

Resume of Speakers



Professor Tan Arulampalam

Professor Tan Arulampalam (MB BS MD FRCS) has been a Consultant Colorectal Surgeon at Colchester Hospital (UK) with a passion for healthcare transformation through research and education. He has transitioned to a portfolio of private practice, medtech start ups and university academic work at the School of Medicine, Anglia Ruskin University. He helped establish The ICENI Centre (www.icenicentre.org), a centre of excellence for training and research. Tan was formerly a Clinical Director and Lead in Process Re-engineering at Colchester Hospital, UK. He has extensive international experience in translational medical research, health system analysis, audit and higher educational supervision. His own research on PET imaging has translated into mainstream practice enabling earlier cancer detection and improved treatment outcomes.



Tan is on the faculty of the European Surgical Institute and is President Elect of the Association of Laparoscopic Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland, the UK's premier minimally invasive surgery society. His training experience spans many countries beyond Europe and North America, including the Middle East, Brazil, India, Sri Lanka, Malaysia, Korea and China. His major commitments include being a full board member of the European Association of Endoscopic Surgeons and chair of the EAES Research Committee.

He has published more than 50 peer reviewed papers and is joint editor of the textbook Essential Surgery published by Elsevier (7th Edition to be published in 2024). He was part of the ACPGIBI group that published guidelines on Prevention, Detection and Management of Anastomotic Leak and is now part of the global SAGES/EAES collaborative on anastomotic leak (Cololeak). Tan also took part in the consensus group for EAES publishing comprehensive guidelines on the management of diverticular disease (2018).

He is on the Medical Board of the charity Bowel Cancer UK and is focused on facilitating collaboration between surgical societies across the world, promoting sustainable surgery, surgeon wellbeing and adoption of novel medtech.

The Horizon. Tan is President Elect of the Association of Laparoscopic Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland taking up office at the end of 2023 with a focus on sustainable surgical performance and data driven surgery. He plans commercialisation of a medtech device and development of a programme of surgical patient safety, working with key stakeholders.

Mr Alan Askari

Alan Askari (MB ChB MSc Dip PhD FRCS) is a Consultant Bariatric, Upper GI, and General Surgeon with a commitment to continual learning and medical education. He began his medical training in Manchester, completing his undergraduate and Foundation Years, before moving to the East of England for Core Training.



Alan has pursued advanced academic qualifications, obtaining an MSc in Surgical Science & Practice from the University of Oxford and a PhD from Imperial College London. Following this, he returned to the East of England Deanery for higher surgical training and secured a post CCT Royal College of Surgeons Fellowship at Luton & Dunstable Hospital.

He has a keen interest in medical education and surgical academia, with over 140 published peer-reviewed papers and book chapters to his name. Alan has also shared his knowledge and findings at various international conferences, presenting over 170 abstracts. He established and was the past Chair of the Surgical Trainees in East of England Research (STEER) Collaborative.

Alan has taken up several leadership roles to contribute to the medical community. He served as the inaugural President of the ASGBI Moynihan Academy, was the National Bariatric Surgery Registry (NBSR) trainee representative, Association of Surgeons in Training (ASiT) council member and Association of Upper GI Surgery Great Britain & Ireland (AUGIS) Roux Group Social Media Lead. He is also a founding member and current council member of The Upper GI Surgeons Society (TUGSS) and is the course director for their FRCS Section 2 Revision Course, held 2-3 times a year. His involvement in such roles highlights his commitment to advancing the field and supporting his peers.

With a passion for sharing knowledge, Alan has conducted over 40 national and international educational Webinars, focusing on mentoring and medical education. He co-founded 'Scrubbing In,' a YouTube and Podcast channel designed to deliver surgical education content, especially for trainees preparing for the FRCS examination, showcasing his dedication to supporting upcoming medical professionals.

Mr Michael Blackhurst

Michael's career took him from an intern to General Manager in a high-stakes international corporation over twenty-three years. His journey included hands-on R&D in medical devices from concept to product.

Facing burnout, he took a sabbatical to reassess life's priorities and values. During this time he developed the Captaincy Coaching Programme and series of tools to support a happier life with more agency. Now, he supports leaders in healthcare, startups and corporations through coaching and advisory services.



Ms Elaine Burns

Ms Elaine Burns is a Consultant Colorectal Surgeon at St Marks Hospital and Honorary Senior Lecturer at Imperial College London. Her area of clinical interest is colorectal surgery and in particular the surgical management of primary and recurrent colorectal cancer.

Elaine Burns trained in Coloproctology/Surgical Oncology in the North West London region, Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in Sydney and St Mark's Hospital. She studied at the University of Edinburgh and spent three years in post-graduate research at the Imperial College London where she was awarded a PhD examining surgical quality and outcome research including new technologies and volume outcome relationships.

Elaine's principal research interests include colorectal surgical outcome research, colorectal quality measurement, perioperative optimisation, harm reduction and robotic surgery.



Dr Sundaram Easwaramoorthy

MBBS from Coimbatore Medical College with Madras University, gold medals in all the subjects in the final year; MS post graduate from Coimbatore Medical College 1988 and secured the Best Outgoing Student Gold Medal; Higher Surgical training in UK from 1991 for 10 years and awarded FRCS (Edinburgh), FRCS (Glasgow), FRCS (England), CCST (UK), presently Consultant Surgeon and surgical gastroenterologist, Lotus Hospital, Erode

Also

- President, IAGES
- Advisor, IAGES Endoscopy board
- Examiner for MRCS, Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.
- Hon Professor of IMA AMS HQ 2022-27
- Editorial Board Member JMAS
- Member of ASI, SGEI, ACRSI

Books /Publications

- Author and Editor of following books
 - Art and Science of Endoscopy 2018
 - Art and Science of Colonoscopy 2021
 - Hand book of Surgery 2016
- Co Editor for Textbook of Laparoscopy and Manual of Therapeutic Endoscopy
- Published several articles in JMAS and IJS and presented several orations and lectures across the globe
- Taught art and science of Endoscopy for more than 2,000 surgeons and surgical postgraduates across India



Professor George Hanna

Head of Department of Surgery & Cancer and Oesophagogastric Surgeon. He is Fellow of Academy of the Medical Sciences and President of the EAES.

His clinical research focuses on quality of surgical performance in training and clinical trials. His laboratory research revolves around Volatile Organic Compound analysis for biomarker discovery and understanding their mechanistic drivers to develop a breath test platform to detect multiple gastrointestinal cancers.



Mr Mark Slack

Mark Slack qualified as a doctor at the University of the Witwatersrand in South Africa. He then completed his postgraduate training at the University of Cape Town. He graduated from the College of Medicine of South Africa in Gynaecology, winning the Daubenton Gold Medal for the most distinguished candidate in the exams in the country.

He was previously head of Gynaecology and Urogynaecology at Addenbrooke's Hospital, University of Cambridge Teaching Hospitals Trust, Cambridge. He is an associate Professor at the University of Cambridge.

Mr Slack has run an active research unit in Cambridge. The unit was involved in a number of research initiatives. He developed and introduced the Sacrospinous Fixation to the UK. In addition, he has invented several procedures which were adopted and taken to global launch by international Medical Device companies. Two by Johnson & Johnson. He has published over 100 peer reviewed papers, more than 25 book chapters and numerous national guidelines. He is a regular contributor on several National Radio and Television programmes including 'Case Notes', 'Women's Hour', The Victoria Derbyshire show and regional and National news programmes.

He is a Co-founder and Chief Medical Officer of CMR Surgical, a start-up company in Cambridge which has developed a novel surgical robot (Versius). This is a next generation surgical robotic system designed to increase the use of minimally invasive (keyhole) surgery. This is now the second largest soft tissue robotic company in the world. In 2021 it had the highest MedTech funding round in the world with a \$660 million raise. The subsequent valuation gave it Unicorn status. The company currently employs more than 700 people in multiple geographies.

He was appointed the Ethicon travelling Professor in 2004 as well as the Sims Black Professorship of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists for 2005/6. He was recognised by the NIHR in 2015 with an award as one of the leading researchers in the UK for clinical research. In 2018, under his leadership the Urogynaecology unit in Cambridge achieved the highest accreditation score ever awarded by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists recognizing it as one of the leading units in the country. In 2021 he was awarded honorary fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons and Physicians of Glasgow and the French Academy of Surgeons.



Mr Chris Turner

Why civility matters in a complex world

Have you ever had a professional interaction that has left you feeling disrespected? Left you feeling distracted and not performing at your best? It turns out that this isn't just you, it's all of us.

Excellence in healthcare is dependent on teams, and teams work best when all members feel safe and have a voice. Civility between team members creates that sense of safety and is a key ingredient of great teams. Incivility, on the other hand, robs teams of their potential.

Chris is in emergency medicine at University Hospitals of Coventry and Warwickshire. He is interested in governance and highly performing teams, and this has led him on a journey from being blame and process focused to something completely different, Civility Saves Lives, a campaign that aims to raise awareness of the impact of behaviour on performance. This idea has gained momentum and traction across healthcare and beyond.

