

National Organ Utilisation Conference 2026**Speaker, Chair and Panel Member Bio's****Vicky Gerovasili**

Dr Vicky Gerovasili, MD, PhD, FRCP

Vicky Gerovasili is a Consultant in Respiratory and Transplant Medicine at Harefield Hospital and is the current co-Director of the Cardiothoracic Transplant Department at Harefield Hospital. Vicky completed her Respiratory Training in the First Critical Care Department of the University of Athens in Greece. She subsequently completed a Clinical Fellowship in Interventional Bronchoscopy in Heidelberg, Germany before moving to the UK to complete a Clinical Fellowship in Lung Transplantation. In 2017 she was appointed a Consultant in Respiratory and Transplant Medicine at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital in Birmingham before moving to Harefield in 2019. Alongside her clinical role she is also the National Cardiothoracic Lead Utilisation Lead within NHS Blood and Transplant.

Vicky Gerovasili is also Honorary Senior Lecturer at Imperial College London and has consistently been involved in research as is evident by her publications (48 publications, 1431 citations in the last 5 years, h-index=26). Her research interest is focused on early mobilisation in ICU, rehabilitation in heart and lung disease, endoscopic lung volume reduction as well as reproductive health in cardiothoracic transplantation.

Nicholas Inston

Mr Nicholas Inston FRCS PhD is a Consultant Surgeon in the department of Renal Surgery and Transplantation at Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham. He has a specialty interest in the surgery related to kidney diseases. In addition, he is active in clinical research studies and trials on vascular access and transplantation. He is a National Clinical Lead for Organ Utilisation in the UK and president elect of the Vascular Access Society.

Jennifer Mehew

Jenny is the lead statistician for organ utilisation at NHSBT. She joined NHSBT as a principal statistician in 2013 and spent time as lead statistician for cardiothoracic transplantation, BTRU research, organ utilisation, ROFG and RINTAG as well as working as trial statistician in a number of clinical trials. Jenny has a PhD in Applied Statistics from the University of Reading and is a busy mum of three having recently moved back to her hometown of Cornwall. She is passionate about making statistics accessible and interpretable and keen to promote the subject within younger generations.

Alan Sweeney

Alan has been a consultant at Newcastle Hospitals for 18 years now, specialising in neurosurgical and trauma anaesthesia and critical care. Initially appointed as the local CLOD in 2015, Alan is now the RCLOD for Northern. Alan's main areas of interest within organ donation are donor maintenance and communication with families. Alan led on the bundle redesign in 2020 and part of a group looking at the evidence behind the interventions we currently perform to ensure we optimise our patients in the hope of successful outcomes within transplantation.

Alison Ingham

Alison is a consultant in Anaesthesia and Critical Care in North Wales. She has been involved with organ donation since 2009, first as local CLOD and since 2017 as Regional CLOD for the North West. During that time, she has seen many changes in donation, including the development of the DCD programme and introduction of the opt out legislation, starting in Wales in 2015. She is passionate about facilitating organ donation, particularly from smaller hospitals, and firmly believes that organ and tissue donation should be something that we offer patients and their families as a normal part of end of life care, wherever their place of death. Other areas of interest include medical education and global health.

Andrew Morely-Smith

Andy is a transplant cardiologist at Harefield, working in the multidisciplinary team managing our advanced heart failure, heart transplantation, and mechanical circulatory support service and leading the transplant cardiology team. He is lead heart CLU in NHSBT.

Nick Barnett

Nick has been a Consultant in Transplantation and Dialysis Access Surgery at Guy's Hospital since 2017. He was a local CLU for Kidney and Pancreas from the start of the CLU programme in November 2020 until March 2026. From April 2026 he has been the Kidney Lead CLU.

He is lead supervisor of a Royal College of Surgeons of England Senior Clinical Fellowship in Dialysis Access Surgery, and has an established interest in improving patient care by implementation of good governance practices. In his clinical work he aims to conduct appropriate risk-benefit analysis of all treatment options in order to optimise patients' renal replacement therapy life-plans.

Rod Figueiredo

Rodrigo trained in the North East in HPB and Transplantation Surgery. He has been a consultant at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle since 2021. He has a PhD in liver machine perfusion and is passionate about improving liver utilisation. He was the local liver CLU for Newcastle 2022-2026 and recently taken the role of national liver CLU.

Amit Adlakha

Amit is a Consultant Intensivist at the Royal Free Hospital, London, and an Honorary Consultant Lung Transplant Physician at University Hospitals Birmingham and national clinical lead for lung utilisation.

Simon Knight

Simon is an Associate Professor and Honorary Consultant Transplant Surgeon at the University of Oxford. His clinical interests lie in kidney and pancreas transplantation, living donation, vascular access surgery and multiorgan retrieval. Research interests include transplant clinical trials, evidence-based transplant surgery and the clinical application of AI. He is Clinical Lead for Pancreas Utilisation at NHSBT.

Derek Manas

Professor Manas graduated from the University of Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa, in 1980 and completed his surgical training at Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town. He subsequently completed fellowships at Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, USA), and Paul-Brousse Hospital (Paris). In 1993, he was the recipient of the CJ Adams/Sandoz Traveling Fellowship to the UK. In 1994, he joined the Newcastle upon Tyne NHS trust (Freeman Hospital) as consultant in hepatobiliary and transplantation surgery. He became Director of Transplantation in 1998 and in 2007, attained a personal chair in Transplantation at Newcastle University. He was instrumental in developing three super-regionally funded transplant programmes (for liver, pancreas and pancreatic islets) in the Northeast of England. He established a number of regional cancers services (HPB and abdominal sarcomas) as well as establishing 'The Northern Intestinal Failure Service'. He founded the first integrated Institute of Transplantation in the UK, which he led as Director, for 10 years. In addition to being a past president of the British Transplantation Society (BTS), he has also been past Chair of the British Liver Transplant Group (BLTG), chair and founder of the BTS Transplant surgeon's chapter, deputy chair of the Liver Advisory Group and deputy chair of the HPB/Medicine CRG. He was Associate medical director for Governance at OTDT and is the current Medical Director of NHSBT (OTDT). He is a member of many national and international societies and a National Institute for Clinical Excellence (NICE) technology adviser. He has an extensive research portfolio with many research interests including novel markers for early detection of hepatocellular (HCC) and cholangiocarcinoma, ablation techniques for treating liver tumours, liver transplantation for cancer, radio-embolization in the management of HCC and colorectal liver metastases and irreversible electroporation (IRE) for the treatment of pancreatic carcinoma. He has published over 300 peer review publications, eight book chapters, and co-edited two books on liver tumours. He is a regular reviewer for numerous journals.

John Casey

Professor John Casey – Deputy Medical Director for OTDT bio to follow.

Chris Callaghan

Chris is a consultant transplant surgeon at Guy's Hospital, London, and is also a member of the transplant teams at Great Ormond Street Hospital and the Evelina London Children's Hospital. He graduated from the University of Otago, New Zealand, before completing a PhD in transplant immunology at the University of Cambridge. After training in multi-organ abdominal transplant surgery at Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, he was appointed as a consultant at Guy's in 2012. Chris is the Chair of the NHSBT Pancreas Advisory Group, and has clinical and research interests in the use of higher risk deceased donor organs, and in the use of warm machine perfusion in organ transplantation.

Guy MacGowan

Guy MacGowan is a Consultant Cardiologist with Major Interest in Heart Failure at the Freeman Hospital in Newcastle upon Tyne, and also Joint Director of Cardiothoracic Transplantation, and Honorary Professor of Heart Failure at Newcastle University. Having trained in Dublin, Johns Hopkins in Baltimore, and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Centre he took up his current post in 2004.

Anna Reed

Professor Anna Reed is Chair of the NHS Blood and Transplant Cardiothoracic Advisory Group (Lung), Consultant in Respiratory and Transplant Medicine at Harefield Hospital, and Professor of Practice at Imperial College London. She previously served as NHS England's National Specialty Advisor in Lung Transplantation, contributing to the national transformation of cardiothoracic transplant services. Her clinical and research interests include improving access to lung transplantation, ex-vivo lung perfusion, and understanding immune mechanisms of infection and graft injury. She is Scientific Director for Lung Research at the Magdi Yacoub Institute and has contributed to national policy and international consensus guidelines, with a focus on translating innovation into improved outcomes for transplant recipients

Gareth Jones

Gareth Jones is a consultant nephrologist and transplant physician at UCL Department of Renal Medicine, Royal Free. He was the clinical lead of renal transplantation at the Royal Free from 2008 to 2024 and was the Lead of NHSBT Transplant Collaboratives from 2022-2026. He is the current chair of NHSBT Kidney Advisory Group committee. His areas of interest include living donation, incompatible renal transplantation and transplant of the diabetic recipient with either islet or solid organ pancreas transplant. After qualifying from St Bartholomew's medical school in 1993, he completed his training in London and the South West. During his training, he completed a PhD in islet transplantation and helped establish the clinical islet transplant program at the Royal Free.

Varuna Aluvihare

Varuna is the Chair of LAG and a member of the National Transplant Clinical Panel for NHSBT and NHSE. He was Adult Transplant Lead at King's College Hospital 2023-2026 and Transplant Hepatology Lead 2016-2026. He was Chair of the BLTG 2019-2022, the representative body for UK liver transplant centres. He undertook MRC funded PhD and post-doctoral fellowships at the MRC Laboratory of Molecular Biology and WTIU, University of Cambridge, was awarded a HEFCE Senior Lecturer Fellowship and an ROTRF grant in transplantation at King's College Hospital. He is member of the NHSBT Living Donor Steering Board, Transplant Hepatology representative on the BTS Council (2018-2024), a past member of the Editorial Board for Liver Transplantation and holds a National Clinical Impact award.

Carrie Scuffell

Carrie's nursing career began in Leeds in 2001, moving to the Freeman Hospital, Newcastle in 2006 with a brief period as an ICU nurse. She then became a ward sister on the kidney and pancreas transplant ward followed by the institute of transplantation from 2012, bringing together both abdominal and cardiothoracic transplant recipients on one ward. Carrie went on to work as a transplant nurse practitioner and later was the Lead nurse for enhanced recovery in transplantation in Newcastle. In 2024 Carrie joined NHSBT as transplant development manager as part of the transplant development leadership team. Her current areas of focus within OTDT include the Organ Utilisation Development Team (OUDT), ERAS in transplantation and Environmental sustainability in transplantation (ESIT).

Rachel Summers

Rachel is an experienced nurse with a rich and varied career to date. She began her nursing career as a children's nurse, working for a number of years in paediatric critical care, as well as Martin House Children's Hospice. In 2012 Rachel moved into the field of donation and transplantation, initially working as a specialist nurse in organ donation (SNOD) and later in 2018 began her current role as a recipient transplant coordinator in Leeds teaching hospitals. As well as gaining invaluable skills and knowledge from working in both donation and transplantation roles, Rachel has also spent time on the National Organ Retrieval Service as a perfusionist.