Manchester University
Clinical Research Training Fellowship Supervisors 2027

Dr Andrew Gilmore
Email: andrew.gilmore@manchester.ac.uk

Division of Cancer Sciences

Understanding how tissue composition in pre-menopausal women relates to breast cancer risk, and how we can use this understanding to define biomarkers for risk and early detection. We use both ex vivo models and biopsies from clinical prevention trials, with spatial imaging, proteomics and transcriptomics.

Prof Petra Hamerlik
Email: petra.hamerlik@manchester.ac.uk

Division of Cancer Sciences

Brain tumours are the leading cause of cancer death in children, yet diagnosis is frequently delayed. My group develops non-invasive molecular tests for early detection. Extending our tear-fluid proteomics, this project explores saliva (a biofluid sharing cranial parasympathetic innervation with the lacrimal gland) as a practical paediatric alternative.

Clinical specialties: neuro-oncology, oncology, surgery

Prof Sacha Howell
Email: Sacha.Howell@nhs.net

We aim to enhance breast cancer risk prediction, through AI based breast density analysis, and prevention by assessing the impact of risk reducing medications on breast tissue and density. We will develop protein biomarkers of tamoxifen sensitivity through our extensive tissue and blood sample collections from multiple prevention trials.

Clinical specialities: Oncology, Radiology, Pharmacology

Prof Claus Jorgensen
Email: claus.jorgensen@cruk.manchester.ac.uk

Systems Oncology, Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute

What are the defining characteristics of pre-cancer lesions that progress to malignancy in comparison to those that stay indolent. Specifically, in Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC), precursors are common and carry the driver mutation but only a small subset progress to PDAC. Why is this?

Clinical specialties: PDAC

Dr Angeliki Malliri
Email: angeliki.malliri@manchester.ac.uk

Division of Cancer Sciences

Interested in identifying early changes in KRAS-mutant lung adenocarcinoma, a cancer diagnosed late when it has already spread. For this, we are combining animal models of this cancer with KRAS-initiated mouse/human cells. This project is in close collaboration with Prof. Colin Lindsay, consultant at the Christie Hospital, Manchester.

Clinical specialties: Oncologists with an interest in lung cancer

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Dr Samuel Merriel
Email: samuel.merriel@manchester.ac.uk

Division of Population Health, Health Services Research & Primary Care

Primary care cancer diagnostic test development and evaluation; Mixed methods research into inequalities in early cancer detection; Prostate cancer risk stratification in primary care; Prostate cancer screening

Clinical specialties: Primary care; Urology

Dr Ashwin Sachdeva
Email: ashwin.sachdeva@manchester.ac.uk

Division of Cancer Sciences

Prostate cancer, clinical trials, cancer metabolism, risk stratification, biomarkers, systemic therapy, translational research

Clinical specialties: Urology, Oncology, Surgery, Radiology, Pathology

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Prof Samra Turajlic
Email: Samra.turajlic@cruk.manchester.ac.uk

Cancer dynamics - Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute

Join a multidisciplinary programme exploring the biology and immunology of pre-malignant disease through cutting-edge multi-omic, spatial, computational and AI approaches. Research spans the exposome, clonal evolution, inherited cancer predisposition, pre-clinical models, and population-scale data integration with UK Biobank and Our Future Health, driving earlier cancer detection across multiple cancer types.

Clinical specialties: pathology, radiology, surgery, oncology, epidemiology, public health

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Dr Simona Valletta
Email: simona.valletta@manchester.ac.uk

Division of Cancer Sciences

My research explores how inflammaging and stromal-niche signalling remodel the bone marrow microenvironment (BMME) with age, creating conditions that favour AML emergence. By identifying shared regulatory pathways between ageing and leukaemic niches, I aim to define early therapeutic targets that could inform detection strategies in this elderly-predominant disease.

Haematology/Haemato-oncology, Immunology

Dr Sara Valpione
Email: sara.valpione@cruk.manchester.ac.uk

Division of Cancer Sciences

Oesophagogastric adenocarcinoma, immune dysfunction, liquid biopsy

Clinical specialties: Medical Oncology

Dr Amaya Viros
Email: amaya.viros@cruk.manchester.ac.uk

Skin cancer & Ageing – Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute

We have two lines of research: tissue specific metabolic cues in the microenvironment that drive tumour-genesis and early detection and intervention in skin cancer in the immunosuppressed, high-risk population (organ transplant recipients)

Clinical specialties: dermatology, oncology

Dr Emma Woodward
Email: Emma.Woodward@mft.nhs.uk

Division of Cancer Sciences

My research uses hereditary cancer predisposition as a human model to understand the earliest stages of cancer development. By combining genomics, longitudinal biosamples and molecular profiling, I aim to discover biological signals of preclinical disease that can underpin future precision approaches to cancer early detection in this high-risk group.

Clinical specialties: medical/clinical genetics, surgery, (paediatric) oncology

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Prof Rob Bristow
Email: robert.bristow@manchester.ac.uk

Manchester Cancer Research Centre

We wish to understand the progression of hereditary prostate cancer (BRCA2, ATM, MSH2 mutations) based on studies of somatic mutations, neoantigens and the TME (e.g. cancer immunology and metabolism) as early detection tools underpinning new treatments to intercept cancer. Primary human

tissues and organdies, murine models and multiomic analyses (WGS and spatial transcriptomics/proteomics) are used.

Clinical specialties: prostate oncology, genomics, immunology,

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Dr Evangelos Giamazolias
Email: evangelos.giampazolias@cruk.manchester.ac.uk

Cancer Immunosurveillance Group Leader - Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute

Some immune systems eliminate cancer before it becomes clinically apparent; we are uncovering why. My lab investigates how host-microbiome interactions shape immune fitness, integrating multi-compartment immune profiling with microbiome analyses across human specimens and mouse models to identify biomarkers predicting cancer risk and treatment response, guiding next-generation early detection strategies.

Clinical specialties: Medical Oncology, Haematology, Immunology, immunotherapy

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Dr Florent Mouliere
Email: florent.mouliere@cruk.manchester.ac.uk

Cancer Research UK National Biomarker Centre

My research interest lies in the development of functional liquid biopsy methods to improve the detection and management of cancer. I focus on multi-modal approaches to extract layers of information from cell-free DNA/RNA (genomic, epigenomic, fragmentomic), and on their potential to decipher cancer and host signatures in blood.

Clinical specialties: Translational research, Biomarkers, pan-oncology

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