

Resume of Speakers



Asim A Abbas

Dr Asim A. Abbas is Abdominal Wall Research Fellow at the renowned York Abdominal Wall Unit, York and Scarborough Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. He graduated MBChB with Honours from the University of Sheffield and holds a Postgraduate Certificate in Health Research and Statistics from the University of York. He is currently undertaking an MD at Hull York Medical School and a Postgraduate Certificate in Patient Safety and Quality Improvement from the University of Oxford.

His research focuses on the qualitative and quantitative assessment of Quality of Life in patients with complex abdominal wall hernias. He has published on multiple aspects of this field, including mental health, the social impact of hernia, preoperative progressive pneumoperitoneum, and is leading the development of a condition-specific quality of life tool as part of his doctoral research. He has presented nationally and internationally on abdominal wall reconstruction and leads several studies exploring the intersection of surgical practice, patient experience, and digital innovation, including the use of artificial intelligence and smart technologies in patient care and surgical training. Dr Abbas also contributes to national initiatives, including the GIRFT programme, where he has supported the development of standardised hernia consent forms and patient-facing resources.

Dr Abbas is Convenor of the CADSIM Abdominal Wall Reconstruction Course at York, which provides advanced training for surgical trainees. He also serves as Director of Communications and Trustee for the British Hernia Society, where he leads digital engagement strategy and contributes to the Society's educational and research initiatives.



Ajit Abraham

Ajit Abraham MBBS, MS, MA (Medical Ethics & Law), FRCS, FRCS (General Surgery) is a Consultant General, Trauma & Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary (HPB) Surgeon at the Royal London Hospital, Barts Health NHS Trust and Honorary Senior Clinical Lecturer at Queen Mary University of London.

He specialises in the surgical management of liver, gallbladder, bile duct, and pancreatic disease, as well as complex gallstone disease and acute and chronic pancreatitis. His expertise spans open, laparoscopic, and robotic surgery, along with over two decades of experience in both elective and emergency general surgery, as well as major trauma.

Since 2022, Ajit has served as Barts Health Group Executive Director for Inclusion & Equity and sits on the Trust Board. He previously held senior leadership roles, including Deputy Chief Medical Officer, Chair of the Boards of Surgery & Cancer and Undergraduate Dean. A Health Foundation Quality Improvement Fellow at the Institute for Healthcare

Improvement and Harvard (2011-12), he has contributed to patient safety, quality improvement, leadership, and equity strategies across Barts Health. He was Honorary Principal, The Staff College for Leadership in Healthcare, 2016 -25.



Kapil Agrawal

Mr Kapil Agrawal MBBS MRCS PGDip is a Basic Surgical Trainee and Chief Clinical Fellow in General Surgery at the Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust. He graduated from Government Medical College, Kota, India, and worked in Internal Medicine and Intensive Care during the COVID-19 outbreak before moving to the UK. He has presented nationally and internationally, published on peri-operative outcomes and quality improvement and is Associate PI for a national clinical trial. Alongside clinical training he has held leadership roles and is actively involved in surgical education, including teaching on Royal College of Surgeons of England programmes.



Jawad Ahmad

Jawad Ahmad is a Consultant Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Surgeon at University Hospital Coventry and Warwickshire. He is the premier robotic HPB trainer for the UK and Europe and has started many successful robotic programs. He is robotic lead at ALSGBI and GBIHPBA and maintains a keen interest in research and teaching.



Shafi Ahmed

Professor Shafi Ahmed is a world renowned, multi award winning surgeon, teacher, futurist, innovator and entrepreneur. He is a 3 x TED speaker and is faculty at Singularity University. He has delivered over 250 keynotes in 30 countries.

After studying medicine at Kings College Hospital Medical School London, he completed his surgical training in London. Ahmed is currently a Laparoscopic Colorectal surgeon specialising in colorectal cancer at The Royal London and St Bartholomew's Hospitals.

His mission is to merge the world of medicine, global education, and virtual and augmented reality to democratise and scale surgical education to make it affordable and accessible to everyone using the power of connectivity to allow equitable surgical care.



Farhan Akram

Farhan Akram MBBS, MRCS (Eng), PG Dip Med Education (Newcastle), FRCS (Edinburgh), currently working as a Senior Colorectal Fellow at the Royal Oldham Hospital. He graduated in 2013, with subsequent membership and fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons. He holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Medical Education, reflecting a strong commitment to teaching and surgical training.

He was recognised for academic excellence and awarded Best Presenter at the ALSGBI ASM 2023. He has interest in advancing minimally invasive techniques and improving patient outcomes through evidence-based practice and innovation. He has organised multiple surgical courses at Manchester over the years and conducted international workshops in Pakistan and UAE with an enthusiastic team of UK Surgeons.



Rena Al-Zubaidy

Rena Al-Zubaidy completed her medical degree with honours in 2017 at the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland, where she was awarded the Harry O'Flanagan Medal for Excellence in Undergraduate Research. This achievement sparked

her interest in research and gave her an appreciation for its role in advancing surgical practice. She went on to complete her core surgical training in Ireland and is now a general surgery registrar (ST4) in the Kent, Surrey and Sussex Deanery.

She also has a keen interest in medical education and training, having been heavily involved in the education of students at Trinity College Dublin and Imperial College London as a clinical teaching fellow and practical exam coordinator. She went on to formalise her contributions to education by successfully completing a STAR programme at Imperial College London, which led to her being awarded Associate Fellowship of the Higher Education Academy.

Rena is pursuing a career in gastrointestinal surgery with a developing interest in minimally invasive surgery and hopes to undertake an MD in her area of interest in the coming years. She is delighted to present her work at the ALSGBI Annual Scientific Meeting 2025.



Oroog Ali

Miss Oroog Ali is a Consultant Robotic Colorectal and General Surgeon at Gateshead NHS Foundation Trust, UK. She is one of the UK's only female robotic proctors with a dedicated robotic practice in colorectal and hernia

surgery. She holds national roles within ACPGBI, RCSEd, and BHS. She has led the implementation of the first robotic programme at her hospital, delivering procedures in colorectal pathologies and hernias with a focus on precision, surgical innovation, and patient-centred outcomes.

She completed her training in the North East of England, where she was awarded both the ASGBI Gold Medal and the RCSEd GB Ong Medal for outstanding performance in FRCS.



Tan Arulampalam

Professor Tan Arulampalam 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 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 ACPGBI 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).



Rabiya Aseem

Miss Rabiya Aseem is currently a senior Specialty Trainee Registrar in General Surgery within the Kent, Surrey and Sussex (KSS) Deanery. Passionate about embedding environmental stewardship as a core dimension

of surgical quality, her research focuses on implementing, evaluating, and sustaining effective change across surgery. She is undertaking an MD in sustainability in surgery, applying implementation-science methods to introduce theatre-based changes that reduce the carbon footprint, including the implementation and adoption of the Green Theatre Checklist. She has served as Clinical Lead for Sustainability at Royal Surrey, leading multidisciplinary programmes that deliver evidence-based improvements across perioperative and clinical pathways, procurement, and quality improvement initiatives. Rabiya also holds a Master's in Healthcare Leadership and Management and has taken up leadership roles including the oncoplastic trainee representative for KSS.



Altaf Awan

Mr Altaf Awan is a specialist benign pancreaticobiliary and bariatric (weight loss) surgeon. He undertook his basic and higher surgical training in UK and appointed as consultant surgeon at Royal Derby Hospital, Derby, UK in 2011. Mr Awan specialises in bariatric (weight loss) surgery, surgical management of gallstones, bile duct stones, acute pancreatitis, acid reflux and all types of abdominal wall hernias. He has a keen interest in laparoscopic and robotic surgery and has helped develop innovative minimally invasive surgical techniques in the management of complex acute pancreatitis. He regularly delivers talks as an invited speaker at the national surgical meetings and his most recent talk was on role and advantages of robotic surgery in gastric bypass for weight loss at ALSGBI UK Annual Scientific Meeting 2022 held in Newcastle. In his role as ALSGBI Director of Education and Training, he has helped develop Intermediate skills in robotic surgery course and regularly directs ALSGBI and Royal College of Surgeons England laparoscopic courses. He is one of the UK first proctor for robotic abdominal wall hernia surgery and has proctored several UK surgeons in both abdominal wall hernia and bariatric surgery.

- **Research & Innovation:** Author of 400+ peer-reviewed publications, 35+ book chapters, 5 edited books, and 740+ international presentations. Secured \$16M as PI/Co-PI and over \$120M in group funding for global health, safety, and innovation projects. Co-founded multiple health technology companies and serves as a strategic advisor in the sector.
- **Education & Mentorship:** Double-boarded anaesthesiologist and critical care physician trained at Harvard, Massachusetts General Hospital, and the University of Chicago. Honorary/Visiting Professor at leading universities worldwide, and mentor to 100+ doctoral, postdoctoral, and graduate students across disciplines.
- **Military Service:** Former combat battalion physician and field surgical hospital commander during the Gulf War.
- **Editorial Work:** Former editor of BMJ Safety & Quality, Associate Editor of Telehealth and Medicine and Pediatric Cardiology.



Junaid Azad

Mr Junaid Azad is working as a Robotic Clinical Fellow in Northampton General Hospital. He received his undergraduate medical education from Zhejiang University in Peoples Republic of China. He underwent his General Surgery training in Lahore, Pakistan and got his Fellowship degree (FCPS) from College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan. He underwent his second fellowship in surgical oncology from Shaukat Khanum Cancer Hospital in Pakistan obtained his fellowship degree (FCPS) from College of Physicians and Surgeons Pakistan. His interest includes minimally invasive surgery for colorectal malignancies. His research focus is on minimally invasive surgery and ERAS pathways as he was credited with implementing ERAS pathway at Shaukat Khanum hospital.



Grace Bennett

Grace is an ST5 in urology with a long-standing involvement in the LapPass® programme since 2018. Since the creation of the ALSGBI Academy, she has served as the LapPass® representative and the urology representative. Grace plays a key role in running LapPass® within the North West Deanery, working collaboratively with colleagues to support and promote laparoscopic skills training for trainees across the region.



Matthew Boal

Matt is the Academy Deputy Chair and an Oesophagogastric registrar in the South West. He's recently completed his PhD research at The Griffin Institute on training and assessment in robotic surgery with Professor Nader Francis.

His academic drive and research focuses on improving training, particularly for trainees, within the robotic era. He would love any current trainees, doctors or students to approach him at the conference and chat if they want to know more, or are interested in joining the ALSGBI Academy.



Paul Barach

Professor Paul Barach, B.Med.Sci, MD, MPH, AUA, Major (Ret.) is a physician executive, anaesthesiologist, and surgical critical care specialist with over 20 years of leadership in patient safety, health policy, and academic medicine. A Gulf War veteran and retired Major, he is recognized globally as a patient safety champion, prolific researcher, and strategic advisor.

- **Leadership & Policy:** Former Chief Quality Officer and Associate Chief Medical Officer at the University of Miami/Jackson Memorial Hospital; Associate Dean of the Medical School; Founding Director of the Center for Simulation and Patient Safety. Advisor to the U.S. National Academy of Medicine, WHO, European Commission, and numerous international health agencies. Chairs the Accreditation Board for the Agency for Public Health Education Assessment (APHEA).



Isobel Burrridge

Ms Isobel Burrridge is a Core Surgical Trainee in the Yorkshire and Humber deanery. She completed her medical degree with Honours at the University of Manchester, and her interest in surgery was nurtured during her foundation years at the Royal Liverpool Hospital. Alongside her clinical training, Isobel is passionate about teaching and mentorship. She has played an active role in junior education through a range of initiatives, including local and regional teaching programmes, designing and leading an MRCS course for trainees in collaboration with the University of Leeds, and contributing to medical student examinations. Beyond medicine, Isobel is a keen cyclist and has completed numerous long-distance challenges, most notably cycling from Land's End to John O'Groats to raise funds for charity.



Kirsty Cole

Kirsty Cole (MRCS) is a surgical registrar in Wessex. She is currently undertaking a research fellowship at Queen Alexandra Hospital, Portsmouth, where she is pursuing a PhD on the management of early oesophageal cancer. She completed both her undergraduate degree in Biomedical Sciences and her medical degree at Cardiff University before returning to Wessex, where she grew up. Her clinical interests include Upper GI and emergency surgery and she is actively involved in medical education.



Nathan Curtis

Nathan Curtis (PhD FRCS FEBS) is a Consultant Surgeon and director of research at Dorset County Hospital since 2022. He has a broad minimally invasive practice with a focus on colorectal cancer. Nathan trained in Southampton and the Wessex region before completing a PhD at Imperial College on the objective assessment of intraoperative surgical performance. This involved collating and assessing over 1000 hours of surgery performed by global experts.

Nathan integrates an active research portfolio into daily practice and is proud to offer opportunities to local patients. He holds a number of CI, PI and leadership roles on a variety of interventional surgical, endoscopic and oncology studies including advanced therapies and colorectal cancer vaccine work. Nathan has editorial duties for minimally invasive surgery and education papers for a number of journals including Surgical Endoscopy and the BJS.

Nathan has a long-held belief that standard setting can aid the widespread delivery of high standard care and has been appointed to a number of international educational and examination roles including the GMC and European Board of Surgery alongside regional undergraduate and postgraduate responsibilities.



Sandeepa Dadigamuwage

Sandeepa Dadigamuwage is a Specialty Registrar in Colorectal Surgery at University Hospitals Plymouth NHS Trust, United Kingdom. He completed his internship in Medicine and Surgery at Sri Jayewardenepura General Hospital, Sri Lanka, and previously worked as a Resident Doctor and Senior House Officer in Surgery, where he actively contributed to audits and research initiatives. Now in the UK, he is engaged in elective and emergency colorectal surgery with a strong interest in minimally invasive techniques and surgical innovation. Sandeepa has led multiple retrospective studies, including work on parastomal hernia repairs, minimally invasive colorectal resections and antibiotic stewardship. He is passionate about evidence-based practice, education and presenting research at national and international forums.



Ranjit Deshpande

With over 25 years of experience and more than 10,000 open-heart surgeries, Mr Ranjit Deshpande is a renowned Consultant Cardiothoracic Surgeon specializing in Minimally Invasive (Keyhole) Cardiac & Thoracic Surgery. His expertise in endoscopic and robotic-assisted procedures has transformed cardiac surgery by reducing trauma, promoting faster recovery, and improving patient outcomes.

He is a pioneer in Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery (MICS) and has performed groundbreaking procedures, including: Member of Heart team which performed the first trans-apical TAVI (Transcatheter Aortic Valve Implantation) in the UK (2007).

Introduced minimally invasive endoscopic mitral & tricuspid valve repair and atrial fibrillation surgery at Cleveland Clinic London (2022).

Innovative redo cardiac surgery techniques as an alternative to sternotomy. Mr Deshpande is also a President-elect of BISMICS (British & Irish Society for Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery) and actively trains surgeons globally in advanced MICS techniques.



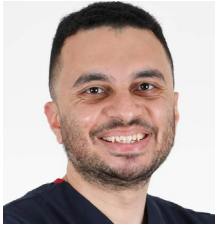
Rauand Duhoky

Dr (better known as Ro) is an aspiring paediatric surgeon currently employed in Southampton and affiliated with Portsmouth Hospitals and University, where he has spent three years as a Clinical Research Fellow under the supervision of Prof Jim Khan completing a PhD and setting up multiple research studies. He has a special interest in paediatric colorectal surgery and robotics, is passionate about teaching and research, and has experience with biostatistics and artificial intelligence modelling. He has set up several international research collaborations, and is an avid supporter of large-scale high quality data sharing for the improvement of standards of care across borders.



Charlotte El-Sayed

Charlotte El-Sayed is a general surgery registrar training in the West Midlands Deanery and the Dukes' Club President (from September). She was awarded the RCS England and Health Education England Robotics Research Fellowship two years ago. Her research is focusing on developing a pan-specialty robotic surgery curriculum. As reported in the NHS Longterm Workforce Plan, they are working towards developing a RAS roadmap which will help develop a curricular framework which could be implemented into the general surgical curriculum. She has an interest in robotic surgery, education, simulation and improving surgical training.



Omar Eldeeb

Omar Eldeeb, MBBCh, MRCS, is a Colorectal Research Registrar at University Hospitals Plymouth. He holds a Postgraduate Diploma in Clinical Practice from the University of Manchester and has a particular interest in minimally invasive and robotic surgery.



Michael Fadel

Michael Fadel is a Specialty Registrar in General Surgery in North-West London, with a clinical and academic interest in the minimally invasive management of gastrointestinal (GI) cancers. He has actively contributed to surgical research,

resulting in over 55 peer-reviewed publications (> 35 as first author) and more than 60 national/international presentations. He has also secured academic funding worth over £2.6 million through the award of several grants and fellowships.

Michael is currently undertaking a PhD research degree at Imperial College London, focusing on the development and validation of a non-invasive breath test in the detection of colorectal cancer (COBRA2 study). He was awarded a Pre-Doctoral Fellowship from the Chelsea and Westminster Hospital Charity, followed by the award of a three-year NIHR Doctoral Fellowship to conduct the research.

Michael is also leading the development of a European consensus in robotics for GI surgery trainees. He was awarded a research grant by the European Association for Endoscopic Surgery (EAES) society to execute this research to define and standardise the essential elements of a robotic training curriculum, which will ultimately improve surgical training, patient care and safety. In addition, he is developing Standards for Reporting Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (START-EDI) reporting guidelines, which will provide a set of minimum items to help the research community describe EDI methods or techniques in studies with human participants. This initiative aims to help improve understanding of equality and diversity within healthcare research and raise awareness of challenges to the inclusion of people from under-served groups.



Debbie Gooch

Debbie trained in London and moved to Essex in 1987. She worked as a theatre sister in main theatres and day surgery before completing her Masters degree in advanced clinical practice. She then became an advanced laparoscopic

nurse practitioner and spent a fantastic 16 years doing a job she loved. Debbie developed an interest in patient safety and human factors training and spent those years also teaching nationally and internationally, sharing her knowledge with surgical teams in Essex, Sri Lanka, India to name a few.

She became a patient safety manager three years ago and continues to advocate for improved patient safety through teaching and changing practice in investigating patient safety incidents, promoting a just culture, psychological safety and restorative practice.

Debbie stills works clinically occasionally and is chair of the Association of Laparoscopic Theatre Staff in Great Britain and

Ireland. High standards of patient safety and good patient outcomes rely on teamwork.

Debbie believes that technical skills, whilst extremely important, are not enough; we need to embrace performance skills as well in order to ensure our patients receive the best care possible.



Graham Gooch

Graham Gooch was the most prolific run scorer top-class cricket has ever seen. After he retired in 1997, the statistician Robert Brooke calculated that he had scored 21,087 in one-day cricket at first-class level, which added

to his 44,841 first-class runs, put him ahead of Jack Hobbs. It was an amazing achievement.

Graham Gooch was awarded the OBE for his services to cricket in 1991. He was raised in East London and it was here that his potential was developed at the Ilford Cricket School by Bill Morris. Gooch made the Essex 2nd XI in 1969, in 1973 he made his first-class debut. He was soon in the runs and he made his maiden ton a year later. 1975 was the breakthrough year. He played for the MCC against the touring Australians. He made 75 and was soon picked for the Edgbaston test. Whether it was too early for him, or the pressure was too much, Gooch failed and made a pair. He was subsequently dropped and it was only in 1978 that he made his comeback. A year later Gooch was instrumental in Essex capturing their first trophy in 103 years of the club.

The most controversial aspect of Gooch's career came in 1982 when he decided to lead the first England rebel tour of South Africa. He was subsequently banned from test cricket for three years.

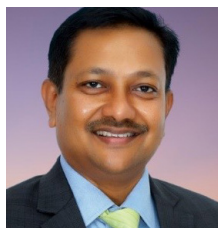
1990 was a great year in Gooch's career, he averaged over 100 with the test match at Lord's against India being the highlight. In this one match Gooch hit the world record test run aggregate (456), he became holder of the highest score at Lord's (333), he was the first ever player to score a triple-century and a century in a match, he took the record for the highest test score against India and achieved the highest score by an England Captain. Of all his great test innings one stands out in particular, at Headingley against the West Indies in 1991. Gooch carried his bat for a score of 154 not out, out of a total of 252 on a green wicket which was regularly enlivened by the damp weather. This was against an attack comprising of Ambrose, Walsh, Marshall and Patterson.

In all Gooch led the England side 34 times and was captain in the 1992 World Cup final defeat by Pakistan. He played in two other World Cup finals in 1979 and 1987. Currently he is England's second leading test run maker with a total of 8,900 runs and 20 centuries.

Graham Gooch was awarded the OBE in 1991 for his services to cricket. In 1996 Gooch was appointed an England selector and held that position for four seasons. In 2002 he was made Essex's Head Coach but as from 2005 he accepted a wider role within the club. This included specialist batting coaching and acting as the ambassador for the club's future commercial development. He has also started the 'Graham Gooch Scholarship Fund' an initiative to raise monies to send some of Essex's best young professionals on overseas scholarships and he now sponsors the Essex Cricket Academy. More recently he has been the England batting coach, starting his role on a part-time basis in 2009 and moving into a full-time position from 2012 to 2014.

Graham Gooch has acquired vast experience dealing with high-level performers as a captain and as a coach. Over a

lifetime in top level cricket he has gained many stories to tell, which he delivers in his own style. He is articulate and well informed and can motivate, inspire, entertain and create an individual's awareness of self-achievement and has an established reputation as a humorous after dinner speaker and is in demand at corporate, social and sporting events.



K. Govindaraj

M.S., FRCS.,(Glasg)., FRCS., (Edin) FACS (USA)., FIAGES., FICS., EFIAGES., (HONS)., FAGIE (HONS)., Dip. In Laparoscopy (Germany)., Dip. MIS (France)

Professor Dr. K. Govindaraj had his UG at SRMC Chennai and PG from KMC, Manipal. He obtained his FRCS from Glasgow, FRCS from Edinburgh, FACS (USA), Diploma in Laparoscopy from Prof. Stelter Kliniken Hochest, Germany, and Diploma in MIS from European Institute of Telesurgery, Strasbourg, France, trained in AMC Amsterdam for Therapeutic endoscopy.

Professor Dr. K. Govindaraj is a renowned Laparoscopy and Endoscopy Surgeon and Chairman of Dr. G. Viswanathan Group of Hospitals, Trichy, Tamil Nadu. Founder of Dr. K. Shantha Breast Cancer Founder, Shanthallaya Hospice, and Dr. V. Kanagaraj Gastro Foundation. Chairman for Dr. G. Sakunthala College of Nursing, and Kamalam Viswanathan College of Physiotherapy, Trichy. After getting trained from various countries to develop Laparoscopy and Endoscopy surgeries he was the 1st to introduce

- ERCP
- NDYAG laser endoluminisation,
- Colonic stenting,
- Natural Orifice Transluminal Endoscopic Surgery (NOTES),
- Vaginal Appendectomy in Trichy
- Double Balloon Enteroscopy in Tamil Nadu
- Spy Glass DS Direct Visualization System introduced for the 1st time in the South part of Tamil Nadu.
- Narrow Band Imaging (NBI) in laparoscopy introduced for the 1st time in Tamil Nadu.

Endocon a hands-on course for endoscopy was started in 2000 and this is a yearly course which continues even today by teaching and training surgeons across Tamil Nadu. He has presented many research papers across 5 continents and served in several surgical association as its leader and organized many CME's, Conference to educate future surgeons.

Dr. K. Govindaraj was the Organizing Chairman for EFIAGES 2017 Trichy, FIAGES 2018 Trichy, and Organizing Secretary FAGIE 2019 Trichy AND Organizing Secretary of ASICON 2013 Trichy. In Indian Association of Gastrointestinal Endo Surgeons, he organized the 1st International conference in Sri Lanka for IAGES.

Present Posts

GC Member – National ASI 2024 -2026

President – Annadana Samajam, (Non-Profit Trust), Trichy, Tamil Nadu

President Elect – IAGES 2026

Executive Committee Member

Ramakrishna Group of Institutions, Thirupparaithurai, Trichy

Association of Surgeons of India – Tamil Nadu Chapter

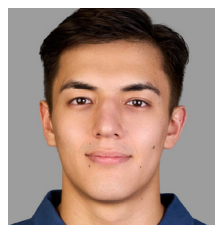
Current Academic Positions

Honorary Professor – Sri Manakula Vinayagar Medical College and Hospital, University of Puducherry, India

Course Director – Post-Doctoral Fellowship course in Endoscopy affiliated to Dr. MGR Medical University, Chennai, Tamil Nadu

Teaching Faculty

Dr. G. Sakunthala College of Nursing, and Kamalam Viswanathan College of Physiotherapy, Trichy, Tamil Nadu.



Daniel Hawkins

Daniel Hawkins is a medical student at Barts and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry and holds an MSc in Laparoscopic Surgery and Surgical Skills from the Barts Cancer Institute. He helped pioneer the Barts

and the London Association of Minimally Invasive Surgery Society (BLAMIS), introducing structured laparoscopic-skills training to medical students and now serves as its Skills Lead. As Careers Publicity Officer for the Barts Surgical Society, he organised a well-received series of Surgical Insight talks that connected students with practising surgeons. Daniel's research focuses on health-related quality of life after robot-assisted radical cystectomy and on machine-learning applications in minimally invasive surgery. His goal is to increase the accessibility of robotic-surgery skills training to medical students.



Liam Horgan

Liam Horgan is a laparoscopic robotic upper gastro-intestinal surgeon working in Northumbria Healthcare NHSFT as their first dedicated Laparoscopic Surgeon since 1999, with a special interest in day case

hernia and gallbladder surgery. He formed the NUGITS group in 2000 and is its director. The NUGITS group is one of the leading teams of laparoscopic surgeons in the UK and is recognised as a centre of excellence in Teaching and Training. He was a council member of the Association of British Day Surgery and is a Clinical Lecturer in Surgery for the Medical School, Newcastle. He was the first national tutor in patient safety at the Royal College of Surgeons in England.

His main interests include all forms of hernia, simple to complex recurrent incisional hernias, laparoscopic gallbladder and bile duct surgery, laparoscopic anti-reflux surgery, emergency laparoscopic surgery, laparoscopic training and proctoring, human factors and patient safety and operating theatre efficiency. He also carries out robotic surgery for the above conditions. Liam has been a board member of the British Hernia Society since 2014, organised the 2016 Newcastle Hernia Conference, and was the president of the society from 2018 to 2020. His main focus during his time as president was laying the groundwork for a national UK BHS hernia registry, collaboration with Irish colleagues, increasing the diversity of the board and increasing the membership of the society. He is continuing his work for the society as the chair of the BHS Registry Sub-committee. He also leads a long-term voluntary commitment to support general surgery, hernia surgery and establish a laparoscopic training program and service provision in Kilimanjaro Christian Medical Center, Moshi, Tanzania since 2003.

Over the past 20 years Liam has been at the forefront of technological advances in UGI surgery, visiting California in

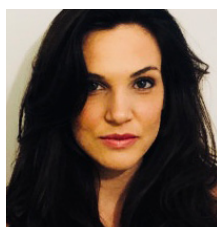
2000 to see the first surgical robots in action. 20 years later Northumbria has 2 surgical robots, and Liam has been involved in the establishment of the robotics program.



Andreas Konstantinou

Andreas Konstantinou is a General Surgery Registrar in Colorectal Surgery at The Royal London Hospital, Barts Health NHS Trust. He previously

held an International Surgical Oncology Clinical Research Fellowship at Barts Cancer Institute, where he worked with the Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund Tissue Bank and led projects on outcomes in liver surgery for colorectal and uveal melanoma metastases. He has presented internationally and was awarded Best Presentation at the Surgical Treves Day, Barts Health NHS Trust (2023).



Lucy Lee

Senior Principal Product Manager, Touch Surgery Education and Training Experience

Lucy Lee is the Senior Principal Product Manager leading the Touch Surgery Education and Training Experience at

Medtronic. She drives the implementation and global adoption of digital training for Medtronic Robotics, including the award-winning Touch Surgery mobile app and cutting-edge virtual reality (VR) experiences.

Originally trained as a healthcare professional, Lucy joined Touch Surgery nine years ago. Since then, she has developed women's health content viewed millions of times on social media, collaborated with Microsoft to advance immersive learning capabilities, and now spearheads the development and rollout of a global digital training program for the Hugo™ Robotic-Assisted Surgery (RAS) system.



Siya Lodhia

Siya Lodhia is a General Surgery Registrar in South West London with a passion for embedding sustainability into surgical practice. After graduating from the University of Nottingham, she trained in North London and the East

of England before pausing her clinical pathway to work as a Research Fellow at the Minimal Access Therapy Training Unit (MATTU) and complete an MD in sustainable surgery. Her work - including a feasibility study on implementing a Green Theatre Checklist and exploring the attitudes, barriers, and enablers among theatre staff - has led to a publication in the Annals of Surgery and contributions to the National Surgery Green Report. Alongside her role as Clinical Lead for Sustainability at the Royal Surrey NHS Foundation Trust, she has returned to training with the ambition of becoming a breast oncoplastic surgeon.



Brian McCann

National Business Development Lead - Sutures, B. Braun UK. With over 10 years of experience in the wound closure sector across the UK and Ireland, I'm passionate about advancing surgical education and improving

clinical outcomes. I've worked closely with all the regional Royal Colleges to influence policy and training initiatives that support the next generation of surgeons.

My current focus is on implementing the Small Bite Technique (SBT) to reduce the risk of incisional hernias. This is delivered through immersive VR platforms and high-fidelity training, aligned with the upcoming revised Royal College of Surgeons of England guidelines on midline closure.

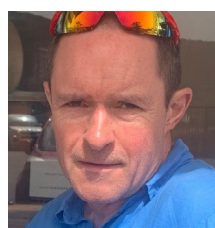
Visit or stand to learn more about SBT with global expert Professor René H. Fortelny, President-Elect of the European Hernia Society, and to request your own regional Small Bites workshop in partnership with B.Braun.



Barry McGuire

Professor Barry McGuire is a Consultant Urological Surgeon at St Vincent's University Hospital, Dublin and Dean of Postgraduate Surgical Education at RCSI. He completed an Endourological Society Fellowship in Robotic and

Minimally Invasive Surgery in the USA and specialises in upper tract robotic surgery for kidney cancer and complex urinary tract reconstruction. He directs a European-accredited ERUS fellowship programme and serves on faculty at ERUS, EAU, and ORSI Academy delivering the annual Advanced Robotic Surgery course at the EAU Congress. Professor McGuire chaired the development of Ireland's National Best Practice Policy for Robotic Surgery (HSE-endorsed) and is currently leading the creation of the country's first national robotic training curriculum for surgical trainees in collaboration with the National Robotic Surgery Leads Group.



Stuart Mercer

Stuart Mercer DM MA FRCS has been a Consultant Upper GI and Emergency Surgeon in Portsmouth for 15 years. He trained at Oxford before joining the Royal Navy and travelling the world in submarines, ships and RAF transport

planes. He completed his surgical training in the Wessex region and London before taking up his Consultant post.

Stuart's research interests over the years have been clinically based. He implemented urgent cholecystectomy in Portsmouth whilst a registrar, and still oversees this service, with over 400 hot cases each year. He has championed the use of laparoscopy in emergency surgery, publishing and presenting the NELA data from Portsmouth and the rest of the UK. More recently he has guided the robotic surgery team in Portsmouth, helping develop a 4-platform multispecialty service including emergency and day case work.

When not working, Stuart climbs in the Alps and Dolomites, cycles the roads of Hampshire, and tries to help his two sons develop into normal humans.



Satish Midha

He has 38 years of experience in General Surgery and worked as an expert General Surgeon in different cities of India. He has worked in many reputed hospitals. Doctor Satish Midha has contributed to handling numerous complex medical cases in several hospitals. He is known for attention to accurate diagnosis and for treating patients empathetically. The speciality interests of Dr Satish Midha are in General Surgery, Laparoscopic Surgery, Minimal Access Surgery, Gastrointestinal Surgery and Hernia Surgery.

Dr Satish Midha did his

- MBBS from RAJENDRA MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL in 1987
- MS General Surgery from RAJENDRA MEDICAL COLLEGE AND HOSPITAL in 1993

He has also participated in research work and various workshops under the General Surgery department and published many papers. Doctor Midha has also received an award in the field of General Surgery.



Krishna Moorthy

Mr Krishna Moorthy is a Consultant Surgeon in Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust and a Senior Lecturer in surgery in Imperial College London. His clinical interests are in benign and malignant oesophago-gastric surgery including weight loss procedures. He also specializes in all types of hernias and complex abdominal wall reconstructions. His research interests are driven by the desire to improve patient safety and quality of care in surgery. He was a member of the international working group for development of the WHO surgical checklist. He co-developed the PREPARE prehabilitation programme in Imperial College which won the BMJ Surgical team of the year and Patient Engagement awards. Based on his research in prehabilitation, he has also founded Alviehealth, a digital health start-up providing personalised AI enabled digital coaching and supportive care for people affected by cancer.



Daniel Musker

Daniel Musker is the Marketing Director at Intuitive within the UK & Ireland. A Mechanical Engineer by training, he has worked within Medical Devices for the past 19 years in Commercial and Marketing roles across a variety of specialties. His professional interests lie within transformative technologies that can help improve healthcare.



Vivien Ngo

Miss Vivien Ngo is an incoming ST3 (Feb 2026) in the Mersey region and is currently working as an EGS SpR Fellow in Liverpool. She completed her medical degree at Brighton and Sussex Medical School (BSMS) before undertaking

her Foundation Training. Following which she was a Teaching clinical fellow whilst undertaking PG certification in medical education before completing her Core Surgical Training.

Her professional interests include sustainability in surgery, medical education, and promoting diversity within medicine. Vivien has held several leadership roles, including Advocacy Lead for the Widening Participation Medics Network (WPMN). She currently serves as the Environment, Governance, and Social Representative for ALSGBI, as well as the Northwest Representative for the ALSGBI Academy.



Naomi Olagunju

Naomi Olagunju qualified from the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. She completed her basic surgical training at the University College Hospital, Ibadan and is a member of the West African College of Surgeons. She has completed the MSc. Surgical Sciences programme from the University of Edinburgh. Naomi has worked in various healthcare settings across Nigeria and the United Kingdom, including at the University College Hospital, Ibadan, Royal Stoke University Hospital, and Royal Shrewsbury Hospital. In the past year, Naomi worked as a fellow with the Getting It Right First Time (GIRFT) programme, where she actively contributed to quality improvement initiatives and national research projects.



Atanu Pal

Atanu Pal is a consultant surgeon at Cambridge University Hospitals, where he performs robotic colorectal surgery. He studied medicine at Cambridge University. During his training, he gained research experience at Brigham and Women's Hospital / Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA, and further experience in New Zealand. He speaks at international conferences on robotic surgery, colorectal surgery, and human factors, and publishes regularly in high impact journals. As a recreational pilot, he has flown in the UK and abroad, and uses the aviation-surgery analogy as a lens into human factors in robotic surgery. He runs to stay fit and occasionally runs marathons.



Bijendra Patel

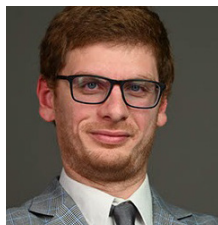
Professor Bijen Patel is Professor of Surgery and Director of Robotic and Laparoscopic Surgical Skills at Queen Mary University of London. He is also Consultant Upper GI Surgeon at Barts Health NHS Trust London. His clinical expertise includes Surgical Oncology, Laparoscopic Surgery and Upper GI Surgery for benign and malignant diseases.

Professor Patel is passionate about globalisation of competency based surgical education and has shared his expertise as invited speaker, international chair and faculty at surgical and technology conferences globally. He is a world leader in integrating technology enhanced learning in robotic and minimally invasive surgery across all surgical specialties.

In October 2005 Professor Patel created the world's first Masters Course in acquiring surgical skills by virtual reality simulation to

fast-track surgical training. He has also pioneered the concept of 'Hands on Laparoscopic Surgical Training On-line' for democratisation of surgical education by launching the world's first immersive distance learning Masters Course in 2018 using multimedia platform including VR, eLearning, mobile phone and portable laparoscopy box trainer.

His main research interests include surgical simulation as a tool for acquisition and retention of surgical skills and developing technology enhanced learning curriculum for surgical training. He is also Editor in Chief, Journal of Surgical Simulation and founder of Society of Surgical Simulation. He enjoys rambling and hence spends weekends on long countryside walks with wife and dog called 'Masti'.



Mark Portelli

Mark Portelli graduated as a Doctor of Medicine and Surgery from the University of Malta in 2014, following which he graduated as a Master of Science from the University of Edinburgh in 2017. He obtained the

intercollegiate MRCS diploma in 2018. He is currently working as a Higher Specialist Trainee in General Surgery with a special interest in Upper GI Surgery. Teaching, research and innovation are his ongoing passions. He is an assistant visiting lecturer with the University of Malta and a module lead and project supervisor with the University of Edinburgh. Mark is the European representative on the Association of Laparoscopic Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland Academy committee and a member of the Young Surgeons Task Force of the European Association of Endoscopic Surgeons. Within the Laparoscopic and Endoscopic Society of Malta he holds the position of Co-chair of the Malta Research and Technology Council and Young Surgeons Committee where he has been involved in various projects focusing on surgical innovation.

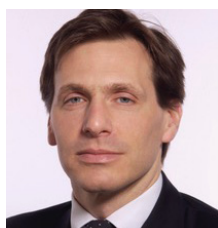


Lara Rimmer

Miss Rimmer is a surgical registrar in Merseyside with a strong academic interest in translational and clinical research. She completed a Masters in Research at the University of Liverpool, investigating LAT1 transporters at the blood-brain barrier, and has recently commenced a PhD in Cancer Biology focusing on early colorectal cancer.

She has authored peer-reviewed publications and presented nationally and internationally. As a neurodivergent doctor, she is passionate about promoting inclusivity within surgery and supporting opportunities for other neurodiverse trainees.

Outside of medicine, she is a competitive adult figure skater and will often be found at ice rinks around the country. Her latest medals include gold and silver in the Adult National Championships 20.



Tim Rockall

Professor Rockall is a Consultant Surgeon at The Royal Surrey County Hospital Guildford and Professor of Surgery at The University of Surrey and Director of the Minimal Access Therapy Unit (MATTU) in Guildford.

The MATTU is an internationally recognised centre of excellence for teaching and also has research portfolio

including Minimally Invasive Surgery, Surgical Technology, Bowel Cancer Screening, Sustainability, Enhanced Recovery After Surgery, Perioperative care and Cancer.

He specialises in laparoscopic gastrointestinal surgery and has a particular interest and expertise in the practice and teaching of laparoscopic colorectal surgery.

He was previously Senior Lecturer at Imperial College, London in the department of Surgical Technology and Oncology and Honorary Consultant at St. Mary's Hospital London.

He is Past President of The Association of Laparoscopic Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland and past member of Council of the Royal College of Surgeons of England (RCSE) where he served as Chairman of the RCSE Research Committee and Chairman of the RCSE Invited Review Mechanism.



Hywel Room

Mr Hywel Room joined East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust in 2023 as a Consultant Bariatric and Upper GI Surgeon. Since starting he has led the development of the new ESNEFT Complex Obesity Service

which now offers bariatric surgery and obesity management medications to patients in Suffolk and North Essex which has historically been the most underserved area of the UK for specialist weight management services. Alongside this, Hywel has developed a broad anti-reflux practice and delivers LINX and Stretta procedures alongside traditional funduplications and also performs cholecystectomy, common bile duct exploration and abdominal wall reconstruction.



Nico Seeger

He is an attending general surgeon at Cantonal Hospital Winterthur. After graduating from the University of Zurich in 2015 and completing the Swiss Board Examination in general surgery in 2022, he focused on liver

and pancreatic surgery as well as robotic-assisted procedures. He has authored and co-authored several publications on minimally invasive and robotic surgery, oncological outcomes and biomarker development. In addition to his clinical and research activities, he is actively engaged in surgical education.



Taner Shakir

Taner is an ST6 currently undertaking a PhD at UCL; his research involves improving basic robotics skills training with technology. He has published and presented at national and international surgical meetings on topics spanning

surgical education, oncology, and digital innovation, including winning a technology prize at EAES this year. He is also involved with various committees including The Dukes Club, RADIST, a regional research collaborative, and is a regional trainee representative. He is passionate about training, having led and delivered multiple trainee-focused robotics courses, including the ALGSBI Robotic Driving Licence.



Khurram Siddique

Mr Khurram Siddique, MBBS, MRCS, MCPS, MS (Kent), FCPS, FRCS, CCT- UK is a Consultant Laparoscopic Colorectal Surgeon; Clinical director Consultant General and colorectal surgery; Acute surgery Lead; Endometriosis Lead; Senior Clinical Lecturer (University of Manchester); Surgical Tutor of RCS England; Master trainer National & International laparoscopic workshops; Over 30 Peer reviewed publications. Several Awards including: Best Surgical Trainer; 'Educator of the Year 2024'; 'Research, Innovation & Training Award 2022'; 'Educator of the Year 2019'; Teaching awards from University of Manchester.



Dhiman Kanti Sikder

Dhiman Kanti Sikder is a Trust Grade Surgical Doctor at Manchester University NHS Foundation Trust, North Manchester General Hospital (NMGH).

He obtained MRCS from the Royal College of Surgeons of England. He has a strong interest in surgical research and audit, with ongoing work on the management of diverticulitis. Beyond clinical work, he is passionate about medical education, serving as the Lead for Locally Employed Doctors and as a faculty member in the MRCS OSCE exam course at NMGH.



Michael Swinn

Mr Michael Swinn MSc MD FRCS was appointed Consultant Urological Surgeon to The Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust in 2004. His main clinical interest is bladder cancer and in 2013 he helped set up a new robotic cystectomy service at

The Royal Surrey Foundation Trust, Guildford, where he continues to work. This has since become a leading unit and in recent years has become the highest volume robotic cystectomy centre in the UK. Soon after being appointed clinical lead in 2006 he raised concerns about patient safety, concerns that were roundly ignored by senior NHS managers for many years. Action was eventually taken but by then much harm had been done to many patients, some of whom sadly died of their mismanagement. He wrote of the frustrations and difficulties he encountered in raising concerns in a book called 'Hitting Your Head Against a Brick Wall' which has been very well received. In addition to his clinical work he campaigns for NHS managers to be regulated and for the lot of whistleblowers to be improved.



Matthew Tutton

Matthew Tutton is a Consultant Surgeon at the forefront of robotic and minimally invasive surgery working at Colchester Hospital. Over the last 20 years he has been involved in training in minimally invasive surgery, initially involved in the

UK national laparoscopic training with the LAPCO program and now as a Proctor for Intuitive Surgery. Having performed laparoscopic surgery for bowel cancer for the past 20 years, and now with a complete robotic practice for minimally invasive surgery, he brings expertise to transition to a robotic practice. He has published in multiple areas of laparoscopic and robotic surgery and has an interest in early rectal cancer, being integrally involved in studies involved in organ preservation in the treatment of rectal cancer.



Subash Vasudevan

Mr Subash Vasudevan is a consultant colorectal and robotic surgeon at Colchester Hospital. He is the clinical lead for Innovation and Associate medical director for strategy at ESNEFT. He is a visiting associate professor

of surgery at Anglia Ruskin School of Medicine. He is an international proctor for robotic general and colorectal surgery. Under his leadership ESNEFT have successfully established one of the fastest growing robotics programme in the UK. He has a keen interest in resident and fellowship training in robotic surgery and hosts the ACP fellowship at Colchester Hospital.



Alexander Villafranca

Alexander Villafranca (PhD) is an Associate Professor at the University of the Fraser Valley, where he teaches applied ethics and research methods.

He has a bachelor's degree in kinesiology, a master's degree in medical rehabilitation, a PhD in bioethics and numerous postgraduate certificates and diplomas in areas ranging from pedagogy to clinical ethics. Currently, Dr. Villafranca's research focuses on interpersonal dynamics between clinicians and moral reasoning in high stress medical contexts. As part of this work, he has published three invited reviews and numerous original articles on the topic of disruptive behaviour in the operating room. He has also developed tools to measure disruptive behaviour and has spear-headed large international surveys examining the issue. His work has been widely disseminated and recognized. He has presented at conferences across North America, Europe, Asia, Oceania and the Middle East, and has received awards for both teaching and research excellence. His 25 peer-reviewed publications have been cited more than 1,700 times, underscoring their influence within the academic community. Beyond scholarly impact, Dr. Villafranca's research has also gained substantial public and professional attention. Several of his articles rank in the 95th-97th percentile of more than 20 million studies tracked by Altmetric, reflecting strong engagement from media and online communities. Coverage has included major outlets such as the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation, CTV News, the Winnipeg Free Press and the Los Angeles Times.



Barry Whitlow

Barry Whitlow - Consultant Gynaecologist Icen Centre & East Suffolk North East Essex Foundation Trust Colchester UK. Barry graduated with prizes and a distinction in ObGyn from the University of London in 1992. He was awarded the

Royal College of Gynaecologists Blair-Bell fellowship in 1996 and completed specialist training in ObGyn in the London deanery in 2003. He leads the British Society of Gynaecological Endoscopy accredited Endometriosis Centre in Colchester and has led robotic and laparoscopic training courses at the internationally renowned Icen Centre in Colchester since 2011, successfully training over three hundred surgeons in surgical techniques for endometriosis there. He lectures throughout Europe and the US and has won national prizes for developing innovative surgical models.