



**UK PAEDIATRIC
BRAIN TUMOUR
SYMPOSIUM
NOTTINGHAM
6 NOVEMBER 2019**

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Amy Davies

Paediatric and Neuro specialist Radiographer

Amy trained at the University of Liverpool and has been working at The Christie as a therapy radiographer since 2010. She has been involved with the Proton Beam Therapy overseas programme for several years, as well as the development of the new national service in Manchester. Her role is to offer clinical and holistic support to patients undergoing photon and proton radiotherapy. She has recently completed her MSc in Radiotherapy and Oncology.

Dr Alison Woodward

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

Alison is a chemist specialising in analytical chemistry, which is the use of instruments to identify unknown molecules. In 2017 she started work as a postdoctoral research associate with Dr Ruman Rahman in the Children's Brain Tumour Research Centre (CBTRC) at the University of Nottingham on a project entitled 'Disrupting cancer metabolism to improve therapy for childhood ependymoma'.



Dr Franziske Linke

Research Fellow

Dr Franziska Linke joined CBTRC as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow in 2016. She is conducting research into the metastasis of Medulloblastoma subtypes in 3D models. As a medical biologist, she has studied different cancers during her career, and is currently focused on brain tumours.



Dr Sophie Thomas

Consultant Paediatric Neuropsychologist

Dr Thomas is a Consultant Paediatric Neuropsychologist. She provides training and supervision to neuropsychologists and is a member of the Register of Applied Psychologist Practice Supervisors. Dr Thomas also undertakes an active role in clinical research as an Honorary Assistant Professor and holds a lead position in European clinical trials.



Hugh Adams

Head of Stakeholder Relations

After nine years at the charity Brain Tumour Research, Hugh is currently their Head of Stakeholder Relations. Following a long career in television Hugh joined the charity with responsibility for raising awareness of the need for better funding of basic scientific brain tumour research across a range of stakeholders including the media, celebrities and politicians.



Khadijha Sundus

Support Specialist for Children and Families

Khadijha is a Therapy Radiographer who transitioned into the charity sector and started working at *brainstrust* in July 2018. She looks after *little brainstrust*, supporting children, teenagers and their families that are living with a brain tumour across UK. Her ongoing projects include developing resources that are age specific and organising days out for families. She offers coaching style conversations to parents or caregivers and offers counselling through the charity.



Nicolas Vinogradov-Wouters

Speaker from the community

Nicolas is a 21-year-old third year student at University of Strathclyde in Glasgow studying economics and finance. Nicolas was diagnosed with a pineal region brain tumour in 2015 and had treatment which including surgery, radiotherapy and chemotherapy. Following a year of treatment, he thought he was in the clear, however scans showed the tumour reappeared in his spine, which led to another year of extremely intense treatment.

Nic has made it through this with the help of his family and doctors. He is here to share his experience to support others who may be going through something similar and some of you may remember his mum, Patricia Wouters speaking at our symposium last year.

'I don't see this as a negative point in my life, it is more of a hurdle that I had to get over. I feel now I know where my efforts should be placed in life as it seems there's still so much people can do to help those impacted by paediatric brain cancer'.



Professor Richard Grundy

Professor of Paediatric Neuro-oncology

Professor Grundy is a longstanding member of the HEADSMART campaign aiming to reduce the diagnostic delay in childhood brain tumours, and thereby improve outcomes and reduce morbidity. He is the chair elect of UK and Ireland Children's Cancer Leukaemia Group and on the scientific board of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology. He is also chief investigator of the International Society of Paediatric Oncology Ependymoma II study and chair of the European Ependymoma biology consortium (BIOMECA). As well as this, he is heavily involved in discussions over the next Ependymoma trial and attempts to open a trial for ependymoma at relapse. He is currently working on several projects that are investigating methods to optimise drug delivery to CNS tumours.



Professor Saoirse Elizabeth O'Sullivan

Professor of Pharmacology

Professor Saoirse received her doctorate from Trinity College Dublin in 2001 and moved to the University of Nottingham in 2002 as a Research fellow where she began researching cannabinoid pharmacology through basic and clinical research. She was made Lecturer in 2007, Associate Professor in 2011 and Full Professor in 2019. She has over 40 peer-reviewed articles and 3 books chapters on the topic of cannabinoid pharmacology. In 2016 she was named the International Cannabinoid Research Society Young Investigator of the Year. She is the science lead for the newly formed Centre for Medicine Cannabis (CMC), a non-profit organisation working to shape the UK's new medicinal cannabis regime in the interests of patient. She also works with many charities, patient groups and healthcare professionals to educate on the benefits of cannabis-based medicines.



Sarah Kisseh

Occupational Therapist

Sarah is an Occupational Therapist on the oncology in-patient and out-patient service at The Royal Manchester Children's Hospital. She works with children with a cancer diagnosis whose cancer or cancer related treatment has had an impact on their activities of daily living (e.g. being able to get in/out of the bath, being able to use their hands for tasks such as handwriting, being able to move around their home or school). Fatigue is a common issue for this patient group and Sarah often advises on fatigue management strategies.



Stephen Frost

Speaker from the community

Stephen works as a construction professional but has been a keen advocate for research into the effects of cannabinoids on paediatric brain tumours since his son William's brain tumour diagnosis. Using the website makewilliamwell.com Stephen proposed and helped fund a £100,000 research project into CBD at the Children's Brain Tumour Research Centre and recently set up a Supporter Group with The Brain Tumour Charity.



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