Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO): biographies of SaBTO members

Professor James Neuberger  Chair

Professor James Neuberger qualified from the University of Oxford and did general medical training in London and Leeds. After 10 years at the Liver Unit, Kings College Hospital London, he moved to Birmingham as a Consultant Physician in the Liver Unit, where he continues to work in clinical liver disease and transplantation. He was then Associate Medical Director in Organ Donation and Transplantation at NHS Blood and Transplant from 2008 until 2016. Prof Neuberger has published extensively on aspects of liver disease and transplantation. He has been an Editor of Transplantation and Associate Editor for the Journal of Hepatology. He is a Trustee of the PBC Foundation, the Children’s Liver Disease Foundation and Transplant Sport.
Dr Su Brailsford

Consultant in Epidemiology and Health Protection

Su was appointed to the post of Consultant in Epidemiology and Health Protection at NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) following public health training in London. She is a Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health. She has an honorary appointment at the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) where she leads the joint NHSBT/UKHSA Epidemiology Unit which runs several surveillance programs providing data on infections in donors and recipients. She is a member of the Serious Hazards of Transfusion (SHOT) steering group and the UK blood services JPAC Standing Advisory Committee on Care and Selection of Donors and chaired the For the Assessment of Individualised Risk (FAIR) steering group.

Mr Chris Callaghan

Consultant Transplant Surgeon

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. Chris is the NHS Blood and Transplant Associate Medical Director for Abdominal Organ Utilisation. He 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.

Dr Akila Chandrasekar

Tissue Transplant

Dr Akila Chandrasekar is a Consultant in Transfusion Medicine in NHS Blood and Transplant. She is a member of the UK Blood Transfusion Service (UKBTS) Joint Professional Advisory Committee (JPAC) and is the chair of JPAC Specialist Advisory Committee on Tissues and Cellular Therapy Products (SAC TCTP).
She represents the UK in the European Committee on Organ Transplantation (CD-P-TO), which is the steering committee in charge of organ transplantation activities at the European Directorate for the Quality of Medicine and Healthcare (EDQM) of the Council of Europe. She has been the co-chair of CD-P-TO since 2019 and has led and participated in various projects on tissues donation and transplantation. She co-chaired the writing group of the 5th edition (2022) of the EDQM guide to the quality and safety of tissues and cells for human application.

Professor Richard Fordham

Health Economist

Richard is Professor of Public Health Economics at Norwich Medical School, University of East Anglia. He is experienced across a large range of healthcare issues, both in the UK and internationally. He has been a member of several national and international committees and consulted widely to governments and other health bodies. He has published over 50 papers and specialises in conducting economic evaluations alongside clinical trials and economic evaluations of innovative clinical therapies. He has strong interest in public health (especially measures that promote sport, exercise and healthy diets). Richard was made an honorary Fellow of the Faculty of Public Health in 2006 and is currently an honorary Consultant in Public Health at OHID.
Mr Roger Graham  

**Lay Representative for Organ Transplantation**

Roger is a non-clinical Lay Member of SaBTO with personal experience of dialysis and kidney transplant. His professional background is in engineering and portfolio project management, with 30 years of experience in the development and delivery of safety enhancements within the nuclear generation industry.

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Andrea Head  

**Nurse**

Andrea is Deputy Chief Nurse for Blood Supply in NHS Blood and Transplant. She previously worked as a Senior Nurse in the Diagnostic and Therapeutic Services Directorate and as a Patient Blood Management (PBM) Practitioner. Andrea has previously sat on the British Society for Haematology (BSH) Transfusion Task Force and was involved in various guideline writing groups, and was also Honorary Secretary for the British Blood Transfusion Society (BBTS).
Dr Rachel Hilton

Nephrologist

Rachel’s current positions include Consultant Nephrologist at Guys and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust and member of the Data Monitoring Committee for the NHSBT Clinical Trials Unit. Her previous positions include member of Guy’s and St Thomas’ Organ Donation Committee; member of the NHSBT Kidney Advisory Group; Honorary Treasurer of the British Transplantation Society; chair of the Clinical Trials Committee of the British Transplantation Society; chair of the Transplantation Clinical Study Group of the UK Kidney Research Consortium; member of the British Transplantation Society Ethics Committee; and member of the Guy’s and St Thomas’ Clinical Ethics Advisory Group. Her clinical and research interests include kidney transplantation, living kidney donation, viral infection in transplant recipients, kidney disease in patients with HIV and ethical concerns related to transplantation.

Professor Will Irving

Virology

Will is Professor and Honorary Consultant in Virology at the University of Nottingham and Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust. His major research interests are in the field of viral hepatitis, particularly hepatitis C virus, wherein he has published extensively. He has served as Member (1998 to 2009), then Chair (2009 to 2014) of the Department of Health Expert Advisory Group on Hepatitis, and as a member of the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (2003 to 2012). Currently he chairs the National Strategy Group for Viral Hepatitis, and co-chairs HCV Research UK, a national resource comprising a cohort of 12,000 patients with database and biorepository.
Professor Yacoub Khalaf

IVF, Fertility and Stem Cell Specialist

Professor Yacoub Khalaf is a Consultant and Professor of Reproductive Medicine and Surgery at Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust and King’s College, London. He is also Director of the Pre-implantation Genetic Diagnosis Programme in the Assisted Conception Unit at Guy’s Hospital. Yacoub qualified at Assiut University in Egypt and completed his MD in Birmingham. He is currently deputy director of a subspecialty training programme in reproductive medicine and a member of the Genomics Taskforce of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG). He is a former Chair of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) Scientific and Clinical Advances Advisory Committee, a former member of the HFEA Board, and a former executive board member of the British Fertility Society. He is also former chair of the RCOG National Clinical Studies Group in Reproductive Medicine and Surgery and former Associate Editor of RBM online Journal. Yacoub is the principal investigator of several NIHR-funded research grants and has published more than 185 peer-reviewed articles on different aspects of reproductive medicine (NEJM, Lancet, BMJ, Cell Biology and Nature). He has also been an invited and plenary speaker on fertility and IVF at numerous international conferences. Currently he is General Secretary of the International Society for IVF, President Elect of the Middle East Fertility Society, visiting Professor at the University of Zagreb School of Medicine, Croatia, Expert Advisor to the Singapore Ministry of Health on the regulation of pre-implantation genetic testing and Associate Editor of Frontiers in Endocrinology.
Professor Jean Manson

Jean currently holds a personal Chair in Neurodegenerative Diseases at the University of Edinburgh and is the PI of the Scottish Brain Health Bioresource. She has worked and published as a basic scientist for over 30 years in prion diseases. She has engaged in understanding and preventing the spread of prion diseases in both animals and humans through the development and use of small and large animal models and the study of natural disease. She has worked with people of all disciplines associated with prion disease to address and understand the problems of these diseases. Her research expertise in the prion diseases also allows her to address fundamental questions in the wider family of protein misfolding diseases, such as Alzheimer’s disease. She led a programme of research aiming to identifying the key mechanisms that preserve healthy brain function and those that contribute to neurodegeneration. She has also served as a member of government and scientific advisory bodies in UK, Europe and Canada over the last 30 years.

Dr Lynn Manson

Consultant Haematologist

Lynn is a Consultant Haematologist for the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service (SNBTS) and is based in the regional clinical transfusion medicine centre in Edinburgh. She is SNBTS Clinical Lead for Therapeutic Apheresis and has been a stem cell collection facility inspector for JACIE since 2010.
Dr Gail Miflin

Gail Miflin has been the Chief Medical Officer for NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) since 2016. She is also the Director of Clinical Services. In the former role, she is responsible for clinical governance and R&D and is also the Responsible Officer and Caldicott Guardian. She also is responsible for NHSBT safety policy. In addition, as Director of Clinical Services, she is responsible for the delivery of cell apheresis and gene therapies and pathology services. As well as being a member of the DHSC advisory body, SaBTO, she also sits on the Joint Professional Advisory Committee to the UK Blood Services and the Scientific Research and Advisory Committee of the Canadian Blood Services. Gail is also a member of the Alliance of Blood Operators Chief Medical Officer group and sponsor for the UK Stem Cell Strategic Forum on behalf of the DHSC. Prior to joining NHSBT in 2010, she was a Consultant Haematologist at UCLH Foundation Trust where she specialised in treating patients with sickle cell disease and thalassaemia.

Professor Michael Murphy

Mike Murphy is Professor of Transfusion Medicine at the University of Oxford and Consultant Haematologist for NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) and the Oxford University Hospitals. His main focus is on hospital transfusion practice, patient blood management and the use of information technology. His team developed an ‘end-to-end’ electronic transfusion process in Oxford which has improved transfusion safety and efficiency and won many national awards. He founded the NHSBT’s Clinical Studies Unit, Systematic Reviews Initiative, and National Comparative Audit programme. He was

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Secretary of the National Blood Transfusion Committee (England) from its establishment in 2001 to 2015, and provided leadership for the Chief Medical Officers’ Better Blood Transfusion/Patient Blood Management Seminars and Health Service Circulars from 1997 to 2012. He chaired the group which developed the NICE guidelines on transfusion (2015), was Chair of the international BEST Research Collaborative (2014 to 2018) and was President of the Association for the Advancement of Blood and Biotherapies (formerly the American Association of Blood Banks) (2019).

Charlotte Silver

Lay Representative for Blood Transfusion

Charlotte Silver was born with a rare chronic condition and continues to receive treatment at Kings College Hospital, London as well as regular treatment at Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham. Since birth, Charlotte has required frequent blood transfusions and iron infusions and has undergone more than forty operations including a liver transplant in 1996. She currently works for Walsall Housing Group as their Communications Manager, having previously worked for NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) for 7 years within their Corporate Communications team. Outside of this role, she has become a Lay Member on the board of Serious Hazards for Transfusion (SHOT) representing patient views – she began this appointment in January 2021. Charlotte was awarded a first in Business Management at University of Surrey as well as achieving a Distinction in MA Communications and International Marketing.
Professor Peter Simmonds

Peter Simmonds qualified in Medicine at the University of Southampton and subsequently completed his college Clinical Virology training in 1995 while employed as a clinical lecturer at the University of Edinburgh. He was appointed Professor of Virology in 2001 and has pursued a combined academic and clinical career in the area of virus pathogenesis, epidemiology and evolution and in virus diagnostic developments, emerging viruses and most recently developing the use of next generation sequencing methods in virus diagnostics. He is a member of the Executive Committee of the International Committee on Taxonomy of Viruses. He is Unit Director of the NIHR Blood Transfusion Research Unit (BTRU) on Transfusion and Transplant Transmitted Infections, a large research and development partnership programme with NHSBT in the area of transfusion microbiology.

Dr Stephen Thomas

Steve is Professional Director of the Joint Professional Advisory Committee of the UK Blood Transfusion and Tissue Transplantation Services (JPAC). He was previously Associate Director for Technical and Scientific Development at NHS Blood and Transplant, responsible for leading the development of the manufacturing service, which includes the processing, testing and issue of blood components. Steve’s background is in laboratory science, completing his PhD at the National Institute for Biological Standards and Control. He joined NHSBT in 2005 as the manager of the Component Development Laboratory, holding this post for 6 years. From 2011 to 2013, Steve was seconded to the NHSBT post of Safety Programme.
Coordinator, which included a scientific role on the SaBTO Secretariat within the Department of Health, alongside supporting the Clinical Governance function of NHSBT. He has been a member of SaBTO since 2014 and was awarded Fellowship of the Royal College of Pathologists in 2017.

Professor Marc Turner

Marc Turner is Director at the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service and Professor of Cellular Therapy at the University of Edinburgh. He qualified in Medicine from the University of Manchester in 1982 and trained in General Medicine and Haematology. He obtained his PhD in human haematopoietic stem cell biology from the University of Edinburgh in 1995 and an MBA in Life Sciences from the Open University in 2007. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of London, of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, of the Royal College of Pathologists and of the Royal Society of Edinburgh. His research interests include the risk of transmission of prion diseases by blood, tissues and cells and the translation of advanced therapy medicinal products to clinical practice. He has held 40 research grants and has over 170 publications. He was formerly a Non-Executive Director of Cell and Gene Therapy Catapult and a co-Director of the Northern Alliance Advanced Therapy Treatment Centre and is currently Chair of the Global Alliance on iPSC Therapies. He was also formerly a Member of the European Medicines Agency Committee on Advanced Therapies (CAT) and is currently a Commissioner on the Commission on Human Medicines and a member of its COVID-19 Vaccines Benefit-Risk Expert Working Group and Chair of its Clinical Trials, Biologicals.
and Vaccines Expert Advisory Group, a Member of the Scottish Medicines Consortium and a Member of the UK Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs.