



British Society for Cardiovascular Research Early Career Researcher Symposium 2026



3rd September 2026; 9:30am - 5pm

**The Dalton Building, Manchester Metropolitan University,
Chester St, Manchester, M1 5GD**

Organising Committee

Dr Sophie Saxton (University of Manchester) & Dr Liam Ridge (Manchester Metropolitan University)

Programme

Oral presentation judges: Joshua Durrans, Kaainat Khan, Hannah Williamson, Hannah Ford

Poster judges: Sejal Singal, Dr Eleanor Gill, Wang Chun Cheung, Naomi Brown, Dr Luisa Parnell, Dr Roshan Xavier, Dr Emmanouil Solomonidis, Dr Kerri Smith.

Marshall Award judges: Dr Sophie Saxton, Dr Liam Ridge, Dr David Greensmith, Dr Nancy Stathopoulou.

09:30 – 09:55: Registration

09:55 – 10:00: Welcome – Dr Sophie Saxton

10:00 – 11:15: Session 1 – Chaired by Cedric Andreasen & TBC

Naomi Brown, University of Leicester: “Nucleolar dysfunction modulates the myocardial response to ischaemia-reperfusion injury”.

Sejal Singal, Imperial College London: “Sympathetic neuro-cardiac communication requires Ankyrin-G-dependent Nav1.5 clustering and β_1 subunit dimerisation at the neuro-cardiac junction”.

Dr Feiran Zhang, University of Oxford: “Translational control couples blood flow to mitophagy and atheroprotection”.

Dr Azziza Zaabalawi, Manchester Metropolitan University: “The birth of a new ex-vivo haemostasis model”.

Wang Chun Cheung, University of Edinburgh: “IL15 as a Protective Modulator of Cardiac Hypertrophy and Fibrosis in Angiotensin-II-Induced Hypertension”.

11:15 – 11:30: Coffee & posters

11:30 – 12:45: Session 2: Chaired by Taryn Wilson & TBC

Emma Robbin, IHU Liryc, Pessac, France: “Women’s cardiac aging is correlated with regional changes in oestrogen-related signalling”.

Dr Melissa Scholefield, University of Manchester: “Understanding Molecular Alterations Contributing to Cardiovascular Involvement in Huntington's Disease”.

Daniel Salazar Lopez, Keele University: “The response of human cardiac fibroblasts to cyclic tensile strain is pH and TGF β 1-dependent”.

Cameron Ross, University of Glasgow: “Creatine kinase muscle-type is not palmitoylated in healthy mouse cardiac tissue: A false positive and cautionary tale”.

Dr Eleanor Gill, University of Oxford: “SLC4A7 sustains bicarbonate-dependent alkalinity to permit myocardial growth under pro-hypertrophic stress”.

12:45 - 14:15: Lunch & poster judging

14:15 – 15:55: Bernard & Joan Marshall Young Investigator Award: Chaired by Dr Alice Whitley.

Dr Roshan Xavier, University of Oxford: “HFpEF with supranormal ejection fraction is a distinct exercise endotype and a candidate for cardiac myosin inhibition”.

Dr Luisa Parnell, University of Manchester: “Vascular smooth muscle calcium sparks and sarcoplasmic reticulum load are reduced in women with preeclampsia”.

Dr Emmanouil Solomonidis, University of Oxford: Haematopoietic loss of KDM6A impairs cardiac recovery in heart failure via epigenetic reprogramming of myeloid cells

Dr Shuai Guo, University of Edinburgh: “DAPK2-mediated PKM2 phosphorylation links disturbed flow to endothelial inflammation and atherosclerosis”.

Dr Kerri Smith, University of Manchester: “Fetal programming of the cardiac mitochondrial permeability transition pore in male offspring from hypoxic pregnancies”.

15:55 – 16:10: Coffee & posters

16:10 – 16:50: Keynote Research Fellow – Dr Nancy Stathopoulou, University of Oxford: “Decoding the Developing Heart: From Gene Regulation to Congenital Heart Disease”.

16:50 – 17:00: Prizes & Closing – Dr Liam Ridge

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS:



Posters

1. *Hannah Williamson, University of Manchester*: “Transcriptomic Reprogramming of Obese PVAT by Exercise: Anti-Inflammatory Pathways Driving Functional Recovery”.
2. *Ludmila Caceva, Royal Veterinary College*: “EPA metabolite Resolvin E1 protects cardiac microvascular endothelial cell function in a diabetic model of metabolic stress”.
3. *Areej Arshad, University of Manchester*: “Defining sex-specific features of function and 3D cardiac anatomy, including conduction system, in mice”.
4. *Bismah Mateen, Manchester Metropolitan University*: “Investigating the Effects of Indoxyl Sulphate on Haemostasis and Thrombosis”.
5. *Alexander James Stewart, University of Strathclyde*: “Pulmonary arterial hypertension drives renal and hepatic remodelling in the Sugan-Hypoxia rat model”.
6. *Isabel Carter, University of Manchester*: “Prenatal Hypoxia Programs Perivascular Adipose Tissue Dysfunction.”
7. *Mohmad Zouabi, University of Wolverhampton*: “PMCA4 as a Novel Therapeutic Target in PDGF-Mediated Vascular Remodelling”.
8. *Samuel Thomas, Manchester Metropolitan University*: “Spontaneous Autoregulation in Atrial Fibrillation and Hypertension Patients”.
9. *Samuel Thomas, Manchester Metropolitan University*: “Health-related quality of life in atrial fibrillation and hypertension”.
10. *Hassan Chaudhry, Royal Veterinary College*: “Bioengineering arteries for chronic in vitro disease modelling”.
11. *Taryn Wilson, University of Strathclyde*: “Sex- and Cell-Type-Specific Mitochondrial Responses to NFE2L2 Inhibition and Oestrogen in Human Cardiac Cells Under Hypoxia”.
12. *Hayden Barker, University of Manchester*: “Discovery of a novel inhibitor of DNA-driven inflammation – a key driver of recurrent cardiovascular events”.
13. *Dr Hyekyung Ryu, University of Bath*: “Efficient Myocardial Energy Consumption and Performance with the Reinstatement of Respiratory Sinus Arrhythmia by Vagal and Diastolic Enhancement in Heart Failure”.
14. *Temiloluwa Somorin, University of Manchester*: The vascular effects of the air pollutant, phenanthrene, in health and obesity
15. *Olivia Phillips, Manchester Metropolitan University*: “Cyclooxygenase dependent contributions to improvements in cerebral autoregulation with remote ischemic preconditioning”.
16. *Petra Vieira, Royal Veterinary College*: “The role of Neuropilin 2 in the modulation of macrophage function during zebrafish heart regeneration”.
17. *Orion O'Connor, Imperial College NHS Trust*: “Coronary spasm after pulsed-field ablation is 200-fold more common than registries report: an ascertainment analysis”.

18. *Josh Durrans, Sheffield Hallam University*: “A dual-modality imaging workflow combining reversible contrast-enhanced micro-CT and immunofluorescence for cardiac phenotyping.”
19. *Lilly Nash, Royal Veterinary College*: “Trafficking, storage and secretion of von Willebrand factor in equine endothelial cells”.
20. *Amrita Mukhopadhyay, University of Birmingham*: “Structural, Biophysical and Functional characterization of UNC45B variants”.
21. *Alicia Staley, University of Salford*: “Do alkylating agents increase intracellular oxidative stress in sheep ventricular myocytes?”
22. *Dr Maryam Salaudeen, University of Manchester*: “Sequential Preconditioning of Mesenchymal Stem/Stromal Cell with a Hypoxia-mimetic and Interleukin-1 α Promote Survival Signalling that Contribute to Neuroprotection and Neurorepair in an In Vitro Model of Neuronal Hypoxic-Ischaemic Injury”.
23. *Cedric Andreassen, Manchester Metropolitan University*: “The pathophysiological effects of carbon monoxide on Cl⁻ modulation in the developing coronary vasculature”.
24. *Ella Turner, Manchester Metropolitan University*: “Investigating the placental regulation of haemostasis and thrombosis in pre-eclampsia”.
25. *Charles Middleton, University of Salford*: “Investigating oxidative stress and its enzymatic sources in anthracycline-induced cardiotoxicity”.
26. *Hannah Ford, University College London*: “Can we target the ischaemic phase to protect the heart against cardiac injury following myocardial infarction?”.
27. *Kaainat Khan, Queen Mary University of London*: “Development of a dual synovial joint and heart-on-a-chip model for investigating rheumatoid arthritis associated cardiac dysfunction and testing new therapeutics”.
28. *Evangelia Zenios, Manchester Metropolitan University*: In Vitro modelling of the Blood-Brain Barrier in a High Glucose Environment
29. *Gemma Toerien-Howie, University of Cardiff*: “Investigating anti-arrhythmic properties of the myofilament desensitiser mavacamten in a model of hypertrophic cardiomyopathy.
30. *Sara Younas, University of Coventry*: “Sex differences in vascular function among patients with heart failure – a systematic review”.
31. *Fathima Salim, University of Surrey*: “Linking mitochondrial stress to cardiac sodium channel dysfunction: a role for the mitochondrial stress response in arrhythmogenesis”.