



British Cochlear Implant Group Meeting 2024 Learning Journeys – Bringing People Together

Tuesday 30th April – Wednesday 1st May 2024

The Glasshouse International Centre for Music, Gateshead



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WITH THANKS TO THE PLATINUM SPONSORS FOR THEIR SUPPORT:



Welcome

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the Glasshouse International Centre for Music (better known as the Sage). With such a magnificent venue and the tagline **'Hearing Journeys – bringing people together'** we hope that this conference will be a catalyst for inspiration, collaboration and innovation.

On behalf of the organising committee, it is with great pleasure that we extend a warm welcome to all of you to the annual meeting of the British Cochlear Implant Group. We are thrilled to have you here as we gather to exchange knowledge and share insights in the field of cochlear implants.

This meeting serves as a platform for experts, researchers, clinicians and industry professionals to come together and explore the latest advancements and breakthroughs in cochlear implant technology and clinical care. It is through such collaborative gatherings that we can collectively enhance the lives of individuals with hearing loss and promote inclusive communication.

Over the course of this conference, we have curated an engaging programme filled with keynote lectures, debates, workshops and poster presentations. These sessions will not only showcase cutting-edge research but also provide opportunities for networking and forging new partnerships.

We encourage you to actively participate in the scientific sessions, engage in fruitful discussions and share your valuable insights. The collective knowledge and expertise present in this room will undoubtedly contribute to the growth and development of the cochlear implant field.

We have arranged social events and networking opportunities to foster a sense of camaraderie and promote meaningful connections amongst attendees. We move to the Boiler Shop for our evening meal, where we hope that the conversation will continue and that these moments of interaction will enhance your overall experience and create lasting memories.

Personally, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to our sponsors, without whom this event would not have been possible. Their support and dedication to advancing the field of cochlear implants are greatly appreciated. Please visit their exhibition stands during the breaks to show our support.

Most of all, I thank you, the participants, for enriching these annual conferences by your presence. As is a tradition with BCIG conferences – I hope you will enjoy the content, renew old friendships, make new friends, get new ideas and above all have a fantastic time!

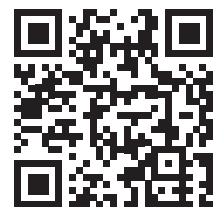


Anirvan Banerjee, Conference Chair
On behalf of the 2024 organising committee

Organising Committee Leads






Erica Grant (Champions Programme) | Laura Manning (BCIG Secretary) | Harry Tustin (Scientific Programme)

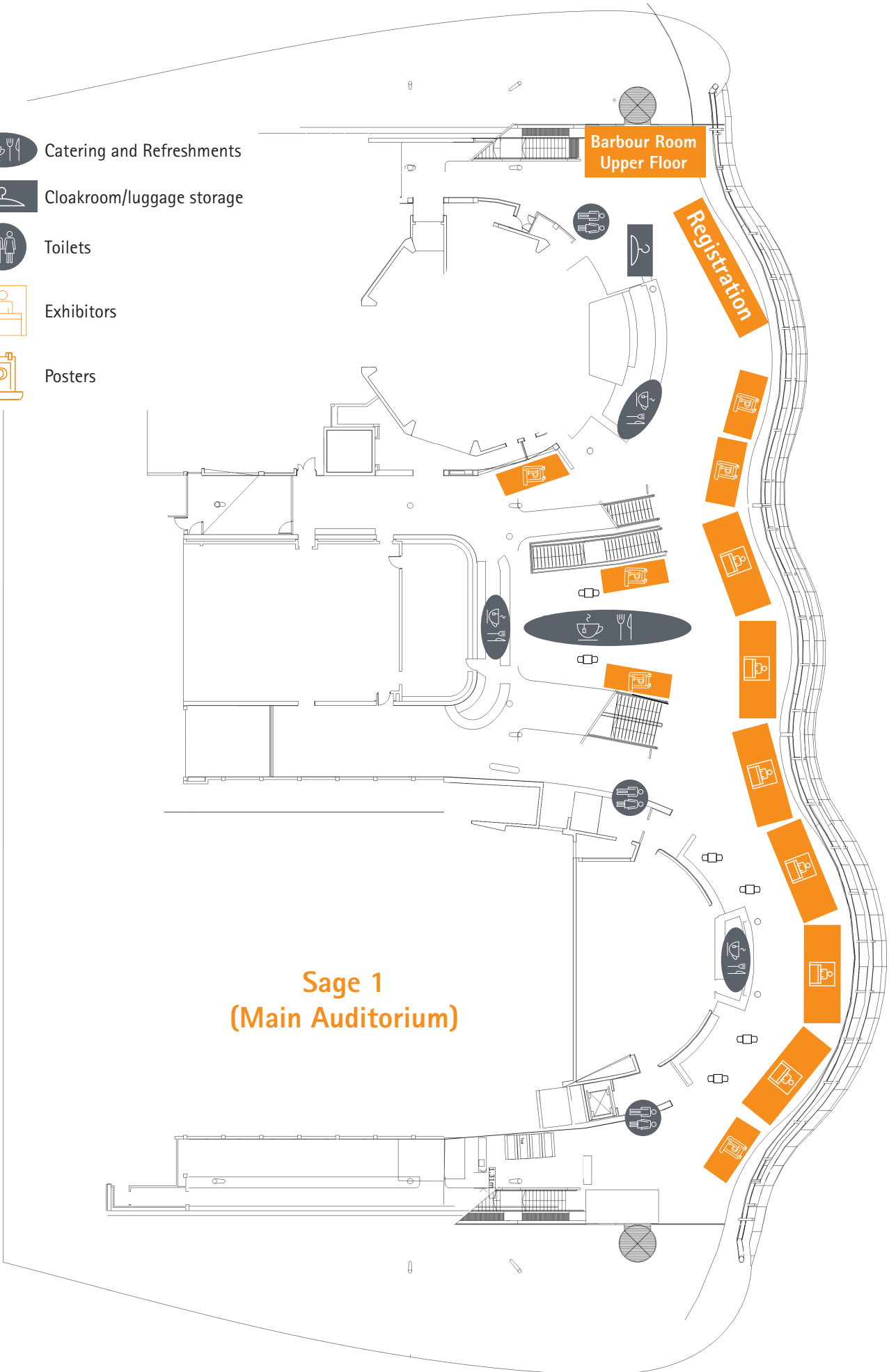
Scan the QR code to view our upcoming event offerings



Conference and Exhibition Floor Plan

KEY

-  Catering and Refreshments
-  Cloakroom/luggage storage
-  Toilets
-  Exhibitors
-  Posters



Information



Venue – Conference

The Glasshouse International Centre for Music | St Mary's Square, Gateshead Quays, Gateshead, NE8 2JR

Just a 20 minute stroll/short taxi ride from the rail station and a 30 min metro journey from the airport.

The taxi rank drop off and pick up area is situated at the Tyne Bridge entrance and a freephone is located at the welcome desk on the concourse.

On site car parking is available behind the venue (postcode NE8 2BA). A discounted rate is available. if prepaid on arrival. Scan QR code for further details.



Venue – Dinner

The Boiler Shop, 20 South St, Newcastle, NE1 3PE (Access via Sussex Street).

Located south of Newcastle Central Station, just a 20 minute walk or short taxi ride from the conference venue. Scan the QR code for further details.



Exhibitors

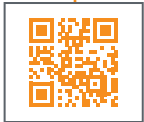
Please visit the BCIG exhibitors and collect stamps from each stand to complete the exhibitor boarding pass. This will be included in your event information pack. Once all the boxes have been filled, return your boarding pass to the events team at the registration desk by 14:00 on Wednesday 1st May to be entered into a prize draw to win a discounted ticket for attendance at the BCIG 2025 event. Please see page 26 for a full list of our sponsors. We encourage you to visit the BCIG 2024 exhibitors during break times. This event would not be possible without their support.



Abstracts

Aesculap Academia UK are committed to reducing printing and paper wastage. As such the full abstract book has been made available online only for this meeting. Please scan the QR code to download the abstract book.

Please note the work published in this booklet has been submitted by the individual authors and therefore Aesculap Academia cannot take any responsibility for the content.



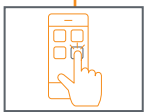
Posters

Posters can be viewed during the refreshment breaks over the 2 days as specified in the programme. Please refer to conference and exhibition floor plan for location. Scan the QR code to view the full poster list. This is also available to view within the poster area.



Slido

Throughout the event, the organising committee invite you to interact via Slido. Scan the QR code to access.



Social Media

Share your experience with us on X @BCIG_UK using #BCIG2024



Access Information

Stair free access is available to all areas within and around the complex.

Infrared hearing receivers are available at the venue and the device should be obtained from the customer service desk on arrival.

A prayer room will also be provided throughout the event. Please speak to one of our event team at the registration desk for advice and guidance.



Wifi

Free wifi is available throughout the venue, network name: **The Glasshouse ICM free WiFi**. No password is required.



Certificates And Feedback

The Royal College of Surgeons of England has awarded up to 8 CPD points for this event. As an accredited centre, we are required to collate feedback in line with current processes.

To enable you to complete this feedback, a survey link will be sent to your registered email. Once this has been completed, an e-certificate will be sent to you within 21 days.

Should you have any issues please email the events team at: academia.bbmuk@bbraun.com

Graham Fraser Memorial Lecture Speaker



Dan Jiang

Consultant Otolologist and Skull Base Surgeon, Hearing Implant Centre, Guy's and St Thomas NHS Foundation Trust

Professor Dan Jiang, PhD, FRCSI, FRCS(ORL-HNS) is a Consultant Otolologist and Skull Base Surgeon at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospitals, Evelina London Children's Hospital and King's College Hospital. He serves as the lead clinician at St. Thomas Hearing Implant Centre and the London Paediatric ABI Programme.

Dan has undergone extensive scientific training throughout his career and holds the position of Professor of Otolology and Auditory Implant Surgery at King's College London. His research interests are focused on optimizing cochlear implant outcomes, auditory central processing, middle/inner ear mechanics and repair/regeneration of damaged inner ear structures.

Keynote Speakers



Timothy David Griffiths

Professor of Cognitive Neurology, Newcastle University
Consultant Neurologist, Newcastle Hospitals NHS Trust
<http://www.auditorycognition.org/>

Tim Griffiths runs the cognitive neurology clinic at Newcastle and gives tertiary opinions on patients with acquired and degenerative brain disorder. His research addresses auditory cognition: central mechanisms by which the brain makes sense of the acoustic world and examines brain bases for auditory perception, emotion and working memory and assesses how these are affected by brain disorders.

His previous work on normal auditory cognition included brain imaging work with PET, fMRI and MEG in the UK and a 15-year collaboration with the neurosurgical team in Iowa to measure local field potentials as a correlate of auditory cognition. He has been involved in three funding cycles. He has carried out a number of studies of abnormal auditory cognition related to abnormal peripheral hearing and developed brain models for tinnitus and musical hallucinations caused by hearing loss. His current programme, funded by MRC (UK), addresses aspects of auditory cognition that determine adjustment to hearing loss. The work is directly related to the link between hearing loss and dementia. He has been PI in a large NIH-funded programme to examine auditory cognition in patients with cochlear implants over two funding cycles. This work now involves Anirvan Banerjee in the UK. He supervises an MRC fellow in the UK working on new measures of auditory cognition that predict dementia.

Ref: Griffiths, T.D., et al., How Can Hearing Loss Cause Dementia? *Neuron*, 2020. 108: 401-412.

Keynote Speakers



Thomas Lenarz

ENT Clinical Director
Hannover Medical School

Thomas Lenarz, MD PhD is a Professor of Otorhinolaryngology and Chair of the Department of Otorhinolaryngology at the Medical University of Hannover, Germany and a pioneer in the development of surgical and pharmacological interventions for hearing loss. Under his leadership, the department has become the centre of an internationally recognized world-leading network for diagnosis, treatment and translational research on hearing loss.

Professor Lenarz and his team have developed the largest international cochlear implantation programme in the world. His research activity on surgical approaches to hearing loss extends beyond cochlear implants and includes central auditory implants in the midbrain and brain stem for neural deafness and implantable hearing aids for middle ear and inner ear hearing loss.

Professor Lenarz received his PhD in the pharmacology of the auditory system in 1987 before undertaking postdoctoral research at the University of California in San Francisco in 1989. He is currently vice president of the German Society of Biomedical Technology and speaker of the expert group on healthcare technologies at Acatech (German National Academy of Technology).



Artur Lorens

Head of the Implants and Auditory Perception Department
Institute of Physiology and Pathology of Hearing
Kajetany, Warsaw

Professor Lorens has 30 years of scientific experience in the field of auditory implants, psychoacoustics and auditory perception modeling.

He was a Scientist in charge of the HearingTreat Marie Curie EU project (2006-2010), a member of the Polish Scientific Association of the Hearing and Communication Disorders, member of the American Auditory Society, International Society of Audiology, European Society for Artificial Organs and European Academy of Otology & Neurootology.



Matthew J Mason

Professor of Comparative Physiology
Department of Physiology, Development & Neuroscience
University of Cambridge
<https://www.pdn.cam.ac.uk/other-pages/mmason>

Matt Mason read preclinical veterinary medicine and then zoology at the University of Cambridge, UK, going on to complete a PhD on the structure and function of the middle ear of mammals. His postdoctoral studies, working with Peter Narins at UCLA, involved the use of laser vibrometry to examine sound transmission in the frog ear. In 2001, Matt returned to Cambridge where he is now the University Physiologist and Professor of Comparative Physiology in the Department of Physiology, Development & Neuroscience. He continues to study how middle and inner ear morphology relates to function, focusing mainly on mammals and using techniques including micro-computed tomography. Matt has examined the ear anatomy of a wide range of curious animals, from armadillos to zokors, but he has also published on the development and morphology of the human ear.

Keynote Speakers



Amy Norrington

Consultant Paediatric Anaesthetist, The James Cook University Hospital

Dr Amy Norrington has been a Consultant in Paediatric Anaesthesia at The James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough since 2014. She graduated from University College London with Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery and a BSc (Hons) in Medical History in 2003 and then moved to the northeast to complete her anaesthetic training programme.

She undertook paediatric anaesthesia fellowships at both the Great North Children's Hospital and The Leeds Children's Hospital and additional training in neonatal intensive care and general paediatrics. She undertakes regular anaesthetic work in ENT, Orthopaedics, Plastic surgery, and Ophthalmology.

She has a specialist interest in the management of anaesthetic anxiety and the advancement of preoperative services for children and young people. She both developed and leads the paediatric pre assessment service at her Trust. She is a member of the APAGBI Paediatric Perioperative medicine group and a regional clinical lead for children and young people's preoperative assessment for NHS England (NEY) and GIRFT.

She worked with the Royal College of Anaesthetists to develop the Beano anaesthetic preparation resources and created 'Pre assessment in a box,' a resource to advance national service development within children's perioperative services.



Allan Pang

S02 Medical Artificial Intelligence, Future Capabilities, HQ DMS

ST6 Anaesthesia Speciality Trainee, Northern Deanery, Defence Medical Services

Clinical Research Associate, Centre for Doctoral Training in Artificial Intelligence for Medical Diagnosis and Care, University of Leeds

Allan is a military anaesthetic speciality trainee (ST6) currently on an OOPR as a PhD student at the UKRI Centre for Doctoral Training (CDT) in Artificial Intelligence (AI) for Medical Diagnosis and Care at the University of Leeds. His PhD research uses Machine Learning (ML) techniques to develop prediction models that adapt temporally through the patient's admission.

His most recent work has used deep neural networks to capture the temporal relationships of routinely collected physiological signals to improve the predictive performance of early warning systems, similar to the National Early Warning Score (NEWS2).

Manufacturer Speakers

MED-EL



Vedat Topsakal

Professor Vedat Topsakal is an ENT Specialist, focusing on otology and surgical robotics. Currently he is head of the ENT department within the UZ Brussel/BE and has been an ENT surgeon in Universitair Ziekenhuis Antwerpen/BE as well as Otologist in the University Medical Center Utrecht/NL. To date he is main and co-author of 152 publications.

MED⁹EL



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Manufacturer Speakers

Advanced Bionics



Sarah Downing, MS, CCC-A

Vice President Global Marketing, Advanced Bionics

Sarah Downing is the Vice President Global Marketing and an Audiologist at Advanced Bionics. Based in Valencia, CA, Sarah has been educating, developing and innovating in the field of cochlear implants for 20 years. Since joining AB in 2008, Sarah has held positions as a Product Development Audiologist, Senior Manager of Clinical Development, Education & Rehabilitation and Senior Director of Outreach & Engagement. Prior to that, Sarah worked as a paediatric Audiologist at a hospital in Chicago, IL, USA.

She holds a bachelor's degree in Speech & Hearing Science from the University of Illinois and a Master's degree in Audiology from Illinois State University. With a career spent in cochlear implants, Sarah is passionate about improving accessibility in hearing healthcare and empowering our patients to live a life without limitations.



Kezia Hills

Area Director Northern Europe, Advanced Bionics

Kezia is the Area Director Northern Europe at Advanced Bionics. Kezia has worked in hearing healthcare since 1998, including time as a cochlear implant Audiologist at Nottingham Auditory Implant Programme. Since joining AB in 2008 Kezia has enjoyed several roles within the UK business, most recently having responsibility of the Nordic countries in addition to the UK and Ireland.



Aniket Saoji, PhD, CCC-A

Chair – Audiology, Director – Cochlear Implants, Associate Professor
Department of Otolaryngology Head & Neck Surgery, Mayo Clinic, Rochester, MN, USA

Aniket Saoji, PhD is the chair of Audiology and the director of the cochlear implant programme at Mayo Clinic, Rochester. He is an Associate Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology – Head and Neck Surgery at Mayo Clinic Alix School of Medicine. Dr. Saoji is a clinical audiologist with certification from the American Speech and Hearing Association and holds a PhD in Psychoacoustics from the State University of New York at Buffalo, New York. At Mayo Clinic, Dr. Saoji oversees the Audiology division and the cochlear implant programme, directly providing clinical care to patients with hearing loss and cochlear implants, while also conducting research that bridges the gap between clinical practice and scientific discovery.

For 13 years before joining Mayo Clinic, Dr. Saoji conducted research on cochlear implants and hearing aids at Advanced Bionics (AB) and Phonak. His work contributed to the development of innovative solutions like ClearVoice signal processing (from AB) and Fidelity 120/Optima speech coding (from AB), which have significantly improved patient outcomes.



Advanced Bionics UK & Eire

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2024 Graham Fraser Travel Grants

The Trustees of the Graham Fraser Foundation invite applications from non-medical BCIG members for a travel grant for attendance at a national or international conference, short course or observership in another cochlear implant unit.

Applicants should submit by email details of the proposed venture, level of support requested and curriculum vitae to:

The Graham Fraser Foundation
c/o Dr P Fraser

Tel: 020 8340 1266

Email: gfraserfoundation@gmail.com

Website: www.grahamfraserfoundation.org.uk

Closing date for applications: **30th September 2024**



Manufacturer Speakers

Cochlear



Ir Filiep Vanpoucke

VP Advanced Algorithms, Audiology, Clinical and CI Vision

Dr Ir Filiep Vanpoucke leads a global team of audiologists and engineers, performing research on sound coding, surgical tools, audiology and hearing care. He holds a PhD in electrical engineering from KU Leuven, has 20+ years of research experience in CI and has co-authored 40+ papers. He has led and participated to several EU and national projects and teaches in the Thomas More University College, Antwerp.

His contribution at BCIG will cover topics including research findings, design considerations and patient outcomes.



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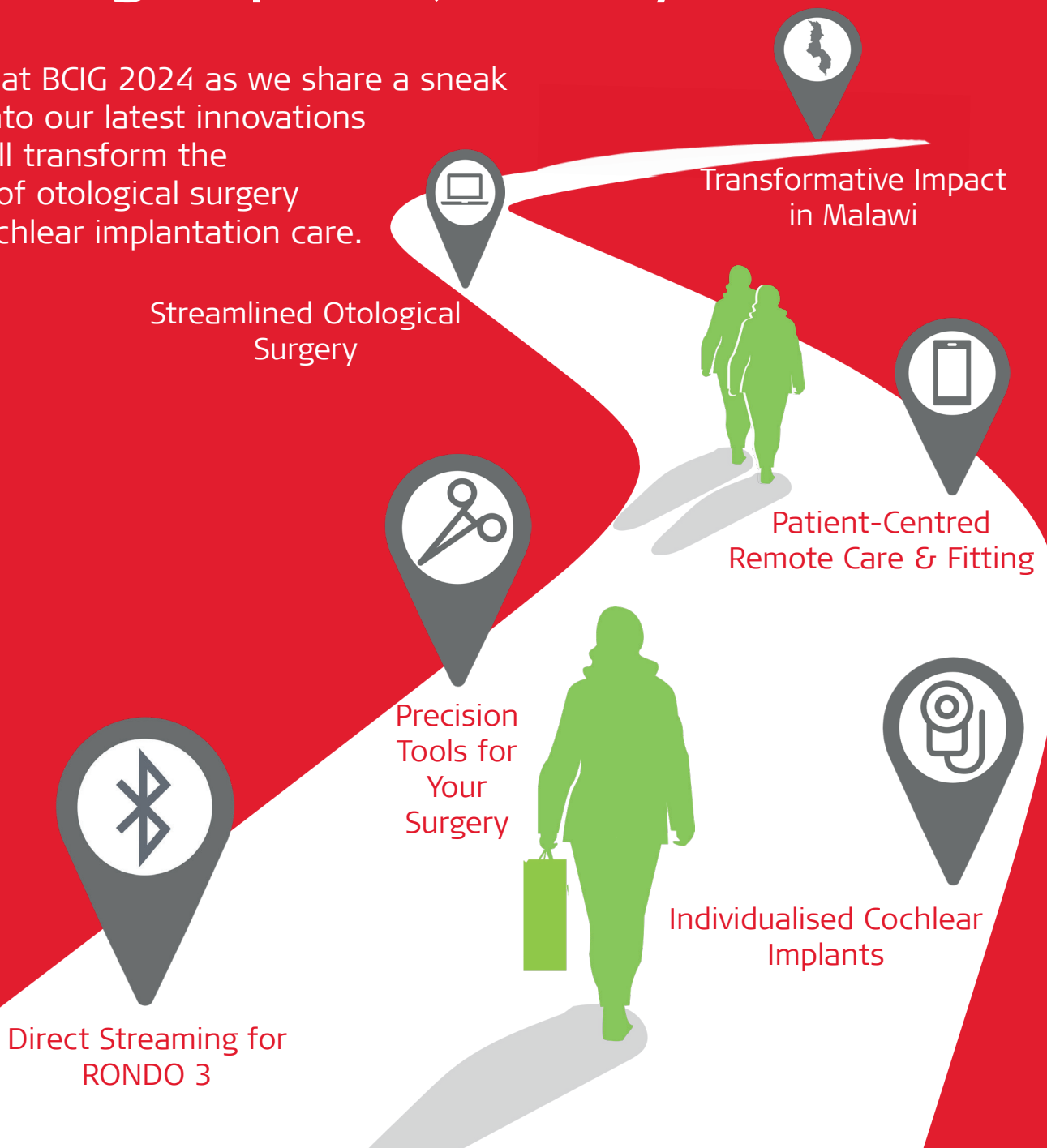


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Innovatively Individualising the Future of Hearing Implant Journeys

Join us at BCIG 2024 as we share a sneak peek into our latest innovations that will transform the future of otological surgery and cochlear implantation care.



BCIG Annual General Meeting

Agenda – Tuesday 30th April

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last meeting, 13th April 2023
3. Report from the Chair
4. New Trustee
5. Treasurer's report
6. Call for nominations for the lecturer for next year's Graham Fraser Memorial Lecture
7. Notification of the opening of applications for The Graham Fraser Travel Grant
8. AOB
9. Date of next AGM



Membership of the BCIG is open to anyone who has a clinical role in the field of auditory implants, or who is actively involved in research into auditory implants or who represents other allied non-commercial organisations.

This will include members of auditory implant centres, employees of auditory implant manufacturers who provide clinical support, researchers, appropriate retired professionals and representatives of auditory implant patient groups. A member may be an individual, a (non-commercial) corporate body, or an individual or corporate body representing an organisation which is not incorporated. The annual subscription is £85. Membership includes six issues per annum of the BCIG journal, 'Cochlear Implants International'.

Complete the membership request form at: <https://bcig.org.uk/join/>

Once your membership is approved by the Membership Secretary, we will ask you to pay the £85 annual subscription.

We also have Corporate membership, which is a non-voting membership with an annual subscription of £2,500.

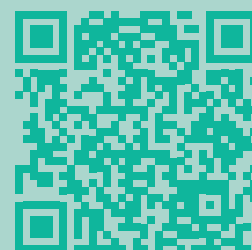
BCIG Run

Join us once again for a steady 5k run along the Quayside and take in the views whilst enjoying the opportunity to chat at a steady pace and exercise both body and mind simultaneously!

The plan would be to meet at the Pitcher and Piano on the opposite bank before the conference programme commences on **day 2** at **07:00**. Day 2's programme commences at 08:15 with refreshments.

To confirm your participation, please email [Ayla Tabaksert](mailto:ayla.tabaksert@nhs.net) at ayla.tabaksert@nhs.net

Scan the QR to find out more about the route.



Programme

Sage 1

Day One – Tuesday 30th April 2024

08:30 Registration, refreshments, exhibition and poster viewing

Main concourse

10:30 Welcome

Manohar Bance, Chair of BCIG
Anirvan Banerjee, Conference Chair

SESSION 1

CHAIR: Helen Cullington

10:40 Keynote speaker | Neurocognition – How hearing loss can cause dementia and the protective role of cochlear implants

Tim Griffiths

11:25 Manufacturer presentation | MED-EL
Image guided surgery and robotics in cochlear implantation

Vedat Topsakal

11:45 Keynote speaker | Individualised cochlear implantation – The importance of cochlear coverage

Thomas Lenarz

12:30 Lunch, exhibition and poster viewing

Main concourse

SESSION 2

CHAIR: Anirvan Banerjee

13:30 Keynote speaker | Anaesthetic care for children and young people – The long and short-term benefits of an individualised approach

Amy Norrington

14:00 BCIG AGM

15:00 Refreshments, exhibition and poster viewing

Main concourse

SESSION 3

CHAIR: Peter Monksfield

15:30 Free paper | Short and long-term hearing preservation outcomes with standard length electrodes in adult and paediatric cochlear implantation

Priya Sethukumar

15:40 Free paper | Effect of white matter lesions on post-operative outcomes in adults following cochlear implantation

Paul Liu

15:50 Free paper | NERCIP's first experiences with remote programming for Advanced Bionics' recipients

Anirvan Banerjee

16:00 Patient experience

Jake Bishop
Chair: Carolyn Travers

16:10 Manufacturer presentation | Advanced Bionics
Powerful connections – AB's commitment to accessibility

Sarah Downing, Aniket Saoji,
Kezia Hills

SESSION 4

MODERATOR: Phil Yates

16:30 Debate | The House believes that 'the patient's better hearing ear should be implanted'

For | Sandra Driver, Ying Guo,
Sherif Khalil

Against | Charlie Huins,
Artur Lorens, Carolyn Travers

17:20 Close of day 1

Anirvan Banerjee

19:00 Conference dinner

Boiler Shop

Scan the QR code to view our upcoming event offerings



Cochlear Implant Champion Scheme Event

The cochlear implant champion scheme was launched by Martin O'Driscoll from BCIG and Ann-Marie Dickinson from BAA Service Quality Committee at the BAA conference 2019. Since then the scheme has grown and developed and they have been joined by many more members representing BAA, BCIG, BSA and BSHAA as well as CI champions and CI mentor representatives to form the Cochlear Implant Champions Scheme committee.



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British
Cochlear
Implant
Group

The aim of the cochlear implant champion scheme is to ensure all eligible adults and children, and their families, are well-informed about cochlear implants and are offered a timely referral.

Role of the Champion:

- To train, support and empower staff in your team to counsel patients/clients and their families about cochlear implants (CIs).
- To ensure all eligible patients/clients and their families are offered informed-choice and shared-decision making when considering a CI referral.
- To audit, the quality and quantity, of CI referral counselling taking place in your service, and monitor referrals.

The first CI Champions training workshop took place on the 11th March 2020 at the BCIG conference in Nottingham, with online training and support offered pre- and post-workshop. We once again look forward to meeting in-person at The Glasshouse in Gateshead.

To access our resources or find out more please scan the QR code to visit the Cochlear Implant Champions Scheme pages on the BAA website.

If anyone is interested in joining the Cochlear Implant Champions Scheme either as a champion or a mentor, to represent a Cochlear Implant centre please register your interest by sending your name and name of your department/service to admin@baaudiology.org.



Cochlear Implant Champion Scheme Event Programme

Barbour Room West

Tuesday 30th April 2024

08:30 Registration, refreshments, exhibition and poster viewing Main concourse

BCIG PROGRAMME

Sage 1

10:30 Welcome

10:40 Keynote speaker | Neurocognition – How hearing loss can cause dementia and the protective role of cochlear implants

Tim Griffiths

CI CHAMPIONS – SESSION 1 – INFLUENCING AND APPROACH

Barbour Room West

11:25 How to change the culture of your team – Leadership, change management, influencing

Laura Turton, Rhian McTaggart

11:55 Conversations with patients – Looking at barriers to referrals and support from CI Champions

Judith Bird

12:25 Close of session 1

12:30 Lunch, exhibition and poster viewing

Main concourse

CI CHAMPIONS – SESSION 2 – CASE STUDIES – AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Barbour Room West

13:30 Case studies – Slido multiple choice, discussion and suggestions

Judith Bird, Louise Copeland,
Laura Turton

CI CHAMPIONS – SESSION 3

Barbour Room West

14:00 Crystal Report masterclass/panel discussion from CI Champions

Sam Blakemore, Lushinka Gopichand

14:30 Manufacturer session | Advanced Bionics

14:45 Manufacturer session | MED-EL

15:00 Refreshments, exhibition and poster viewing

Main concourse

CI CHAMPIONS – SESSION 4

Barbour Room West

15:30 Manufacturer session | Cochlear

15:45 Volunteer panel discussion

16:20 Meet our mentor – Q&A

16:50 Summary and close

BCIG PROGRAMME

Sage 1

16:30 Debate

17:20 Close of day 1



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Conference Dinner – Boiler Shop, Newcastle

Tuesday 30th April 2024

Access via Sussex Street

19:00



Drinks Reception

Call to Dinner
19:30

19:45



Dinner Service

Dress Code



Smart

MENU



STARTER

Smoked mackerel salad with baby potatoes,
horseradish cream and lemon oil

Beetroot, beansprout and chilli lime tofu Asian salad (ve)

MAIN

Slow cooked lamb shoulder served with mashed potatoes,
seasonal vegetables, stuffing and rich gravy

Roasted mushroom onion and leek parcel with seasonal vegetables served
with crushed potato and tarragon gravy (ve)*

DESSERT

Salted caramel brownie with summer berries and
vanilla mascarpone (v) (ve) (Gfo)

*Gluten free option served without the pastry parcel

Unless otherwise specified in advance, we cannot guarantee that additional dietary requirements will be catered for. Please ensure that you notify the events team ASAP of any changes to your booking. Please be considerate of other diners as additional requests on the evening will cause delays in service.



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find out more



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Programme

Sage 1

Day Two – Wednesday 1st May 2024

08:15 Refreshments, exhibition and poster viewing

Main concourse

08:55 Welcome

Naomi Coutts

SESSION 5

CHAIR: Louise Craddock

09:00 Keynote speaker | Getting into a twist – Comparative anatomy and evolution of the cochlea

Matthew Mason

09:30 Keynote speaker | What factors influence hearing preservation?

Arthur Lorens

09:45 Keynote speaker | Artificial intelligence and healthcare – All bark and no byte?

Allan Pang

10:15 Patient experience

Tasha Ghouri
Chair: Anirvan Banerjee

SESSION 6

CHAIR: Katherine Wilson

10:30 Free paper | CI services matter – Cochlear implants in deaf and deafened adults, a global consultation on lifelong aftercare

Sue Archbold

10:40 Free paper | Improving the sensitivity of cochlear implant integrity testing by recording electrode voltages with surface electrodes

Mary Grasmeyer

10:50 Free paper | Cochlear implant surgery under local anaesthesia in ASA 1 and 2 patients – A study of patient choice and patient experience

Emma Stapleton

11:00 Refreshments, exhibition and poster viewing

Main concourse

SESSION 7

CHAIR: Manohar Bance

11:30 Introduction to the Graham Fraser Memorial Lecture
This prestigious award and lectureship from the Graham Fraser Foundation is made at each BCIG annual meeting following nominations by the BCIG membership

Manohar Bance, Chair of the BCIG

11:35 Decoding silence – Advancements in paediatric auditory brainstem implants and beyond

Dan Jiang

12:30 Manufacturer presentation | Cochlear – A lifetime of hearing performance

Ir Filiep Vanpoucke

12:50 Lunch, exhibition and poster viewing

Main concourse

SESSION 8

CHAIR: Emma Stapleton

14:00 Free paper | From proof of concept to patient – Advancing the first pluripotent stem cell derived regenerative therapy for hearing loss to clinical implementation

Rachel Haines, Terri Gaskell

14:10 Free paper | Cochlear implants in children with partial hearing – Data from 10 year UK collaboration

Kate Harvey, Katherine Wilson

14:20 Free paper | Detecting extracochlear electrodes using stimulation-current-induced non-stimulating electrode voltage recordings for different surgical approaches

Marina Salorio-Corbetto

14:30 Free paper | 'The new haptics' – Using the sense of touch for speech listening and spatial hearing

Carl Verschuur

SESSION 9

CHAIR: Jane Gallacher

14:40 BCIG national registry update

Katherine Wilson, Kate Harvey

15:00 Deaf CAMHS

Hannah George

15:20 Both Ears (BEARS) Update – What speech scores are showing us and teenagers are telling us about listening experiences

Marina Salorio-Corbetto
Deborah Vickers

15:40 DeafLink

Claire Hoggeth

15:50 Durham deafened support

Alison Burton

16:00 BCIG 2025 introduction

Jeanette Martin

16:10 Prize giving and closing remarks

Anirvan Banerjee, Manohar Bance

Graham Fraser Memorial Lecture Speaker Abstract

Decoding silence – Advancements in paediatric auditory brainstem implants and beyond

Dan Jiang

The landscape of paediatric Auditory Brainstem Implants (ABIs) has evolved significantly, offering new hope to children with profound hearing loss who are unable to benefit from cochlear implants due to anomalies in their cochlea or auditory nerve. This lecture provides a comprehensive exploration of the historical trajectory of paediatric ABIs, tracing their inception, indications and the complex diagnostic challenges encountered by clinicians when assessing candidacy.

A pivotal focus of this discussion is the introduction of the Children's Auditory Brainstem Implant Profile, an evolving tool designed to streamline the decision-making process for clinicians. Comprising three matrices, this tool aids in the precise evaluation of candidacy, enhancing patient selection and optimizing outcomes.

The groundbreaking initiatives within the NHS Highly Specialised Paediatric ABI Commissioning provide opportunities for collaboration between two UK paediatric ABI centres and hearing implant centres nationwide, eliminating the need for UK children to travel abroad for the treatment. Insights into outcomes from the St. Thomas Paediatric ABI Centre underscore the significance of a multidisciplinary approach in ensuring the success of paediatric ABI interventions.

In summary, this lecture encapsulates the journey of the London Paediatric ABI Programme alongside scientific advancements and clinical experiences. It elucidates critical challenges and underscores the significance of a multidisciplinary approach, offering hope for enhanced care and improved outcomes for children navigating profound hearing loss through this intervention.

Keynote Speaker Abstracts

Neurocognition – How hearing loss can cause dementia and the protective role of cochlear implants

Timothy Griffiths

Epidemiological studies identify midlife hearing loss as an independent risk factor for dementia, estimated to account for nearly 10% of cases¹. There are several possible bases for this relationship but the most plausible are related to an interaction between high-level brain mechanisms for natural listening and the disease process of dementia². Natural listening process such as speech-in-noise listening have been demonstrated to require processing in high-level brain mechanisms including the brain system for delayed memory: the first area to be affected in typical Alzheimer's disease.

The link between hearing loss and dementia is (yet) another reason to recommend hearing interventions in midlife. A recent cross-sectional study that examined the link between hearing-aid use and dementia³ received much publicity but was retracted because of a data error. In any event, such studies suffer from interpretative issues: does decreased hearing aid use cause dementia or vice versa? Prospective studies that examine the link between hearing-aid use and subsequent dementia are more optimal, but results have not demonstrated a clearcut benefit in all patients⁴.

Cochlear implants (CIs) are associated with much greater compliance than hearing aids and therefore have the potential to have a much greater effect on incident dementia in this group of patients. We are involved in studies in which we seek to predict CI outcome using tests that reflect brain mechanisms for natural listening (in patients from the Iowa Cochlear Implant Clinical Research Center⁵ and also patients from the North-East Regional Cochlear Implant Programme). We also plan studies of the effect of CIs on biomarkers for dementia that I will discuss.

1. Livingston, G., et al., Dementia prevention, intervention, and care: 2020 report of the Lancet Commission. *Lancet*, 2020. 396(10248): 413-446.
2. Griffiths, T.D., et al., How Can Hearing Loss Cause Dementia? *Neuron*, 2020. 108: 401-412.
3. Jiang, F., et al., Association between hearing aid use and all-cause and cause-specific dementia: an analysis of the UK Biobank cohort. *Lancet Public Health*, 2023. 8: e329-e338.
4. Lin, F.R., et al., Hearing intervention versus health education control to reduce cognitive decline in older adults with hearing loss in the USA (ACHIEVE): a multicentre, randomised controlled trial. *Lancet*, 2023. 402(10404): 786-797.
5. Choi, I., et al., Spectral Grouping of Electrically Encoded Sound Predicts Speech-in-Noise Performance in Cochlear Implantees. *J Assoc Res Otolaryngol*, 2023. 24: 607-617.

Keynote Speaker Abstracts

Individualised cochlear implantation – The importance of cochlear coverage

Thomas Lenarz

Cochlea implantation has become more challenging due to different patient populations to be served. An Individualised concept must be applied to serve patients both severe to profound hearing loss across all frequencies and patients with high-frequency deafness. The first group relies on electric stimulation only, whereas in the second group electroacoustic stimulation can be used.

Electric stimulation only is most efficient when all neurons are electrically stimulated which means that these patients need an electrode which is long enough to provide sufficient cochlea coverage. Statistical analysis has shown that the optimum coverage should be in a range between 70 and 80 percent. Further coverage leads to inferior performance because longer electrodes might lead to overlapping electrical fields.

For patients with high-frequency deafness hearing preservation, cochlea implantation is key in order to use electroacoustic stimulation properly. In order to overcome the trade-off between good hearing preservation on one side and sufficient cochlea coverage on the other side, the concept of partial cochlea implantation has been developed. Based on the cochlea model derived from preoperative CT-scans and the expected post-operative audiogram, the insertion depth of the electrode is pre-calculated.

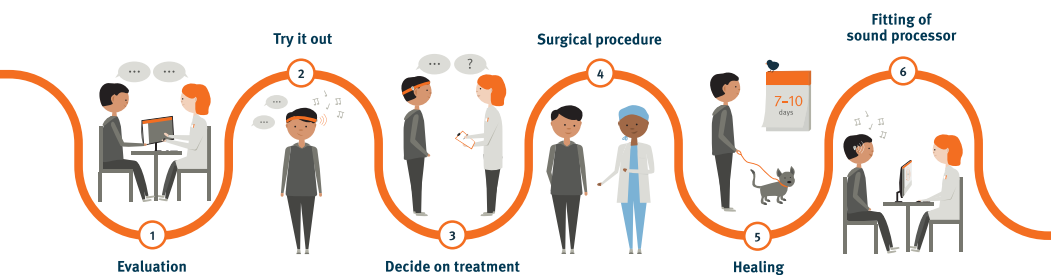
Cochlea monitoring helps to preserve residual hearing. The electrode insertion follows the principles of soft surgery. Patients treated with partial insertion have superior results in terms of hearing preservation and speech noise in performance. Overall, individualized concepts in cochlea implantation are key to provide the best possible auditory rehabilitation in individual patients.

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Keynote Speaker Abstracts

Getting into a twist - Comparative anatomy and evolution of the cochlea

Matthew Mason

All vertebrates have hair-cells, which can transduce fluid vibrations into electrical signals. Within the inner ear, these hair-cells are collected into different organs, subserving different sensory modalities.

Instead of having a cochlea, frogs use specialized organs called the basilar and amphibian papillae, as well as otolithic organs, to detect sound of different frequencies. The basilar papilla of reptiles and birds, believed to be homologous to the mammalian organ of Corti, is contained within a tubular extension of the saccular region which also contains a terminal otolithic organ called the lagena. The mammalian cochlea evolved from a similar precursor but its morphology among living species varies considerably, from little more than a bent tube in the platypus, which retains the lagena at the end, to the elaborate, five-turned tower of certain guinea-pig relatives.

The human cochlea falls somewhere in-between. I shall consider the attempts that comparative physiologists have made to relate the variations in curvature and length of the cochlear duct in different mammals to their hearing characteristics, and ask the question of why the mammalian cochlea is so characteristically coiled.

Anaesthetic care for children and young people - The long and short-term benefits of an individualised approach

Amy Norrington

Coming for an operation can be an anxious moment for any patient. However, for children, young people and their families, this anxiety can be particularly significant.

This talk will explore the importance of anaesthetic pre assessment for the preparation of children, young people and their families prior to surgery and anaesthesia. It will look at the benefits of modifying environments to meet their needs, how patient information can be developed with them in mind and the perioperative techniques that can help deliver a positive experience of hospital admission.

Artificial intelligence and healthcare - All bark and no byte?

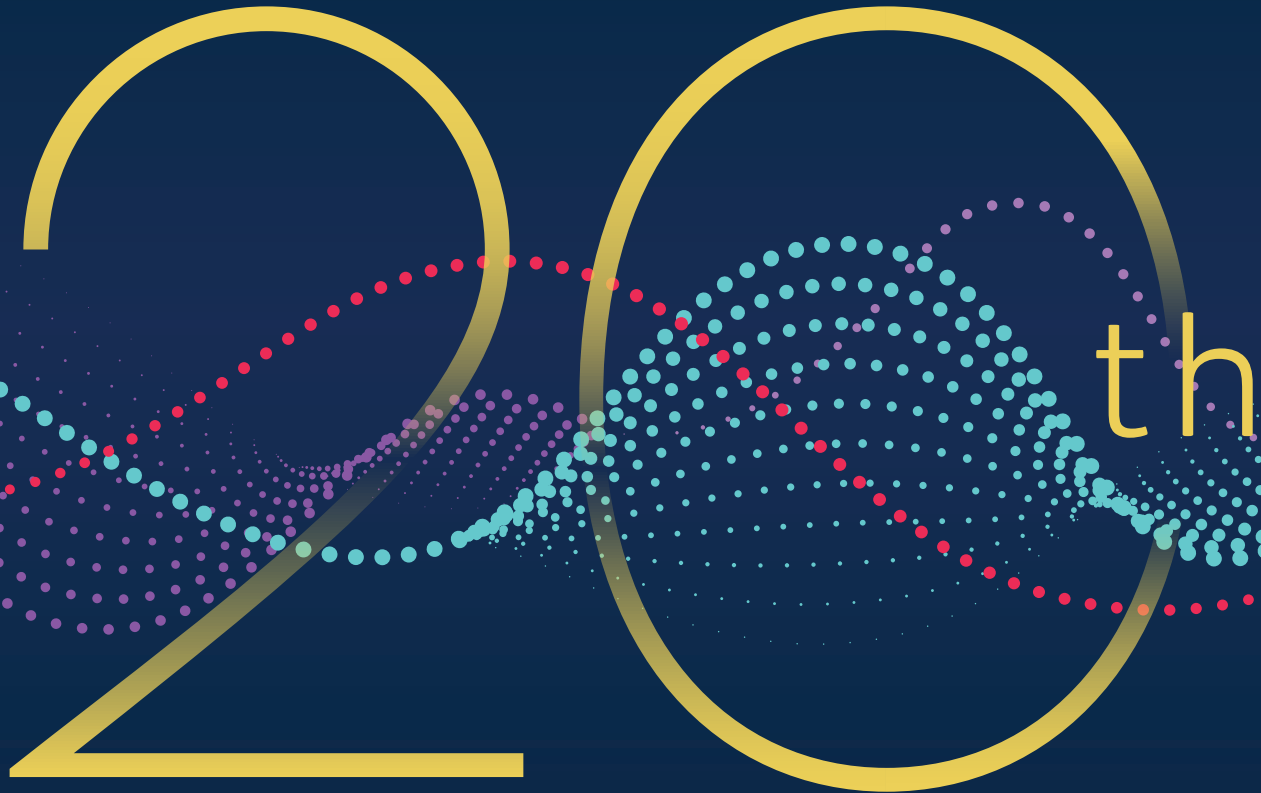
Allan Pang

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is a rapidly evolving field that has recently come into the public consciousness with the development of AI Generative Models such as ChatGPT and DALL-E. This has led to much hype surrounding using AI in multiple domains, including Healthcare. This presentation will introduce you to some of the fundamental concepts of AI. We will also explore some of the broader challenges facing AI healthcare research and hopefully reassure you that AI is unlikely to replace clinicians soon.

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