Meet the Faculty

Professor Andrew Horne (Chair)
Professor of Gynaecology, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK
Consultant Gynaecologist, NHS Lothian, Edinburgh, UK

Professor Andrew Horne is Professor of Gynaecology and Director of the Centre for Reproductive Health at the University of Edinburgh, and Consultant Gynaecologist at NHS Lothian. He is an experienced researcher in Women's Health, with a specific focus on endometriosis and pelvic pain, and has published over 200 peer-reviewed scientific papers. He established the EXPPECT Centre for Pelvic Pain and Endometriosis in Edinburgh in 2015, consisting of a multidisciplinary team aiming to provide high-quality, evidence-based and patient-centred management of pelvic pain and endometriosis. He is President-elect of the World Endometriosis Society, Scientific Advisor to the Scottish Chief Medical Officer for Obstetrics and Gynaecology and a Trustee of Endometriosis UK. He is also the Co-Editor-in-Chief of the journal *Reproduction and Fertility*. Professor Horne has co-authored a popular book for patients called Endometriosis: The Expert's Guide to Treat, Manage and Live Well with Your Symptoms and is committed to working with patients and academic colleagues to improve Women's Health outcomes.

Professor Dharani Hapangama
Professor of Gynaecology, University of Liverpool, Liverpool, UK
Consultant Gynaecological Surgeon, Liverpool Women's Hospital, Liverpool, UK

Professor Dharani Hapangama is Professor of Gynaecology at the University of Liverpool and Consultant Gynaecological Surgeon at the Liverpool Women's Hospital, where she leads a multidisciplinary group focussing on translational endometrial research. The group studies normal and abnormal regeneration of the human endometrium, endometrial epithelial stem cells and telomerase/telomere biology in gynaecological disease (e.g. endometriosis, adenomyosis, fibroids, ectopic pregnancies and endometrial cancer). They also conduct clinical research regarding chronic pelvic pain, heavy menstrual bleeding, postmenopausal disorders and pathologies that affect fertility and early pregnancy.

Her group consists of clinical and discovery science researchers, funded by the National Institute for Health and Care Research, Medical Research Council, Wellcome Trust, Society of Reproductive Investigation and Wellbeing of Women. They collaborate widely with researchers in the UK and internationally. Professor Hapangama's group has made significant contributions to the understanding of human endometrial architecture and stem cells. They have established complex, patient-derived 3D models of the endometrium and endometrial pathologies in efforts to improve our understanding of this enigmatic organ.

Dr Alison Maclean
NIHR Academic Clinical Lecturer in obstetrics and gynaecology, Department of Women's and Children's Health, University of Liverpool and Specialty Registrar, Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust, Liverpool, UK

Dr Alison Maclean (PhD, MRes, MBChB, MRCOG) is an NIHR academic clinical lecturer and specialty registrar (ST5) in obstetrics and gynaecology at the University of Liverpool and Liverpool Women's Hospital. She gained an undergraduate medical degree and a Master's by Research in Women's Health from the University of Liverpool in 2015. She began training in obstetrics and gynaecology in 2017 and spent 3 years as an NIHR academic clinical fellow before successfully earning a clinical research training fellowship funded by the MRC. She recently completed a full-time basic-science PhD, investigating gene and protein expression in adenomyosis lesions and generating an in vitro model of adenomyosis to enable the future identification and testing of new and improved treatments for the condition. Dr Maclean is also a member of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists.

Dr Maclean's research interests include the human endometrium and its associated diseases, which are characterised by heavy menstrual bleeding and chronic pelvic pain. She has experience in spatial transcriptomics, proteomics and 3D in vitro modelling of the endometrium.

Professor Katy Vincent

Professor of Gynaecological Pain, Nuffield Department of Women's and Reproductive Health, University of Oxford, Oxford, UK
Consultant Gynaecologist, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, UK

Professor Katy Vincent is Professor of Gynaecological Pain at the University of Oxford and a Consultant Gynaecologist at the John Radcliffe Hospital. She studied Medicine at King's College London, and completed her postgraduate training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in 2015. She then undertook a DPhil with Professor Irene Tracey's Pain Imaging Neuroscience group, investigating hormonal influences on the pain experience. She continued her academic work in parallel with her clinical training as a National Institute for Health and Care Excellence Clinical lecturer. Professor Vincent's predominant clinical interest is in chronic pelvic pain, particularly in association with endometriosis and in female adolescents and young adults. She leads the Pain in Women research group, which uses a variety of methodologies to investigate the mechanisms that generate and maintain pain in women. A key focus of the group, in collaboration with the Endometriosis CaRe Centre in Oxford, is the mechanisms of endometriosis-associated pain. She is currently the Chair of the International Association for the Study of Pain's Abdominal and Pelvic Pain Special Interest Group, a member of the Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists Blair Bell Research Committee, and a member of the Medical Advisory Panel for Endometriosis UK.

Dr Lucy Whitaker

Senior Clinical Research Fellow and Honorary Consultant Gynaecologist, Centre for Reproductive Health, Institute for Regeneration and Repair, University of Edinburgh, Edinburgh, UK

Dr Lucy Whitaker obtained her medical degree from the University of Edinburgh. She undertook postgraduate training in Obstetrics and Gynaecology in South-East Scotland, including advanced laparoscopic training for the excision of benign disease, at the EXPPECT British Society for Gynaecological Endoscopy Centre.

She undertook research training at the University of Edinburgh. Following a postgraduate degree in Surgical Sciences, her MD thesis focussed on the effects of selective progesterone receptor modulators on the endometrium. She is studying for an MSc in Epidemiology and training in clinical trial methodology and delivery in the Edinburgh Clinical Trials Unit.

Her research focusses on precision treatment for endometriosis-associated pain and designing and delivering clinical trials. She leads projects on pain flares in endometriosis, identification of novel biomarkers and imaging techniques for assessment of endometriosis. Her clinical work focusses on the management of endometriosis, chronic pelvic pain and the menopause.

She is a member of the Scottish Government Endometriosis Advisory Group and the Chief Scientist Office Translational Clinical Studies Committee and is an Early Career Ambassador for the World Endometriosis Society.

GEDEON RICHTER