# The MRC Medicines Development Fellowship Scheme Showcase 2026

Venue: The Platform,
60 London Wall,
London, EC2M 5TQ

Date: 18th June 2026

Free to attend but registration essential.

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# Medicines Development Fellowship Scheme Showcase 2026

09:30 - 10:00  Arrival/registration

10:00 - 10:15  Welcome talk **Professor Sir Munir Pirmohamed**

10:15 - 10:45  **Dr Alastair Webb** (Clinical Associate Professor in Stroke Medicine, Imperial College London*) From stroke epidemiology to cerebrovascular physiology: translating mechanistic human studies into clinical trials*

10:45 - 11:00  **Dr Emma Magavern** (Clinician Scientist, Queen Mary University of London) *Characterising the added value of multi-omic biomarkers for medication response in early phase clinical trial drug development in diverse populations*

11:00 - 11:10  **Dr Simon Gray** (Clinical Research Training Fellow, University of Liverpool) *Towards an in vivo assessment of immune competence in cancer patients by skin contact sensitisation*

11:10 - 11:25  Break

11:25 - 11:35  **Dr Louise Aubiniere- Robb** (Clinical Research Training Fellow, University of Glasgow) *Can AI Close the Gap Between CKD Guidelines and Real-World Care?*

11:35 - 12:05  **Dr Slavé Petrovski** (Vice President for the Centre for Genomics Research at Astra Zeneca) *The power of population omics in drug discovery*

12:05 - 12:20  **Dr Rishi Mukherjee** (Clinician Scientist, University of Liverpool) *AI/ML Driven Multi-Omic Drug Discovery for Pancreatitis Induced Lung Injury*

12:20 - 13:20  Lunch

13:20 - 13:50  **Dr Kim Branson** (Senior Vice President and Global Head of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning at GSK) *The Using and developing of  AI at GSK*

13:50 - 14:00  **Dr Jack Thompson** (Clinical Research Training Fellow, Queen Mary University of London) *What can metabolomics do for early phase clinical trials?*

14:00 - 14:30  **Dr Carl Anderson** (Head of Human Genetics, Wellcome Sanger Institute) *From Genetic Maps to Predictive Models: Longitudinal Multiomics for Disease Prediction*

14:30 - 14:45  Break

14:45 - 15:15  **Prof Jonathan Benger** (Chief Executive of NICE) *NICE and the future of HTA*

15:15 - 15:25  **Dr Will Marshall** (Clinical Research Training Fellow, University of Manchester) *The Salford-Kidney-Cardiovascular-Kidney-Liver-Metabolic (SKCKLM) Study*

15:25 - 15:55  **Prof Rosalind Smyth** (Vice Dean (Research), Professor of Child Health University College London) *Positive developments in clinical academic careers*

15:55 - 16:00  Closing Remarks: **Prof Sir Munir Pirmohamed**

# Dr Alastair Webb



Prof Alastair Webb is a Clinical Associate Professor in Stroke Medicine at Imperial College London. He leads the Imperial Small Vessel Disease Research Group, which focuses on cerebral small vessel disease and its associated cerebrovascular physiology, using big data, observational cohorts, experimental medicine and clinical trials to develop mechanism-based treatments to reduce the burden of this high impact disease. He completed his DPhil as part of his MRC CRTF under the guidance of Professor Peter Rothwell in 2013, focussing on meta-analyses of randomised controlled clinical trials, demonstrating that different antihypertensive medications have parallel effects on blood pressure variability and stroke risk. In his physiological cohort within the population based 'OXVASC' study, he identified novel physiological indices that predict the future risk of stroke, cerebral small vessel disease and cognitive impairment, leading to mechanistic clinical trials to identify new interventions. This includes the recently completed phase 2 OxHARP trial testing the effects of sildenafil on cerebral perfusion and endothelial function, the new Miro-Dose experimental medicine study defining the role of PDE5 dysfunction in small vessel disease, and the prospective ACCESS@ICL cohort study at Imperial College London. He is currently the Divisional Director of Research for Medicine and Integrated Care at Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust, the chair of the Scientific Committee of the British and Irish Association of Stroke Physicians and a member of the Board of Directors of the European Stroke Organisation.

# Dr Slavé Petrovski



Slavé Petrovski is the current Vice President for the Centre for Genomics Research at AstraZeneca. Since earning his Ph.D. in Bioinformatics and Biostatistics from the University of Melbourne, Slavé has gained extensive academic and industry experience in genomics and multi-omics, including: human genomics, population genetics, precision medicine and leading large-scale human genomics consortia. At AstraZeneca he uses his experience to design and coordinate human genomic studies that contribute to the company's Genomics Initiative to analyse two million genomes by 2026. His leadership spans across AstraZeneca's Functional Genomics, Translational Genomics, and Dynamic omics capabilities. As a direct consequence of his work, numerous novel drug targets are progressing through pharmaceutical development for the benefit of patients. Slavé is a leader in the field; he has published more than 200 papers and is a frequently invited speaker at global scientific conferences as well as a respected industry representative on several global consortia and national genomics boards.

# Dr Kim Branson



 **Dr. Kim Branson** is Senior Vice President and Global Head of Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning at GSK, where he leads a global team developing and applying AI methods that accelerate drug discovery and clinical development. With over two decades of industry experience,

Prior to joining GSK in 2019, he served as Head of AI for Early Clinical Development at Genentech and previously co-founded multiple Silicon Valley health-tech startups. Dr. Branson earned degrees from the University of Adelaide, completed a PhD in Computational Drug Design at the University of Melbourne, and undertook post-doctoral training at Stanford University establishing a deep technical foundation at the intersection of machine learning, structural biology, and drug discovery.

A recognized thought leader in AI-driven healthcare innovation, Dr. Branson exemplifies the powerful convergence of artificial intelligence and pharmaceutical R&D. He is a frequent keynote speaker at global conferences and remains a leading voice in leveraging AI to transform the future of data-enabled medicine.

# Dr Carl Anderson



Carl is Head of Human Genetics and Senior Group Leader at the Wellcome Sanger Institute. His lab carries out genetic and genomic screens to identify genes, pathways and cell-types driving immune-mediated diseases, with a specific focus inflammatory bowel disease. The translation aims of this research are to identify candidate drug targets for disease and deliver on goals of personalised medicine.

# Prof Jonathan Benger



Jonathan joined NICE in January 2023 as chief medical officer and in March 2023 became interim director of the centre for guidelines. Jonathan was subsequently appointed deputy chief executive in May 2024 and chief executive in December 2025. Prior to this he was the interim chief clinical information officer (CCIO) at NHS England (2022), the chief medical officer (CMO) of NHS Digital (2019 to 2022), and the national clinical director for urgent and emergency care at NHS England (2013 to 2019).

In his clinical work, Jonathan is a consultant in emergency medicine at the Bristol Royal Infirmary and also does regular shifts with the Great Western Air Ambulance, which he established as its first medical advisor between 2007 and 2011.

Jonathan is professor of emergency care in the school of health and social wellbeing at the University of the West of England, and a National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) senior investigator. His main research interests relate to cardiac arrest, emergency and pre-hospital care, service organization and delivery, and design research.

# Prof Rosalind Smyth



Rosalind Smyth is Professor of Child Health at the UCL Great Ormond Street Institute of Child Health where she was Director of this Institute from 2012-22 and Non-Executive Director of Great Ormond Street Hospital NHS Foundation Trust.  She graduated in Medicine from Cambridge University (Clare College) and Westminster Medical School. Until September 2012, she was Professor of Paediatric Medicine at the University of Liverpool and, from 2005-2012, was Director of the NIHR Medicines for Children Research Network. Rosalind's research interests include cystic fibrosis, clinical trials and respiratory virus infections.

Rosalind has been a Fellow of the UK's Academy of Medical Sciences since 2006 and its Vice President (Clinical) since 2023.  She chaired the UK MRC's Training and Careers Group 2022-2025.  She is Non-Executive Director of Cambridge University Hospitals and a Trustee of The Medical Research Foundation and The Lister Institute. She was a member of the MHRA's Commission on Human Medicines Committee 2009-13 and chaired its Paediatric Medicines Expert Advisory Committee (2002-13). She was awarded Commander of the Order of the British Empire in 2015 for services to the regulation of medicines for children.