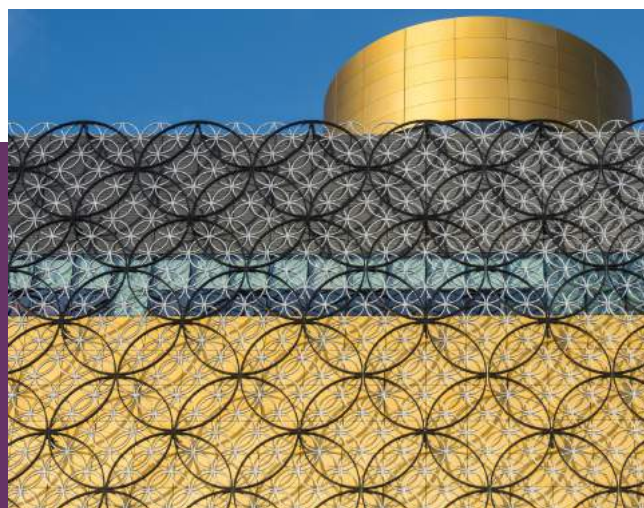


# OBSTETRICS & GYNAECOLOGY

## WEST MIDLANDS





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*Birmingham Canal*

# Welcome



Dear Doctor in Postgraduate Training,

On behalf of all the Postgraduate Educators working in the Deanery, I would like to offer you a warm welcome to the West Midlands. It is my honour to write the introduction to this prospectus, which I am sure you will find invaluable at the start of your training in O&G or if you are interested in O&G in the West Midlands.

The West Midlands Deanery is one of the largest in the country stretching from Stoke on Trent in the north down to Hereford in the south, and from Shrewsbury in the west to Coventry in the east. There are 15 Hospital Trusts where doctors in training in O&G are placed, each of which serves its own unique and diverse population and therefore offers different training experiences. Geographical distances mean that for O&G, the School is divided into three hubs, each under the direction of a Training Programme Director. The TPDs have oversight of the five College Tutors in their hub and this allows them to develop continuity of care of your training as well as pastoral care, even when you move from hospital to hospital. Trainees tend to rotate within their Hub from ST1-5.

We very much pride ourselves on the quality of medical education and training provided in the West Midlands, with many of our educators having national roles at the RCOG. Recently we have had two RCOG national 'Trainers of the year' as well as two runner-ups'.

In addition to your own training, it's also important that our Educational Supervisors are kept up to date with the curriculum and other developments, so we run training events for trainers several times during the year. Our local trainees' committee is very active and provides wonderful peer-to-peer support. We include trainee representation on the School Board and in other important processes such as Rotations to ensure your voices are heard and that we are always acting in your best interests.

I was appointed to a consultant post in the West Midlands 15 years ago, having done my training in Wales. I was quickly amalgamated into the education team and received the warmest of welcomes and much support, and I'm certain that you will have the same experience.

Please grasp all the training and educational opportunities that come your way. I sincerely hope you will join us and have a fantastic training experience and I wish you every success in your career.

Mr Andrew Sizer

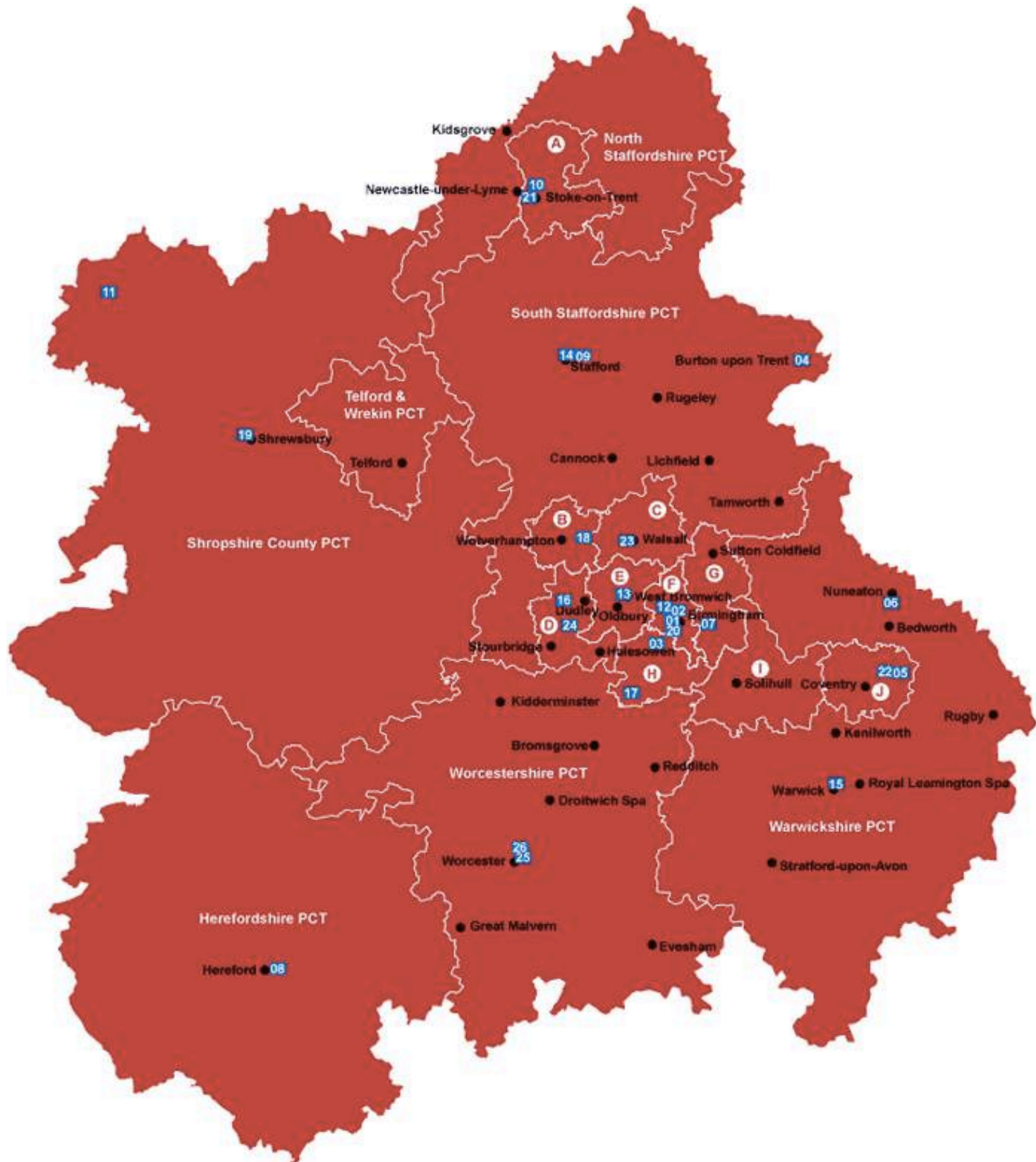
BSc MPH MD PhD PGCert (Surrey) PGDip (Keele) FRCOG DFRH FHEA, Consultant in Reproductive Medicine & Surgery

Head of Postgraduate School of Obstetrics & Gynaecology, HEE West Midlands





# West Midlands Deanery



## **NHS Trusts (marked by a number on the map)**

01	Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Trust
02	Birmingham Children's Hospital NHS Foundation Trust
03	Birmingham Women's Health Care NHS Trust
04	Burton Hospitals NHS Trust
05	Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust
06	George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust
07	Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust
08	Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust
09	Mid Staffordshire General Hospitals NHS Trust
10	North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust
11	Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic and District Hospital NHS Trust
12	Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust
13	Sandwell Mental Health NHS and Social Care Trust
14	South Staffordshire and Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
15	South Warwickshire General Hospitals NHS Trust
16	The Dudley Group of Hospital NHS Trust
17	The Royal Orthopaedic Hospital NHS Trust
18	The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust
19	The Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust
20	University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust
21	University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust
22	University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust
23	Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust
24	West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust
25	Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust
26	Worcestershire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust

## **PCTs (marked by a letter or named on the map)**

A	Stoke on Trent PCT
B	Wolverhampton City PCT
C	Walsall Teaching PCT
D	Dudley PCT
E	Sandwell PCT
F	Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT
G	Birmingham East and North PCT
H	South Birmingham PCT
I	Solihull Care Trust
J	Coventry Teaching PCT

# Hubs

## Northern Hub



**Dr Jane Panikkar**

jane.panikkar@nhs.net

TPD for Northern Hub, Deputy Head of School and Lead for Quality Assurance. Long term interest in undergraduate, postgraduate and international education.

Passionate about improving standards for patients, trainees and trainers and supporting trainees and trainers, I am involved in many teaching sessions and production of teaching material. I was RCOG college tutor for 11 years and have a long standing interest in careers management.

This hub includes the towns of Burton, Walsall, Shrewsbury and Telford and cities of Stoke and Wolverhampton. They are vibrant towns and cities with distinct characteristics surrounded by some of England's finest countryside.

There are great places to live and some of the best schools are found here. There are excellent museums, historic houses, parks and live theatre. Stoke is the home of the world's finest pottery and even has its own monkey forest. Burton is home to the national brewery centre. Walsall is famous for leather. Wolverhampton famous for football and roses!

University Hospital North Midlands (UHNM) in Stoke is a large teaching hospital with a three-tier rota and it is the main teaching hospital for Keele University Medical School. Trainees report fantastic training opportunities in obstetrics and gynaecology with so much going on and it is a fantastic training hospital with an outstanding consultant body. Wolverhampton is also a three-tier unit and is very popular with senior trainees with supportive consultants and gynaecology operating opportunities. Trainees have reported that the gynaecologists in Wolverhampton are very keen to teach and allow the seniors trainees to operate with the appropriate level of supervision.

Burton and Walsall are smaller two-tier units which are popular with trainees for basic and core training. Trainees report that in Burton the midwives are very skilled and registrars are treated with respect and that they like working there. Trainees have also reported the rota manager is very helpful and flexible, the college tutor is accessible and understanding and the staff members are extremely friendly and supportive. In Walsall trainees report a very supportive and approachable consultant body, friendly staff and excellent attitude to training and supervision and there is even a sleep pod in the library! Walsall's college tutor was recently runner up in the RCOG National Trainer of the Year award 2021. SATH is a larger two-tier unit and offers a wide variety of ATSMs, gynaecology operating and laparoscopy training and advanced obstetric opportunities.

Trainee surveys have consistently shown trainees report that they appreciate quality of training in this hub. I would advise prospective trainees and trainees rotating to our hospitals to look at the RCOG Website TEF (trainee evaluation forms) data. This shows the results from trainees 2017, 2018, 2019 and compares all units in the UK. It demonstrates that trainees report the Northern Hub is good for training.

My home is in the Shropshire countryside. If you love glorious countryside, visiting historic towns, experiencing a sense of the past, enjoy good food, amazing accommodation, fabulous visitor attractions, exercise and entertainment, then Shropshire is for you.

The county town is Shrewsbury – birth place of Charles Darwin! Ironbridge is the birthplace of the world industrial revolution and is a world heritage site with many museums. Much Wenlock is the home of modern Olympic Games!

There are excellent schools, including top comprehensive, grammar, private, and public schools. House prices are also lower than many areas in the UK.



**Wrekin, Telford**

## Eastern Hub



**Dr Suzy Matts**

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I am a Consultant in Obstetrics and Gynaecology with an interest in High Risk Pregnancy and Intrapartum Care/Clinical Governance at George Eliot Hospital, Nuneaton and TPD for the Eastern Hub. I am also the Assessments (ARCP) Lead for the School.

I have previously been the Less Than Full Time Lead for the School of O&G and at the hospital I am Clinical Tutor and Foundation Programme TPD and a former College Tutor for the Department. I also have a longstanding interest in Undergraduate Medical Education and have been an Honorary Associate Clinical Professor at Warwick Medical School. I have also been involved in multiprofessional training for many years and have been faculty and a Course Director for ALSO and MOET courses as well. I completed my Masters in Medical Education in 2012.

I am proud to be part of the West Midlands School and honoured to be TPD for the Hub. Working with the other TPDs and Head of School, we are all determined to ensure that you have the best possible experience during your training and maximize your potential to achieve your aspirations.

The Eastern Hub of the Postgraduate School of Obstetrics & Gynaecology consists of five units: Birmingham Heartlands Hospital and Good Hope (University Hospital of Birmingham/UHB), George Eliot Hospital (Nuneaton), University Hospitals of Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW) and Warwick Hospital (South Warwickshire Foundation Trust). UHB is one of the largest foundation trusts in the UK.

Heartlands Hospital has a three-tier on-call system and is a very busy unit with complex obstetric cases and both emergency and elective work. There is also emergency gynae work and gynae clinics, but the elective gynaecology surgery takes place at Good Hope. Consultants are resident all day and part of the night. Good Hope has a two-tier on-call system which gives trainees more exposure to independent decision making which they enjoy. Teaching is active on both sites and there are a variety of ATSM opportunities. There is beautiful landscape around Sutton Coldfield, yet Birmingham city centre is only a stone's throw away.

George Eliot Hospital in Nuneaton has a two-tier on-call system and trainees find it a friendly and supportive unit – many ask to stay on for a second year at placements. The hospital is easy to access from the motorway and it's easy to park! Feedback from trainees suggests working in George Eliot has promoted confidence and fostered independent decision making and many have found it a good learning environment for MRCOG exam preparation. There are links with Warwick Medical School and opportunities to teach as well.

The University Hospital of Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW) is a large unit with a three-tier on-call system. There are a number of academic trainees working here alongside non-academics and there is a well-developed research programme running alongside the clinical unit, associated with the University of Warwick. There is a wide variety of specialist clinics with expectation of exposure to complex cases and rarer conditions and a wide variety of ATSM opportunities as well. Trainees find the unit very supportive and a good place to develop leadership skills.

Warwick is a smaller hospital with a two-tier on-call system and has a reputation for being a friendly unit. As there are fewer trainees there is less competition for theatre time and other excellent training opportunities. There are also possibilities to develop skills in teaching and research as there are close links with Warwick Medical School.

Coventry is a vibrant multicultural city (UK City of Culture 2021) and is very central in the UK. It is only 30 minutes from the centre of Birmingham and close to the airport. London is only 90 minutes away. Nearby are the beautiful towns of Leamington Spa and Stratford upon Avon. Warwickshire has plenty of great outdoor places to visit and explore and the famous Warwick Castle is nearby. Leamington is a popular place to live with many shops, restaurants and a vibrant culture. There are many beautiful villages that also offer a slice of rural life but are within easy reach of Coventry city centre or the rest of the Hub. For those preferring city living, both Coventry and Birmingham offer many options within easy commutable distance from all the units in the Hub.

I am a proud West Midlands Graduate and former O&G Trainee here. I have lived in and around the West Midlands since graduating, working in Heartlands, Coventry and now Nuneaton. Certainly, the Eastern Hub offers plenty of training opportunities and options for a great work-life balance as well. Overall, the West Midlands is a great place to work and train and whatever your career aspirations, you will find the many opportunities provided here will always be valuable!



## Central and West Hub



**Dr Ellen Knox**

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It is a great privilege to be TPD for the Central and Western hub of the West Midlands and work alongside the college tutors to support trainees and their supervisors in the delivery of education and training. I also work across the region with the school board as rotations lead, less than full time (LTFT) specialty advisor and run the return to work course for obstetrics and gynaecology with the help of the trainees. I have also recently been appointed as a HEE West Midlands Associate Postgraduate Dean. I work as a Consultant Obstetrician and Sub-Specialist in Maternal Medicine at Birmingham Women's Hospital.

I am also RCOG Workplace Behaviours Advisor and coordinate a network of workplace behaviours champions across the country - again supported by our trainee representative.

Together we aim to ensure everyone has the best possible experience in the workplace and feels confident to speak up if things are not as they should be.

I'm very proud that we were asked to contribute to the RCOG "return to work" toolkit as a result of our experiences establishing the course and providing support in this area. I am happy to discuss the process and provide advice to trainees and trainers. It is really important that those trainees who chose to or need to take time away from training have the best possible experience when they return to the specialty. We now have a network of trainees who have been through this process and are also able to advise and support others.

The Central and Western hub in particular is great place to live and work where you can experience a wide variety of training environments and areas of O&G. Birmingham Women's hospital which has strong research links to the University of Birmingham, a nationally recognized Fetal Medicine Centre, a large assisted conception unit, many specialist ANCs. It is also an endometriosis centre, where the most complex endometriosis surgeries are performed. We are fortunate to have three specialist endometriosis centres in this Hub, which includes Russells Hall Hospital and Worcester Hospital as well.

If oncology is more your flavor, City Hospital has a large tertiary cancer center where they perform the full range of surgery for advanced gynaecology cancer. City hospital also provides excellent experience of inner-city O&G with a great variety of pathologies. Worcester, Russell's Hall Hospital and Hereford are excellent units where surveys have shown that excellent training is consistently provided.

You can enjoy city center living in the center of Birmingham or choose more rural living, for example in Hereford and the beautiful surroundings of the Wye Valley, or Worcestershire and the Malvern Hills, or anywhere in-between, such as Solihull or Bromsgrove. As a former West Midlands trainee, I do believe this is the best region to achieve whatever you wish from your career in O&G and hope you enjoy training here as much as I did.



*Weston-Under-Lizard, South Staffordshire*

*Lilleshall Monument, Shropshire*



# Advanced Training

When you enter year 6 of Speciality Training you will start your Advanced Training Skills Modules and HEE will support your training for a minimum of 2 ATSMs, but frequently there is the opportunity for a 3rd. When you put in your rotation application form your rotation is based on the ATSMs that you want to do. It is important that you study carefully the Hospitals you wish to rotate to and ensure that they offer you your chosen ATSMs.

In the West Midlands we are blessed with a large number of Educational Supervisors who support the ATSM program and so there are many opportunities for you.

In choosing your ATSMs they have an inherent score (1 or 2) with a score of 2 being more complex and assumed that it may take more than 1 year to complete. This is often referred to the "career defining" ATSM where you enhance your skills and learning in a part of Obstetrics and Gynaecology so you may deliver the relevant care to a high level as a consultant potentially supporting your Trust colleagues.

It is important, with ATSMs, that you build a comprehensive base for your evidence of competency and CiP sign off. Only 3 months of previous experience (before the date of registration) will count as your evidence as the ATSM is looking at contemporaneous practice. The Obstetric ATSMs are divided into different CiPs; where there is overlap, one CiP can appear in 2 different ATSMs. You do not need to redo work already completed!

The RCOG web site describes the curriculum and the evidence that you need to gather. For almost all of the ATSMs there are RCOG sponsored courses that supply theoretical and some practical evidence for your portfolio. If you choose to attend an alternative course or seek your evidence using other sources then please agree this with your preceptor in advance to avoid any confusion or disappointment. Many of the ATSMs expect practical experience whilst you are delivering clinical care so always be on the lookout for learning opportunities.

Once you have chosen your ATSM(s) the application process is simple but requires multiple signatures. You first download your form from the RCOG and obtain a signature from your ES (please confirm that your chosen ES is registered as such for ATSMs); then send the form to Julia Arnold. Julia will then obtain all your other required signatures and return the form to you. Please read the curriculum carefully and ensure that you obtain all the required evidence. Your portfolio will be reviewed by the ES, Preceptor and Director of ATSMs.

Best of luck and if you have any problems you are supported by your ES, your College tutor, the Preceptor for the ATSM, the Director of ATSMs for the West Midlands and, finally, the Head of School.



*Mr Andrew Tapp*



*Malvern Hills, Worcestershire*

# Sub-specialty Training

In the last three years of the Obstetrics & Gynaecology training programme, trainees may undertake subspecialty training to develop the high-level skills they will need for a consultant post in their specialist area of interest. The available subspecialties are listed below and supported by formal RCOG accredited training programs within NHS centres and supported by West Midlands HEE Deanery:

## Gynaecological Oncology

*Lead preceptor – Miss Kavita Singh at Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust*

This is principally a surgical-based training in all aspects of care and management in Gynaecological Oncology. As well as 'advanced surgical training' (with interaction with other surgical disciplines) there is a focus upon other areas of care including medical oncology, palliative care and a holistic approach to care in this area. Within this advanced clinical training program there is a strong association and underpinning of clinically-based research.



*Professor Mark Kilby*

## Maternal and Fetal Medicine

*Lead preceptors - Professor Katie Morris and Professor Mark Kilby at Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust*

This covers all aspects of advanced maternal medical care and there is a strong interaction with specialist medical physicians working at UHB and working closely in Multidisciplinary Groups with Maternal & Fetal Medicine Specialists in designated clinics. There is also a strong Fetal Medicine and Therapy part of the training program allowing training in advanced prenatal diagnosis, interaction with specialists working in perinatal genetics clinics and a strong interaction with colleagues working in neonatal and specialist paediatrics at Birmingham Children's Hospital 'Campus'. The centre receives referrals from all over the UK to provide all aspects of advanced fetal therapy. Within this advanced clinical training program. There is a strong association and underpinning of clinically-based research. There are also trainees from Hong Kong and Dublin, Ireland.

## Reproductive Medicine

*Lead preceptor - Dr Lynne Robinson at Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust*

There is a comprehensive program of advanced training in Reproductive Medicine covering all aspects of assisted reproductive techniques (including pre-implantation diagnosis). In addition, there is training in adolescent gynaecology, the menopause and the surgical management of infertility. Within this advanced clinical training program there are strong associations and underpinning of clinically-based research, including strong links with the Tommy's Campaign National Centre for Miscarriage Research based at Birmingham Women's Campus.

## Urogynaecology

*Lead preceptor - Dr Philip Tooze Hobson at Birmingham Women's and Children's NHS Foundation Trust*

There is comprehensive training in all medical and surgical aspects of urogynaecology including the management of detrusor instability, stress incontinence and prolapse. There is advanced training in general urogynaecology assessment, conservative management of urogynaecology conditions, basic and advanced surgical treatments (including interaction with Urology and Colorectal surgical colleagues). There are a strong association and underpinning of clinically-based research.



# Sub-specialty Training

## Gynaecological Oncology



**Miss Felicia Buruiana**

Gynaecological Oncology (GO) is the reason I went into Obstetrics and Gynaecology in 2012, after completing Core Surgical Training. I am a former East of England trainee and transferred to West Midlands in 2017 due to family reasons. I have since worked at Birmingham City Hospital, I completed my Obstetrics and Gynaecological curriculum, and 4 months into ST7 I started my

sub-specialist training (SST) in Gynaecological Oncology, after an out of programme fellowship for research. I am now in my second year of SST. The above journey provided me with a solid Obstetrics and Gynaecological background, with a wide exposure to different trusts and regions, but also helped me realise that gynaecological oncology was indeed the career I wanted to pursue.

The PanBirmingham Gynaecological Cancer Centre (PBGCC) has a long tradition in providing high-quality SST in GO and supports 2 SSTs at any one time. There are 3 full-time Gynaecological Oncologist Consultants and 1 Clinical Professors. The team is highly skilled but also very friendly and supportive, the work atmosphere is extremely pleasant despite of being such a high demanding specialty. There are 5 full day operating theatre lists per week, performing > 400 major GO surgeries per year. SSTs learn advanced and innovative GO surgeries such as major debulking surgery for ovarian cancer, total pelvic exenteration, fertility-sparing surgery for early-stage cervical cancer, sentinel lymph nodes surgery for vulvar, cervical, and endometrial cancer, vulvar reconstruction surgery, and advanced laparoscopic surgery. In addition, the Cancer Centre has an extensive academic portfolio with the University of Birmingham, undertaking clinical and translational laboratory-based studies. Thus, SSTs also participate in research projects and are encouraged to publish papers in peer-reviewed journals. If interested in subspecialising in GO, I strongly recommend PBGCC, and I am very happy to be contacted at [f.buruiana@nhs.net](mailto:f.buruiana@nhs.net).

## Reproductive Medicine and Surgery



**Miss Rima Smith**

My name is Rima Smith and I am a subspecialist trainee and academic clinical lecturer in reproductive medicine at the Birmingham Women's Hospital. I have been a West Midlands obstetrics and gynaecology trainee since 2011 and I wanted to complete my reproductive medicine training here for various reasons. I have lots

of family and friends in the region, many friends made through my years of training. From an academic point of view, Birmingham is arguably the strongest academic centre for Women's Health and this is important to me as I intend to continue an academic career long term. I have mainly been based at the Birmingham Women's Hospital but I have also experienced a number of different West Midlands units too. All have been very friendly and led by consultants who really care about Women's Health and their trainees' experience.

My subspecialist training so far has been absolutely fantastic and I am on course to complete it in good time. All of my trainers have been exceptionally supportive and I have been able to go and experience a huge amount of reproductive medicine and surgery. The trust and my clinical supervisors have been supportive of my academic time and this has never posed any problems for me during my training.

Overall, I would highly recommend that trainees from across the UK consider West Midlands as a place to come and train.

# Sub-specialty Training

## Urogynaecology



**Miss Fiona Bach**

I was attracted to apply to Urogynaecology Subspecialty Training at Birmingham Women's Hospital as the trainers, Philip Tooze-Hobson and Pallavi Latthe, have excellent national and international reputations being widely published and involved in many national and international urogynaecological organisations.

The hospital has a ward dedicated to urogynaecology where the clinics are held and outpatient procedures are performed which allows women the privacy required for assessment and conservative management of prolapse and incontinence. There is a fantastic team of forward thinking, highly skilled and motivated nurses and physiotherapists which were great to work with and such an asset to the department.

There are currently 4 urogynaecologists working at the Women's Hospital which allows trainees ample operating time (vaginal and laparoscopic) and they will be able to experience differing management approaches. Surgery is performed in the theatres at the Women's Hospital via the Gynaecology ward which is exempt from the potential closures due to winter pressures so there is minimal impact on training due to this. The department works closely with the Urologists and Colorectal surgeons at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital and I had regular opportunities to work and operate with them. There are regular multidisciplinary team meetings with the colorectal surgeons and urologists which lead into joint clinics. Both departments welcomed me to operate with them as and when I identified cases that would enhance my training.

Birmingham has lots to offer outside of training and my colleagues (now friends) were so welcoming that being 'an outsider' was not an issue! (I arrived from London as an ST7 having never worked in the Midlands before). You can have full city living right in the centre or go for a more rural approach and travel into the hospital from the countryside.

The training, experience and opportunities you receive in Birmingham should equip you to get the consultant post you want - but expect to work hard!

## Maternal and Fetal Medicine



**Miss Fiona Mackie**

The West Midlands Fetal Medicine Centre is internationally renowned, with referrals from across the Midlands, North of England and beyond for prenatal diagnosis and fetal therapy. Quaternary referrals for the management of complicated monochorionic multifetal pregnancies are received, with fetoscopic laser ablation for twin-twin transfusion syndrome performed on a weekly basis. There is a weekly 'Rhesus' clinic for management of alloimmune fetal anaemia, including in utero transfusion. Close links with the Neonatal Unit and Birmingham Children's Hospital facilitate collaborative working, with several scan lists delivered jointly with Fetal Cardiologists. Combined Fetal Medicine and Clinical Genetics clinics are at the forefront of prenatal genomics including exome sequencing, with West Midlands Regional Genetics Laboratory being the largest genomics facility in the UK.

In Maternal Medicine, clinical and academic links with the neighboring Queen Elizabeth Hospital, on the same campus as the University of Birmingham Medical School, provide excellent breadth of training. Pregnant people with medical disorders are seen by Maternal Medicine specialists jointly with Physicians from University Hospitals Birmingham.

The programme includes modular attachments to clinical and laboratory genetics, neonatal unit, paediatric surgery and anaesthesia/intensive care and a regular commitment to intrapartum care as senior registrar on the Delivery Suite.

It is a privilege to be able to cover the entire MFM curriculum 'in house' with ample opportunities to hone skills and achieve competencies. Recent appointments have included trainees from both within and outside the region so anyone with a passion for MFM should apply. If you're interested it would be wise to arrange a meeting with the co-directors of the training programme, Professors Mark Kilby and Katie Morris. Please feel free to get in touch with the current SSTs Fiona and Nidhi for an informal chat.

[fiona.mackie1@nhs.net](mailto:fiona.mackie1@nhs.net) and [nidhigulati@nhs.net](mailto:nidhigulati@nhs.net)



# Academic Training



*Professor Mark Kilby*

Academic training is embedded in general 'core' training for Obstetrics & Gynaecology. The RCOG academic curriculum (approved by the GMC) covers all levels of training, from junior academics setting out on a research career, spanning years of out of programme training, to the point at which you will apply for a formal academic post or a consultant post with an academic interest.

The academic curriculum is much less prescriptive than the core clinical curriculum. The academic curriculum is designed to allow flexibility because academic trainees, even within the same grade of post (e.g. Academic Clinical Fellow), have differing levels of experience. While not all academic trainees will continue into senior academic posts, the academic curriculum includes competencies that need to be achieved by those who do wish to do so.

Within the West Midlands, the academic curriculum and posts designed to support academic training are principally delivered in three academic centres with designated academic leads. These include:

- (i) University of Birmingham with NHS stakeholders Birmingham Women's and Children's Hospital (lead Professor Shakila Thangaratinam) and City and Sandwell Hospitals with University Hospital, Birmingham (lead Professor Sudha Sundar)
- (ii) Keele University with NHS Stakeholder University Hospital of North Midlands (lead Dr Fidelma O'Mahony)
- (iii) University of Warwick with NHS Stakeholder University Hospital of Coventry and Warwick (lead Professor Siobhan Quenby)

Within the academic 'hubs' there are various clinical and non-clinical academics that support academic training within Obstetrics and Gynaecology (see 'Contact' page). These cover a range of areas from clinical research, evidence synthesis in obstetrics and gynaecology and trials (in global health based, obstetric or gynaecological areas), through to laboratory-based research, often focused upon clinical problems whether it be uterine susceptibility to implantation, miscarriage, tumour or pregnancy associated immunomodulation. Each 'hub' will have Academic Clinical Fellows (ACF) and Academic Clinical Lecturers (ACL). The majority of ACF and ACL posts are applied for from the NIHR annually but also there are clinical lecturer posts that are funded principally by the affiliated academic institution. In addition, but outside formal ACF/ACL framework; clinical fellowships are supported by peer review funding for PhD/MD/MRes academic training.

There is a high postgraduate student 'satisfaction' within working to attain a postgraduate degree or in attainment of postgraduate academic training, across these University and NHS 'hubs' and there is also a high rate of completion of PhD/MD/MRes degree submission and completion.



*Coombe Abbey Park, Coventry*



*Leamington Spa*

# Academic Training



***Dr Lauren Lacey***

I am currently one of the NIHR ACLs/ST5 trainees in the West Midlands Deanery. I am employed by the University of Warwick and work clinically at University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire (UHCW) NHS Trust. My training in the West Midlands Deanery has given me the opportunity to take time out of programme for research working at part of the Division of Reproductive Health at the University of Warwick under Professor Siobhan Quenby and Professor Jan Brosens. This post enabled me to achieve an MD, learn about and develop skills in clinical and translational research including working in the laboratory, particularly in the areas of recurrent pregnancy loss and preterm birth.

These experiences during my OOPR led to me being successfully appointed as an NIHR academic clinical lecturer in 2017. My ACL post has allowed me to develop many skills for my future career. I have had the opportunity to obtain a formal qualification in medical education and be part of the teaching faculty for Warwick Medical School students. The University of Warwick has outstanding research expertise and techniques, with Warwick Medical School having a reputation for research excellence. I have had the opportunity to be part of the team working on clinical and translational research projects, collaborating with different departments at the university and consequently I have been part of innovative research which is published in peer reviewed journals and hopes to improve patient care in the future.

UHCW NHS trust department of obstetrics and gynaecology has training opportunities in all areas of the speciality and therefore enables trainees to strive to achieve their career goals in the areas that interest them the most.



***Dr Jennifer Tamblyn***

Having enjoyed my medical intercalated Biomedical Science degree, I successfully applied for an Academic Foundation training Post in the West Midlands. Although this did not include a formal obstetrics and gynaecology rotation, I took my Part 1 MRCOG examination and focused my academic training towards early pregnancy and obstetric research under the supervision of Professor Kilby at Birmingham Women's Hospital.

Following this, I applied for a 3 year Academic Clinical Fellowship (ACF1) post, which provided 25% research and 75% clinical training time with full on-call experience. The aim of this post was to develop my core research skills and to apply for funding to support a basic science PhD at the University of Birmingham. At the end of my first year I was fortunate to receive a Wellbeing of Women Clinical Research Fellowship award to support this work. The West Midlands deanery approved a 3 year Out-Of-Programme-Research (OOP-R) application and I completed my PhD exploring the immune effects of vitamin D in early pregnancy.

Following this, and a short career break to have my daughter, I returned to full-time clinical training until mid-ST3 year training. I then applied for a Clinical Lecturer post with the University of Birmingham which provides 50% research and 50% clinical training time with full on-call experience. I have now completed my MRCOG Part 2 examination with the Part 3 scheduled. Moving forward I plan to apply for a sub-specialty training post in Reproductive Medicine with a strong research focus.

Undertaking a clinical -academic training route has been a challenging but extremely rewarding career path to date. I feel confident that the skills and knowledge I have built through my training have been extremely valuable in my progression to more senior positions of responsibility.



# LTFT, Returning to Work and OOP



***Dr Sami Davis***

I am currently an ST5 in the region. I studied locally and did my foundation training in the West Midlands hospitals before starting O&G here. It's not long until I've been a Brummie longer than I wasn't! I have been working LTFT (60%) for the duration of my registrar years (6 years and counting) after having my 1<sup>st</sup> baby between ST2 and 3. I've recently returned from my 3<sup>rd</sup> maternity leave and I'm pleased to report that with every pregnancy the return to work (RTW) process and support has continued to improve year on year. It was always helpful, but now, with the deanery's clear cut formal process and useful website – the process for RTW and becoming LTFT is easier than ever.

The deanery runs its own RTW course twice a year (not just for maternity leave, but also OOP and sickness etc) and having attended it 3 times I'm now a member of the faculty. We cover practical skills, guideline updates, mandatory training, e-portfolio support and more! We have a supportive community that continue to be a sounding board long after the course has finished meaning that trainees never feel left at the deep end.

Other certain features make us excellent locally, returning trainees to the trust they left for parental leave from has helped make that return smoother, coupled with the funded supernumery period meaning that people have time to feel up to speed before restarting on-calls.

Working LTFT is not without difficulties, but with every year that passes, the ARCP panels become more and more accustomed to our LTFT calculators and complex CCT dates! LTFT training in the West Midlands allows for a balanced life, of course I'm likely to be one of the oldest registrars in the region by the time I CCT, but I'm looking at the positives: I know lots of faces, so much more experience and (one I think gets overlooked a lot) having the time to REALLY figure out some long term goals.



***Dr Shireen Sutherland***

I had the amazing opportunity to work in Malawi at the Malawi-Liverpool-Wellcome Trust as an out of program experience. I contacted my TPD to discuss my desire to work abroad in a low-income country and she pointed me in the direction of a professor with links to Malawi who had a number of new research projects about to start.

I worked on two projects, the first was for the WHO on a new intrapartum partograph and the second was on maternal sepsis. I had a great experience - I learnt so many new research skills and met some incredible people. I was also involved with departmental teaching, PROMPT facilitation and medical student examinations at the Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital in Malawi, not to mention doing some clinical shifts. Malawi is a beautiful country with so much to offer outside of work, it's so green with stunning mountains and game reserves.

I would highly recommend time out of program. It can appear to be a daunting process at first, however if you are persistent, have a clear idea of what you want to do and are determined to accomplish it, things will fall into place and it will be so worthwhile.

# Trainees Committee

## **Dr Jay Ghosh**

I am an ST4 currently at Worcester Royal Hospital and Chair of the West Midlands O&G Trainees Committee. I have been in the West Midlands since my Foundation jobs so have worked at 4 units around the deanery and am originally from the area, so I was keen to return after medical school.



The West Midlands is a fantastic deanery for training where you can achieve everything you want in O&G. We have excellent trainers across the deanery as shown by Dr Ellen Knox and Miss Maggi Srinivasan winning the RCOG National "Trainer of the Year" award in 2017 and 2019, respectively. A school management board, on which I represent trainee's views, is responsive to trainee needs and opinions. We have a Head of School who is very supportive of OOPs, career development and high-quality training. Our TPDs are engaged and dedicated to supporting educational needs and we have a wide network of responsive, friendly and enthusiastic college tutors to support individual units. We offer the full range of ATSMs, all 4 sub-specialties and the deanery is very supportive of LTFT training. We pioneered the "Return to work course" to support flexible working. We have world class academics leading the way in research in global women's health, early pregnancy, reproductive medicine, fetal medicine, maternal medicine, obstetrics, benign gynaecology and gynae-oncology. We have an active trainee's committee who organizes an annual scientific meeting, career's days, an annual summer ball and other social events. We recently organized the RCOG National Trainees Conference 2018 which was a massive success selling out months before hand and over 300 abstracts submitted from across the UK.

Whatever you want to do with your career and training in O&G, the West Midlands can help you to achieve. Come and join us!



*Clent Hills, Worcestershire*



## **Dr Amina Malik**

I am an ST3 currently working at City Hospital Birmingham. I applied for my training in the West Midlands deanery largely due to family connections, but I can honestly say I have no regrets! After two years of training, with the support of my colleagues and the fantastic training opportunities provided to me, I feel excited and hopeful about my career. The deanery has so much to offer in terms of quality and breadth in training, both clinically and also in academia and research. The area has such a multicultural and diverse population that each hospital in your training will offer their own different learning opportunities and experience.



Having spent most of my life living in the Midlands I can vouch for what a wonderful part of the country it is. Home to the UK's "second city", the area is packed with theatres, exhibition centres, music arenas, cathedrals and vast shopping centres. But, with easy access to the Great British countryside, there are also beautiful walks and cycle routes through different National Trusts. The area offers distinct living options, if you wish to live in an urban, suburban, semi-rural or rural part of the region; ranging from the busy city life of Birmingham, the traditional town of Leamington or the beautiful countryside in Shropshire! The centrally located region is well connected and has easy access to the rest of the UK. With many connections via the train network and motorways, you can be in major cities both in the North and South of the country within three hours. The Birmingham International Airport is also ideally located for domestic trips and or holidays abroad.

The West Midlands also has plenty to offer for sport and culture enthusiasts: the home of multiple Premiere League football clubs, premiership rugby with Wasps and Worcester Warriors, and an international cricket venue at Edgbaston, international athletics and the Alexandra stadium, international Tennis at the Priory Club which hosts the Birmingham classic (a traditional warm up event for Wimbledon) and the Davis Cup. Culturally, there is the Birmingham Royal Ballet (one of five major ballet companies in the UK) who perform at the Hippodrome (the busiest single theatre in the UK) which also hosts large musical theatre productions, dance shows and opera. There is the ICC, NEC and NIA: home of national exhibitions, Crufts, large musical events and sell-out comedy shows. Performances of Shakespeare's plays are performed at the The Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford, attracting world famous actors such as Dame Judi Dench, Damian Lewis and Sir Ian McKellan. And lastly, Bourneville is home to Cadbury's chocolate factory, where you can taste chocolate fresh off the production line!

# Contact Us

## HEEWM Contacts – School of Obstetrics & Gynaecology

### Quality Team

[qamedical.wm@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:qamedical.wm@hee.nhs.uk)  
[escalatingconcerns.wm@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:escalatingconcerns.wm@hee.nhs.uk)

The HEE Quality Framework for education and training sets out the expectations for quality within the work-based learning environment. The quality team works with learners, educators and providers to drive quality improvement and to ensure that the framework's national standards are adhered to.

For quality related queries: [qamedical.wm@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:qamedical.wm@hee.nhs.uk)  
 To escalate a concern: [escalatingconcerns.wm@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:escalatingconcerns.wm@hee.nhs.uk)

### WM Deanery Website

<https://www.westmidlandsdeanery.nhs.uk>

### National Recruitment

[obsjobs.nw@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:obsjobs.nw@hee.nhs.uk)  
[Andrea.Alleyne@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:Andrea.Alleyne@hee.nhs.uk)  
[specialityrecruitment.wm@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:specialityrecruitment.wm@hee.nhs.uk)

### Assessments & Revalidation

[assessments.wm@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:assessments.wm@hee.nhs.uk)  
[traineerevalidation.wm@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:traineerevalidation.wm@hee.nhs.uk)  
[ARCPappeals.wm@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:ARCPappeals.wm@hee.nhs.uk)

The Assessment & Revalidation team support the Annual Review of Competence Progression (ARCP) process for all doctors and dentists in training, ARCP reviews/appeals, and the administrative processes involved with GMC revalidation for trainees.

Set dates for ARCP, Arrange with TPD's and Inform Trainees  
 Produce attendance certificates for the panel  
 Send out Educational Supervisors feedback  
 ARCP Outcomes Recorded

### Faculty Support

[facultysupportteam.wm@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:facultysupportteam.wm@hee.nhs.uk)

The Faculty Support Team support the development of Schools, including Foundation, Primary Care, Secondary Care (including Public Health) and Dental.

This includes:

The procurement and development of educators; and working with them to support the delivery of training to trainees and trainers.

Board Meetings, distribution of agenda's, minutes etc

Recruitment of Training Programme Directors

Working with Heads of School to manage study leave budgets  
 Manage events run by and for Schools, including training courses, conferences and meetings.

### Programmes

[programmes.wm@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:programmes.wm@hee.nhs.uk)

The programme team provide support for all rotational activity, Inter Deanery Transfers, Less than Full Time Training, Out of Programme applications, acting up applications, GMC Site approval and MTI forms for all specialities.

There is also a regional information management team who will provide support for: Reporting and Intrepid / TIS support

Update trainee information onto TIS

Process any updates to trainee information

Updates to posts (Mat leave, OOP, Sick leave, LTFT)

Employment request letters for trainees

### Professional Support Unit

[Psu.wm@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:Psu.wm@hee.nhs.uk)

Doctors and dentists may sometimes encounter problems that could affect their performance at any stage in their career.

Guidance has been put together that promotes the early identification of doctors and dentists in difficulty and provides educational supervisors with a clear structure in order to identify and address a wide spectrum of these difficulties.

The Professional Support Documents guidance document can be downloaded from the Key Documents section of the Health Education working across the West Midlands website:

<http://www.westmidlandsdeanery.nhs.uk/Support/Professional-Support>

### Regional Teaching

[Julia.Arnold.juliaarnold@nhs.net](mailto:Julia.Arnold.juliaarnold@nhs.net)  
 PGME Co-ordinator/Education Centre Manager

All Regional Teaching is centralised by the Postgraduate Centre at Birmingham Women's & Children's Hospitals NHS Trust

- Study Leave for BWCH O&G/Genetics/Neonatal Trainees

- Advanced Training Skills Modules

- Regional O&G Teaching Programmes for ST1-7 trainees in O&G

- Courses & Conferences suitable for ST1-7 Regional trainees in O&G including: Basic Ultrasound Theory Course, Intermediate Ultrasound Course, Basic Practical Skills Course, ROBUST Course, Basic and Intermediate Laparoscopic Surgery Courses

### WM Supported Return to Training

[supportt.wm@hee.nhs.uk](mailto:supportt.wm@hee.nhs.uk)

At HEE there is a Supported Return to Training (SupportTT) process in place for Trainees who are:  
 1) Planning to take time out of Training 2) Returning from a period away from Training 3) Returning to Training from long-term unplanned leave

The process is not mandatory, but trainees that have been out of training/planning to take time out for more than 3 months are encouraged to complete an individualised Supported Return to Training plan. The plan enables trainees' access to time, resources, bespoke courses, and support in order for them to step back into training after taking time out, without unnecessary difficulties.

<https://www.westmidlandsdeanery.nhs.uk/support/supported-return-to-training>

## Subspecialty Training

### 1. City Sandwell/UHB (Gynaecological Oncology)

Kavita Singh (RCOG Preceptor Lead) - [kavitasingh@nhs.net](mailto:kavitasingh@nhs.net)

### 2. BWC (Urogynaecology)

Philip Tooze Hobson (RCOG Preceptor Lead) - [p.tooze-hobson@nhs.net](mailto:p.tooze-hobson@nhs.net)

### 3. BWC (Maternal and Fetal Medicine)

Katie Morris (RCOG Preceptor Lead) - [r.k.morris@bham.ac.uk](mailto:r.k.morris@bham.ac.uk)

Mark Kilby (Deputy Preceptor lead) - [m.d.kilby@bham.ac.uk](mailto:m.d.kilby@bham.ac.uk)

### 4. BWC (Reproductive Medicine)

Lynne Robinson (RCOG Preceptor Lead) - [lynne.robinson6@nhs.net](mailto:lynne.robinson6@nhs.net)



## Academic Training and Interests

### 1. BWC / UoB.

Fetal Medicine and Therapy. Fetal Endocrinology and Uterine Decidual Function. Next Generation Molecular Genomics for Prenatal Diagnosis. Mark Kilby - [m.d.kilby@bham.ac.uk](mailto:m.d.kilby@bham.ac.uk)

Maternal and Fetal Medicine. Evidence Synthesis in Obstetrics and Clinical Trials. Katie Morris - [r.k.morris@bham.ac.uk](mailto:r.k.morris@bham.ac.uk)

Obstetrics, Maternal Endocrine Disease. Evidence Synthesis in Obstetrics and Clinical Trials. Global Health Research. Shakila Thangaratinam (Academic lead) - [s.thangaratinam.1@bham.ac.uk](mailto:s.thangaratinam.1@bham.ac.uk)

Lead for the Tommy's National Centre for Miscarriage Research. Reproductive Medicine. Global Health and Research. Clinical trials. Arri Coomarasamy - [a.coomarasamy@bham.ac.uk](mailto:a.coomarasamy@bham.ac.uk)

Tommy's National Centre for Miscarriage Research. Reproductive Medicine . Global Health and Research. Clinical trials. Ioannis Gallos - [i.d.gallos@bham.ac.uk](mailto:i.d.gallos@bham.ac.uk)

### 2. UHWC/UoW

Tommy's National Centre for Miscarriage Research. Complex obstetrics and clinical trials. Siobhan Quenby (Academic lead) - [s.quenby@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:s.quenby@warwick.ac.uk)

Tommy's National Centre for Miscarriage Research. Basic science and endometrial receptivity. Jan Brosens - [j.j.brosens@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:j.j.brosens@warwick.ac.uk)

### 3. UHNH / Keele

Undergraduate and Postgraduate Education at University of Keele. Fidelma O'Mahony (Academic Lead Royal Stoke University Hospital) - [fidelma.o'mahony@uhn.nhs.uk](mailto:fidelma.o'mahony@uhn.nhs.uk)

Maternal and Fetal Medicine. Assess the Potential Intrauterine Cell Transplantation in Treating Muscular Dystrophy. Dr Pense Wu (Senior lecturer at Keele University) - [p.wu@keele.ac.uk](mailto:p.wu@keele.ac.uk)

### 4. City Sandwell/ UHB / UoB (Gynaecological Oncology).

Gynaecological Oncology. Sudha Sundar (Academic Lead) - [s.s.sundar@bham.ac.uk](mailto:s.s.sundar@bham.ac.uk)