EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY FACULTY

PROFESSOR TOM GILLINGWATER

Tom was appointed to a Lectureship in Anatomy at the University of Edinburgh in 2004 and became the 15th Professor of Anatomy in 2015 (Chair founded in 1705). Tom graduated from Edinburgh University Business School with an MBA in 2006, and is an elected Fellow of the Anatomical Society, Royal Society of Arts, Royal Society of Biology and the Royal Microscopical Society.

Tom's teaching activities include all areas of anatomy and neuroanatomy for medical students, as well as undergraduate and postgraduate science students. Tom also contributes to a range of specialised CPD courses, including bespoke anatomy sessions for surgical trainees. He is currently serving as an external examiner for the University of Oxford and NUI Galway, and is an Intercollegiate MRCS Examiner at the Royal College of Surgeons.

Tom leads a research team that uses a combination of high-resolution microscopy and molecular profiling techniques to better understand the form and function of the nervous system in health and disease. Current research interests include developing a better understanding of the pathogenesis of a range of neurological conditions (ranging from motor neuron diseases such as ALS and SMA, through to Alzheimer's disease), as well as attempts to provide new insights into unique cellular and molecular aspects of the human nervous system. Tom has authored more than 140 papers in a variety of leading international journals. Tom has been Editor-in-Chief at the Journal of Anatomy since 2011.

MISS FARHAT DIN

Farhat Din is a consultant colorectal surgeon at the Western General Hospital and Honorary Senior Lecturer at Edinburgh University. Farhat's translational research portfolio, encompassing both basic laboratory research and clinical studies, centers around understanding and modifying risk factors for colorectal cancer. She was awarded a Cancer Research UK Clinician Scientist Fellowship in 2010 and currently holds a Chief Scientist Office Senior Clinical Fellowship (2017-2021). Research in Farhat's lab focuses on colorectal cancer prevention by investigating energy and metabolism signaling pathways that are associated with risk factors such as obesity and physical inactivity. In parallel, research focuses on how known chemopreventive agents may realign such aberrant signaling and cancer stem cells in colorectal cancer.

In addition to her translational laboratory research, Farhat is actively involved in clinical trials, being the local principle investigator on several national trials. She has contributed nationally to the NICE guidance on the use of qFIT in low risk populations and is currently undertaking a Scottish Government funded project to establish its safe use in symptomatic patients. Alongside her clinical practice and research activities, Farhat has a keen interest in surgical career development, being an enthusiastic tutor and mentor for both medical students and surgical trainees. She is a Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh Regional Surgical Advisor, as well as contributing to multiple grant committees and collaborations including RCSEd, Tenovus, the Scottish Cancer Foundation, the Melville Trust and the UK Therapeutic Cancer Prevention Network. She is part of the CRUK Clinical Careers Committee which is responsible for clinician scientist fellowships and clinical bursaries. Her contribution to excellence in translational research and surgical training was recognised by the award of the prestigious Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh Hunter Doig Medal (2016).

MR CHRIS JOHNSTON

Following undergraduate studies and postgraduate foundation training in London, Chris moved to Edinburgh for specialty training in general surgery in 2009. He was subsequently appointed to a Wellcome-funded PhD fellowship in 2012 and developed a novel project looking at the power of helminth worms to suppress rejection of transplanted organs (published in Nature Communications in 2017). Chris re-entered higher surgical training as a clinical lecturer with a special interest in HPB / transplantation in 2015.

PROFESSOR DAMIAN MOLE

Damian was born in Pittsburgh, USA and grew up in Athens, Greece before moving to school in London, England. He trained in surgery in Birmingham, London and Belfast before moving to Edinburgh in 2006 to complete his clinical training in HPB surgery and capitalise on the world-class research environment of the MRC Centre for Inflammation Research. Damian has current grants totalling more than £4 million and is the first surgeon in the UK to be awarded an MRC Senior Clinical Fellowship. He was given a Personal Chair of Clinical and Experimental Surgery at the University of Edinburgh in 2018.

Damian's research is focussed on the molecular mechanisms that underpin systemic inflammation, and he led a Discovery Partnership with Academia with GSK to develop a new class of medicines acting at the immunometabolic interface that has formed the basis for a high-growth spin-out company. Damian has recently returned from a Visiting Scientist sabbatical at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, La Jolla. His talk is separate to his main work, specifically the recent translational development of multiparameter MRI to forecast future liver performance after liver resection, a study Damian led in collaboration with Perspectum Diagnostics Ltd. and funded by Innovate UK.

RACHEL GUEST

Rachel Guest is a Clinical Lecturer and Honorary Specialty Registrar at the University of Edinburgh.

Having completed her undergraduate medical education at Imperial College London, she moved to Edinburgh as a postgraduate, entering surgical training and subspecialising in Hepatobiliary surgery. She completed her PhD with Professor Stuart Forbes at the MRC Centre Regenerative Medicine in 2014 where her work focussed on harnessing the molecular signals driving stem cell-induced liver regeneration to better understand drivers of biliary cancer.

She has developed a number of pre-clinical models of cholangiocarcinoma including a novel transgenic model to lineage trace the cell of origin of the cancer to the biliary epithelium. She has published work on a number of molecular drivers of bile duct cancer, most notably the Notch3 receptor. She is currently in her final year of surgical training and hopes to enter a Clinician Scientist fellowship programme to continue her research alongside clinical practice.

PROFESSOR ROWAN PARKS

Rowan qualified from Queens University Belfast in 1989. He pursued his surgical training in Northern Ireland and then undertook a clinical fellowship in HPB surgery at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. He was appointed a Senior Lecturer in Surgery and Honorary Consultant Surgeon in the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh in 1999, was subsequently promoted to Reader in Surgery in 2006 and was awarded a personal chair as Professor of Surgical Sciences at the University of Edinburgh in 2010.

Professor Parks has a specialist interest in HPB surgery. He has published more than 160 papers, written 39 book chapters and has authored / edited 7 surgical textbooks. He has been awarded several prestigious prizes and travelling fellowships, and has given a number of eponymous lectures.

Rowan is currently Vice President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd); Deputy Director of Medicine, NHS Education for Scotland (NES) and Treasurer of the European-African Hepato-Pancreatico-Biliary Association (E-AHPBA). He is also immediate Past-President of the Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland (ASGBI); Immediate Past-President of the Great Britain & Ireland Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (GBIHPBA); Immediate Past-Chairman of the Scientific Programme Committee of the International Hepato-Pancreatico–Biliary Association (IHPBA) and Past-Director of the James IV Association.

PROFESSOR LORNA MARSON

Lorna Marson is Professor of Transplant Surgery at the University of Edinburgh, and Honorary Consultant Surgeon at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. Lorna held a Clinician Scientist Award from the Academy of Medical Sciences/Health Foundation from 2003-2008, and continues to work in clinically relevant research in renal transplantation, with translation of a novel agent from bench to bedside.

Lorna was Training Programme Director for General Surgery (2012-15) and Associate Dean for Surgical Specialties, South East Scotland (2015-17). Lorna is Past President of the British Transplantation Society, and Director of Admissions for Edinburgh Medical School.

PROFESSOR IAN FINLAY

A graduate of both St Andrews and Manchester Universities Ian undertook post-graduate training in surgery in Manchester, Glasgow, London, and Minneapolis before being appointed consultant colorectal surgeon at Glasgow Royal Infirmary where he developed one of the first colorectal units in the UK. His clinical and research interests included the surgical management of bowel cancer, inflammatory bowel disease and post obstetric perineal injuries.

Ian led a program of clinical research and wrote over 100 peer reviewed manuscripts including a seminal paper that first described the presence of occult metastatic disease in patients with colorectal cancer changing the clinical management of the disease worldwide. Unusually for an NHS consultant he supervised and obtained grant funding for 8 postgraduate theses.

Ian has held a number of leadership roles. He was the management lead for regional surgical services in Greater Glasgow and Clyde and served on the Council of the Association of Surgeons of UK and Ireland. He has an interest in scientific publishing and was Vice Chairman of the British Journal of Surgery. He was also an executive officer of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow.

Currently, Ian is policy advisor to Scottish Government on maters pertaining to Health workforce, medical education and training and strategic service change. He chaired the UK Shape of Training Steering Group and is a member of both the UK Medical Education Reference Group and the GMC Curriculum Oversight Group. He has a key role in the implementation of a range of changes to UK medical education and a leading role in the development of credentialing. Ian also chairs the Revalidation Delivery Board for Scotland (the process in the UK by which doctors are required to show that they are up to date and fit to practice) and provided leadership and oversight for the implementation of appraisal and revalidation in Scotland.

Ian is an Honorary Professor of the University of Dundee and was recently appointed Visiting Professor of the University of Edinburgh.

PROFESSOR TOM WEISER

Thomas Weiser is an associate professor in the Department of Surgery at Stanford University Medical Center, where he practices general, emergency, and trauma surgery and surgical intensive care. He is also a Visiting Professor at the University of Edinburgh working with colleagues at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh and the GlobalSurg collaborative to improve surgical safety globally. He is the clinical advisor for Lifebox, a charity dedicated to improving surgical safety worldwide.

PROFESSOR EWEN HARRISON

In 2013 Ewen Harrison was a co-founder of GlobalSurg (www.globalsurg.org): a worldwide collaborative surgical research group, with the emphasis very much on collaborative. The network set out to invert the traditional top-down research pyramid and instead empowers everyone from medical students upwards, in any hospital, anywhere in the world to participate in data collection in global cohort studies. This approach has been highly successfully and met with an enthusiasm to participate round the world. The GlobalSurg network has now grown to more than 5000 surgical researchers in over 100 countries and the collaborative have published multiple papers from several worldwide cohort studies.

MR IAIN MCINTYRE

Iain Macintyre was a surgeon in Edinburgh. He was Vice President of the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh during its 500th anniversary celebration and served as surgeon to the Queen in Scotland until he retired in 2004.

He now writes on the history of medicine and is a past President of the British Society for the History of Medicine.