



Positive Spin

The newsletter of: **ISMRM** | British & Irish
CHAPTER

Issue #10: People of the community

In this issue:

[Annual General Meeting 2020](#)

- ** AGM review ** Meet the Chapter's 2020/2021 board! **
 - ** Professor Iain Wilkinsons memorial **
-

[Virtual Post Graduate Meeting 2020](#)

- ** Meet the winners of the PG sponsors awards **
 - ** Meet the winners of the Mansfield Research Innovation Awards **
-

[Zoom in on.. Nottingham!](#)

[Upcoming events: save the date!](#)

- ** PG Cafe' & meeting 2021 ** BIC-ISMRM Annual Scientific Meeting 2021 **
 - ** ISMRM London 2022 **
-

[And finally from the editors](#)

- ** Dynamic Editorial Board ** Meet the editor for this issue **
-

[Join the BIC-ISMRM](#)

- ** Follow on the social media ** Meet the winner of the Twitter Logo competition **
- ** Did you like it? Share it!**

Annual General Meeting

ISMIRM | British & Irish CHAPTER

A virtual Chapter's AGM was presented on 7th October, 2020, by Po-Wah So. She introduced the current executive/governing committee (see later); we heard about the new partnership with the UK & Irish Division of the Society for Magnetic Resonance Technologists (SMRT) and the Chapter's current membership and finances. The revised Chapter's bylaws were also ratified and there was news of a Chapter equality, diversity and inclusion (EDI) policy. Members contributing to the Research Excellence Framework (REF) on behalf of the Chapter were thanked. Possible impact of medical devices regulations was also disseminated. The meeting closed with a review of this year's postgraduate meeting and the latest on BIC-ISMIRM CUBRIC 2021 and Chapter's involvement in ISMIRM London 2022 (see below).

The membership of the BIC-ISMIRM has gone up considerably this year and we now have over 380 members. The chapter is made up of 45% full (also ISMIRM) members, 34% student members and 21% associate (non-ISMIRM) members. The majority of our members are basic scientists (87%) with the rest of the members being radiographers, clinicians or technicians.

Our community is growing, but we are still short of the total number of ISMIRM members with work addresses in the UK. See below regarding how to join the Chapter. [Join, be involved, tell your friends!](#)

Meet the Chapter's 2020/2021 board!



Chair/President

Hi, my name is **Po-Wah So**, I am the current President of the BIC-ISMIRM and previously, I was the Secretary. My Phenomics Lab at King's College London

researches the role of iron in brain ageing and neurodegenerative diseases.

Secretary

Hi, my name is **Harish Poptani** and I am Secretary of the BIC-ISMRM. I am based at the University of Liverpool and my research is focussed on MRI and MRS markers for cancer treatment response.



Treasurer

Hi, my name is **David Buckley** and I am the treasurer of the BIC-ISMRM. My work at the University of Leeds is focussed on dynamic contrast enhanced MRI.



Membership Secretary

Hi, my name is **Penny Gowland**, my research at the Sir Peter Mansfield Imaging Centre at the University of Nottingham focusses on quantitative imaging. I am the outgoing Chair/President of the BIC-ISMRM and also the Membership Secretary.



EDI officer

Hi, my name is **Laura Parkes** and I am the EDI officer on the board. I work at the University of Manchester focusing on quantitative neuroimaging with a particular interest in microvascular structure and function including ASL and DCE-MRI.



SMRT Rep

I am **Ben Statton** and I am the MR Facility Manager at the Robert Stenier MRI Unit at Imperial College

London. My research is based on cardiovascular and functional brain MRI. I am the SMRT representative on the board.



Industrial representative

Hi, my name is **Matthew Clemence**, I am the Industrial representative of the BIC-ISMRM for the next year. My work at Philips focuses on developing new hardware, acquisition and reconstruction methods, and customer research support.

Clinical Liason

Hello, my name is Dr **Harpreet Hyare**, I am a neuroradiologist and the clinical liaison for the BIC-ISMRM. My research at UCLH focusses on neuro-oncology.



Clinical Academic

Hi, my name is **Andrew Peet** and I am a clinical academic at the University of Birmingham and Birmingham Children's Hospital. I lead a research group developing advanced multi-modal MRI and machine learning for the diagnosis, prognosis and understanding of children's cancer.

Irish rep

Hi, my name is **Alan Stone** and I'm a Research Fellow at Trinity College Dublin. My research focuses on developing quantitative MRI techniques to provide insight into cardiovascular disease. My role on the board is as Irish rep (since Dec 2019)





Organiser BIC-ISMRM 2021

Hi, my name is **Kevin Murphy** and I work at the Cardiff University Brain Research Imaging Centre (CUBRIC). I develop and use MRI methods to measure cerebrovascular function. I am the Chair of the Organising Committee for the BIC-ISMRM 2021 Annual Meeting in Cardiff.

Organiser BIC-ISMRM 2022

Hi, my name is **David Lurie**, I work at the University of Aberdeen and my main topic of research is low-field MRI technology and biomedical applications. I am Chair of the Organising Committee for the 2022 BIC-ISMRM annual scientific meeting to be held in Aberdeen



Organiser BIC-ISMRM 2021

Hi, my name is **David Carmichael** and I work at KCL on multimodal neuroimaging in epilepsy. My role in the BIC-ISMRM is to coordinate the Chapter's activity for ISMRM London 2022.

Post-doc rep

Hi, my name is **Jack Miller**, at the University of Oxford. I am the early career researcher & postdoctoral representative on the committee, and my research interests are quantifying metabolism with MR, trying to quantify biology, and, at the moment, trying to get funded!



Student Observer 2019/2020

Hi, my name is **Charith Perera**, I've been the student observer for 2019/20. I am a 2nd year PhD student at



UCL, working on functional imaging of the blood-CSF barrier. I will be stepping down as student observer in December and passing my responsibilities over to the wonderful Laura!

In memory of Professor Iain Wilkinson



Professor Iain Wilkinson

It is with profound sadness that we inform you that Professor Iain Wilkinson, Emeritus Professor in the Department of Infection, Immunity and Cardiovascular Disease, University of Sheffield sadly died on Tuesday 27 October 2020 after a long illness.

Iain was Head of Adult Neuroimaging in the MRI unit in the Medical School and the Advanced Imaging Lead for the Sheffield NIHR Biomedical Research Centre and had worked at the University of Sheffield from 1997 until his retirement earlier this year.

Iain's funeral was held at St Helens Church in Grindleford at 2pm on 11 November 2020. Due to Covid-19 restrictions attendance was limited to invitation only. Donations can be made to the Childhood Eye Cancer Trust. It is a small charity that receives no government funding and rely on the generosity of supporters to continue with their vital work.

The Chapter has made a donation to the charity on behalf of its members.



Visit the childhood eye cancer trust website

Iain's son, Luke Wilkinson, said:

"Having faced adversity from birth, my dad, Iain, acted on this and used it to drive him towards becoming a specialist in his field. This determination was something I was oblivious to for much of my life, however now I realise this was a perfect sum of his character. He allowed his health problems/disabilities to guide him towards academic and medical progress rather than disabling him from other aspects of life. It's this cup half full perspective, backed up by innate intelligence and consistent hard work, that made Iain the successful man from a Cornish campsite that he was."

Words from Jim Wild, Iain's close colleague at Sheffield:

"Iain was a friend and colleague who will be missed by all in the University MRI unit and by his friends and former colleagues in Sheffield, London, Cambridge and across the world in the field of neuro-MRI and diabetes imaging research. Iain was well loved and respected in the British and International MRI research communities. MR physicists across the globe will recall the distinctive 'Wilko' blue jacket at international ISMRM scientific meetings and many convivial late night sessions with a true gentleman. The British Chapter of ISMRM were really happy to have Iain give the celebratory toast at the 25th Anniversary meeting in Sheffield last September amongst old friends. A more detailed account of Iain's work and personal recollections from friends and former colleagues will follow in due course and at some point when we are able we will hold a celebration of Iain's work in Sheffield."

Virtual PG BIC-ISMRM meeting 2020

Few words from Charith, the organizer, and his team:

"My team and I would like to thank everyone who participated in the special virtual edition of the BICISMRM annual postgraduate symposium. We had around 90 attendees on the day, with 40 abstract submissions, and 19 presenters delivering some very high-quality talks across the 3 talk categories! Of course, it wouldn't be a postgrad meeting without some thought-provoking

and fiery discussions, and I believe that we managed to successfully create an environment where these discussions could flow naturally, without being hindered by the virtual nature of the meeting. Kudos to those of you who stuck around for probably(?) the most difficult MR quiz you'll ever do outside of an academic setting, which saw many of our participants fail to identify common fruits and vegetables".

Thanks from the community to the team that has made this event a success!

The team: the department (Centre for Advanced Biomedical Imaging [CABI] at UCL), volunteers from UCL's Centre for Medical Imaging (CMI), and Imperial College London.

Finally, a massive thanks to Bruker, GE Healthcare, and Philips for sponsoring the student prizes for the each of the 3, judged oral presentation categories.

Awards were assigned to Eleonora Patitucci for her presentation "A novel pipeline to investigate brain oxygen metabolism at a voxel-wise level", to Brooke Tornifoglio for her presentation "Characterisation of arterial tissue microstructure by ex vivo diffusion MRI" and to Matthijs de Buck for his presentation "Minimum number of tissue group for 7pTx safety simulation in the head".

Meet the winners of the sponsors awards

Hi, I am **Eleonora Patitucci** and I am doing a PhD on the physiological mechanisms supporting neuroplasticity in healthy and diseased brains at Cardiff University (Wellcome Trust). At the PG meeting, I showed that calibrated fMRI can probe the tissue energetics supporting brain plasticity, highlighting differences in oxygen recruitment between healthy volunteers and multiple sclerosis patients.



GE Healthcare

Hi, I'm **Brooke Tornifoglio** and I am a PhD student at



PHILIPS

Trinity College Dublin, working on diffusion tensor imaging for characterisation of arterial tissue; specifically, looking at microstructural changes (with respect to collagen, smooth muscle cells and elastin) through DTI with an aim to offer insight into disease progression within arterial tissue.

Hi, I'm **Matthijs de Buck** and I am a DPhil student in the FMRIB centre in Oxford, where I work on intracranial neurovascular imaging using 7T MRI. At the PG-BICISMRM meeting, I presented work on a simplified head model for 7T pTx SAR-simulations, where we found that a minimum of four tissue groups and air are required for accurate subject-specific SAR simulations.



Meet the winner of the "Mansfield Research Innovation Award " 2020

The Mansfield Research Innovation Award

Prof Sir Peter Mansfield died in 2017, aged 83. Together with Paul Lauterbur, the physicist won the 2003 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for developing MRI.

In recognition of Sir Peter Mansfield's contribution to magnetic resonance, Siemens Healthcare Ltd sponsors individuals (full members of the Chapter, circa 5 years postdoctoral level) to travel to the ISMRM annual meeting to present an accepted oral presentation of their work.

This Siemens sponsored award is administered/awarded by the Chapter each year.

Hi, I am **James Grist**. I did my PhD at Cambridge,



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translating 'hyperpolarised MRI' from pre-clinical to clinical studies of brain metabolism. I won the Siemens prize for work done at the University of Birmingham combining machine learning with diffusion and perfusion weighted MRI to categorize risk level in children with a brain tumour. I'm now a Postdoc at Oxford using hyperpolarised MRI to better understand and treat brain pathologies.

Hi, I'm **Francesco Grussu**, an Italian biomedical engineer and I did my PhD at UCL on diffusion MRI modelling and validation in the spinal cord. I won the Siemens award for proposing a deep learning algorithm, SARDU-Net, which enables clinically feasible qMRI protocol design. I am now at Vall d'Hebron Institute of Oncology investigating tumour microstructure in whole-body and liver qMRI.



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Hi, I'm **Fabio Nery**, a Portuguese biomedical engineer, with a PhD from UCL on renal arterial spin labelling. I won the Siemens award for work on standardisation of renal MRI methods to facilitate clinical translation. I continue to work at UCL in this area, now as part of a [UKRIN](#) multicentre renal MRI standardisation project ([UKRIN-MAPS](#)).

Zoom in on... Nottingham



Picture from: Nottingham University Press


This year, three Nottingham physicists have been awarded medals by the Institute of Physics to recognise their outstanding achievements in physics. Two of them are members of the BIC-ISMRM. **Professor Penny Gowland** (past President of the BIC-ISMRM) and **Professor Richard Bowtell** have been awarded the **Peter Mansfield Prize** and the **James Joule Prize**, respectively.

Their work on medical imaging has impacted the lives of many people worldwide. In particular, Professor Gowland's work has led to the development of innovative MRI techniques that produced new discoveries in human anatomy, physiology and biology. Professor Bowtell's work on new techniques and hardware has had significant impact on medicine and neuroscience.

Congratulations to both from the BIC-ISMRM community!

Further information on the following websites:

 [Nottingham University press](#)

 [IOP Awards 2020](#)

*Upcoming events,
Save the date!*

Post Graduate Café 2021: ***Getting involved in the chapter: what does it mean?***

Bring your own favourite winter beverage and join us online on the 7th of January 2021 for the first ever PG Cafe' of the BIC-ISMRM!

It will be a really informal occasion to meet other PG students including those that have been involved, or are involved now, with the chapter and to discuss about the 2021 PG meeting.

To attend the event, please click on the picture below and fill the linked google form. The only information requested to attend is your email address and consent to record the meeting. Also, you can submit questions in advance if you have any.



BIC-ISMRM annual scientific meeting 2021

***Meet you in Cardiff on the 15th -
17th September 2021!***

The event will be hosted by CUBRIC (Cardiff University)



ISMRM 2022 - London

The chapter has started to plan *involvement in ISMRM London 2022*, a main element is going to be centred around *public engagement*.

We would love to hear more about this activity



happening at your centre and *if you are interested in finding out more please email:*

 David Carmichael

And finally...from the editors

Dynamic Editorial Board

In order to make the newsletter more inclusive and diverse and to encourage networking, "Positive Spin" will be edited by a dynamic editorial board this year. The editorial board will be formed by two fixed members and 2 or 3 volunteers for each edition of the newsletter.



Everyone is welcome to be part of the board for the next issue!

Click now on the link below to apply!

 [Apply to be an editor for the issue #11](#)

If you would like to be featured in the newsletter, or you've got news for us, please send us an email.

 [Email us to be featured in the newsletter #11](#)

Meet the editors for issue #10



Editor and Student Observer 2020/2021

Hello everyone,

I am **Laura**, I am a PhD student at Nottingham University and I'll be the Student observer of the chapter for the upcoming year. I am one of the two fix members of the Editorial board for the BIC-ISMRM newsletter.

Editor 2020/2021

I'm **Gabriela**, a third-year DPhil student in the Oxford-Nottingham Biomedical Imaging CDT. I am working on Quantitative 3D T1 mapping of the human liver using widely available product sequences.

I'll be on the editorial board, together with Laura, for this year's BIC-ISMRM newsletter.



Volunteer for issue #10

Hi! I'm **Charlotte** and I am a post-doctoral researcher working at the University of Nottingham. I volunteered to sit on the Editorial board for this issue of the BIC-ISMRM newsletter as a way to get involved without having to commit for the whole year. I would encourage everyone else to participate, it's a fun thing to get involved with and a very friendly team!

Join the British and Irish Chapter

If you aren't already a member of the Chapter, click the join button (it's free!), otherwise please remember to join the official mail list..

[Join the BIC-ISMRM](#) [Join the JISCMail list](#)

..and to follow the chapter on the social media!

[Facebook](#) [Twitter](#)

Meet the winner of the Twitter Logo competition



My name is **Sophie Schauman** and I recently ended in my doctoral thesis and started a postdoc at the University of Oxford. My research focus is on novel sampling and reconstruction methods applied to arterial spin labelling.

Furthermore, members can apply to "New Initiative & Public Engagement Fund" to receive up to £2000 for workshops, engagement activities, etc. More information on how to apply on the **BIC-ISMRM website**.

[BIC-ISMRM official website](#)

[Apply to the "Initiative & Public Engagement Fund"](#)

Thanks for reading

*and massive thank you to everyone who
contributed to this issue's newsletter!*

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