



HRC and Girdlers' UK Fellowship

Possible host GTC Fellows

Sue Ziebland (host of the current Girdlers' fellow) has agreed to take enquiries from applicants whose interest is not in one of these fields, but is a field of one of the other senior research fellows. Email [Prof Sue Ziebland](#). Information on all Fellows can be found on the Green Templeton College website, and the link is [here](#)

Dr Toral Gathani MD MEd FRCS

Senior Clinical Research Fellow | Cancer Epidemiology Unit | Nuffield Department of Population Health
| University of Oxford

Consultant Oncoplastic Breast Surgeon | Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Senior Research Fellow | Green Templeton College | University of Oxford

The main health research approaches/disciplines in the proposed host group/department.

The Nuffield Department of Population Health (NDPH) was created in July 2013 to undertake research and train scientists to seek answers to some of the most important questions about the causes, prevention and treatment of disease and is recognised as an international centre of research excellence in population health. Within NDPH there are several research groups, and the Cancer Epidemiology Unit within NDPH has hosted three previous Girdlers Fellows and is well acquainted with the scheme.

Potential areas of work/projects

We are pleased to offer three separate projects for consideration that would all be hosted within the Nuffield Department of Population Health.

The broad areas of research for the projects include cancer epidemiology and health systems research, making use of existing large-scale data resources held within NDPH such as the Million Women Study, EPIC Oxford, UK Biobank, and the Richard Doll Consortium, as well the national cancer datasets available from NHS England which provide reliable information on cancer outcomes.

The three projects would be focused on (1) inequalities in cancer care and outcomes, (2) aetiology of benign breast disease subtypes and relevance for risk of invasive breast cancer and (3) the Richard Doll Consortium and challenges of cancer care in low- and middle-income countries.

Opportunities, conferences, mentorship, training

NDPH is one of the largest departments within the Medical Sciences Divisions at Oxford. The Department hosts regular seminars and lectures which all members of staff can attend. NDPH offers extensive training opportunities with short courses in Epidemiology, Statistics for Epidemiology in R and Health Economics and regular internal short courses hosted by the Big Data Institute. Additionally, staff have access to skills training through the Medical Sciences Division and the online material and masterclasses of the MSc courses hosted by NDPH. There is an active early career research group, and all staff are encouraged to submit abstracts for presentation at the annual NDPH symposium.

Who would be the host/ mentor for the Girdlers Fellow within NDPH

Host: [Toral Gathani](#) (Cancer Epidemiology Unit)

Inequalities in cancer care and outcomes

Host: [Gillian Reeves](#) (Cancer Epidemiology Unit)

Aetiology of benign breast disease subtypes, and their relevance for subsequent risk of invasive breast cancer

Host: [Sarah Lewington](#) (MRC Population Health Research Unit)

The Richard Doll Consortium and challenges of cancer care in low- and middle-income countries

Professor Stavros Petrou

Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, University of Oxford
Senior Research Fellow at Green Templeton College

TOOLS TO MEASURE AND VALUE HEALTH CHANGE IN CHILDREN (TORCH)

Health agencies across the world regularly make recommendations to governments on whether the cost of a medicine or treatment should be subsidised. In making these recommendations, the safety, effectiveness and efficiency of the medicine or treatment compared to the alternative medicine or treatment must be considered.

Efficiency is estimated by economic evaluations that compare the cost and health outcomes of the new medicine or treatment with the alternative treatment.

Evaluations need to address outcomes specific to the medicine, for example it could be a treatment for asthma or high blood pressure or diabetes. But importantly the evaluation must also consider the effects of the medicine or treatment on health-related quality of life. Health technology assessment agencies are well versed in the methods for measuring and evaluating health-related quality of life in adults. However, due to many practical and methodological challenges in child populations this is not the case for medicines aimed at improving the health of children.

TORCH is an international-collaborative project that addresses these challenges through the development of reliable tools to support evaluations of the efficiency of medicines or treatments for improving the health of children. These will be directly relevant to decisions made by policymakers.

The TORCH programme aims to provide robust evidence on how health in children should be measured and valued and incorporated when evaluating the efficiency of a new medicine or treatment. As there are many tools used to measure health-related quality of life in children, TORCH will develop ways in which results from the most important ones can be incorporated into economic evaluations. This will overcome the need to rely on just one measure or tool.

The TORCH research programme, which is being conducted via 12 inter-related work packages, aims to:

- understand how we should value changes in child health in economic evaluations, as part of public deliberations on decision-making, including:
 - strengths and weaknesses of existing instruments
 - appropriate methods for developing valuation algorithms for paediatric health states
- understand whether quality-adjusted life years (QALYs) derived in paediatric populations are comparable to those in adult populations and if they are not comparable, how policy-makers should make decisions

The project would suit a post-doctoral health economist wishing develop methodological research on the basis of one or more of the 12 work-packages within the TORCH programme. They will receive support from a multi-national group of health economists who specialise in the development of preference-based approaches for the measurement and valuation of child health.

The Girdlers Fellow would be hosted by Professor Stavros Petrou at the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, which is an approximate 2-3 minute walk from Green Templeton College. The Fellow would join a group of approximately 20 health economists based within the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences. Professor Petrou acts as a mentor to mid-career academic researchers through the UK National Institute for Health Research. He has also recently taken on a mentorship role for the UK Health Economists' Study Group Mentorship Programme. The mentorship meetings will not only discuss project-related and methodological matters, but training needs, strategies for publication and dissemination of study results, and career progression.

The University provides excellent free training in research, IT and personal development, and hosts one of the world's greatest academic libraries. The Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences has a well-attended weekly seminar series that includes sessions for fellows to present their work. The Fellow would also have access to the fortnightly seminar programmes run by the Health Economics and Policy Evaluation group within the department, and to the monthly Oxford-wide health economics seminar series. The Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences provides generour training and development support for fellows.

In terms of research infrastructure, all personal award holders have prioritised access as required to the considerable research resources provided by the department, including data sciences support, project management team, HR and finance teams, a large number of senior statisticians, the UK CRC fully registered Primary Care Clinical Trials Unit, the appraisal expertise of the Centre for Evidence Based Medicine and Cochrane teams, and the growing research practice network.

The department is committed to flexible, family-friendly career development for all staff and holds a Gold Athena Swan award to recognise this commitment.

For further details, please contact Green Templeton College Governing Body Fellow Professor Stavros Petrou who is based at the Nuffield Department of Primary Care Health Sciences, University of Oxford (stavros.petrou@phc.ox.ac.uk).

Prof Stephanie Georgina Dakin PhD BVetMed MRCVS PGCert TLHE FHEA

Associate Professor of Musculoskeletal Sciences

Dakin Group Soft Tissue Joint Disease I Versus Arthritis Career Development Fellow

Director of the Taught MSc in Musculoskeletal Sciences I Green Templeton College Research Fellow
NDORMS, University of Oxford

- The main health research approaches/disciplines in the proposed host group/department:
[Medical Sciences, NDORMS, Musculoskeletal Sciences, Dakin Group](https://www.ndorms.ox.ac.uk/research-groups/soft-tissue-joint-disease-dakin-group)
<https://www.ndorms.ox.ac.uk/research-groups/soft-tissue-joint-disease-dakin-group>
- The potential field(s) of the work/project – [Wet lab based, cellular and molecular mechanisms of chronic inflammatory fibrosis of soft tissue joint disease \(tendinopathy, frozen shoulder, knee arthrofibrosis\)](https://www.ndorms.ox.ac.uk/research-groups/soft-tissue-joint-disease-dakin-group) <https://www.ndorms.ox.ac.uk/research-groups/soft-tissue-joint-disease-dakin-group>
- What the group/department would offer the Girdlers Fellow in terms of opportunities, conferences, mentorship, training:
Can offer project supervision, training in soft tissue joint disease and associated laboratory techniques used to investigate the cellular basis of disease, attendance of Departmental seminars at Botnar and Kennedy Institutes, lab group meetings
- [Who would be the host/ mentor for the Girdlers Fellow:](#)
[Prof Stephanie Dakin](#)

Professor Sue Ziebland

Professor of Medical Sociology and Co-Director of the Medical Sociology and Health Experiences Research Group (MS & HERG)

Nuffield Department of Primary Health Care Sciences

The main health research approaches/disciplines in the proposed host group/department.

Medical Sociology, qualitative research, applied social sciences in primary care and social care

Potential areas of work/projects

Women's health, maternal health, digital health, access to primary care, emergency care, social care

Opportunities, conferences, mentorship, training

We run renowned (fee paying) qualitative research methods courses from the group which the Girdlers fellow would be welcome to join. We also take the group on annual 2-3 day writing retreats and have numerous career development initiatives in the group and wider department.

We also fund the group to attend the annual BSA Medical Sociology conference and will happily consider other conferences relevant to the Fellow's research

Who would be the host/ mentor for the Girdlers Fellow

Prof [Catherine Pope](#) or [Prof Sue Ziebland](#)

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Leanne Hodson

PROFESSOR OF METABOLIC PHYSIOLOGY

BHF Senior Basic Science Research Fellow, Integrative Physiology (Systems Biology)

RESEARCH GROUPS: Karpe, Hodson and Christodoulides Group: Metabolic Research Group

My groups research interests are human metabolism and nutrition and the influence of phenotype and/or genotype on response. Possible projects are on the effect of dietary fats on liver fat content and metabolism and the influence of polygenic risk scores on dietary responses to specific diets. To study this we undertake complex human in vivo physiological studies and in vitro cellular studies, using stable-

isotope tracers to probe metabolic pathways. The host / mentor of the Girdlers Fellow would be Professor Leanne Hodson, who is based at the Oxford Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Metabolism which is part of the Radcliffe Department of Medicine.

Regarding the opportunities, conferences, mentorship and training - The fellow would get training in all aspects of the work, along with having the opportunity to present their work at local, national and international conferences.

<https://www.rdm.ox.ac.uk/people/leanne-hodson>

Email: leanne.hodson@ocdem.ox.ac.uk