



## 10<sup>th</sup> UK Swallow Research Group Conference 8<sup>th</sup>/ 9<sup>th</sup> February 2024

### **Edgbaston Hotel and Conference Centre, Birmingham**

Welcome to the 10th UKSRG Conference. A new venue, but the same expectation and excitement persists. Many interesting topics (Intervention, Evaluation, Rehabilitation and Management) and a whole host of international and national speakers. I am sure you will go away from here stimulated by what you have heard, buzzing with excitement and perhaps an inkling of getting involved personally in research. Research does not need to be complicated. A small project triggered by a clinical observation, could lead to something bigger further down the line. All active researchers started small, either with their own project or by taking part in someone else's research.

In 2003, the great and the good within the UK dysphagia world were invited to a meeting, in London, to discuss the possibility of holding a scientific dysphagia meeting. After much deliberation, an agreement was reached, and a name was formulated. The team wanted to encompass all aspects of swallowing and not just impairments (dysphagia) – so the name UK Swallowing Research Group was coined. A programme was pulled together with a plan to hold the meeting in 2005. Planning was a little chaotic. Finally, BMA House was accepted as a venue and the conference was held in December of that year. Two hundred people came, with a waiting list. The conference booklet was delivered midway through the first morning and we managed to isolate the sponsors from the delegates most of the time – not good.

The main aim was to bring research to those members of the swallowing community who do not take part in research and organise a biennial conference to enable professionals to meet the researchers that they had heard about. We have also welcomed those with lived-experience of dysphagia to share their stories. While speech and language therapists form the majority of the attendees, we continue to encourage participation from practitioners across the dysphagia multidisciplinary team. This is represented in our broadening committee membership.

As we embark on our 10th meeting, UKSRG continues to thrive, pursuing its aim of bring up to date research to all professionals involved in swallowing.

Enjoy UKSRG 2023 and enjoy Birmingham after the conference if you have not been here before.

Thank you

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David G. Smithard'.

David G Smithard  
President UKSRG

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Justin Roe'.

Justin Roe  
President-Elect UKSRG



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**Thursday 8th February 2024**

**09.00-09.30 Registration**

**09.30-09.45 Welcome - David Smithard President of UKSRG**

**09.45-10.55 Theme: Early intervention**

*Chairs: Sue McGowan and Sarah Wallace*

- Renèe Speyer- **Three years on from the ESSD white paper on screening for dysphagia in adults: where are we now?**
- Joanne Murray- **What does a knowledge translation study tell us about barriers and facilitators to compliance with swallow screening?**
- Anne Brakes & Charlie Fairhurst- **Evidence and outcomes of interventions for saliva control**
- Panel discussion

**10.55-11.15 Coffee break and poster viewing**

**11.15-12.45 Theme: Instrumental evaluation**

*Chairs: Rebecca Murphy & Lisa Everton*

- Liza Bergström- **Psychometric properties of (adult) cervical auscultation: Research pros, cons and clinical application**
- Thuy Frakking- **Diagnostic test accuracy of cervical auscultation in the detection of aspiration in infants and children**
- Heather Starmer- **DIGEST-FEES: Quantifying pharyngeal dysphagia severity**
- Catriona Steele- **Using quantitative measures of videofluoroscopy to identify the mechanisms behind impairments in swallowing safety and efficiency**
- Panel discussion

**12.45-13.45 Lunch and poster viewing-**

13.00 Optional lunchtime seminar by Phagenesis (30 mins)

*Chair: Anita Smith*

**14.00-15.50 Theme: Rehabilitation**

*Chair: David Smithard and Justin Roe*

- Ian Swaine- **The underlying basis of rehabilitation**
- Aoife Stone-Ghariani- **Neuromuscular rehabilitation**
- Jo Patterson- **HNC prehabilitation**
- Anna Gillman- **Oropharyngeal dysphagia in oesophageal cancer- can it be rehabilitated?**
- Arun Balaji- **Rehabilitation after Head Neck Surgery**
- Panel discussion

**15.50-16.10 Tea and poster viewing**

**16.10-17.10 Free papers**

*Chairs: Chadwan Al Yaghchi & Alex Stewart*

Free paper 1: Arlene McCurtin: Alterations and preservations in approaches to thickened liquids: an international survey.

Free paper 2: Grainne Brady: ‘That was a bigger blow than getting the cancer in the first place... to be diagnosed with recurrence’ patient and carer experience of recurrent oropharyngeal cancer (OPC) and changes to swallowing and quality of life- a qualitative study.

Free paper 3: Liza Bergström: Validity and reliability of Dysphagia Outcome Severity Scale (DOSS) when used to rate Flexible Endoscopic Evaluations of Swallowing (FEES)

Free paper 4: Sabrina Eltringham: Improving understanding of barriers and facilitators to minimise stroke-associated pneumonia in stroke survivors with dysphagia – learnings from an ethnographic study

### 17.10-18.10 Simultaneous workshops

**1. Writing for publication-** Paula Leslie **MacNeice Room**

*Chair: Alison Smith*

**2. High resolution manometry-** Rami Sweis (virtual), Chadwan Al Yaghch & Kate Heathcoat **Lodge Room**

*Chair: Chadwan Al Yaghchi*

**3. Ultrasound in the assessment and management of swallowing disorders -** Jodi Allen and Joan Ma **Coreli Room**

*Chair: Sarah Wallace*

**4. How clinical reasoning is used to make decisions about thickened fluids vs Free Water Protocol** Joanne Murray **Fry Suite**

*Chair: Sue McGowan*

### 19.00 Conference Dinner

#### Poster presentations day 1 (Feb 8<sup>th</sup> 2024):

Poster number	Presenting author	Poster Title
1	Susan Downes	Retrospective analysis of findings from fiberoptic endoscopic evaluation of swallow used in the Intensive Care unit in St Vincent’s University Hospital, Dublin.
2	Deborah Brown	Detecting the Unique Contribution and Impact of FEES in a Tertiary Hospital Setting
3	Christopher Devaney	Modified Diets and Medication in Dysphagia – The effect of thickener on drug bioavailability: A systematic review
4	Waiza Kadri	Investigating Dysphagia Therapy in Adults with a Tracheostomy
5	David Smithard	Chin tuck against resistance with feedback to improve swallowing in frail older people admitted to hospital with pneumonia: a possible treatment
6	Bahale Mehale	Availability of Dysphagia Assessment Procedures and/or Protocols for 2–6-Year-Old Children with Paediatric Traumatic Brain Injury.
7	Yoshimatsu Yuki	Preventing and treating swallowing impairment with non-oropharyngeal exercise: a scoping review
8	Sarah Edney	Factors influencing oral feeding outcomes following neonatal hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy: A mixed methods systematic review
9	Elizabeth Hepper	What does it mean to be nil by mouth? A Scoping Review of the psychosocial impacts of no longer eating and drinking as an adult.

<b>10</b>	<b>Sabrina Elthringham</b>	Beyond the PhD - Developing research capacity in Allied Health Professions: a NHS teaching hospital initiative
<b>11</b>	<b>Erin Probert</b>	Using flavoured foam tastes with adults with severe and chronic neurogenic dysphagia - an exploration of patient responses and the implications for quality of life
<b>12</b>	<b>Jacqui Benfield</b>	Refining a complex intervention; Swallow Strength and Skill Training with Surface Electromyographic Biofeedback In Acute Post Stroke Dysphagia (ssSIP)
<b>13</b>	<b>Abbie Yates</b>	Perceptions and understanding of the role of Speech and Language Therapists in Dysphagia within Medical Students and Doctors: Is our protocol for Inter-professional Education 'fit and healthy'?

**Friday 9th February 2024**

**08.00-09.30 Theme: Evidence review of thickener**

*Chairs: Jacqui Benfield & Anita Smith*

- Catriona Steele- **Why we could consider using thickened fluids to manage dysphagia**
- Julie Cichero- **When might we choose *not* to use a thickener in dysphagia management – information from across the lifespan**
- Ivy Cheng- **What's the alternative? Evidence for other adaptive/ compensation strategies in patients with dysphagia to fluids**
- Kathleen Graham- **Professional guidance on the use of thickened fluids in the management of dysphagia**
- Panel discussion

**09.30-10.30 Free papers**

*Chairs: Justin Roe & Sue McGowan*

Free paper 1: Sally Pratten: The experiences of decision-making by individuals with dysphagia when oral intake modifications are recommended

Free paper 2: Jodi Allen: Quantitative muscle ultrasound (QMUS) echogenicity analysis of the muscles involved in chewing and swallowing: device-settings for the SwallowDM1 study

Free paper 3: Abbie Camps: An investigation of the parameters of swallowing impairment in dysphagic lung cancer patients (LCP) using videofluoroscopy.

Free paper 4: Alex Stewart: Generating UK normative data for the Feeding Swallowing Impact Survey

**10.30-10.45 Tea and poster viewing**

**10.45- 12.15 Theme: Medicines Management**

*Chairs: David Smithard and Alison Smith*

- Julie Cichero- **An overview of how medication for people with dysphagia is currently managed**
- Karoline Brennan- **Specialist Pharmacy Service and medication advice for people with dysphagia**
- Jayne Atkin- **Pharmokinetics in dysphagia medication and thickened fluids**
- David Wright- **Blue sky thinking - Medication for people with dysphagia**
- Panel discussion

**12.15-13.15 Free papers**

*Chairs: Paula Leslie & Rebecca Murphy*

Free paper 1: Joan Ma: Intrapersonal variability in hyoid movement during normal swallow

Free paper 2: Yoshimatsu Yuki: Decisions on Eating and Drinking in Older Adults Admitted with Pneumonia

Free paper 3: Eleanor Conway: Eating and Drinking outcomes in children with SMA type-1 treated with Gene Therapy

Free paper 4: Heather Starmer: Development of a head and neck lymphoedema quality of life scale

**13.15-14.15 Lunch break and poster viewing**

*13.30 Optional lunchtime seminar by sponsor Desitin Pharma Ltd (30 mins)*

Chair: Anita Smith  
14.00 AGM

**14.15-15.15 Simultaneous workshops**

1. Dysphagia rehabilitation - how can the science of behaviour change improve our therapy interventions- **Roganie Govender Coreli Room**

Chair: Grainne Brady

2. Complex intervention development: **Jo Patterson & Alicia O' Caithain Lodge Room**

Chair: Jacqui Benfield

3. Paediatric FEES: **Claire Miller & Paul Willging MacNeice Room**

Chair: Alex Stewart

4. Instrument development in dysphagia- **Renée Speyer Fry Suite**

Chair: Lisa Everton

**15.15-15.30 Tea and poster viewing**

**15.30-16.40 Theme: Digital Innovations**

Chairs: Justin Roe and Grainne Brady

- Heather Starmer: **Head and Neck Virtual Coach: Harnessing the power of technology to enhance treatment adherence**
- Clare Burns- **Telehealth models to enhance feeding and swallowing management across the lifespan**
- Arun Balaji- **Challenges/ opportunities for the use of digital innovations in India**
- Panel discussion

**16.40-17.00 Final remarks and awards-** Dr Justin Roe

**Poster presentations day 2 (Feb 9<sup>th</sup>2024):**

Poster number	Presenting Author	Poster Title
1	Arlene McCurtin	Thickened liquids: the road to de-implementation
2	Sarah Edney	Factors influencing breastfeeding and lactation outcomes following neonatal hypoxic ischaemic encephalopathy: A mixed methods systematic review
3	Sabrina Eltringham	Underpinning Implementation Science in the design of a feasibility study of the implementation of a Free Water Protocol in Acute Stroke Unit setting
4	Lucia Hudson-Evans	Dysphagia management in Extra-Corporeal Membrane Oxygenation (ECMO)
5	Kate Ashforth	Swallowing and Nutritional Outcomes in Head and Neck Cancer Patients Undergoing (Chemo) Radiation - a single centre experience.
6	Molly Wood	An evaluation of Speech and Language Therapy outcomes for inhalation injury patients following burn injury
7	Jane Dunton	Evaluation of a video-based online swallow exercise programme for patients undergoing (chemo)radiotherapy for head and neck cancer

<b>8</b>	<b>Jane Dunton</b>	Swallowing outcomes following functional salvage total laryngectomy.
<b>9</b>	<b>Jodi Allen</b>	Quantitative ultrasound (QMUS) of the muscles involved in chewing and swallowing in healthy adults aged 18-70 years
<b>10</b>	<b>Kerri Whitley</b>	The Effectiveness of an Intensive Dysphagia Therapy Program to Rehabilitate Swallow Function: A Case Study
<b>11</b>	<b>Sally Morgan</b>	Safe Efficient and Enjoyable Mealtimes (SEEM Study): Creating a toolkit for families of children who need assistance with eating and drinking – a multi-method investigation
<b>12</b>	<b>Sally Morgan</b>	Identifying Dysphagia Risks in People with a Learning Disability in the Community: A Speech & Language Therapy Service Evaluation
<b>13</b>	<b>Brenda Mossel</b>	An innovative liquid thickener improves palatability and overall user satisfaction of thickened fluids for people with swallowing problems

**Feedback form QR code here**

**UKSRG Committee Members**

Dr. David Smithard (chair)  
 Grainne Brady (secretary)  
 Prof. Paula Leslie  
 Sue McGowan  
 Prof. Christine Roffe  
 Rebecca Murphy  
 Anita Smith  
 Alison Smith  
 Sarah Wallace  
 Lisa Everton  
 Alex Stewart  
 Justin Roe  
 Mr Chad Al Yaghchi  
 Dr Christine Smith  
 Prof Dame Caroline Watkins  
 Jacqui Benfield  
 Grace McCormack



## Speaker biographies



**Catriona M. Steele**

Ph.D., CCC-SLP, S-LP(C), Reg. CASLPO, ASHA Fellow  
Canada Research Chair in Swallowing and Food Oral Processing



Catriona M. Steele is a clinician scientist working in the area of swallowing and swallowing disorders. She has a background as a medical speech-language pathologist, and is Director of the Swallowing Rehabilitation Research Laboratory ([www.steeleswallowinglab.ca](http://www.steeleswallowinglab.ca)) at the KITE Research Institute, the research arm of the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute – University Health Network. Dr. Steele is a Professor in the Department of Speech-Language Pathology at the University of Toronto and holds a Canada Research Chair in Swallowing and Food Oral Processing.



Professor Steele holds research funding from the National Institutes of Health (USA) as well as several active industry partnerships. A full list of her publications can be accessed at <https://www.orcid.org/0000-0002-4294-6561>. She is an associate editor for the Dysphagia journal and a member of the editorial board for the Journal of Texture Studies. She is also a founding and current member of the Board of Directors for the International Dysphagia Diet Standardisation Initiative ([www.iddsi.org](http://www.iddsi.org)). Catriona is a current board member of the Dysphagia Research Society, and will serve as President for 2024-2025.



**Ian Swaine**

Ian has been Professor of Sport and Exercise Science at the University of Greenwich since 2015. He has been a Sport and Exercise Scientist for over 35 years, having completed his undergraduate studies at Liverpool John Moores University in 1981. In his early career he worked for Leeds Sports Development Unit as a Sport Scientist and completed a PhD at Leeds University in the Cardiovascular Studies Unit. He then went on to work at Sunderland, De Montfort, Canterbury Christ Church University and currently the University of Greenwich. Ian has published research work on "health-related exercise" topics, such as amenorrhoea in young female runners, anaphylaxis in an asthmatic runner and also biomarkers of cardiovascular disease risk in older men who exercise regularly. More recently, Ian has published in peer-reviewed journals on the topic of frailty, sarcopenia and dysphagia. Ian has an

	<p>adjunct Professorship with the University of Windsor, Ontario, Canada. He has fostered strong research links within the Kinesiology Programme there. He has also established research collaborations with workers in the USA, Australia, Japan and Europe.</p> <p>In the last 10 years, Ian has gained considerable external research grants for exercise-related work with hospital patients. He completed a collaborative feasibility study exploring the value of a resistance exercise programme for patients undergoing surgery for abdominal cancer. He has also recently gained funding for a second feasibility study to explore exercises that might improve dysphagia. This external grant funding has come from the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) funding stream. Indeed, Ian is a member of the grant-awarding panel for the NIHR south central region.</p>
 <p><b>Jo Patterson</b> PhD, MSc, BSc(Hons), FRCSLT</p>	<p>Jo is Professor of Speech &amp; Language Therapy at the University of Liverpool, balancing her time between clinical and academic activities. She leads the Survivorship theme at the Liverpool Head and Neck Centre. Her research programme covers a range of topics, including holistic prehabilitation, enhanced recovery, psychosocial adjustment and support models, outcome measure development and novel swallowing intervention development. She is a Fellow and Professional Advisor for RCSLT; is the SLT representative on NIHR ENT national specialty group, providing strategic direction for AHP research in ENT practice and is a member of the NIHR Academy.</p>
 <p><b>Jodi Allen</b></p>	<p>Jodi is a NIHR/HEE funded clinical doctoral research fellow at University College London and speech and language therapist at The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery in London. Her clinical and research expertise lie in the assessment and management of swallowing and motor speech disorders in adults living with neurological and neuromuscular disease.</p> <p>Jodi's PhD is focused on understanding the profile of dysphagia in Myotonic Dystrophy Type 1. This involves the use of quantitative muscle ultrasound to assess the size and structure of the muscles involved in swallowing. Jodi has a special interest in the application of ultrasound as a tool to support the assessment and management of</p>

	<p>speech, voice and swallowing across a variety of client groups. She chairs the International Ultrasound SLT Working Group and has recently led on the publication of four peer-reviewed publications which explore the utility of ultrasound in this area.</p>
 <p><b>Mr Arun Balaji</b>  Master of Audiology and Speech Language Pathology (MASLP)  Clinical Service Lead and Fellowship In-charge of Speech and Swallowing Therapy at the Department of Head and Neck Oncology at Tata Memorial Hospital Mumbai (TMH) India.</p>	<p>Arun’s area of interest includes surgical voice restoration, laryngectomy rehabilitation, SLT service development in cancer care with objective dysphagia evaluation services in India and neighboring nations, improving laryngectomy rehabilitation services, improving access to education in speech and swallowing rehabilitation in Head and Neck Cancer (HNC) in developing nations by conducting high quality seminars, courses for SLTs and Oncology teams. He is instrumental in developing first advanced speech and swallowing therapy fellowship program in Head and Neck Cancer Rehabilitation with stipend in India. He has been awarded Union for International Cancer Control (UICC) Technical Award for the year 2022 to visit Stanford Cancer Centre in September 2023 focusing Head and Neck Cancer Lymphedema under the mentorship of Professor Heather Starmer</p>
 <p><b>Dr Thuy Frakking</b>  Advanced Speech Pathologist (Paediatrics) at Gold Coast University Hospital, Metro North Health Clinician Research Fellow and Research Director at Caboolture Hospital.</p>	<p>She is the top-most prolific author in Australia and ranked 8th internationally in the field of cervical auscultation. Her PhD work on cervical auscultation has been cited in guidelines by 58 institutions nationally and internationally; and includes a position statement for the Latin America Dysphagia Society for the management of oropharyngeal and esophageal dysphagia during COVID-19 pandemic. She is lead investigator on &gt;\$1.7 million research funding, including a NHMRC MRFF grant focussing on the application of machine learning techniques with cervical auscultation to improve the accurate detection of aspiration in neonates and children.</p>



**Dr Joanne Murray**

PhD, BAppSc(Speech Pathology), CPSP  
Senior Lecturer/Speech Pathology

Dr Joanne Murray is senior lecturer and member of the Caring Futures Institute at Flinders University, Adelaide, Australia. She came to academia with over 25 years of clinical experience as a speech pathologist in rehabilitation for stroke, spinal cord injury, burns, general medical conditions and dementia. Her teaching expertise is the rehabilitation of acquired language and cognitive communication disorders and research methods. She has published internationally in the areas of post-stroke dysphagia, free water protocols, oral healthcare, hydration and clinical reasoning. Her research has expanded to include knowledge translation methodologies with the aim of evaluating innovative health interventions and models of care and facilitating rapid translation into clinical practice in the hospital and age care sectors.



**Dr Ivy Cheng**



Assistant Professor in Speech and Hearing Sciences at the University of Hong Kong and a visiting professor at Katholieke Universiteit Leuven, Belgium




Ivy specialises in swallowing neurophysiology and dysphagia. Ivy obtained her PhD from the University of Hong Kong and received further training as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Manchester, United Kingdom. In 2023, she was awarded the Women in Research (WiRe) Fellowship at the University of Münster, Germany. Ivy's primary research revolves around utilizing neurostimulation techniques to enhance neuroplasticity in dysphagia rehabilitation. She is committed to promoting evidence based clinical practice in this field. Ivy is General Secretary of the European Society of Swallowing Disorders (ESSD).



**Joan Ma**

Joan is a Senior Lecturer in Speech and Hearing Sciences and a member of the Clinical Audiology, Speech and Language Research Centre at Queen Margaret University. She leads the Swallow Vision project ([www.swallow-vision.com](http://www.swallow-vision.com)), which focuses on developing the technology and the evidence base in supporting the clinical translation of Ultrasound Evaluation of Swallowing (USES). This involves understanding how normal and disordered swallows look on ultrasound and developing data acquisition protocol. Joan also works closely with engineers in applying machine learning to automatically track swallowing

	<p>functions on ultrasound and develop the relevant measurements of swallowing functions. Joan has been awarded a Personal Fellowship by the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 2023 to continue the work on the clinical implantation of USES.</p>
 <p><b>Renée Speyer</b></p>	<p>Renée Speyer was appointed as Professor at the University of Oslo (UiO, Norway) in 2017 in recognition of her expertise in the illness trajectory of dysphagia. After graduating as a Dutch speech pathologist, she earned master's degrees in Speech and Language Pathology, Health Professions Education, and Epidemiology. Currently, she is undertaking research projects both nationally and internationally involving clinimetrics, instrument development, and developing evidence-based interventions in allied health.</p> <p>As an epidemiologist, she has a strong interest in evaluating the validity and reliability of assessments and testing the efficacy of interventions. Renée Speyer is a frequently invited speaker at international conferences and published over 120 scientific internationally peer-reviewed articles. Since 2009, she has been an elected board member of the European Society for Swallowing Disorders (ESSD).</p>
 <p><b>Rami Sweis</b></p>	<p>Rami Sweis was appointed as Consultant in Upper GI Medicine and Physiology at UCLH in 2014 and is the Upper GI Physiology Lead. He is an active member of the international High Resolution Manometry Working Group. He is also President of the Association of GI Physiologists (AGIP), a recent member of the Oesophageal section of the BSG and a founding member of the European Foregut Society. Rami Sweis' research is primarily focused on advancing the methodology and utility of the technology used to investigate reflux and swallowing disorders. He continues to publish and collaborate with fellow experts nationally and internationally. He recently co-authored the BSG Physiology guidelines, the ESGE endoscopic therapy guidelines and the newest iteration of the Chicago Classification of motility disorders. Rami Sweis has a particular interest in investigating and managing complex benign as well as malignant/pre-malignant upper GI disorders, offering an array of endoscopic</p>

	therapies including EMR, RFA, dilatation, TIF and POEM.
 <p><b>Dr Liza Bergström</b> PhD, MSpPath, BSpPath, CPSP</p>	<p>Liza Bergström (PhD) is an experienced clinical researcher currently working in Stockholm, Sweden. After graduating from Speech Pathology (University of Queensland, Australia), 2008, Liza worked clinically with dysphagia internationally before embarking on her cross-country research journey between Australia-Sweden in 2011. Liza works in a clinical and research/teaching capacity at Danderyd University Hospital, Remeo Stockholm, and is affiliated with Karolinska Institute. With 18 peer reviewed publications, Liza contributes to several national and international dysphagia research projects. Focus areas include (i) dysphagia assessment and management, and (ii) facilitating multidisciplinary tracheostomy management, within the Swedish healthcare setting.</p>
 <p><b>Dr Paula Leslie</b></p>	<p>I support clinicians in research and training for complex decision-making, ethics, end of life and vulnerable populations. I have taught professional writing and scientific presentation skills for over two decades. I am a member of the American Society for Bioethics &amp; Humanities, American Speech-Language Hearing Association SIGs in swallowing disorders and geriatrics, and founder member of UKSRG. I am proud to be a Fellow of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists, and currently work for the NICE External Assessment Centre, NHS Northern Medical Physics and Clinical Engineering Directorate.</p>
 <p><b>Anne Breaks – Consultant Speech and Language Therapist Evelina London Children’s Hospital</b> LRSLT, Cert MRCSLT, MA, PhD</p>	<p>Anne has specialised in working with children with complex needs for much of her career. Anne currently leads the acute speech and language therapy service at the Evelina London Children’s Hospital. Her clinical specialisms are dysphagia, saliva management and motor speech disorders. Anne is a member of NHS England’s paediatric neurosciences Clinical Reference Group. Just prior to joining the Evelina in 2017, Anne worked as a commissioner and Designated Clinical Officer for Children with special educational needs and disability in Surrey. She has also managed a large community paediatric therapy service. Anne was awarded a PhD from University College London in 2019. Her research investigated parental views and outcomes of using blended diets in the paediatric population.</p>



**Aoife Stone-Ghariani**

Aoife is a clinical academic and speech-language therapist based at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery. Her specialist interests include dysphagia rehabilitation and use of instrumental assessment in swallow rehab, and she currently oversees the CTAR-SWiFt feasibility study as its trial manager. Her career began in community neuro-rehab for speech and language therapy, followed by roles in acute services, critical care, neuro outpatient clinics, and stroke rehabilitation. Prior to completing her MSc in Speech and Language Therapy, Aoife initiated her academic journey with an undergraduate degree from the University of Oxford. She has also taught at the Universities of Paris Est Créteil and Maine. Aoife is a committee member of the Adult Acquired Dysphagia CEN and is a frequent presenter at study days and conferences. Recently, she presented at the esteemed Gower's Round at UCLH, discussing the use of instrumental assessment in the differential diagnosis of medullary infarcts alongside Professor David Werring. Aoife is delighted to be presenting at UKSRG for the first time.



**Anna Gillman**

Anna has extensive clinical experience working internationally. She held a clinical specialist position in neurogenic dysphagia working across acute and subacute settings in Melbourne, Australia. Anna's prior research and clinical experience using high resolution manometry in New Zealand inspired a strong interest in discovering more about the impact of the oesophagus on the oropharyngeal swallow. In 2019, she received a Provost Award at Trinity College Dublin to complete a PhD evaluating dysphagia in oesophageal cancer. Anna's current research is both quantitatively and qualitatively investigating the nature, presence, severity and impact of chronic oropharyngeal dysphagia in the oesophageal cancer population.



**Dr Clare Burns (BSpPath, PhD, CPSP)**

Dr Clare Burns is an Advanced Speech Pathologist and Research Coordinator at the Royal Brisbane & Women’s Hospital, and an Honorary Senior Lecturer at The University of Queensland, Australia. She has over 20 years of clinical experience and for the last 12 years has led research in dysphagia, head and neck cancer and technology enabled health care. Clare is passionate about utilizing technology to enhance health service access and consumer outcomes. She has developed, evaluated, and implemented a range of telehealth services incorporating speech pathology, multidisciplinary care, and broader allied health models. Dr Burns co-led Speech Pathology Australia’s Telepractice Position Statement and Clinical Guideline and co-authored the Clinical Oncology Society of Australia’s Clinical Practice Guidelines for Teleoncology. She is a guest lecturer at UQ and is an invited presenter at national and international conferences. She is an Affiliate of the Centre for Research in Telerehabilitation and Centre for Research Excellence in Telehealth, UQ.





**Roganie Govender MBE PhD FRCSLT  
Consultant Clinical-Academic SLT & NIHR  
Clinical Lecturer - UCLH  
Associate Professor - UCL Head and Neck  
Academic Centre, Division of Surgery &  
Interventional Science**

In 2013, Roganie was awarded an NIHR clinical doctoral research fellowship which allowed her to undertake a PhD with a focus on Behavioural Science and Health. Roganie’s primary research interest is to understand more about how clinicians can improve cancer pre/rehabilitation of swallowing and communication through behaviour change and improving patient activation. Since completing her PhD, Roganie works as both a clinician and researcher. As part of her NIHR funded post-doctoral fellowship, Roganie is the chief investigator for a SLT led, pilot multicentre clinical trial on dysphagia prehabilitation for people with head and neck cancer. Roganie has published in her field, presented her work nationally and internationally and is actively involved in postgraduate teaching and research supervision alongside several professional committee roles



Mr Al Yaghchi holds a PhD in Molecular Oncology from Queen Mary’s University of London with a special research interest in oncolytic viruses in head and neck cancers. In addition he has an active clinical research program in voice, airway and swallowing disorders. Mr Al Yaghchi is a founding member of the British Laryngological Association and the honorary treasurer. He is a



<p><b>Mr Chadwan Al Yaghchi MD PhD FRCS</b>  <b>DOHNS Consultant Laryngologist, Ear Nose and Throat Surgeon</b>  <b>National Centre for Airway Reconstruction</b>  <b>Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust</b>  NHS practice is based at the National Centre for Airway Reconstruction and Imperial Complex Laryngology service, Charing Cross Hospital, Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust.</p>	<p>board member of the UK Swallowing Research Group and has served as a Vice president of the Royal Society of Medicine Section of Laryngology and Rhinology.</p>
 <p><b>Julie Cichero, PhD</b></p>	<p>Julie is a clinician (SLP), researcher and research professional with more than 30 years' experience in dysphagia across the lifespan. She has made significant contributions to the evidence base for standardised terminology for texture modified food and thick liquids, diagnostic use of swallow-respiratory sounds, characterisation of thick liquids and complexities associated with medication management in dysphagia. Julie is passionate about the balance between quality of life and safety while eating and drinking. She is serving as a clinical expert to the Aged Care Standards Expert Working Group for the Australian Government. Julie proudly served as inaugural IDDSI Co-Chair for a decade.</p>
 <p><b>Jay Paul Willging, MD</b></p>	<p>Professor of Otolaryngology–Head and Neck Surgery at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. He is the Director of Clinical Operations for the Pediatric Otolaryngology Division. He is the Director of the Pediatric Otolaryngology Fellowship Training Program. Dr. Willging has served as the Director of the Interdisciplinary Feeding Team since 1999, and is also an active participant in numerous other multidisciplinary programs, including the Aerodigestive and Esophageal Center, the Craniofacial Anomaly Team, the Fiberoptic Endoscopic Evaluation of Swallowing Safety Clinic, and the Velopharyngeal Insufficiency Clinic. Dr. Willging has numerous peer-reviewed clinical and research publications and has been a longstanding contributor to textbooks on a wide range of otolaryngology topics, particularly feeding and swallowing disorders.</p>



**Claire Kane Miller, PhD**

Claire Miller is the Senior Clinical Director of the Division of Speech-Language Pathology at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center. She holds an adjunct assistant professor appointment in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at the University of Cincinnati. Her research and clinical interests are in pediatric dysphagia, with a focus on instrumental swallowing assessment and the clinical management of medically fragile infants and children with congenital and acquired airway and digestive anomalies. She has authored publications and presented nationally and internationally on aspects of pediatric dysphagia



**Heather M. Starmer, MA CCC-SLP; BCS-S ASHA Fellow**

Heather Starmer is a Clinical Associate Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery at Stanford University and the Director of Head and Neck Speech and Swallowing Rehabilitation at the Stanford Cancer Center. She is a board-certified specialist in swallowing and swallowing disorders and was recently named as a Fellow of the American Speech Language and Hearing Association. She has more than 20 years of experience working with swallowing and swallowing disorders with a particular emphasis on management of dysphagia associated with head and neck cancer and its treatment.



**Alicia O’Cathain**

Alicia O’Cathain is Professor of Health Services Research at the Sheffield Centre of Health and Related Research at the University of Sheffield, UK. She leads research on the evaluation of new health and care services, the development and evaluation of complex interventions for chronic conditions, and methodology. She has written guidance on developing interventions, using qualitative research with randomised controlled trials, and mixed methods research.



**Kathleen Graham**

Kathleen Graham a senior project manager with the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists working on adult related projects such as the thickened fluids project and pre-registration eating, drinking and swallowing competencies. I am an SLT with a background in adult acquired and progressive neurology in acute and community settings.



**Jayne Atkin**

I am an ST6 geriatrics trainee in south east London, I graduated from Imperial College in 2013. I have developed an interest in dysphagia in older adults and the wider impacts this has on patient health. I am currently doing an out of programme year working as a medical education fellow at King's College Hospital



**Charlie Fairhurst**

Charlie has been the National Specialty Lead for Children's Neurosciences at NHS England for the last 8 years. He has been a Consultant focussing on child onset movement disorders at the Evelina London Children's Hospital for over 25 years, working with the MDTs there to support children, young people and their families cope with comorbidity, discomfort and the functional impact of neurological disability including Sialorrhoea. He has sat on numerous International working parties, published widely in this area, was chair and author of the NICE Cerebral Palsy guidelines for children and young people and subsequently advised the adult Cerebral Palsy guideline. He is now a Clinical Advisor to NICE.



**Professor David Wright**

David graduated in 1991 from the University of Bradford and was a practising community pharmacist until July 2016. In 1998, David completed his PhD on the value of providing clinical pharmacy services to care homes and became a full-time lecturer in pharmacy practice. David moved to the University of East Anglia as one of the founding members of staff who set up the first new school of pharmacy in the UK for over 30 years in 2003. In 2021 he moved to head up the School of Healthcare at the University of Leicester.

David's PhD in 1992 was in the role of the clinical pharmacist in care homes. His research has since mainly focused around the topic of pharmaceutical care provision in older people, developing international expertise in the administration of medicines to people with dysphagia. David has supervised 17 PhD students to completion as primary supervisor, has led a number of large-scale trials in care homes,

	<p>secured over £8M in research funding as principal investigator and published over 100 peer-reviewed papers.</p>
 <p><b>Karoline Brennan</b>  <b>Senior Medicines Advice Pharmacist</b>  <b>SPS Medicines Advice Service</b></p>	<p>Karoline is a Medicines Information pharmacist with the Specialist Pharmacy Service, providing information and advice to healthcare professionals on the safe and effective use of medicines. She has a particular interest in the safe administration of medicines in people with swallowing difficulties and is excited to attend the UKSRG conference 2024. She has written resources for the Swallowing Difficulties section of the SPS website, <a href="http://www.sps.nhs.uk">www.sps.nhs.uk</a> to help healthcare professionals make the best choices for people unable to swallow tablets and capsules, and has also written training materials for social care staff and other carers to support people with dysphagia.</p>