

Update in medicine



13 November 2024 | Belfast

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credits

Programme

08.15 Registration and refreshments

09.15 **Welcome and introduction**

Dr Stella Hughes, RCP regional adviser, Northern Ireland

Session 1

Chair – Dr Nashid Alam, RCP regional adviser, Northern Ireland

09.25 **Dementia - a younger perspective**

Dr Djamil Vahidassr, consultant in stroke medicine,
Antrim Area Hospital, Northern Health and Social Care Trust

10.00 **IV iron use in the orthogeriatric setting**

Dr Diana Choo, specialty doctor in orthogeriatric medicine,
The Ulster Hospital, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

10.35 **The complex Parkinson's patient: when to consider advanced therapies**

Dr Laura Best, consultant neurologist,
Belfast Trust and Northern Health and Social Care Trust

11.20 **Comfort break**

Session 2

Chair – Dr Stella Hughes, RCP regional adviser, Northern Ireland

11.40 **Update in diabetes technology**

Dr Una Graham, consultant in diabetes and endocrinology,
Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

12.15 **Vasculitis and other inflammatory CNS vasculopathies**

Dr Ferghal McVerry, consultant neurologist,
Altnagelvin Area Hospital, Western Health and Social Care Trust

12.50 **RCP Update**

Dr John Dean, RCP clinical vice president



13.00 Lunch

13.55 **Session 3**

Chair – Dr Jayne McAuley, RCP regional adviser, Northern Ireland

14.00 **Turner Warwick winning lecture (Northern Ireland):
Reducing door to needle time through simulation-based education**

Dr James Irvine, geriatric medicine registrar (ST6),
South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

14.15 **Acute management of inflammatory bowel disease**

Dr Tony Tham, consultant gastroenterologist,
South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

14.50 **TB screening for medical specialties – an update**

Professor Onn Min Kon, consultant respiratory physician, Imperial College
Healthcare NHS Trust

15.25 Comfort break

Session 4

Chair – Dr Frederick McElwaine, RCP regional adviser, Northern Ireland

15.45 **An update on asthma**

Dr Claire Butler, consultant in respiratory medicine,
Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust

16.20 **Update on osteoporosis**

Dr Annmarie McShane, consultant rheumatologist,
Antrim Area Hospital, Northern Health and Social Care Trust

16.55 Closing comments

17.00 Close of conference

Please note this programme may be subject to change.

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Your regional representatives in Northern Ireland

Regional advisers

Dr Stella Hughes, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
Dr Nashid Alam, Northern Health and Social Care Trust
Dr Jayne McAuley, Southern Health and Social Care Trust
Dr Frederick McElwaine, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

New Consultants Committee

Dr Aidan O'Neill, Northern Health and Social Care Trust

SAS Regional Representatives Network

Dr Jeenat Khan, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust

Resident Doctors Committee

Vacancy

Student and Foundation Doctor Network

Sean Coghlan (regional representative and network chair), Queen's University Belfast

Enquiries:

NorthernIreland@rcp.ac.uk



Regional representatives

Meet the speakers



Speaker biographies



Dr Djamil Vahidassr

Dr Djamil Vahidassr is a graduate and postgrad (MD) of Queen's University Belfast (QUB) and has a postdoctoral fellowship in Sydney, Australia. Djamil has been a consultant in Antrim Area since 2000 in medicine and geriatric medicine, but his roles extend to honorary clinical lecturer at QUB, clinical lead in stroke for Northern Health and Social Care Trust (NHSCT), clinical and educational supervisor for geriatric trainees in NHSCT and until recently also a member of the Stroke Clinical Research Network.



Dr Diana Choo

Dr Diana Choo is a specialty doctor in orthogeriatric medicine at the Ulster Hospital, South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust. Diana graduated in 1991 from Queen's University Belfast (QUB) and completed MRCP (Edinburgh) in 1997. After a few years working in dermatology rotations in Scotland and England, she returned to Northern Ireland as a trust physician in Whiteabbey Hospital, followed by Altnagelvin Hospital as a staff grade orthogeriatric physician (2003–08). She has been a specialty doctor orthophysician in the Ulster Hospital from 2008 to date. Diana is also a forensic medical officer in safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults.



Dr Laura Best

Dr Laura Best is a consultant neurologist with a specialist interest in movement disorders and advanced therapies in Parkinson's disease. Laura is regional lead for deep brain stimulation in Northern Ireland and runs complex movement disorder clinics in both the Belfast and Northern Trusts.

Laura's research areas include advanced neuroimaging in Parkinson's disease and atypical Parkinson's disease and DBS. Dr Best undertook a clinical research fellowship in the Clinical Ageing Research Unit at Newcastle University. She is an author of a number of peer-reviewed papers within these fields and has been involved in several stage II and III clinical trials looking at both symptomatic and disease-modifying therapies in Parkinson's disease and atypical Parkinsonism.

Meet the speakers



Dr Una Graham

Dr Una Graham is a consultant in endocrinology and diabetes at the Royal Victoria Hospital in Belfast, with a subspecialty interest in diabetes technologies. She is the clinical lead for the Northern Ireland (NI) Regional Insulin Pump Network and is the NI representative for the UK ABCD Diabetes Technology Networks.



Dr Ferghal McVerry

Dr Ferghal McVerry is a graduate of Trinity College Dublin. He undertook postgraduate clinical training in Belfast and has completed research training in Glasgow and Australia on multimodal imaging in acute stroke. Ferghal has been working as a consultant neurologist in the Western Health and Social Care Trust since 2014.



Dr James Irvine

Dr James Irvine is an ST6 geriatric medicine registrar working in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Belfast. He has a special interest in stroke medicine and clinical education, particularly the use of simulation-based education. He is delighted to present to you the benefits of simulation-based education today in his presentation, 'reducing door to needle time through simulation-based education'.



Dr Tony Tham

Dr Tony Tham is a consultant gastroenterologist in the Ulster Hospital in Belfast. Tony is the president of the Ulster Society of Gastroenterology and sits on the governing board of the European Society of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy (ESGE) and is chair of the ESGE Curriculum working group. He was the president of the Irish Society of Gastroenterology and chair of the British Society of Gastroenterology (BSG) Clinical Services and Standards Committee.

Tony has been involved in 100+ publications and was the guidelines editor for the journal *Gut*. He is on the editorial board of *Gut* and the International Editorial Board of Gastrointestinal Endoscopy. He has been an invited speaker to national society conferences in Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Indonesia and Italy.

Speaker biographies



Professor Onn Min Kon

Professor Onn Min Kon is a respiratory physician and head of service of the tuberculosis (TB) service at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust. He is past president of the British Thoracic Society and past chair of the UK Joint Tuberculosis Committee. He is a professor of respiratory medicine at Imperial College, with an interest in respiratory infections. Professor Kon chairs the National MDR-TB Clinical Advice Service and organises the annual London Advanced TB course. He is senior author of the online TB drug monograph.



Dr Claire Butler

Dr Claire Butler qualified from Queens University Belfast and embarked upon respiratory training which included a PhD in mechanisms of steroid resistance in asthma, before undertaking a fellowship in cystic fibrosis at Prince Charles Hospital Brisbane. Dr Butler is currently working as a consultant in respiratory and difficult asthma in the Belfast Trust where her current focus is development of a regional collaborative service fit for the current biologics era.



Dr Annmarie McShane

Dr Annmarie McShane gained her MBChB at Queen's University Belfast in 2006. She is a consultant in rheumatology and general medicine and holds a special interest in the management of gout and secondary prevention for osteoporosis.

Annmarie established a rheumatology 'hot clinic' service in Antrim Area Hospital in 2020 and has been a fracture liaison specialist consultant for the Northern Health and Social Care Trust since 2021, as well as working within the acute medical team in Antrim.