

Meet the speakers

The Future of Care: Robotics & Autonomous Systems



Nigel Harris
Director of Innovation & Growth
West of England AHSN

Nigel is the Director of Innovation and Growth at the West of England Academic Health Science Network. He joined us in March 2019 from his previous role as Chief Executive of Designability. He led Designability since 2009, during which time it established itself as a regional South West lead for the development of assistive and enabling technology.

Nigel also brings more than 25 years of NHS experience in medical research and managerial roles. He is a registered Clinical Scientist and carries out academic research work at the University of Bath and the University of the West of England. With partners, including the West of England AHSN, he founded the Assisted Living Action Network (ALAN) in 2010. The objectives of the network are to build up and facilitate new collaborations, to promote knowledge transfer and the uptake of research and create commercial opportunities for products or services. @nigelharris57



Praminda Caleb-Solly
Bristol Robotics Laboratory

Praminda is the Professor of Assistive Robotics and Intelligent Healthcare Technologies in the Bristol Robotics Laboratory at the University of the West of England. She holds a BEng

in Electronic Systems Engineering, MSc in Biomedical Instrumentation Engineering and a PhD in Interactive Evolutionary Computation. Her recent portfolio of Innovate UK, EPSRC, AHRC and EC funded projects include designing and evaluating socially and physically assistive robotics and Internet of Things sensor-based intelligent technology. Her research group is investigating different ways in which these technologies can assist people with age-related disabilities and long-term conditions, as well as their carers, in providing support for activities of daily living. Her publications cover collaborative Human-Robot Interaction, smart sensor systems for activity recognition and multimodal interfaces for people with accessibility needs. She also co-authored the recent EPSRC UK-RAS white paper on Robotics in Social Care.

@praminda

Chris Melhuish
Bristol Robotics Laboratory



Chris is the founding member and Director of Bristol Robotics Laboratory (BRL).

Chris holds professorial chairs at both University of the West of England Bristol and the University of Bristol and is a Visiting Professor at Sheffield University. His research interests include safe human-robot interaction, energetically autonomous robots, haptics and swarm systems. Chris has published over 250 peer reviewed papers and has acted as an advisor to the UK Government. He has been a member of the European Commission's Future Emerging Technologies, ISTAAG committees and working groups.

Sanja Dogramadzi
Bristol Robotics Laboratory



Professor Sanja leads the Healthcare Robotics group in Bristol Robotics Laboratory. She has a degree in Mechanical and Control Engineering and holds a PhD in medical robotics from the University of Newcastle. Her research interests include design and control of surgical robots for minimally invasive surgery, rehabilitation robots, physical assistance robots and safe and ethical human-robot interaction. She has led many research projects funded by UK councils, Innovate UK, NIHR and European Commission and is currently a Coordinator and PI on H2020 funded Smartsurg project (www.smartsurg-project.eu). She was a PI for EPSRC funded I-DRESS project (<https://i-dress-project.eu>), the PI on H2020 funded Marie Curie ITN Socrates (www.socrates-project.eu) and the technical lead for Innovate UK funded CHIRON project (<https://chiron.org.uk>). She holds patents for her work in robot-assisted fracture surgery and motion sensing surface for radiotherapy treatment. @sanjadogramadzi



Dr Manoj Sivan
University of Leeds

Dr Sivan MD FRCP is an Associate Clinical Professor in Rehabilitation Medicine (RM) at the University of Leeds and a honorary Consultant in RM in Leeds Teaching

Hospitals NHS Trust and Leeds Community Hospitals NHS Trust. His research on home-based upper limb rehabilitation robotic therapy has won several awards including the prestigious European Academy of RM prize and the UK Philips Nichols prize. His clinical work includes managing individuals with disabilities resulting from a range of neurological and musculoskeletal conditions. He has a particular interest in upper limb functional recovery and musculoskeletal problems in upper limb after neurological injury. He is lead author of the ICF framework-based selection of outcome measures for Robot Assisted Exercise Trials (RAET) in Stroke. He has received research grants from Research England, NIHR, MRC, EPSRC, ISRT, RCP, GCRF, Leeds Cares and Rosetrees Trust. He is the Editor-in-Chief of the Oxford Handbook of Rehabilitation Medicine.



Alan Winfield
Bristol Robotics Laboratory

Alan is Professor of Robot Ethics at the University of the West of England (UWE) visiting Professor at the University of York, and Associate Fellow of the Cambridge Centre for

the Future of Intelligence. He received his PhD in Digital Communications from the University of Hull in 1984, then co-founded and led APD Communications Ltd until taking-up appointment at UWE, Bristol in 1992. Alan co-founded the Bristol Robotics Laboratory where his research is focussed on cognitive robotics.

Alan is an advocate for robot ethics; he sits on the executive of the IEEE Standards Association Global Initiative on Ethics of Autonomous and Intelligent Systems, and chairs Working Group P7001, drafting a new IEEE standard on Transparency of Autonomous Systems. Alan has published over 240 works, including Robotics: A Very Short Introduction (Oxford University Press, 2012); he lectures widely on robotics, presenting to both academic and public audiences, and blogs at <http://alanwinfield.blogspot.com/>

@alan_winfield

Marina Jirotko
University of Oxford



Marina is Professor of Human Centred Computing in the Department of Computer Science at the University of Oxford.

She leads an interdisciplinary research group developing methods for building computing systems responsibly to support human, societal and environmental values. Current projects investigate bias in algorithms and developing trust in online platforms. From her work on analysing the spread of hate speech and misinformation on social media, she was appointed specialist advisor to the House of Lords Select Committee on communications for their inquiry into Children and the Internet. She is co-founder of the Observatory for Responsible Research and Innovation in ICT (ORBIT) that provides RI services to researchers and practitioners. She has recently been awarded an EPSRC Fellowship investigating the development of Responsible Robotics for the Digital Economy.

@Marenka

Jim Thomas
Skills for Health



Jim is Skills for Care's Programme Head for Workforce Innovation and Workforce Redesign. Skills for Care is the employer led workforce development body for adult social care workforce development in England. Jim has been engaged in social care and health for over 30 years. Since joining Skills for Care in 2007 he has led a broad range of national programmes of workforce Innovation. These include developing and testing a framework for workforce redesign in adult social care, the development of principles for workforce integration, a programme on skills led approaches to community development and a range of workforce guidance in relation to safeguarding. His current work includes workforce commissioning, a commissioning for wellbeing qualification, developing the workforce supporting people with a learning disability and the workforce supporting people with autism and exploring workforce issue around all aspects of digital working, learning, information sharing and the use of data.

@longhouseman



Diane Buddery
Skills for Life

Diane has been a Project Manager for Skills for Care for nine years, leading a wide array of projects including carers, Technology Enabled Care, Housing and Digital Transformation.

Diane started her career working in residential care, becoming a qualified social worker and then a Practice Teacher and Trainer. She then became Workforce Development Manager for Cambridgeshire County Council's adult services, managing a team of trainers and strategically planning workforce development for the county.

For the past five years, Diane has developed and led the programme of work on Digital Working, Learning and Information Sharing. Through this time, she has designed and lead research into digital capabilities, worked closely with employers to identify an evidence base of barriers, delivered research on leadership in digital working as well as securing large amounts of funding from NHS Digital to examine digital maturity in the sector and co-create 'Digital Social Care'.

Meet the Chairs



MORNING CHAIR

Nigel Harris
West of England AHSN



AFTERNOON CHAIR

Tim Craft
Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust

Dr Craft has been a consultant anaesthetist at the Royal United Hospital in Bath for more than 25 years. He is currently also the Director for Research and Innovation and Link Director for the West of England AHSN. He was previously the Trust's executive Medical Director for 7 years. Tim combines clinical practice with directorships at three med-tech companies including Somnus Scientific, an organisation focussed on improving the safety of intravenous anaesthesia and sedation by facilitating semi-autonomous feedback to drug delivery systems via real-time blood drug concentration monitoring using a miniaturised biosensor and indwelling intravascular device.