



NeuroPAEDS

Date of Event: 24/04/2026

Biographies:



Dr Alison Skippen is a Paediatric Neurology ST8 GRID Registrar in the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford.

Prior to studying medicine in Southampton University, Alison undertook a BSc (York) and PhD (UCL) in Biochemistry. Upon finishing her medical degree she then undertook foundation training in the North Thames (London) deanery. In 2011, Alison commenced Paediatric Specialty training in the East of England. More recently, she has undertaken specialist training posts in Paediatric Neurology in Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge and Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children, London. She transferred to the Thames Valley Deanery in September 2022 to complete her Paediatric Neurology GRID Training in the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford.

Alison has developed a subspecialist interest in Paediatric Neuromuscular conditions. She undertook a 12 month out of programme post as an SMA / Mitochondrial Clinical Fellow in Oxford from September 2023 to September 2024. She attended the World Muscle Society Meeting in Prague in October 2024.



Dr Ishaq Abu-Arafeh a Consultant in Paediatrics and Paediatric Neurology, Royal Hospital for Children, Glasgow.

Dr Abu-Arafeh trained at the University of Jordan and had postgraduate training in paediatrics and paediatric neurology in Cardiff and Aberdeen. After Clinical Research fellowship, he had MD from the University of Aberdeen on his work on Headache and migraine in schoolchildren in 1996. He runs the paediatric headache service at the Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow since 1996.

Dr Abu-Arafeh chaired the Child and Adolescent Standing Committee, International Headache Society 2013-2021 and is the Past chairman of paediatric committee, British Association for the study of Headache. He was a member, NICE guidelines Update CG150 "Headache in adults and children over 12 years" 2015. He is a member of the BPNA's Childhood Headache Teaching Course development and steering groups and a Medical advisor, Cyclical Vomiting Syndrome Association (CVSA-UK), 1995-to date.



Dr Rajesh Karuvattil is a Consultant Paediatric Neurologist at Alder Hey Children's Hospital (Liverpool) with many years' experience in General Pediatrics and Paediatric Neurology.

Rajesh is actively involved in teaching medical students and resident doctors. He is also involved in research and is PI for one of the DMD research studies. He has publications in international journals and has presented posters in National and International meetings.



Dr Stephen Ray is a Paediatric registrar, currently undertaking sub-specialty training in paediatric infectious diseases at Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust.

Stephen's research aims to improve the diagnosis, management, and outcomes of critically ill children with life-threatening infections, with a focus on brain infections, particularly in Low-and-Middle-Income Countries (LMIC).

Academic Foundation (F1/F2) then Clinical Fellowship (ACF ST1-3) with The Liverpool Brain Infection and Inflammation Group sparked his focus on the aetiology and outcomes of paediatric non-traumatic coma in LMIC. These were a springboard to his Wellcome Trust Clinical PhD Fellowship on this subject, with the same research group. Dr Ray's PhD studies were primarily based in Malawi (2018-2022), collaborating with the Blantyre Malaria Project and Malawi Liverpool Wellcome Trust. During this period he was also PI on a national study investigating the neurological manifestations of COVID in children.



Dr Maw Tan has worked as a Consultant Neurodisability Paediatrician at Alder Hey Children's hospital since 2008.

Prior to becoming a consultant, Maw spent 2.5 years doing an MD looking at the effect of nutrition on the neurodevelopmental outcomes in very preterm infants.

Dr Tan continues to have an interest in the developmental outcomes in preterm infants. She is currently involved in multi-centre trials on sleep positioning in children with severe Neurodisability and also on the use of Melatonin receptor agonist in children with insomnia. Dr Tan has an interest in Paediatric education and is currently a College Tutor for Paediatrics.