PhD training and subsequently held postdoctoral positions at the University of Sheffield. In 2017, he established his independent research group within the Cancer theme of the Department of Oncology & Metabolism at the University of Sheffield, leading research on the impact of exercise on prostate and breast cancer skeletal metastasis using pre-clinical models. In early 2024, Dr. Wang moved to the Leicester Cancer Research Centre at the University of Leicester, where he continues his research on glucose metabolism-centred cancer studies as a Lecturer in Cancer Metabolism and Prevention. He also holds an Honorary Research Fellow position at the Division of Clinical Medicine, University of Sheffield.