

## Speaker Biographies

### **Dr Alan McNair**

Dr Alan McNair works as a Senior Research Manager in the Chief Scientist Office of the Scottish Government. His remit includes Clinical Research funding and oversight of the NHS Research Scotland Networks. He has recently led on a number of CSO's funding initiatives including the rapid response to COVID-19 call, the longer-term effects of COVID-19 call, and the Precision Medicine Alliance Scotland. He previously worked as a research scientist, including posts at the Pasteur Institute, University Collage Galway, and the University of Lausanne.

### **Professor Isla Mackenzie MBChB PhD PGCertMedEd FRCP Edin FBPhS FBIHS**

Isla Mackenzie is Professor of Cardiovascular Medicine at the University of Dundee. She completed specialist training in Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics and General Internal Medicine in Cambridge and has a PhD in Clinical Pharmacology from the University of Cambridge. She is an honorary consultant physician at Ninewells Hospital, Dundee and contributes to the cardiovascular risk clinical service. She is Deputy Director of MEMO Research and the Hypertension Research Centre, University of Dundee. Her interests include clinical trials, cardiovascular disease, hypertension and adrenal disease. She has led several clinical trials, many including decentralised elements. She leads a work package of the 5-year IMI Trials@Home project, optimising decentralised clinical trials in Europe and sits on the NIHR Remote Trials Delivery Steering Group. In 2018, she was awarded the Grahame-Smith Prize for Clinical Pharmacology by the British Pharmacological Society for outstanding contributions to research in clinical pharmacology.

### **Professor Iain A.M. MacPhee DPhil, FRCP**

Executive Medical Director, AstraZeneca, Cambridge  
Visiting Professor, St George's, University of London

After training in basic immunology and nephrology in Glasgow, Oxford and London, Iain MacPhee spent 19 years as a clinical academic nephrologist at St George's, University of London. He practised general nephrology with a particular focus on renal transplantation. He joined AstraZeneca in May 2019 as a Medical Director in Early Clinical Development based in Cambridge. His main current role is the design and delivery of early phase clinical trials in kidney disease.

## **Shona Murray**

Shona Murray graduated from Glasgow University in 1989 with a degree in nursing. She then spent 7 years working in Stracathro hospital before joining the Tayside renal services in 1996 where she worked until 2014. During this time, she became a charge nurse responsible for coordinating the care of haemodialysis and subsequently peritoneal dialysis patients. In 2014, she left the renal services to take up a role of "recruitment nurse" in the Tayside clinical research centre working in a number of different disease areas before taking on mainly a renal portfolio of studies.

## **Dr Dana Kidder**

Dana Kidder is a Consultant Nephrologist at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary and Honorary Senior Lecturer at University of Aberdeen. He was appointed as Consultant Nephrologist in 2015 following training in nephrology and a Wellcome Trust Clinical PhD fellowship at the University of Dundee. He leads the Vasculitis and Lupus MDT service in Grampian. He was an NRS fellow between 2017-2020 and is interested in investigating pathogenesis of vasculitis. His work has been funded by Wellcome Trust, Grampian Endowment Fund, Lauren Currie Twilight Foundation and Tenovus Scotland.

## **Professor Matthew Bailey**

Matt Bailey did a PhD on acid-base and potassium physiology at Imperial College School of Medicine. He had postdoctoral training at UCL, CNRS Paris, Yale Medical School and University of São Paulo. Matt is a Professor of Renal Physiology and Dean of Quality for the College of Medicine & Veterinary Medicine at The University of Edinburgh.

## **Dr Bean Dhaun**

Bean Dhaun is a Senior Lecturer in Nephrology at the University of Edinburgh and a Consultant Nephrologist at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. He currently works between Edinburgh and Paris. His expertise is in hypertension, immune-mediated renal disease, in particular vasculitis and complex renal transplantation and runs the Edinburgh Vasculitis Service. He has research interests in the role of the immune system in the development and progression of hypertension as well as hypertension in the setting of chronic kidney disease. Bean's research group focuses on the cardiovascular risk associated with the spectrum of chronic kidney disease from early in the disease trajectory through to end-stage renal failure requiring dialysis or kidney transplantation. They perform pre-clinical and clinical pharmacology studies as well as investigating cardiovascular risk at a population level. Their goals are to identify cardiovascular risk early in people with kidney disease and, through experimental medicine studies, to explore novel therapies that might reduce this risk and so potentially improve longer-term outcomes for these people.

## **Dr Laura Denby PhD**

Laura Denby is a Kidney Research UK Senior Fellow and Principal Investigator within the Centre for Cardiovascular Science at the University of Edinburgh based at the Queen's Medical Research Institute. Laura obtained an Honours Degree in Pharmacology from the University of Aberdeen in 2000 and following graduation and in receipt of a competitive Anglo-Danish Scholarship moved to Aarhus University to work with Prof Aalkjær and Prof Mulvany. Subsequently in 2001, she moved to the University of Glasgow to undertake a MRC funded PhD supervised by Prof Andrew Baker and Prof Dame Anna Dominiczak, which involved the development of targeted gene therapy vectors for kidney disease. Laura moved to the University of Edinburgh in 2015 as an Edinburgh Scientific Academic Track (ESAT) Fellow and Kidney Research UK Intermediate Fellow. In 2019, Laura was awarded a Kidney Research UK Senior Fellowship that has allowed her to develop a translational pathway with the aim of developing novel renal anti-fibrotic drugs.

Laura's primary area of research is to understand the molecular mechanisms underpinning injury and repair processes in the kidney and in the cardiovascular system. Her key aims are to identify and translate novel therapeutics that can slow/prevent/reverse progression of kidney fibrosis. Laura's research focusses on dissection of the interplay between the kidney parenchyma, myeloid cells and fibroblasts and the role of non-coding microRNAs in this in order to identify new therapeutic targets and diagnostics.