

BGCS Research Group

The BGCS research group has been founded to promote, co-ordinate, support and expand multidisciplinary research to improve care and outcomes across the UK for women with gynaecological cancer. BGCS-RG will also act as an international voice for women with gynaecological cancer in the UK particularly through partnership with IGCS. BGCS-RG is the research arm of the British Gynaecological Cancer Society, a UK charity that provides the professional home of health providers working and researching the area of gynaecological cancers. The BGCS-RG works in collaboration with all BGCS subgroups to provide professional development support in research to trainees across disciplines, early career researchers and more established Investigators.

The structure of the research group will be determined by the chairperson(s) to reflect the diverse range of research areas and multidisciplinary nature of Gynaecological Oncology. The group will consist of several workstreams to concentrate on specific research areas/topics. Workstreams will be chaired by a nominated person who is active in research.

The BGCS-RG will aim to run twice yearly research meetings which will be advertised through the BGCS and open to all interested parties. The meetings will be funded and facilitated by the BGCS and provide access for UK feedback and participation in research nationally and internationally. The BGCS will fund administrative support to include secretarial and research administration.

The BGCS-RG will maintain a registry of trials in Gynaecological Oncology open in the UK, this will be updated regularly and made available to BGCS members via the BGCS website.

The BGCS-RG may co-ordinate, set up and promote clinical trials. The BGCS will not ordinarily provide legal sponsorship for running clinical trials.

The BGCS-RG will collaborate with other national and international groups supporting gynaecological cancer research.

BGCS-RG Co-chairs



Biography

Christina Fotopoulou holds the Chair of Gynaecological Cancer Surgery in the Department of Surgery and Cancer, Faculty of Medicine of Imperial College London, UK. She is the Deputy director of the Ovarian Cancer Action Research Centre at Imperial College in London. She holds a honorary chair in the Gynaecology Department at the Charite' University of Berlin, where she was trained and then later took the role of the Vice Director of the Gynecological Department.

Her surgical and scientific expertise focusses on the management of patients with advanced and relapsed ovarian cancer, profiling of tumor heterogeneity and integration of tumorbiology factors with surgical effort under the umbrella of individualisation of surgical care.

She has served as elected member of the European Society of Gynaecologic Oncology (ESGO)-council and was the Chair of the guidelines committees of the British Gynaecological Cancer Society (BGCS) and of ESGO. She has been recently elected to serve on the Board of Directors for the International Gynecologic Cancer Society (IGCS) representing Europe. She is a current member of the German AGO- Ovarian Cancer Steering Group and is also the Surgical Oncology chair of the British Gynaecological Cancer Society (BGCS) Research group.

She sits on the editorial board and reviewer of numerous international gynaecological and oncological journals and is member of various international oncological committees, including BGCS, ASCO, ESGO, IGCS, ESMO, ENGOT, AGO, SGO and NOGGO.



Biography

Prof Susana Banerjee MBBS MA PhD FRCP

Consultant Medical Oncologist, Research Lead Gynaecology Unit, The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, London

Professor in Women's Cancers, The Institute of Cancer Research, London

Prof Susana Banerjee MBBS MA PhD FRCP is a Consultant Medical Oncologist and Research Lead for the Gynaecology Unit at The Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust, London. She is also Professor in Women's Cancers at the Institute of Cancer Research. Dr Banerjee specialises in ovarian cancer and the systemic treatment of endometrial and cervical cancers.

Prof Banerjee graduated with a 1st class in Physiology from St John's College, University of Cambridge. She was president of the Cambridge Medical Society in 1996-1997. Prof Banerjee gained a PhD from The Institute of Cancer Research in 2009, University of London and was awarded the San Antonio Breast Cancer Symposium Novartis Oncology Basic Science Award for her research. Other prizes include the Association of Cancer Physicians McElwain Prize, the Sir Antony Driver Prize and the Pfizer British Oncology Association Young Investigator Award (highly commended). She received The Fellow of ESMO (FESMO) Award in 2023.

Prof Banerjee has served in international specialist groups including the European Organization for Research and Treatment of Cancer (EORTC) Executive Steering Committee for Gynaecological Cancers, ESGO (European Society of Gynaecological Oncology) Congress Faculty and International Gynecologic Cancer Society Scientific Program Committee. Prof Susana Banerjee was elected to serve on the European Society of Medical Oncology (ESMO) Executive Board as Director of Membership (2020-2022). She was Track Chair for Gynaecological Cancers for the ESMO Congress 2018, Scientific Co-Chair for ESMO Asia 2018 and Co-Chair of the ESMO Gynaecological Cancers Congress 2021-2024. She is currently co-chair of the Gynecological Cancer InterGroup (GCIG) Rare Cancers Committee.

Prof Banerjee is President of the Royal Society of Medicine Oncology Section (2024-2026).

Prof Banerjee is an author of over 185 peer-reviewed publications including in *the New England Journal of Medicine*, *Lancet*, *Lancet Oncology*, *Journal of Clinical Oncology* and *Annals of Oncology*. Her research interests include individualisation of patient treatment, targeted therapies (including PARP inhibitors) and rare gynaecological cancers. Prof Banerjee has Global and UK Chief Investigator roles of over 30 national and international clinical trials.

Examples of Chief Investigator Roles:

Academic-sponsored

ATARI (ongoing cohorts 4 and 5: Phase II ceralasertib in combination with durvalumab in prior immunotherapy treated endometrial cancer)

SOPRANO (Phase II: Stereotactic radiotherapy alone or followed by niraparib for oligometastases or oligoprogression in ovarian cancer following PARP inhibitor therapy)

Industry-sponsored

ENGOT-ov60/GOG-3052/RAMP 201: Phase 2 Trial of Avutometinib \pm Defactinib in Patients With Recurrent Low-Grade Serous Ovarian Cancer

GOG-3097/ENGOT-ov81/NCRI/RAMP 301: A Phase 3, Randomized, Open-Label Study of Combination Therapy with Avutometinib plus Defactinib Versus Investigator's Choice of Treatment in Patients with Recurrent Low-Grade Serous Ovarian Cancer

ENGOT-GYN5/NCRI/GOG-3087: A phase Ib, multicenter, open-label study of NXP800, a novel GCN2 kinase activator, among patients with platinum-resistant, ARID1A-mutated ovarian cancer



Biography

Rebecca Kristeleit is a Consultant Medical Oncologist at Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust and an Honorary Associate Professor in the School of Cancer and Pharmaceutical Sciences at KCL. She is Research Lead for gynaecological cancer, R&D Lead for Oncology and Clinical Lead for Oncology and Haematology Clinical Trials at Guy's and St Thomas'. She works as a Principle Investigator within the KCL Cancer Early Phase Trials Unit, Theme Lead within King's Health Partners ECMC and is Academic Lead for the King's Health Partners Gynaecological Cancer Biobank.

Rebecca has extensive experience in experimental therapeutics and associated translational research, particularly molecular selection for therapeutics, as well as Phase II and III clinical trials. She works closely with several academic collaborators at KCL, nationally and internationally. She is currently leading two trial programmes of drugs discovered at KCL, a novel immunotherapy and a solid tumour CAR-T. She mentors and supervises KCL undergraduate and postgraduate students.

Rebecca's primary motivation is to improve treatment options available for patients with gynaecological cancer and she has been instrumental in the development and delivery of new licensed drugs in gynaecological cancer, for example rucaparib, dostarlimab, through clinical trial research leadership. She led the UK academic PEACOC trial investigating pembrolizumab in clear cell gynaecological cancer and is global Co-Investigator for DOVE, a follow-on international randomised Phase II trial in the same rare indication. She leads many trials nationally and internationally, several in partnership with GTG-UK.

Rebecca has published extensively, speaks regularly at International Conferences and has held several national and international research leadership positions including Chair BGCS Scientific Committee, BGCS guidelines committee, BGCS medical oncology representative, Oncology and Haematology Expert Advisory Group for the Commission on Human Medicines, CRUK New Agents Committee, ESMO Faculty, Chair ASCO Gynaecological Cancer Scientific Committee, ASCO educational committee.

Expression of Interest for workstream leads coming soon

Please contact us through
BGCS-RG@BGCS.org.uk