

## King's Health Partners Preceptorship: "Experience the Expertise- Infections of the Immunocompromised"

4-5<sup>th</sup> February 2022  
SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

### Dr Vincenzo Abbate

Vincenzo Abbate obtained his Ph.D. in Chemistry and Analytical Sciences at The Open University. In 2008 he was awarded a prestigious Maplethorpe Fellowship of the University of London. He is currently a Senior Lecturer in Analytical Toxicology at King's College London, where he leads a research group of 10 scientists and serves as the Programme Director for the Analytical Toxicology MSc program. He chairs an IUPAC international committee on New Psychoactive Substances and is the President of the IUPAC Subcommittee on Toxicology. A Chartered Chemist and Chartered Scientist, he is author/co-author of over 75 peer-reviewed publications.



### Dr Ali Abdolrasouli

Dr Ali Abdolrasouli is a clinical scientist in medical mycology at the King's College Hospital, London, and an honorary visiting research fellow in the Department of Infectious Diseases Epidemiology at Imperial College London, where he completed his PhD. Ali obtained an MSc in medical microbiology from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in 2006. His main research interests include epidemiology of emerging fungal pathogens, laboratory diagnosis of fungal infections, identification of pathogenic fungi, fungal infections in cystic fibrosis, and antifungal resistance. Ali is a fellow of the European Confederation of Medical Mycology (ECMM). He has published over 50 peer-reviewed papers and book chapters. He serves as a reviewer for a wide range of scientific mycology journals and is currently on the editorial board of the Journal of Medical Mycology Case reports.



### Darius Armstrong-James

Darius Armstrong-James is a Reader in Infectious Diseases and Medical Mycology at Imperial College London. He is clinical lead for fungal disease at RBHT where he has oversight for the diagnostic mycology laboratory and runs the fungal disease clinical service with Anand Shah. He is also a member of the ICHNT infectious disease ward service and antifungal stewardship team. He is Director of the Imperial College Network of Excellence in Fungal Science and the Cystic Fibrosis Trust Strategic Research Centre in Fungal Immunotherapy. His research laboratory adopts multidisciplinary approaches to understand the pathobiology of pulmonary aspergillosis, with a key aim of developing novel therapeutic and immunotherapeutic strategies.



### Dr Asma Akter

Asma Akter is an early career researcher. She obtained her Ph.D. (2018) in Molecular & Cellular Biology from University of Leeds, UK focusing on natural product antibiotic discovery. She joined Imperial College London (2018) as a post-doctoral research assistant to lead a collaborative project on clinical *Streptococcus pneumoniae* collection and their genomic & epidemiological data analysis. Later she joined King's College London (2019) as a research associate to investigate novel molecular imaging and treatment of vascular(endo)graft infections. She developed and optimised method for the evaluation of *in vitro* uptake of radiolabelled compounds in pathogens involved in graft infection. She is currently working on fungal infection imaging by developing fungal infection-specific PET tracers to improve the diagnostics of invasive fungal diseases.



### Dr Mansour Ceesay

Dr Mansour Ceesay is a Consultant Haematologist and Clinical Director for Cancer in King's College Hospital. His clinical speciality is in Myeloid disorders and Consultative Haematology. His research interest focuses on infections, especially invasive fungal disease in immunocompromised patients. He holds an MSc in Communicable Disease Epidemiology from the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine and MD (Research) from King's College London. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Royal College of Pathologists, member of the EHA working party on Infections in Haematology, European Conference on Infections in Leukaemia (ECIL) and Fungal Updates organising committee.



### Professor Sujal Desai

Professor Sujal Desai is a consultant radiologist with an expertise in thoracic imaging, and a Professor of practice in Thoracic imaging at Imperial College, London.

Professor Desai trained in medicine at the Middlesex Hospital Medical School in London, qualifying in 1987. As senior house officer, Professor Desai spent time at Royal Brompton Hospital and, after completing the MRCP (UK), he entered formal radiology training at King's College Hospital Medical School.

Professor Desai was awarded the Frank Doyle Medal for achievement in the Part I FRCR examination and the Rohan Williams Medal for the Part II FRCR examination. Following core radiology training Professor Desai undertook research at Royal Brompton Hospital, under the supervision of Professor David Hansell (his predecessor



in the post he now holds), being awarded an MD for his thesis on structural-functional correlations in fibrosing lung disease.

Professor Desai was previously a consultant at King's College Hospital in London where he worked for 18 years before returning to Royal Brompton Hospital.

### **Professor Jonathan Edgeworth**

Jonathan is a consultant microbiologist and critical care infection service lead at Guy's & St Thomas' hospital. He is also founding director of the KCL Centre for Clinical Infection and Diagnostics Research (CIDR) that is embedded in the department of infectious diseases adjacent to the Viapath diagnostic microbiology and virology laboratories. This interdisciplinary translational research environment hosts clinicians and scientists working on evaluation and introduction of novel diagnostics to improve prevention, diagnosis and management of infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance. Their particular focus is assessing the feasibility of introducing nanopore-based pathogen sequencing and metagenomic analysis of clinical samples into routine diagnostic laboratories, to provide same-day comprehensive results for clinical and infection control teams that can replace reliance on traditional and slow culture-based microbiology services.



### **Professor Matthew C. Fisher**

Prof Matthew Fisher works on emerging pathogenic fungi and leads a research group in the MRC Centre for Global Infectious Disease Analysis within the Imperial College London School of Public Health. His research is focused on developing genomic, epidemiological and experimental tools to uncover the factors driving fungal infections, and to develop new methods of diagnosis and control. He leads a Wellcome Trust Collaborative award investigating the emergence of antifungal resistance in the pulmonary pathogen *Aspergillus fumigatus* and has an interest in how anthropogenic processes are changing human exposures to fungal bioaerosols. He is currently a co-lead of the Imperial College Microbiome network, co-Director of the Georgina Mace Centre for the Living Planet and is a member of the Defra Air Quality Expert Group.



**Dr Varun Mehra MBBS, MRCP, FRCPath** Dr Varun Mehra is Consultant Haematologist based in London who special interest in myelodysplastic syndrome, acute leukaemia, bone marrow failure, autologous transplantation for autoimmune conditions, allogeneic stem cell transplantation, immunotherapy and post-transplant complications including infections.

Dr Mehra has a strong track record for his involvement in Clinical Trials, more recently as Lead Chief Investigator and Principal Investigator of various infection and transplant related ATMP and Non-ATMP Clinical Trials in the UK. He has regularly presented in key regional, national and international meetings as invited Speaker as well as Faculty member in field of Mycology and Stem Cell Transplantation. He is an active Member of ECIL, BMT Autoimmune and Infectious disease working party and Member of EORTC advisory group on Infections and Leukaemia. He has published regularly on his disease specific research interests in high impact clinical and scientific journals.

He is currently the Lead for King's Haematology Education & Training program, Clinical Lead for Transplant related Infections and the Lead organiser for the KHP Preceptorship in Infections of Immunocompromised course.



### **Dr David Moyes**

Dr Moyes is a Senior Lecturer in Host-Microbiome in the Centre for Host-Microbiome Interactions. Throughout his career, he has been involved in investigating host-microbe interactions and the role of both microbe and host innate immune responses in these interactions. He gained his PhD from Harefield Hospital, Imperial College London, before working at the Kennedy Institute of Rheumatology investigating the link between microbes and rheumatoid arthritis. At King's College, he was part of a team that identified the central mechanisms by which epithelial cells discriminate between commensal (harmless) and invasive (disease-causing) forms of *Candida albicans*. This work led eventually to the discovery of the novel Candidalysin toxin and its role in both disease and protection at mucosal surfaces.

Since becoming a Lecturer, his interests have evolved to investigate the role of the microbiome in causing disease. The Moyes lab studies the interactions between the human host and the microbiota that reside at the different mucosal surfaces, including bacteria, fungi and viruses. They are investigating whether changes in microbial communities associated with disease are a symptom of the disease, or whether they play a role in driving the disease process. Current projects include investigating whether skin-associated microbes can drive or suppress conditions such as atopic dermatitis and psoriasis, and microbial/microbiome-driven metabolic reprogramming in epithelial cells.

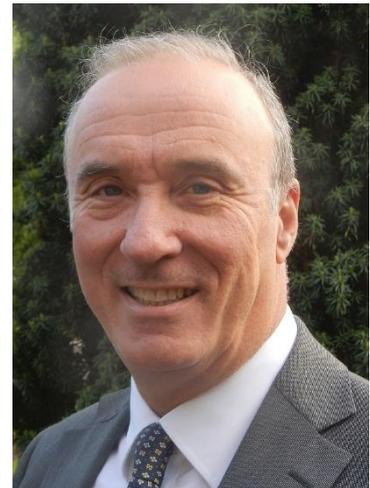


### **Professor Antonio Pagliuca**

Antonio Pagliuca is the Chief Medical and Scientific Adviser for the Anthony Nolan, and a Consultant Haematologist and Professor of Stem Cell Transplantation at King's College Hospital/King's College London. He is also a trustee for Leukaemia UK.

Past roles include President of BSBMT, Chair of the BMT CRG and National Clinical Lead for Regenerative Medicine, NHS England and Medical Director for King's College Hospital, Networked Care Division.

As Transplant Director for 19 years to 2017, he led King's attainment to a Centre of Excellence and one of the largest unrelated, cord, haplo-identical transplant and cellular therapy programs in the UK. In 2018, King's became the first CAR-T centre in the UK to treat both adult ALL and NHL. He has published widely on hematological malignancies, stem cell transplantation and infections in this patient group.



### **Jimstan N Periselneris BSc MB ChB MRCP PhD**

Is a Consultant in respiratory and general medicine at King's College Hospital, London, UK, with an interest in respiratory infection and respiratory complications of immunocompromised hosts and haemato-oncological disease. He completed his postgraduate higher specialist training in South London, during which he was awarded a MRC Clinical Training Fellowship to investigate the host-pathogen interaction of *Streptococcus pneumoniae*, leading to the award of a PhD from UCL. Additionally he completed further training in HIV and TB in South Africa and subsequently completed a post CCT fellowship in respiratory fungal disease at the Royal Brompton Hospital. He has an interest in medical education, with a role in the stage 2 undergraduate medicine course at KCL, is the training programme director for Internal Medicine and RCP College tutor at King's College Hospital.



### **Dr Jonathan P. Richardson PhD**

Jonathan Richardson was appointed Lecturer in Host-Fungal Interactions in 2019 and is currently establishing his research group at King's College London. The Richardson lab focusses on molecular techniques to interrogate host responses to fungal infection and the identification and characterisation of novel fungal factors which contribute to pathogenicity



### **Dr Silke Schelenz**

Dr. Schelenz graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at the Free University of Berlin, Germany, in 1992 where she also studied for her MD in the department of Paediatric Pulmonology and Immunology. In 1997 she obtained her PhD at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine studying the subject of host response to Aspergillosis and Cytococcosis. Since then she specialised in the field of Medical Microbiology. She is currently a consultant microbiologist at Kings College Hospital in London where she is the laboratory lead for Mycology and clinical strategic lead for Infection Sciences SEL pathology.

Her main clinical and research interests focus on medical mycology in particularly fungal infections in the immunocompromised patient (haematological malignancies, CAR-T and solid organ transplantations).



### **Dr Anand Shah**

Dr Anand Shah is a Consultant Respiratory Physician specialising in pulmonary infection at the Royal Brompton Hospital with a particular interest in fungal infection. He completed his PhD at Imperial College London in 2015 analysing the effects of calcineurin inhibition on the innate immune responses to *Aspergillus fumigatus*, using a combination of high-resolution confocal microscopy and omics. He was awarded a MRC CARP fellowship in 2020 to understand the evolution and acquisition of antifungal resistance in chronic lung disease. He also has a number of ongoing projects evaluating the use of machine learning to improve identification, risk stratification and prognosis in acute and chronic fungal infection using natural language processing of electronic health records and minimally supervised deep learning of radiology imaging.



### **Dr Malur Sudhanva**

Dr Sudhanva currently has three simultaneous roles. His primary role is as a Consultant Medical Virologist at South London Specialist Virology Centre (Synlab/Viopath), which is part of Infection Sciences at King's College Hospital. He is the Lead Clinical Advisor for the Lab team of the Lighthouse Laboratory network (UK COVID-19 mass testing programme) within the UK Health Security Agency (UK HSA) and local advisor for the UK Biocentre, National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), Milton Keynes. He is also the Chair of Panel of Examiners for Virology at the Royal College of Pathologists. In the past he has worked as a Consultant Virologist at Public Health England's Rare and Imported Pathogens Laboratory, including participating in the on-call rota for the UK as Imported Fever Service on-call consultant. More recently, he was Clinical Director of Viopath



Pathology Laboratories at King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust. Dr Sudhanva was awarded OBE in the Queen's New Year's Honours 2022 for services to health care particularly in COVID-19