

BIOS presenters for ARC event

Anita Astle MBE

Managing Director Wren Hall Nursing Home

Passionate about supporting people to develop and achieve their full potential, Anita is driven to deliver the highest quality care and support that is person centred and relationship focused care.

Over the past 30 plus years, Anita has gained a wealth of experience relating to supporting those living in Nursing Homes including commissioned newly built homes, managing groups of homes and working strategically with both Health Authorities and Local Authorities to represent the independent sector at a local and regional level.

Anita was awarded an MBE in 2014 for services to Older People.

Anita is a Fellow for Skills for Care and a Governor for a Mental Health Trust as well as a mother and grandmother.

Reena Devi

Reena Devi is a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Leeds. Reena has experience in improvement and implementation science in the care home setting. She works as a scientific linking pin researcher in an initiative called NICHE-Leeds initiative (<https://niche.leeds.ac.uk>), a partnership between care homes and academia which aims to generate, undertake and implement relevant research with care homes. Reena also currently works on NIHR funded care home workforce related projects, one which she is leading and focused on understanding what works, for which staff, under what circumstances, and at what cost to improve the recruitment and retention of staff working in care homes (The REACH Study: <https://enrich.nihr.ac.uk/blogpost/attracting-recruiting-and-retaining-staff-in-care-homes-is-it-within-reach/>). During the pandemic Reena has worked on care home and COVID-19 related projects, these projects focused on i) understanding the uncertainties facing care homes during the first wave of the pandemic (March – May 2020), and ii) exploring the experiences of frontline NHS and care home staff to understand more about the presentation, trajectory, and management of COVID-19 in older people.

Alys Griffiths

Alys Griffiths is Lecturer in Clinical Psychology at the University of Liverpool. Her research interests are in dementia care, specifically within care homes, with a focus on improving outcomes measurement and the meaningful involvement of people with dementia in research. Alys previously worked as a scientific linking pin researcher in the NICHE-Leeds initiative, a partnership between care homes and academia which aims to generate,

undertake and implement relevant research with care homes. Alys currently works on several NIHR funded projects, exploring different areas of dementia care.

Anna Bone

Anna Bone is a post-doctoral Research Associate at the Cicely Saunders Institute, King's College London, with a background in public health. Anna began working at the Cicely Saunders Institute in 2013 and since then has worked on research studies relating to palliative care provision for frail older people. This includes OPTCare Elderly, an NIHR funded study that developed and evaluated a short-term integrated palliative and supportive service for frail older people in the community. In 2015 Anna was awarded a Cicely Saunders International/ Atlantic Philanthropies Fellowship as part of the International Access Rights and Empowerment Study (IARE) II. Anna's PhD examined patterns of emergency hospital attendance among frail older people towards the end of life using a mixed methods approach. More recently, Anna has been leading on the Integrated Community Palliative Partnership study, a Dunhill Medical Trust funded study which aims to develop a model of partnership working in care homes to optimise support for older people with advanced conditions and deteriorating health.

Katherine Sleeman

Katherine Sleeman is the Laing Galazka Chair in Palliative Care, based at the Cicely Saunders Institute, King's College London. She holds an NIHR Clinician Scientist Fellowship and is an Honorary Consultant in palliative medicine at King's College Hospital NHS Trust.

Her research focuses on the intersection between palliative care and policy. She is PI on the NIHR funded CovPall_CareHomes study and the Marie Curie Better End of Life Programme. Her NIHR Clinician Scientist Fellowship (2016-2021) aimed to understand and improve patterns of care before death for people with dementia, using linked clinical and administrative data resources. She was previously a Cicely Saunders International Scholar (2015-2016) and an NIHR Clinical Lecturer (2010-2015), both based at King's.

In 2019 she received the inaugural Women in Palliative Care award from the European Association of Palliative Care. In 2020 she received a Winston Churchill Memorial Trust travel fellowship to explore public and policy engagement in palliative care.

Stephen Barclay

Stephen's pre-clinical medical training was in Cambridge and his clinical training in Oxford. He has worked clinically in General Practice for over 30 years and in Palliative Medicine as Honorary Consultant Physician in Palliative Care at the Arthur Rank Hospice for 25 years.

His 2005 Cambridge MD thesis "General Practitioner provision of Palliative Care in the United Kingdom" was awarded the Clinical School's Ralph Noble prize. In 2006 he was awarded a Department of Health / Macmillan Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship, leading a programme of research "Towards an intervention to optimise Primary Palliative Care: identifying patients and understanding their preferences."

In 2011 he was appointed HEFCE Clinical Senior Lecturer in General Practice and Palliative Care in the Primary Care Unit. He was promoted to University Senior Lecturer and awarded a University Pilkington Prize for teaching excellence in 2015. He leads the Primary Care Unit's Palliative and End of Life Care group PELiCam and the teaching of Palliative Care in the Medical School. In 2020 he was appointed Honorary Professor in Palliative and Primary Care at the University of East Anglia Norwich Medical School.

He is Clinical Lead for End of Life Care for the Cambridge and Peterborough CCG, and the CCG's End of Life Care Data Sharing project. He is Clinical Lead for the recently established NHS England East of England Strategic Clinical Network for Palliative and End of Life Care.

Catherine Evans

Dr Catherine Evans is a Reader (Associate Professor) funded by a HEE/NIHR Senior Clinical Lectureship. This is a joint clinical academic post between King's College London and Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust. Catherine's joint post focuses on optimising the impact of research evidence to improve clinical effectiveness, lead innovations in clinical practice and build research capacity in the priority areas of palliative care for older people and community health services. Her research work focusses on new models of palliative care to widen access to underserved groups, innovations in community health services, and developing methods of research in end of life care. Her research programme focuses on palliative care for older people in community settings. She leads research on managing clinical uncertainty in community hospitals (SPACE, funder HEE/NIHR) and co-leads the programme EMBED-Care – Empowering Better End of Life Dementia Care, funder ESRC/NIHR. Her programme builds on the OPTCare Elderly trial optimising palliative care for older people with frailty and multi-morbidities in community settings (funder CNO/NIHR, NIHR RfPB).

Catherine joined the Cicely Saunders Institute in January 2010 as a senior research fellow managing the research project 'Methods of Evaluating End of Life Care' culminating in the MORECare statement and MORECare elearning on best practice for research evaluating services and treatments in EoLC (funder MRC). Catherine continued this work developing the statement MORECare_Capacity on processes of consent for adults with impaired capacity nearing the end of life (funder Marie Curie).