RCPath and SHOT Advances in Transfusion Symposium – Chair & Speaker Biographies

Day 1 Wednesday 25 November 2026

9.30 Welcome –Prof Sarah Coupland, President, Royal College of Pathologists



Prof Sarah Coupland

Professor Sarah Coupland is a Consultant Histopathologist at Moorfields Eye Hospital, London. Before this she held the George Holt Chair of Pathology at the University of Liverpool and was Honorary Consultant Histopathologist at the Liverpool University Hospitals Group. Her expertise spans ophthalmic pathology, haematopathology, molecular and digital pathology, and biobanking with significant contributions to multicentre computational pathology projects. She led the Liverpool Ocular Oncology Research Group, which is nationally and internationally renowned for its work, particularly on uveal melanoma. Sarah has published around 360 articles and 150 book chapters and has received numerous awards for teaching and research. She is President of the Pathological Society of Great Britain and Ireland (PathSoc) and Registrar and President-Elect of the Royal College of Pathologists. At the end of Nov 2026, she will step down as PathSoc President and become President of RCPath.

Session 1: Clinical transfusion challenges Chairs: Prof Victoria Chalker & Dr Shubha Allard

9.35 Effective optimisation for surgery (POA & TxA use) – Prof Ramani Moonesinghe Consultant Anaesthetist UCL Hospitals, Deputy Medical Director NHSE

9.55 Blood supply resilience to support patients – Dr Lise Estcourt Medical Director Transfusion NHSBT, Assoc Professor University of Oxford

10.15 Transfusing haematology patients, evidence and questions – Dr Katie Hands, Consultant Haematologist, Associate Medical Director SNBTS

10.35 Open questions

10.45 Break



Professor Victoria Chalker is Deputy Chief Scientific Officer at NHS England (September 2023–Present). She is an expert in medical microbiology, bacteriology, infectious diseases, and diagnostics. Before moving to national leadership, she spent nearly two decades in the public and academic sectors and held extensive senior scientific roles within the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) and Public Health England, with a heavy emphasis on molecular microbiology, pathogen transmission, and antimicrobial resistance. She was Chief Scientific Officer at NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) (2022–2023) where her work focused on transfusion technologies, genetics, and health equality. She is currently playing a pivotal role in developing the Transfusion Transformation action plan in collaboration between DHSC, NHSE, NHSBT and the National Blood Transfusion Committee.



Dr Shubha Allard is Consultant Haematologist at NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT). She has retired and returned and continues as Clinical Adviser for the Transfusion 2024 plan and Transfusion Transformation for NHSBT and the National Blood Transfusion Committee (NBTC). She actively promotes education, guidelines/standards and patient involvement in Transfusion Medicine. Her past roles include RCPath Clinical Director Publishing and Engagement, NHSBT Clinical Tutor, NHSBT Clinical Lead Patient Blood Management, NBTC Secretary, Chair of BSH Guidelines Committee and ISBT Regional Director. She is an ongoing Steering Group member of the UK Serious Hazards of Transfusion Haemovigilance Scheme and was appointed as RCPath co-opted Trustee in 2024. She is a Board member of Lab Tests Online UK.



Professor Ramani Moonesinghe OBE is a clinician, scientist and health service leader. She was appointed Deputy National Medical Director for NHS England 2026. She is the National Clinical Director for Critical and Perioperative Care for the NHS in England, a professor at University College London (UCL) and a consultant in anaesthetics, perioperative and critical care medicine at UCL hospitals. She is the inaugural director of the NIHR Central London Patient Safety Research Collaboration (https://psrc-cl.nihr.ac.uk), theme lead for critical and perioperative care at the NIHR UCLH Biomedical Research Centre, and head of the Centre for Perioperative Medicine and Research Department for Targeted Intervention at UCL. Her research focuses on developing and evaluating novel technologies and pathways, risk prediction and outcome measurement, and improvement studies focusing on perioperative and critical care.



Dr Lise Estcourt is the Medical Director for Transfusion and a Consultant in Haematology and Transfusion Medicine at NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT), and Associate Professor in Haematology and Transfusion Medicine at the University of Oxford. Clinical Lead for the Systematic Reviews Initiative and Director of NHSBT Clinical Trials Unit. Co-ordinating editor of Cochrane Haematology and an editor of the journal Transfusion Medicine and has authored/co-authored more than 150 papers in peer-reviewed journals. She led the convalescent plasma transfusion trials on behalf of NHSBT (transfusion aspects of RECOVERY and REMAP-CAP trials) with Professor David Roberts. Her other interests include: the safe and appropriate use of blood components; alternatives to blood transfusion; risk factors for bleeding in haematology patients; and systematic reviews.



Dr Katie Hands is a Consultant Haematologist and Associate Medical Director with the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service. She studied medicine at the University of Dundee and later undertook a PhD at the College of Life Sciences, University of Dundee during her haematology training. She is based at Ninewells Hospital in Dundee, where she is lead Consultant for Blood Transfusion together with several national roles with SNBTS, providing clinical input to blood supply chain management and resilience planning, and clinical leadership for SNBTS blood banks. She is keen to promote evidence-based transfusion practice and is currently chair of the British Society for Haematology Transfusion Task Force. Katie is involved in the planning and delivery of SNBTS transfusion training for haematology registrars and is an examiner with the RCPath.

Day 1 Session 2 Wednesday 25 November 2026

Session 2 Evidence based transfusion – Chairs: Professor Cheng-Hock Toh and Caroline Evans

11.00 Blood in the Field: Separate or Combined Components? - Professor Laura Green, Consultant Haematologist Barts Health NHS Trust & NHSBT

11.20 Paediatric transfusion and updated BSH Guidelines – Dr Anne Kelly, Consultant Paediatric Haematology, NHSBT & Great Ormond Street Hospital

11.40 Real-world data on the burden of anaemia & addressing iron deficiency in pregnancy – Prof Simon Stanworth Consultant Haematologist NHSBT & Oxford and Prof David Churchill Consultant Obstetrician, Royal Wolverhampton Hospital NHS Trust & University of Wolverhampton.

12.00 Open questions

12.10 Close session



Professor Cheng-Hock Toh is Chair of the National Blood Transfusion Committee. He has extensive experience across clinical, academic, educational, entrepreneurial and professional leadership domains in haematology and medicine. He was elected Academic vice president of the Royal College of Physicians (2018-2021) and President of the British Society for Haematology (2018-2020). He has also been Chair of the NIHR Clinical Research Network in Haematology, Chair of the European Haematology Association (EHA) Curriculum Committee and Chair of the International Society on Haemostasis and Thrombosis (ISTH) Scientific and Standardization Sub-Committee in disseminated intravascular coagulation. In 2023, he drew upon years of pioneering research into haemostatic dysfunction in sepsis to propose a new "convergent" model of coagulation, which was published in *Blood* – the highest impact factor journal in haematology.



Caroline Evans is a consultant Cardiothoracic anaesthetist in Cardiff and appointed Postgraduate Dean for Medicine for the Wales Deanery in HEIW- overseeing education and training of over 3000 resident doctors in Wales. She developed the first preop anaemia pathway for cardiac surgery in the UK and has been an author of multiple UK and international guidelines on anaemia management including the BSH and CPOC. She has been the lead investigator in 3 NIHR funded IV iron multicentre trials including the recently published ITACs trial. Caroline is the national lead for anaemia in Wales and recently published how to implement anaemia screening on a national level with demonstrated real world outcomes in The British Journal of anaesthesia



Professor Laura Green is a Consultant Haematologist at NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT) and Barts Health NHS Trust, and Professor of Haemostasis and Transfusion Medicine at Queen Mary University of London. She also serves as Associate Medical Director for Research and Development and Co-Director of the NHSBT Clinical Trials Unit. Her research focuses on optimising blood component use in major haemorrhage and accelerating the translation of innovative therapies into clinical practice. Spanning translational science and multicentre clinical trials, her work aims to improve patient outcomes and advance transfusion medicine, including the development of novel transfusion strategies and digital technologies. She has led major studies, including ORANGE, SWiFT, and PROPHESY-2, which have helped shape transfusion practice and inform healthcare policy.



Dr Anne Kelly

Dr Anne Kelly is a Consultant Paediatric Haematologist at Great Ormond Street Hospital where her main clinical expertise is in Paediatric Haemostasis and thrombosis and Transfusion. She is clinical co-director for the Great Ormond Street Haematology Laboratory. She also works for NHS Blood and Transplant as a Paediatric Transfusion and Components Clinical Expert. Her national and international roles include author of SHOT paediatric chapter, RCPCH representative on UK National Transfusion committee, ISBT Clinical and Paediatric working party member and Chair of the Paediatric BBTS SIG. She is an Associate Editor of Archives of Disease in Childhood. She chaired the revision of the UK BSH Paediatric/Neonatal Transfusion Guideline which is due publication in October 2026. Her PhD in Transfusion Medicine was completed at the University of Cambridge in 2015.



Simon Stanworth is Professor of Haematology and Transfusion Medicine at the University of Oxford and Consultant Haematologist with NHS Blood and Transplant/Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. His research programme focuses on improving the effectiveness and appropriate use of blood transfusions and alternatives to transfusion, with the aim of optimising patient outcomes and reducing avoidable harm. A further aspect of his work is translating research findings into clinical practice, such as through national and international guideline development groups, helping to ensure that evidence-based recommendations improve healthcare delivery and patient care worldwide. He is Director of the first NIHR Blood Transfusion Research Unit (BTRU) in 'Data Enabled' Transfusion Practice, which promises not just new data but new methods of assessing and improving transfusion practice.



Professor David Churchill is a consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist at The Royal Wolverhampton Hospital NHS Trust and Professor of Obstetrics in the Research Institute for Healthcare Sciences in the University of Wolverhampton. His clinical interests are in maternal and fetal medicine, specifically hypertension, diabetes/endocrinology and fetal ultrasound. He has experience in medical management, governance and both undergraduate and postgraduate education, He was a course director, for the LSTM / RCOG Life Saving Skills courses in several countries in Africa and Asia (2009-12). He has contributed to the Fetal Anomaly Screening Programme information committee, NICE panel on hypertension in pregnancy, MBRRACE reviewing maternal deaths, and RfPB panels. He is the chair of the UKOSS steering committee which coordinates research into rare conditions in obstetric. In the past he has carried out research in hypertension, diabetes and for last 10 years iron deficiency anaemia in pregnancy. He is the lead obstetrician on the PANDA programme.

Day1 Session 3 Wednesday 25 November 2026

Session 3 Focus on education – Chairs: Dr Fiona Miall and Susan Cottrell

12.10 Influencing curricula and training – Dr Suzy Morton Consultant Haematology NHSBT & University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust

12.25 Pathology Portal update – Dr Jon Massie, Haematology Registrar West of Scotland

12.32 Towards UK clinical transfusion training standards – Dr Jane Graham, Consultant Haematologist University Hospitals North Midlands (UHNM), Stoke on Trent

12.40 Open questions

12.50 Close session



Dr Fiona Miall is Associate Professor in Medical Education and Honorary Consultant Haematologist at the University of Leicester. She is Consultant Haematologist specialising in lymphoma for 20 years. Portfolio career throughout this time in medical education, primarily undergraduate in curriculum development and delivery, course oversight, assessment and leadership. Deputy Head of Leicester Medical School. Founding member and subsequently Chair of the Education committee of the British Society for Haematology (BSH), with active membership spanning 10 years. Currently in 2nd term as a trustee of BSH, during which time I've been involved in the workforce streams and represent the BSH board on the Intercollegiate Committee for Haematology.



Susan Cottrell is the Deputy Head of Nursing for Patient Services at the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service (SNBTS). With over three decades of clinical experience in NHS Scotland, she has built a robust career dedicated to transfusion medicine, workforce education, and patient care. She began her career as a registered nurse at Borders General Hospital in 1992. In 2003, she transitioned into specialised transfusion care, working for 17 years as a Transfusion Practitioner. Her expertise led to her promotion to Senior Nurse for the SNBTS Transfusion Team in 2020, before stepping into her current leadership position. She has actively shaped the future of Scottish nursing by leading undergraduate practice learning experiences across multiple SNBTS sites. Her work bridges higher education with specialized clinical paths, ensuring high standards in donor services, apheresis, and advanced therapeutics.



Dr Suzy Morton is a Consultant Haematologist specialising in transfusion medicine and non-malignant haematology. She holds a joint clinical appointment at University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust and NHS Blood and Transplant. She is Education Lead for transfusion at NHSBT, responsible for overseeing education programs with national advocacy for excellence in training supporting patient safety. Her past roles have included being the transfusion representative on the British Society for Haematology education committee and chair of the National Blood Transfusion Committee education working group. She is the current transfusion representative on the West Midlands Specialty Advisory Committee for haematology training and the co-lead examiner for the Haematology FRCPath examinations. She is the co-founder of *Blooducation*, an educational podcast.



Dr Jon Massie is a haematology registrar in the West of Scotland region and was an author on the haemoglobinopathies section of the 2025 SHOT report. He has previously worked as a clinical fellow in transfusion medicine for NHS Blood and Transplant and represents transfusion medicine on the Royal College of Pathologists Trainees Advisory Committee. He has also previously worked for the BSH as a research fellow in workforce planning. His areas of interest are transfusion, red cell and liaison haematology.



Dr Jane Graham is a Consultant Medical Haematologist at University Hospitals of North Midlands (UHNM) in Stoke-on-Trent. Following completion of her specialist training in the Manchester region, she joined UHNM in 2016 with a remit to improve transfusion practice across the Trust. She enjoys working collaboratively across specialties to implement effective patient blood management (PBM) strategies and optimise blood health for local patient populations. She is currently Chair of the National Blood Transfusion Committee (NBTC) Education Working Group, leading initiatives to enhance the quality and accessibility of transfusion education for healthcare professionals throughout England.

12.50 Presentation of the Percy Oliver Award (Lay category)

presented by Dr Guy Hannah RCPath Vice President for Education and Learning

Percy Lane Oliver was a member of the Red Cross and internationally renowned for developing the world's first voluntary blood donor service in 1921. Following his death, the Oliver Memorial Fund was established in 1944 to perpetuate his memory by upholding the principle of voluntary blood donation and recognising individuals who have made outstanding contributions to Transfusion Science or Practice. In 2001, the Royal College of Pathologists took over the administering of the Fund with Annual Awards recognising medical, scientific and lay achievements in transfusion. The review process is overseen by the College Specialty Advisory Committee for Transfusion Medicine.
The winner of the Percy Oliver Memorial Award 2026 for the Lay category is Elisabeth Buggins.



Elisabeth Buggins CBE: recipient of the Percy Oliver Lay Award 2026

Elisabeth Buggins CBE has made a lasting contribution to the role of the patient voice within blood transfusion and transplantation. Her three sons were infected through contaminated blood products in infancy. She has turned that experience into constructive, dignified advocacy. She was a key witness to the Infected Blood Inquiry and has published in the BMJ on the need for continued action on blood safety. Elisabeth served for nine years as a Non-Executive Director of the National Blood Authority and NHS Blood and Transplant. She chaired the UK Organ Donation Taskforce from 2006 to 2009. Its reports led to lay champions in every acute hospital and to real increases in donation. She continues to chair the Strategy Oversight and Sustainable Funding Group. She established a postgraduate module in Patient and Public Involvement at Warwick Medical School. In 2025 she became the first Patient Co-Chair of the National Blood Transfusion Committee putting patients at the centre of national decision-making. Colleagues highly value her for her quiet determination, her willingness to ask difficult questions and her clear focus on better outcomes for patients. She is a highly worthy winner of this award.

13.00 Close Day 1

Closing remarks by Dr Shruthi Narayan and Dr Shubha Allard