



SRNF Conference 2025 Speaker Bios

Day 1 Speakers:

Dr Gourab Choudhury- Respiratory Consultant at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. He leads the COPD service and serves as the NHS Lothian Lead for the Respiratory Managed Clinical Network (co-chair). Additionally, he is the national lead for COPD improvement initiatives in Scotland, delivered through the Centre for Sustainable Delivery. Dr Choudhury co-chairs the National Respiratory Unscheduled Care Improvement and Strategy Group, which oversees the Hospital at Home pathway. He is also actively involved in clinical and translational research, leading most of the trials and data innovation projects related to COPD and Alpha-1 Antitrypsin Deficiency in Edinburgh.

Professor Chris Carlin- Consultant Physician & Clinical Lead. Respiratory Consultant and clinical lead in South Sector NHS GG&C, and at the West of Scotland Innovation Hub. He's led a number of innovation and digital transformation projects focusing on end-end pathway transformation of COPD care.

Sara McArthur- I am the Head of Service for Respiratory Physiology in NHS Lothian and have over 17 years experience in the field. I hold degrees in Biological Science and Clinical Physiology and achieved my Part 1 and Part 2 ARTP (Association of Respiratory Technology and Physiology) professional examinations. I achieved the status of Clinical Scientist in 2018 and I am registered with the Health Care and Professions Council (HCPC).

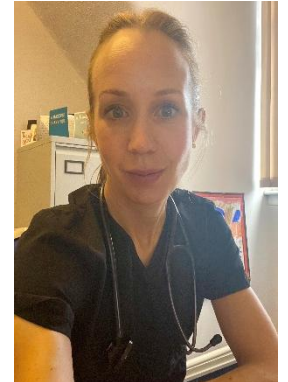
I enjoy teaching personnel from varying backgrounds and have previously acted as an internal verifier for the Glasgow Caledonian University and also lectured on their specialist respiratory knowledge modules. I have taught on the Queen Margaret University COPD and Spirometry module and teach on the Edinburgh Spirometry Course. I am a current guest lecturer on the MBChB Medicine programme at the University of Edinburgh. In 2020 I completed my PGcert in Clinical Education to consolidate my teaching knowledge and experience.

I am the current ARTP honorary secretary and the vice chair of ARTP Scotland. I have a keen interest in research and have presented at local, national and European events.

To help facilitate change in Scotland I am the Scottish Strategic Network for Diagnostics (SSND) Clinical Physiology Core Group respiratory representative and a member of the CfSD COPD group. I attend the Scottish Parliament cross party group meetings for lung health to try and ensure that respiratory physiology and our workforce are represented during all discussions.

Dr Alison MacKenzie- Consultant Respiratory Physician. Consultant Respiratory Physician at Forth Valley Hospital, sub-speciality interest in pulmonary vascular disease, physiology and exercise testing. Current member of the British Thoracic Society specialist advisory group for PE and Pulmonary Vascular Diseases. Involved in the development of the BTS statement for the assessment and management of respiratory problems in athletic individuals and ERS statement on exercise training for patients with pulmonary hypertension.

Dr Hannah K Bayes- PhD, MBChB(Hon), BMedSci(Hon), MRCP(UK). Consultant in Respiratory Medicine at Glasgow Royal Infirmary. Senior Clinical Lecturer at the University of Glasgow
NRS Senior Research Fellow



Respiratory Medicine & Research

Following graduation in Medicine from Glasgow University, I undertook respiratory and general medical training within the West of Scotland. I was awarded a Wellcome Fellowship to complete a PhD in respiratory infection at Glasgow University.

In 2018 I was appointed as a Respiratory Consultant at the busy city teaching hospital Glasgow Royal Infirmary. I subspecialise in severe smoking-related lung disease (known as COPD or emphysema) and respiratory infections. My research interests are COPD and acute infections, including running a portfolio of clinical trials and basic science research. I hold a senior lecturer position at University of Glasgow, where I undertake teaching and supervise a PhD student.

Working during COVID-19

Throughout the pandemic I worked on our acute respiratory wards and high-dependency delivering clinical care to patients with COVID-19, including managing radical changes in working hours, limitations in PPE, uncertainty, and stress related to managing critically unwell patients.

To deliver care to patients with pre-existing respiratory disease (such as asthma or COPD) at home, I developed the Greater Glasgow Community Respiratory Response Team (CRRT). The CRRT was associated with a significant decrease in emergency admissions to hospital, so reducing the burden on healthcare resources in Glasgow during the pandemic¹.

I also lead the delivery of our research studies into COVID-19 in patients on the wards which involved studies looking at treatments that could help prevent patients getting worse and reduce the risk of death from the condition².

Away from work, I was additionally home schooled two primary school children during the pandemic.

Building resilience during COVID-19

Taking proactive actions to advance patient care (through the CRRT and COVID-19 research) was beneficial in giving professional purpose during a time of immense uncertainty.

To balance the added pressure the pandemic brought, I gained great benefit in taking up open water swimming. I began road cycling as a means of transport to work during restrictions. I have continued both sports since, including competing in triathlons.

At a point where restrictions momentarily eased, I also trained and ran my first marathon during the pandemic.

1. [Multi-disciplinary community respiratory team management of patients with chronic respiratory illness during the COVID-19 pandemic | npj Primary Care Respiratory Medicine](#)
2. [Glasgow Lives in the NHS: Hannah, Respiratory Consultant at Glasgow Royal Infirmary - Glasgow Live](#)

Lesley Hill- RGN, BA. Lesley trained at Glasgow Eastern College of Nursing and Midwifery, and later completed her BA in Health Studies at Glasgow Caledonian University. While working for the NHS, she specialised in various fields across Glasgow, including Vascular High Dependency, Cardiology, and ITU. She also established the Surgical Day Care Unit at Gartnavel General Hospital. In 1996, Lesley left the NHS to join Johnson and Johnson Medical. She later moved to Fresenius Medical Care, where she became the National Sales Manager for the Haemodialysis Business Unit. Lesley joined Vivisol in 2014. As a member of the Scottish Leadership team, she's responsible for delivering the Home Oxygen Service and serves as the primary contractual and business liaison between Vivisol and National Services Scotland. Personal Life and Charity Work Lesley lives in Dumfries and is an avid golfer. In addition to her work at Vivisol, she and her husband run the DH9 Foundation, a charity they established in memory of their son. The foundation provides automated external defibrillator (AED) devices and offers free CPR training to schools and community organisations.

Willie McGhee- Project Manager, National Services Scotland. Is the Oxygen Therapy Project Manager with National Services Scotland and is responsible for the delivery of Home Oxygen Services in Scotland and provides a clinical technical support service to Health Boards in identifying oxygen solutions for patients. Willie has a background in medical equipping and medical equipment technology and has been employed in a variety of technical, commercial and managerial roles with NSS for 34 years. He was the leading figure in the redesign of Home Oxygen Service and was influential in the development and introduction of much of the new oxygen delivery systems that are now available. As part of a dedicated team, he has ensured that the country was well equipped with oxygen in the community and in acute settings. He and colleagues are currently implementing a new National Home Oxygen Service that will serve the county well for the next 10 years introducing new, lighter weight ambulatory oxygen equipment and delivering a new and improved IT oxygen ordering platform.

Professor Manish Patel- Respiratory Consultant Lanarkshire. I work in general and respiratory medicine at the University Hospital Wishaw, NHS Lanarkshire, Scotland. Within respiratory medicine, my special interests include asthma, COPD and sleep disordered breathing. I undertook a PhD in asthma immunology and after being appointed as a consultant, I was awarded a NHS Research Scotland Fellowship which has facilitated my clinical research in airways disease. I have active research interests in COPD and asthma and during COVID-19 was PI in several COVID-19 trials including RECOVERY and PHOSP-COVID.

Outside of medicine I enjoy cycling, skiing and running (albeit I am not very good at them!).

Day 2 Speakers:

Ellie Wilson- Physical Activity Specialist (CHSS). I work as a physical activity specialist with Chest, Heart and Stroke Scotland to deliver exercise classes both online and in person. I first established my passion for working with people with long term health conditions whilst completing an undergraduate sport and exercise science degree. This inspired me to go on to complete an MSc in Clinical Exercise Science and then an MSc in Physiotherapy allowing me to further develop my clinical assessment and treatment skills. I am passionate about removing barriers and enhancing the lives of people with long term health conditions through physical activity.

Dr Owen Dempsey- Consultant Respiratory Physician. Qualified in Glasgow and has been a Consultant Respiratory Physician in Aberdeen Royal Infirmary since 2002. Despite an MD thesis focusing on asthma pharmacology, he quickly realised that interstitial lung diseases (ILD) were much more interesting, setting up a service in 2005. He has served on the BTS Specialist Advisory Group, BTS Lung Disease Registry Group and has recently been President of the Scottish Thoracic Society. He is an Honorary Senior Lecturer with the University of Aberdeen Medical School, is 5th Year Lead and heads up teams developing Online Case-Based Learning and Curriculum Mapping. His interactive quiz session will focus on interstitial lung diseases and what you really need to know!

Dr Ratna Alluri - Consultant Chest Physician. I am a respiratory physician at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary with a special interest in pleural and interstitial lung disease. I moved to Aberdeen in 2006 as a locum trainee registrar. The pleural service evolved over my time as a trainee and consultant. My role is mostly clinical with teaching commitments and some time to occasionally dabble in research projects.

Professor Tom Fardon- Consultant physician in Respiratory and General Internal Medicine at NHS Tayside, Honorary Professor with the University of Dundee, and clinical lead of the Respiratory Specialist Delivery Group within the Centre for Sustainable Delivery. He was the author and Clinical Lead for the Respiratory Care Action Plan for Scotland, chairs the Scottish Asthma PRECISION Group, and the Scottish Asthma Committee within CfSD.

He graduated from Cambridge University in 1999, and was awarded his MD from Cambridge in 2008, winning the Ralph Nobel Prize for his thesis "Optimising Anti-inflammatory Therapy in Atopic Asthma".

Professor Fardon's clinical interests include difficult to control asthma, cystic fibrosis, bronchiectasis and chronic bronchial infection.

Professor Andy Smith- Consultant Physician in Respiratory Medicine.

Professor Andy Smith is a Consultant Physician in Respiratory Medicine with a specialty interest in asthma and COPD, based at University Hospital Wishaw, Lanarkshire. He graduated from the University of Glasgow medical school in 1997 and trained in respiratory medicine in the West of Scotland. He undertook a PhD examining the role of exhaled nitric oxide measurements (FENO) in the diagnosis and management of asthma at the University of Otago, Dunedin, New Zealand and was involved in the early clinical evaluation of FENO, with key publications in New England Journal of Medicine and the American Journal of Respiratory and Critical Care Medicine. He has ongoing involvement in asthma and COPD clinical research through the National Health Service Research Scotland Career Research Fellowship scheme and is visiting Professor at the University of Strathclyde department of Computer and Information Sciences.

Dr Varun Sharma- Consultant Respiratory Physician.

Part of the severe asthma service at University Hospital Wishaw alongside Andy Smith. Research at University of Glasgow in severe asthma and obesity finishing in 2024. Unashamed serious Coldplay fan. About to have a second child and absolutely terrified.