BTS BSHI Monothematic Meeting

Advancing transplantation diagnostics: cell free DNA and Omics technologies for precision medicine.

13th November 2025 | Wellcome Collection, 183 Euston Road, London, NW1 2BE

This meeting has been supported by pharmaceutical companies by way of exhibition stand space and sponsorship which is limited to funding the education content of this meeting.

'BTS BSHI Monothematic Meeting: Advancing transplantation diagnostics: cell free DNA and Omics technologies for precision medicine' has been approved by the Federation of the Royal Colleges of Physicians of the United Kingdom for **5 category 1 (external) CPD credit(s) (code: 152952)** Full conditions of approval are listed in the guidelines.

This programme is subject to change at the Conference Organisers discretion.

BTS British Transplantation Society

BSHI British Society for Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics

Programme

Time	Session	Speaker
09:00	Registration arrival tea/coffee	
10:00	Welcome Address	Richard Baker & Olivia Shaw
	Session Chairs: Rommel Ravanan & Sarah Peacock	
10:10	dd cfDNA Clinical Introduction	George Nita
10:40	dd cfDNA Lab Introduction	Sarah Peacock
11:10	Q&A	
11:20	Refreshment Break	
11:40	Status quo for transplantation dysfunction diagnostics and role for dd cfDNA *Session Chairs: Rommel Ravanan & Sarah Peacock*	
	Heart transplantation	Sai Bhagra
	Lung transplantation	Caroline Patterson
	Kidney transplantation	Sunil Daga
	Paediatrics	Stephen Marks
	Panel Discussion and Q&A	Sai Bhagra, Caroline Patterson, Sunil Daga & Stephen Marks
12:30	Debate: dd cf-DNA adds cost but does not add value for patient care	For: Brendan Clark Against: Petra Goldsmith
13:00	Lunch	
14:00	Omics in transplantation *Session Chairs: To be announced*	
	Introduction	Foad Rouhani
	Omics in transplant research	Fadi Issa
15:00	Debate: Omics adds to cost but does not add value for patient care	For: Rommel Ravanan Against: Anna Reed
15:30	Torque Teno virus to aid personalised treatment	Gregor Bond (Vienna)
16:00	Closing remarks	
16:10	Drinks Reception	

With thanks

The BTS would like to extend their thanks to the Organising Committee of this meeting;
Rommel Ravanan; Sarah Peacock; Sai Bhagra; Tom Browne; Brendan Clark; Amy De'Ath; Sarah Gleeson; Stephen Marks; George Nita; Anna Reed; Foad Rouhani

Speakers

Richard Baker

Richard is a nephrologist in Leeds with a specialist interest in transplantation. He also contributes to the living liver donation and hand transplantation programmes. He has a long interest in all aspects of transplantation since his PhD studies in London.

Sai Bhagra

Dr Sai Bhagra is a consultant cardiologist at Royal Papworth Hospital in Cambridge. Along with the multi-disciplinary team at UK's largest heart transplant centre, he is involved in treating patients with advanced heart failure.

Gregor Bond

Gregor studied medicine at the Medical University of Vienna (Austria) and the Louisiana State University (USA). He subsequently served as a post-doctoral fellow at the MRC Centre for Transplantation in London and pursued further studies in clinical study design at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine (UK). Currently, he holds the position of Associate Professor of Transplant Nephrology and serves as the head of the Doctoral Program for Organ Failure, Replacement, and Transplantation at the Medical University of Vienna. Gregor also works as a consultant in Nephrology and Intensive Care Medicine at the Vienna General Hospital. Currently, he is studying psychotherapy at the University of Vienna. Gregor's primary scientific focus lies in the personalization of immunosuppressive drugs and the optimization of drug adherence after kidney transplantation.

Brendan Clark

Brendan Clark is at the end of a 37-year career in Histocompatibility and Immunogenetics during which time he has become widely celebrated for his willingness to engage in informed discussion without necessarily being informed. The opportunity to debate/attempt to convince someone of his prowess has always been welcomed. This debate is likely to be the last of his present career and he would be grateful for your support in securing a victory.

Sunil Daga

Dr Sunil Daga is a Clinical Associate Professor and Honorary Consultant Renal Transplant Medicine at Leeds. He is also the EDI lead at NIHR HealthTech Research Centre (Leeds) and his interest are improving risk prediction using IVD and Machine learning approaches and improving decision making in underserved groups. His work focuses on improving access to timely transplantation to all and equitable outcome following transplantation.

Petra Goldsmith

Petra Goldsmith is a Consultant in renal transplant and dialysis access surgery in Liverpool. She undertook medical schooling and early years training in Cambridge and moved to Liverpool to complete higher surgical training. Having completed a PhD in Transplant Immunology examining factors relating to HLA-specific antibody

detection and monitoring, she was appointed onto the national imlifidase MDT. Petra has maintained her research interests in transplant immunology and is an Honorary Senior Lecturer at the University of Liverpool. She supervises a PhD student who holds the prestigious Professor Michael Nicholson Award from KRUK and the Stoney Gate Trust as well as being supported by Kidney Research NorthWest.

Fadi Issa

Fadi is Chair of Transplantation and Professor of Translational Immunology at the University of Oxford, and a Consultant Plastic, Reconstructive and Burns Surgeon. He leads the Translational Research Immunology Group, where his research focuses on developing cell therapies to improve outcomes in transplantation. Fadi's work spans transplantation immunology, immunotherapy development, biomarker discovery, and advanced tissue analysis.

Stephen Marks

Professor Stephen Marks, MD MSc MRCP DCH FRCPCH is Professor of Paediatric Nephrology and Transplantation at University College London Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health and President of the British Association for Paediatric Nephrology. He is Director of the National Institute for Health Research Great Ormond Street Hospital Clinical Research Facility at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust. He has local, national and international roles including Chair of the Education Committee of the International Pediatric Transplant Association (IPTA) having also been an IPTA Councillor. His research continues to date in the fields of renal transplantation (including biomarkers and innovative drug trials concerning new anti-rejection therapies and assessment of children post-renal transplantation), systemic lupus erythematosus and vasculitis. He is on the editorial board for "Pediatric Nephrology" and "British Journal of Renal Medicine" and is associate editor for "Transplantation" and "Pediatric Transplantation".

George Nita

George is a General Surgery Resident in Merseyside and Clinical Research Fellow in Transplant Surgery. Currently, he is a PhD candidate in Bioinformatics at the University of Liverpool. His experience in transplant spans across three UK transplant centres—Newcastle, Manchester, and Liverpool—he is passionate about advancing care for complex and highly sensitised kidney transplant recipients. His current research focuses on machine learning and novel biomarkers, including donor-derived cell-free DNA, to improve early detection of transplant rejection. He holds a Distinction MSc in Surgical Sciences from the University of Edinburgh, where his thesis explored the outcomes of utilising kidneys from donors with acute kidney injury to expand the donor pool. George is the recipient of several awards, the most recent being the Kidney Research UK Professor Michael Nicholson Fellowship Transplant Surgeon PhD Fellowship. A father of two, he balances clinical and academic ambition with creative expression as a musician and amateur photographer. His long-term goal is to become a surgeon-scientist with a focus on bioinformatics and clinical integration of machine learning.

Caroline Patterson Caroline Patterson studied Medicine at the University of Nottingham. During a 16-year career as a Royal Air Force Medical Officer she completed higher training in Respiratory and General Internal Medicine on the NorthWest Thames Rotation. She was awarded an MD from Imperial College, London, for research examining novel chest imaging techniques. On completion of clinical training, she spent six months at Duke University, North Carolina, USA, as the International Society for Heart and Lung Transplantation (ISHLT) Travelling Fellow in Lung Transplantation. She maintains an active role in ISHLT through which has contributed to multiple international consensus statements and is the incoming Programme Chair for the 2026 ISHLT Annual Meeting in Toronto, Canada. Caroline was appointed as a Consultant Respiratory and Lung Transplant Physician at Royal Papworth Hospital in Cambridge, UK in 2016.

Sarah Peacock Sarah is the Clinical Director of the H&I laboratory in Cambridge supporting both solid organ and stem cell transplantation in the East of England.

Anna Reed Anna Reed is a practising lung transplant physician and has worked at Harefield Hospital since 2010. She is Professor of Practice (Respiratory and Transplant Medicine) at Imperial College in London and is the first woman to hold a professorship title in this field in the U.K. She has over two decades of clinical experience in lung transplant medicine, both in the UK and abroad. She is committed to improving access to lung transplant and outcomes from transplant for all patients living with a diagnosis of a chronic respiratory disease. Her research interests are focussed on the host immunological responses to injury and infection in lung transplant recipients, with a particular spotlight on unravelling mechanisms leading to accelerated graft loss and rejection. Within the clinical arena, Anna has led on multiple clinical improvement projects. Most recently, she built on her national expertise in the development of extra-corporeal life support strategies as bridge to lung transplantation and spearheaded an international collaboration aimed at identification of optimal factors for success in this critically unwell cohort. She strives to improve outcomes after transplant with a focus on early identification of infectious and other inflammatory insults to the lung. She incorporates state of the art scientific techniques to understand mechanisms of graft injury at key time points after transplant with a view to early translation with modification of risk factors in clinical practice. She holds international leadership positions within the International Society for Heart & Lung Transplantation with a particular focus on pulmonary vascular diseases and the development of novel diagnostics and immunosuppression agents for the prevention and treatment of chronic lung allograft dysfunction.

Foad Rouhani Foad Rouhani is a surgeon scientist, leading the Tissue Regeneration and Clonal Evolution (TRCE)

	laboratory at the Francis Crick Institute. He is an MRC Clinician Scientist, a Reader at KCL and an honorary consultant transplant surgeon at King's College Hospital. The TRCE laboratory's research program centres on the biological mechanisms which underly an organ's capacity to regenerate, using the liver as a model organ. A particular focus is the role of somatic mosaicism in tissue homeostasis and response to injury.
Olivia Shaw	Olivia is a Consultant Clinical Scientist and is the H&I laboratory director at Guys Hospital, where we provide a service for a number of adult and paediatric solid organ transplant units across the South East. Current research interests include antibody incompatible transplantation, epitope analysis, impact of non-HLA specific antibody and ddcfDNA.

Sponsors