

Meet the speakers...

Genomic Science: now and future



Natasha Swinscoe
West of England AHSN
@SwinscoeTasha

Natasha joined the West of England AHSN as Chief Operating Officer in 2015, and became CEO early in 2018. A graduate of the NHS

management training scheme, Natasha has over 20 years' experience in the NHS as a senior manager and leader.

Natasha has worked in both commissioning and provider organisations gaining experience of leading adult and child mental health, children's community and acute services, adult surgical and specialist renal and transplantation services. Natasha has an MSc in Leadership and Development of Public Sector Organisations and has completed development programmes focussed on leadership, coaching and mentoring.

Natasha is National Lead for Patient Safety for the AHSN Network.



Dr Ignacio Medrano
Savana Health and Mendelian
@ihmedrano

Ignacio was considered by the specialised press among the most influential people in health in 2016 for his work promoting systemic

changes in the sector through IT and big data in 2018 he was appointed the digital personality of the year in Healthcare He has received the Princess of Girona Foundation Award Company 2019 for "democratizing access to medical scientific information of millions of patients through artificial intelligence".

Sir John Burn
Institute of Genetic Medicine
Newcastle University
@CaPP3



Professor Burn obtained a first class honours degree in human genetics and an MD with distinction from Newcastle University, where he has been Professor of Clinical Genetics since 1991. He was appointed as a consultant specialist in Newcastle in 1984 and led the regional NHS Genetics Service for 20 years. He helped to create the Centre for Life, which houses an education, and science centre alongside the Institute of Genetic Medicine. He chairs Newcastle based DNA device company QuantuMDx Ltd. He was knighted in 2010 and chosen as one of the first 20 'local heroes' to have a brass plaque on Newcastle Quayside in 2014. He is also Treasurer and co-Director of the international organisation, Global Variome, which seeks to share knowledge of genetic variation for clinical benefit.

Dr Laura Blackburn
PHG Foundation
@DrLaura_MLB



Dr Blackburn is Head of Science at PHG Foundation, a non-profit policy unit linked to the University of Cambridge with a special focus on how genomics and other emerging health technologies can provide more effective, personalised healthcare and deliver improvements in health for patients and citizens. Current projects include exploring the potential of polygenic scores for disease prevention and implementation challenges influencing the use of liquid biopsy technologies. Our recent work on personalised medicine technologies appraised the readiness of a range of 'omics and other technologies to deliver personalised medicine approaches in the NHS in the next 3–5 years. Laura has a background in Zoology and extensive science writing and communications experience from previous roles including at Science Magazine, the Journal of Experimental Biology, and the Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute.

Speaker cont...

Prof Sarah Smithson
West of England Genomic Medical Centre



Sarah is the Consultant Clinical Lead of the Regional Genetics Service at University Hospitals Bristol, Honorary Professor at the University of Bristol and Clinical Director of the West of England Genome Medicine Centre. Her background

is in paediatric medicine, specialising in Clinical Genetics in Oxford and at Great Ormond Street Hospital, London. Her Doctoral research, supported by the Wellcome Trust, focused on genes involved in skull development and her research interests include clinical dysmorphology and genetic mechanisms that determine the embryonic skeleton. She collaborates in UK and international studies and is the author of many research papers and articles. Sarah is involved in medical education in the field of genetics. She was Chair of the Special Advisory Committee of the Royal College of Physicians of London which oversees the training of Clinical Geneticists in the UK. She is the Academic Vice President and Council member of the Clinical Genetics Society.

Professor Andrew Mumford
South West Genomic Laboratory Hub



Professor Andrew Mumford led the West-of-England Genomic Medicine Centre during recruitment for the 100,000 Genomes Project and is now the Medical Director of the South West NHS Genomic Laboratory Hub, which is responsible for delivering all rare disease and cancer genomics to a 6M population. Andrew is the Professor of Haematology at the University of Bristol and an honorary Consultant in Haemostasis at University Hospitals Bristol. He is a Principal Investigator in the Bristol NIHR Biomedical Research Centre and in the NIHR BioResource Rare Diseases and leads translational clinical science research group. His current interests are the molecular genetics of rare inherited blood disorders.