MICHAL GALAZKA
INTERNATIONAL STUDY DAY

Speaker Profiles

Monday 9 July 2018

Professor David Currow

David Currow is Professor of Palliative Medicine at ImPACCT (*Improving Palliative, Aged and Chronic Care through Clinical Research and Translation),* Faculty of Health, University of Technology Sydney. He is Associate Director (Research) for the Wolfson Institute, Hull York Medical School, University of Hull. Research track record includes: better understanding and treating chronic breathlessness; phase II, III and IV clinical trials; population-based planning for palliative care; and codifying the evidence base underpinning palliative care.

Professor David Currow FAHMS is the Chief Cancer Officer of NSW and Chief Executive Officer of the Cancer Institute NSW, the NSW Government's cancer control agency.

Expert areas: cancer research, treatment, services and public health, statistics, facts and data, prevention, risk and awareness, system improvement, translational research.

Professor Richard Dobson

Richard Dobson is Professor of Medical Informatics and lead for Bioinformatics and mHealth for the Maudsley BRC and King's College London, & at the Institute of Health Informatics, UCL. He also co-chairs the Centre for Translational Informatics (CTI). The CTI is a partnership between university and healthcare sectors to facilitate the realisation of innovative healthcare applications.

His research is motivated towards enabling a "panor-omic" view of patients through the integration of genomics data with data derived from patient records, the exposome, social graphs, remote monitoring and imaging to develop strategies for P4 medicine, namely, medicine that is precise, predictive, preventative and participatory. The research has required the extensive use of computational approaches as such machine learning, the creation of software tools, development of a hospital development environments and large private cloud infrastructure with safe haven status to enable integration of patient datasets.

The work has led to a rich portfolio of academic collaborations, some key ones include TwinsUK, HipSci, the Alzheimer's Research UK Drug Discovery initiative (ARUK-O3DI), GENAROAD, the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium, and The Center for Behavioural Intervention Technologies, Northwestern, Chicago (CBITS).

His research has strong links with the technology and pharma industry, charities, and academia (notably Farr Institute for Health Informatics). Dobson sits on grant review panels & strategy groups, including the DoH 10-year strategy for Population & Health Services Research in mental health working group, Genomics England (EHR GeCIP co-lead), Canadian Foundation for Innovation, mental health charity MQ, NIHR and London GMCs. He is UCL and KCL's informatics lead for several industrial and academic collaborations, including the EU IMI2 European Medical Information Framework (EMIF), IMI2 €22m Remote Assessment of Disease and Relapse (RADAR-cns.org), H2020 Kconnect (kconnect.eu), IMI2 BigData4BetterHearts, Intel-Turing Institute collaboration, Lilly, UCB, Janssen, Biogen, GE, Intel, IBM, SoftwareAG, Michael J Fox Foundation, Vibrent (a major subcontractor to the US Precision Medicine Initiative) and FitBit.

Dr Wei Gao

Reader, Cicely Saunders Institute, King's College London. Dr Wei Gao (Gao Wei) received her first degree in medicine (MBBS equivalent), a Master of Medicine in Environmental Hygiene from Tongji Medical University, and a PhD in Epidemiology and Health Statistics from Huazhong University of Science & Technology. She has research experience in a wide range of areas including large scale epidemiologic studies, ecological trials, molecular epidemiology, laboratory-based studies, environmental health, and applied statistical epidemiology. She had postdoctoral research experience with five Higher Education Institutions across three countries before joining the department in April 2007. She was the only statistician working full time for COMPASS Collaborative – an initiative and collaboration between 11 UK Universities to improve complex interventions in palliative care populations, primarily working on Strand I outcome assessment. She leads the Routine Data Stream of the Palliative and End of Life Care Theme in the CLAHRC South London and is the co-Chief investigator for a large scale multicentre palliative care intervention for people with long term neurological conditions, and the Principal Investigator or the Lead statistician investigator for several concurrent projects. She is also the Departmental Statistician and the King's Clinical Trial Unit accredited trial statistician providing for grant applications, data analysis and trial implementation.

Professor Irene Higginson

Professor Irene Higginson qualified in medicine from Nottingham University and has worked in wide ranging medical and university positions, including radiotherapy and oncology, in-patient and home hospice care, the Department of Health (England), and various universities. She has been at King's as Professor and Head of Department since October 1996. While at King's from 2002 to 2005 she was Dean of Postgraduate Studies in the School of Medicine. In 2002 she was appointed Scientific Director of Cicely Saunders International, a new charity seeking to develop a centre of research in palliative care to improve care for patients and families.

Before coming to King's she was a Senior Lecturer/Consultant at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and Director of Research and Development at Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster Health Authority.

She has research interests and publications in the following areas: quality of life and outcome measurements, evaluation of palliative care especially of new services and interventions, epidemiology, clinical audit, effectiveness, psychosocial factors and care, symptom assessment, cachexia/anorexia, and elderly care. In addition she has advised several governments, charities and other bodies on palliative care.

Professor Matthew Hotopf, King's College London

Matthew Hotopf is Vice Dean of Research at the Institute of Psychiatry Psychology and Neuroscience and Director of the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust National Institute of Health Research Biomedical Research Centre (BRC). He is Professor of General Hospital Psychiatry and a consultant liaison psychiatrist.   Matthew was trained in epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine and in Psychiatry at the Maudsley. Matthew's main area of research is in the grey area between medicine and psychiatry, exploring the interaction between mental and physical health. He has worked extensively in areas where mental health relates to other walks of

life – including occupational and military health, mental health law, and the wider community. He is an NIHR Senior Investigator and a Fellow of the Academy of Medical Sciences.

Professor Bridget Johnston

Professor Bridget Johnson holds the post of Florence Nightingale Foundation Chair in Clinical Nursing Practice Research in the College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences, University of Glasgow. This a joint post between the University of Glasgow and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde.

Bridget has a clinical, educational and research background in palliative care. She graduated with her PhD from the University of Glasgow in 2002. Bridget was a Professor of Palliative and Supportive Care and co-lead of the Sue Ryder Care Centre for the Study of Supportive, Palliative and End of Life Care at University of Nottingham from 2013-April 2016.

Bridget's clinical role with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde includes leading on aspects of end of life and bereavement care; supporting nurses to integrate and implement evidenced base practice and building clinical academic careers. Bridget's research has centred on self-care and advanced cancer, telehealth and palliative care symptom management in palliative care and laterally developing and testing interventions related to dignity and end of life care. Bridget supports a number of PhD students doing palliative care studies.

Bridget was Chair of the Palliative Care Research Society from 2008-2011 and was Chair of Palliative Care Congress in 2012. Bridget was appointed as a Patron of Macmillan Cancer Support Alumni in 2015.

Bridget is co-chair with Scott Murray of the newly formed Scottish palliative care research forum from 2016. Bridget is Section editor BMC Nursing and Section Editor (end of life care) Current opinions in Supportive and Palliative Care.

Bridget tweets as @BridgetJohnst and co-hosts a palliative/end of life twitter group @Weeolc with Sarah Russell (Hospice UK) and Laura Middleton-Green University of Bradford.

Eve Namisango

Eve is BuildCare Africa PhD Fellow at the Cicely Saunders Institute, King's College London. Eve Joined the Institute as a BuildCARE scholar in January 2016. She holds a degree in Economics from Makerere University Uganda; she completed her MSc course in Clinical Epidemiology at Makerere University and also completed the MSc in Palliative Care at King's College London. Research interests include; use of PROMs in clinical settings, psychometrics, symptomatology in malignant and non-malignant diseases, paediatric palliative care, health economics, end of life care, mental health in palliative care, knowledge translation, data demand & information use and policy development. Her PhD research is on the evidence on priority symptoms and concerns for children and young people with life limiting and life threatening conditions, and establishing the psychometric properties of a novel person-centred outcome for this population.

Professor Dr Christoph Ostgathe

Christoph Ostgathe is Professor of Palliative Medicine and Head of Department of Palliative Medicine at Universitätsklinikum Erlangen, Germany. His research focuses on relatives, tool development and adaption,as well as ethical issues in end-of-life care. A particular emphasis is on palliative care for patients with a diagnosis other than cancer and in particular vulnerable situations, for example when infected/colonised with multi-resistant pathogens. Current health care research projects include integration of palliative care alongside cancer treatment, the use of sedation and investigating the predictors of anxiety and depression. He is also investigating novel technologies in palliative care, e.g. touch-less radar-based biometry.

Dr Tobias Steigleder

Tobias Steigleder is a Senior Lecturer and Research Fellow at the Universitätsklinikum Erlangen, Germany. His research is focused on medical applications in palliative medicine and he is a member of the PallMeT working group (PallMeT). PallMeT is investigating the application of Bioradar interferometry, a procedure that allows the recording of biomarkers such as heartbeat without contact from a few meters away. Bioradar interferometry was developed on the basis of the six-port radar technique and uses the principle of superposition of waves (interferometry).

Professor Jackie Sturt, King's College London

Jackie Sturt is Professor of Behavioural Medicine. She joined King's from Warwick Medical School where she worked from 1998 - 2012. Jackie is a behavioural scientist and for much of her academic career she has worked in diabetes. Her work involves the development and evaluation of complex educational and psychological interventions to support diabetes self-management. She held an NIHR post-doctoral fellowship from 2004-8 to develop this research. As a general and a mental health nurse she held an NHS clinical secondment from 2010-12 to develop "The Diabetes Listener service" supporting patients struggling to cope with their diabetes. Along with colleagues in the UK, USA and Australia, Jackie has undertaken several systematic reviews relating to Diabetes Distress and has contributed to the T1C project with South London Health Innovation Network which incorporates the review findings. Other recent diabetes projects relate to complications of diabetic eye and diabetic foot disease. More recently she has been working with other clinical specialist to investigate disease specific distress in rheumatology, inflammatory bowel disease and chronic wounds. She co-leads the Clinical Diabetes Research Group and is co-PI of the LYNC project investigating the use of Digital Clinical Communications by NHS clinicians and young people with long term conditions. Research impact activities are focussed on supporting NHS specialist long term condition clinicians who are adding email, text and SKYPE to their armoury of patient consulting tools and undertaking field trials in primary care of the DOSA diabetes structured education programme for South Asians with type 2 diabetes. Jackie teaches across faculty undergraduate and post-graduate programmes on motivational interviewing, public and patient engagement in research, research methods and long term condition self-management.