

Clinical Surgery NEWS

Alex Laird is a Consultant Urological Surgeon at the Western General Hospital and Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer at The University of Edinburgh.



**Consultant Urologist and
Honorary Clinical Senior
Lecturer: Mr Alex Laird**

Alex completed undergraduate and initial postgraduate training in Edinburgh before being appointed in 2007 as the first and only run through ST1 Urology Trainee in Scotland. He spent 5½ years in the West of Scotland rotation, then transferred to Edinburgh for his final 1½ years higher surgical training leading to his appointment as a consultant urologist in 2018. Alex's subspecialist interest is the management of kidney cancer. He is among the highest volume renal surgeons in the UK. Following appointment, Alex completed a British Association of Urological Surgeons Fellowship to the Keck School of Medicine, University of South California under the mentorship of Professors Monish Aron and Indibir Gill. This led to Alex successfully implementing the robotic partial

nephrectomy programme in NHS Lothian. Alex remains a keen surgical trainer and holds the role of assigned educational supervisor and helps guide training and education through the RCSEd as deputy chair of the Specialty Surgical Board in Urology and by sitting on the RCSEd Robotic implementation task force.

Alex's research interests as a NRS Career Researcher Fellow compliment his clinical sub-specialty practice. He is a member of the NCRI Renal Cancer Surgical subgroup and is co-investigator of several adjuvant and neo-adjuvant clinical trials in kidney cancer. Alex leads two clinical trials locally, one on the active surveillance of small renal cell carcinomas (EASE IRAS 219948) and another on using urine and blood glycosaminoglycan biomarkers for follow-up following surgery for high-risk renal cancer (AUR87A NCT04005405).

Alex's main research interest are in translational experimental research. He successfully completed a MRC funded PhD in the University of Edinburgh MRC Human Genetics Unit on molecular prognostic markers in clear cell renal cell carcinoma in 2015. Since starting consultant practice in Edinburgh, Alex has established a large biobank for kidney cancer. As a result, normal and tumour tissue is collected and stored from all patients undergoing surgery for RCC at the WGH with matched pre- and post-operative bloods. These resources have allowed Alex to develop several translational research projects. With pump-priming funding from the RCSEd, he is currently investigating the role of cell-free tumour DNA for the detection of recurrent RCC with a grant application

*Welcome to the
Spring 2022
Edition of
The Department
of Clinical
Surgery
Newsletter*

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recently submitted to the MRC. It is hoped that this work will help identify patients with early disease recurrence both to stratify surveillance imaging and select those for systemic therapy. There may also be potential that this work will be useful for the early detection of kidney cancer, which could significantly improve outcomes for patients with this disease, the most lethal of urological malignancies. Alex is also co-PI on a €8.5M European Commission Horizon 2020 funded project developing artificial intelligence empowered personalised medicine for the management of metastatic renal cell carcinoma. This exciting collaborative project brings together 20 clinical and scientific partners from 11 countries with expertise in cancer research, molecular and systems pathology, bioinformatics, computer technology and medical ethics.

Outside work, Alex loves spending time with his family. He enjoys being beaten on the golf course by his wife and 7- and 10-year-old sons, coaching the boy's rugby team and going on holiday to places far and near.

Key Publications

Blackmur JP, Gaba F, Fernando D, Williams S, O'Donnell McNeill A, Stewart GD, Leung S, Laird A. **Leibovich score is the optimal clinico-pathological system associated with recurrence of non-metastatic clear cell renal cell carcinoma.** *Urologic Oncology: Seminars and Original Investigations* 2021;39(7):438.e11-438.e21

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News Round-Up

New Members of Staff



Harini Dharanikota has recently joined Professor Steven Yule's Surgical Sabermetrics Lab, as a PhD student funded by the Melville Trust for the Care and Cure of Cancer, investigating team dynamics and cognitive biases in oncology multidisciplinary teams to minimise errors and improve patient safety. She holds an MSc in Psychological Research from the University of Edinburgh and a BSc (Hons) in Psychology with Management from Heriot-Watt University.

Robert Wescott (an Academic FY2 doctor) has commenced his academic block within Tim Aitman's lab working on circulating free DNA in head and neck cancer.

Prizes & Appointments

Dimitrios Damaskos has been elected by the members of the World Society of Emergency Surgery (WSES) as vice president of the society.

Kenny McLean has been awarded a Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh (RCSEd) Robertson Trust Research Fellowship; a one-year research fellowship (£60,000) awarded for the development of a machine learning wound assessment model for the assessment of surgical-site infection. In addition Kenny has also been awarded a Medical Research Council (MRC) / Data Driven Innovation programme (DDI) Confidence in Concept (CiC) Award. This additional funding (£25,000) award is for the development of a machine learning wound assessment model for the assessment of surgical-site infection.

Kenny McLean was also the winner of the Royal Society of Medicine (RSM) Digital Health Section prize for innovation (National) for the TWIST (Tracking wound infection with smartphone technology) trial.

Rachel Forsythe has been awarded a B Braun / RCSEd Fellowship in General Surgery (travelling fellowship to support a visit to Houston Methodist DeBakey Heart and Vascular Centre in Texas, USA)

Ian Nixon was recently invited to speak on The Swallows Head & Neck Cancer Support Charity podcast providing information to patients about his current research. You can listen to the podcast here: https://mcdn.podbean.com/mf/web/xvt9j9/Podcasts_Ep_2_Iain_Nixon7afma.mp3

EUSA Teaching Awards 2022

Congratulations to members of Clinical Surgery and the Edinburgh Surgery Online team for their nominations in this year's Edinburgh University Students Association Teaching Awards.

Outstanding Course: Dr Louise Buckley (ChM Urology); Dr Chantelle Aftab (ChM Trauma & Orthopaedics).

Support Staff of the Year: Miss Sarah Jones; Dr Oluseye Ogunbayo

Personal Tutor of the Year: Dr Chantelle Aftab; Dr Oluseye Ogunbayo; Dr Heather Ellis; Dr Louise Buckley; Dr Uzma Tufail-Hanif; Dr Susan Morrow; Dr Domenica Coxon

Teacher of the Year: Dr Chantelle Aftab; Dr Oluseye Ogunbayo

PURE Publication Deposits In Clinical Surgery

The Research Excellence Framework 2021 submission has now been completed. The results are expected to be published in March 2022.

However, publications should still continue to be deposited in PURE within 3 months of acceptance.

PURE arrangements in Clinical Surgery

Susan Keggie and Murray Brittan are now handling publication deposits in PURE.

As soon as you receive notification of a manuscript being accepted for publication, please forward the acceptance email together with the finally accepted author version to our the PURE email address

Pure.clinsurg@ed.ac.uk

All manuscripts must be deposited in PURE within **3 months of acceptance.**

CMVM Research Office

The CMVM Research Office have just launched their new website covering research support within the College. The site includes information on open research, ethics, research culture, global health and clinical research pathways.

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/medicine-vet-medicine/our-research/cmvm-research-support>

There is also a new website for early career researchers and those on research only contracts.

<https://www.ed.ac.uk/medicine-vet-medicine/our-research/cmvm-research-support/early-career-researchers>

Clinical Trials Update

The following trials are currently recruiting:

INROADE: Implementation of Remote Surgical Wound Assessment during the Covid-19 Pandemic - this study has now completed 90% of the recruitment target across the WGH & RIE hospitals.

ALLEGRO: a placebo controlled randomised trial of intravenous lidocaine in accelerating gastrointestinal recovery after colorectal surgery.

PITTSTOP: pilonidal sinus treatment: studying the options:

CIPHER: UK cohort study to investigate the prevention of parastomal hernia

CREST2: Uncovered vs covered endoluminal stenting in the acute management of obstructing colorectal cancer in the palliative setting.

PREPARE ABC: SupPoRtive Exercise Programmes for Accelerating REcovery after major ABdominal Cancer surgery - recruitment due to re-start shortly.

DAMASCUS - Diverticulitis Management: A Snapshot Collaborative Audit Study.

Recent Publications

Swets MC, Russell CD, Harrison EM, Docherty AB, Lone N, Girvan M, Hardwick HE; ISARIC4C Investigators, Visser LG, Openshaw PJM, Groeneveld GH, Semple MG, Baillie JK. **SARS-CoV-2 co-infection with influenza viruses, respiratory syncytial virus, or adenoviruses.** *Lancet.* 2022 Mar 25:S0140-6736(22)00383-X. Online ahead of print

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Future Events

Did He Save Lives: Talk by Dr David Sellu

28th April 2022

1830-1915: Lecture by Mr David Sellu

1915-1945: 'Clinical negligence, consent, and other medico-legal issues: where do we stand?'

Panelists: Mr David Sellu and Ms Astrid Smart QC (Compass Chambers)

Chaired by: Professor S Wigmore

1945-2015: Drinks Reception

Wrongly convicted of gross negligence manslaughter and imprisoned for 15 months, Mr David Sellu, General and Colorectal surgeon, will give his account of the events, the battle to clear his name, and his plight and that of his family.

All funds raised from this event will directly go to Bowel Cancer UK's 'Improving Surgery, Saving Lives Appeal' in partnership with RCSEd and University of Edinburgh to establish Scotland's first-ever Colorectal Cancer Surgical Research Chair.

Ticket price: £20 per person, Use link below to register: <https://bit.ly/MrDavidSellu>



Bookings Now Open

The next HealthyR 2.5 day quick start course suitable for beginners will May 11-13th 2022. The course will be in person at the Kings Building Campus (JCMB building). Attendees must bring their own laptop.

Registration available now: https://redcap.link/healthy_reg

Save the Date!

Edinburgh School of Surgery
Day 2022
Friday November 25th

Academic Medals

The following prizes are open to submissions this year:

The Chiene Medal for clinical or laboratory-based research projects undertaken within the Edinburgh 'School of Surgery',
The Clinical Prize will be an opportunity to present clinical research projects or interesting case reviews.

Abstracts (no more than 400 words) should be submitted to Susan Keggie (s.keggie@ed.ac.uk) by **5pm Friday 29th September**. Late submission will not be accepted.

Those selected for an oral presentation will compete for the Chiene Medal and Clinical Prize at the meeting.

The Professor Kenneth CH Fearon Memorial Medal The prize will be awarded to the surgeon in training or consultant within 1 year

of appointment and working in South East Scotland, who in the opinion of the judging panel has published the most outstanding contribution as a single paper in the broad field of surgery in the calendar year preceding the award in a peer-reviewed journal. It is anticipated that the member be the first author of the publication or will have made a very significant contribution to the publication. The publication must be related to the broad field of surgery and its subspecialties and can include basic science, translational or clinical work published in the year preceding the date of the School of Surgery Day. For example, papers considered for the **2022 School of Surgery Day** meeting must have been published in a journal dated between **1 January 2021 and 31 December 2021**.

An entry form for this prize is available from Susan Keggie (s.keggie@ed.ac.uk)

The Edinburgh Trainees' Award

As well as the academic medals awarded at the School of Surgery day, the **Best Surgical Trainer** medal will also be awarded.

Full details of the programme, including guest speaker, will be available soon.

Please register by email to Susan Keggie (s.keggie@ed.ac.uk).

Items of News to Share?

If you have any items of news you would like to feature in this newsletter or events you'd like to promote please contact the Clinical Surgery Research Manager, **Dr Katie Shaw** (catherine.shaw@ed.ac.uk). The next edition will be published in the summer.

Future Conference Submission Deadlines

Conference	Date	Location	Abstract Submission & Registration
14th Annual Academic Surgical Conference https://academicsurgicalcongress.org	7th - 9th Feb 2023	Houston Texas	Opens late June 2022
ALPS HBP meeting http://www.alpshpbmeeting.org	Date for 2023 TBC	Madonna Di Campiglio, Italy	Autumn 2022
British Transplant Society (BTS) https://bts.org.uk	5th - 7th September 2022 (changed from 2th - 4th March)	Belfast, UK	Abstracts closed; registration deadline 1st September 2022
Society of Academic and Research Surgery (SARS) http://surgicalresearch.org.uk	Date for 2023 TBC	TBC	Save the date
American Surgical Association (ASA) http://meeting.americansurgical.org	20th - 22nd April 2023	Toronto, Canada	Save the date
European Society for Trauma & Emergency Surgery (ESTES) https://www.estes-congress.org	24th - 26th April 2022	Oslo, Norway	Registration Open
Royal Australasian College of Surgeons Annual Scientific Congress https://asc.surgeons.org	2nd-6th May 2022	Brisbane, Australia	Abstracts closed; registration open
Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Ireland (ASGBI) http://www.asgbi.org.uk	3rd- 5th May 2022	Liverpool	Abstracts closed; registration open
Joint International Congress of ILTS, LICAGE & ELITA https://2022.iltis.org	4th - 7th May 2022	Istanbul, Turkey (with online option)	Abstracts closed; registration open
International Association of Medical Science Educators http://www.iamse.org/	4th -7th June 2022	Denver, USA	Abstracts closed; registration open
European Surgical Association (ESA) https://www.europeansurgicalassociation.org	19th - 21th May 2022	Lisbon, Portugal	Abstracts closed; registration open
American Society of Transplant Surgeons (ASTS) http://atcmeeting.org	4th - 8th June 2022	Boston, USA	Abstracts closed; registration open
Behune Round Table https://bethuneroundtable.com	Date for 2022 TBC	Vancouver, Canada	TBC
Association of Coloproctology Great Britain and Ireland https://www.acpgbi.org.uk/events/2021-acpgbi-annual-meeting/	3rd - 6th July 2022	Edinburgh, UK	Abstracts closed; registration open
Americas Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary-Association (AHPBA) https://www.ahpba.org/	6th - 12th March 2023	Miami beach, Florida, USA	Save the date
Association for Medical Education (AMEE) https://amee.org/conferences/amee-2022	27th-31st August 2022	Lyon, France (online option)	Abstracts closed; registration open
European Society of Transplantation (ESOT) https://www.esotcongress.org	17th - 20 Sept 2023	Athens, Greece	Save the date
European-African Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (E-AHPBA)	6th - 9th June 2023	Lyon, France	Save the date
European Society of Coloproctology	21st -23rd Sept 2022	Dublin, UK	18th May 2022
Association of Upper GI Surgeons of Great Britain & Ireland (AUGIS) http://www.augis.org	21st - 23rd Sept 2022	Aberdeen, UK	Save the Date
American College of Surgeons Clinical Congress https://www.facs.org/education/clincon/future-clinical-congresses	16th - 20th Oct 2022	San Diego, USA	Abstracts closed; registration open
British Hernia Society https://hernia2022.org	TBC	TBC	TBC
Society on Sarcopenia, Cachexia & wasting disorders http://society-scwd.org	TBC	TBC	TBC