

Meet the Speakers for NeoCard-UK 2025



Dr María Carmen Bravo

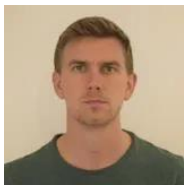
Division Director

La Paz University Hospital, Spain

Dr. María Carmen Bravo works as Division Director in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at La Paz University Hospital in Madrid, Spain. She completed her training program on Neonatologist Performed Echocardiography (NPE) with Prof Nick Evans in Sydney and she finished her PhD on new approaches to treat patent ductus arteriosus in 2011. She is the leader of the NPE program at La Paz Hospital and has directed NPE courses since 2010. She is also the NPE coordinator in the Spanish society of Neonatology (SeNeo)

Dr Bravo's specific research interests are in the field of critical care, neonatal cardiopulmonary physiology, functional echocardiography and the assessment of brain damage with cranial ultrasonography.

She is an active member of the EurUSbrain group and of the Section of circulation, oxygen transport and haematology of the European Society for Paediatric Research.



Dr Daniel Cromb

Paediatric ST6 & Clinical Research Fellow

Kings College London, UK

Dr Cromb is a London-Based paediatric registrar who recently completed a PhD at King's College London studying placental and early brain development in congenital heart disease. He is also the president of the Royal Society of Medicine's Paediatric and Child Health section, an associate editor at the journal *Archives of Disease in Childhood* and is currently completing a trainee editorial fellowship with the Journal of Magnetic Resonance Imaging.



Dr David Crossland

Consultant Paediatric and Adult Congenital Cardiologist

Freeman Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne, UK

Dr. David Crossland is a Consultant Paediatric/ Adult Congenital Cardiologist and Clinical Director of Congenital Cardiac services at Freeman Hospital, Newcastle upon Tyne. His training in congenital cardiology was at the Freeman Hospital with a year's sabbatical in Melbourne Children's Hospital (cardiology and surfing!). He was appointed as consultant in 2008. He has major interests in interventional congenital cardiology and in the assessment of patients with congenital heart disease for heart transplant, alternative conventional surgery and mechanical support. He has an active interest in neonatal cardiology in particular as part of the network developed by the NeoCard meetings.



Dr Thomas Day

Paediatric and Fetal Cardiologist

Evelina Children's Hospital, London, UK

Dr Thomas Day is a Clinical Research Fellow in the School of Biomedical Engineering and Imaging Sciences, KCL. He is also a Paediatric and Fetal Cardiologist, and undertakes clinical work at The Evelina London Children's Hospital, part of Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust. His research interest is the use of artificial intelligence to improve screening for congenital heart disease.



Professor Willem de Boode

Professor of Neonatology

Radboudumc Amalia Children's Hospital, The Netherlands

Willem-Pieter de Boode (born in Arnhem in 1966) earned his doctor's degree with honours from VU University Amsterdam. He specialized in Paediatrics at Radboudumc and Sint Joseph Hospital, now known as Maxima Medical Center, Veldhoven. Additionally, he focused on Neonatology at Radboudumc and became a registered Neonatologist in 1999. In 2010, he successfully completed his PhD at Radboud University, conducting research on advanced techniques for investigating and monitoring the neonatal cardiovascular system.

Dr. de Boode currently serves as a paediatrician-neonatologist and a staff member at the Neonatology department in Radboudumc Amalia Children's Hospital, Nijmegen, the Netherlands. His primary areas of expertise include neonatal haemodynamics, cardiovascular physiology, neonatologist-performed echocardiography (NPE), advanced haemodynamic monitoring, patent ductus arteriosus (PDA), neonatal shock, and Extracorporeal Life Support (ECLS).

He has held several roles within the European Society for Paediatric Research (ESPR), serving as the secretary of the ESPR Section "Circulation, Oxygen Transport and Haematology" and as chairman of the ESPR special interest group "Neonatologist Performed Echocardiography (NPE)." In this capacity, he has been instrumental in formulating European clinical, technical, and training guidelines for the use of echocardiography in Neonatal Intensive Care Units (NICUs).

Dr. de Boode is also the project leader of the BeNeDuctus Trial, an international multi-center, randomized non-inferiority trial that explores early treatment versus expectative management of patent ductus arteriosus in preterm infants. This groundbreaking research is funded by The Netherlands Organization for Health Research and Development (ZonMw).



Professor Jon Dorling

Consultant Neonatologist, Princess Anne Hospital, Southampton, UK

Honorary Professor, University of Southampton, UK

Jon is Professor of Child Health and Neonatology at the University of Leeds and Honorary Consultant Neonatologist at the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust. He enjoys helping to answer important questions about care for newborn infants. He led the SIFT trial in the UK & Ireland of increasing milk feeds at 30ml/kg/day v 18ml/kg/day (n=2800) to assess the effect of the intention to reach full feeds in 5 v 9 days on disability-free survival, & infection. He is also part of teams assessing deferring cord clamping beyond 2 minutes whilst stabilising at the bedside, lactoferrin supplementation, antibiotic impregnated long lines and Ursodeoxycholic acid for pregnancy related cholestasis.



Professor Samir Gupta

Professor of Neonatology, Durham University, UK

Chair Division of Neonatology, Sidra Medicine, Doha, Qatar

Prof Samir Gupta is a Fellow of Royal College of Pediatrics and Child Health and Fellow of Royal College of Physicians of Ireland. He is member of European steering group of the Neonatologist performed echocardiography (NPE). He is founder and chair of the Neonatologist with interest in Cardiology & Hemodynamics in the UK and has now successfully established Qatar NPE training program at Sidra Medicine in Doha, Qatar.

He is a member of several scientific organizations, including the European Society for Pediatric Research (ESPR) and Society for Pediatric Research (USA). He has authored over 150 articles in indexed peer reviewed journals and books. He has been invited guest editor for high impact journals.

He is Chief investigator of Baby-OSCAR trial on patent ductus arteriosus (PDA), (<https://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/baby-oscar>). He established 1st global Annual international neonatal cardiology & hemodynamics conference in UK in 2010, which is

successfully running to date (www.neonatalcardiology.co.uk). He is lead for Asia & Middle East for the NHRC (<https://neonatalhemodynamics.com>).

He has established Neonatal hemodynamics program at Sidra Medicine with a team of clinicians, that has significantly improved neonatal outcomes in surgical, complex and sick newborn infants. He works collaboratively with Pediatric cardiology and fetal medicine division to improve the care of complex cardiac patients admitted to the NICU. Currently, he is working to set up the 'Cardiac ICU on NICU' and expanding the NPE training program internationally. He also advises on various international forums on cardio-respiratory disorders and management and is international expert in this field.



Dr Caroline Jones

Consultant Paediatric & Fetal Cardiologist

Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool, UK

Dr Caroline Jones is a Consultant Fetal and Paediatric Cardiologist based at Alder Hey Children's Hospital in Liverpool, where she serves as the Clinical Lead for Cardiology. She leads the fetal cardiology service at Saint Mary's Hospital where her expertise ensures accurate diagnosis, informed family counselling, and meticulous birth planning to optimise neonatal outcomes. Beyond clinical practice, she actively engages in research and education: she has authored and co authored numerous peer-reviewed studies on topics ranging from fetal cardiac development to neonatal pulmonary hypertension, congenital heart disease, and paediatric inherited cardiac conditions.

In addition to her clinical leadership, Dr Jones is the Co-Director of the North West, North Wales and Isle of Man Congenital Heart Disease (CHD) Operational Delivery Network, working to enhance regional collaboration and service delivery across the CHD care spectrum.

Nationally, she plays a key role in advancing congenital cardiology through her position as Secretary of the British Congenital Cardiac Association (BCCA), where she contributes to national policy, education, and research initiatives. Additionally, she chairs the British Fetal Cardiology Association, helping establish nationwide standards, fostering collaboration and enhancing education and training for trainees, sonographers and obstetricians.



Professor Florian Kipfmüller

University Medical Center Mennheim

Heidelberg University, Germany

Florian's major clinical and scientific interests are the postnatal cardiorespiratory physiology in neonates with congenital diaphragmatic hernia, aspects of extracorporeal life support in neonates and older children, and pulmonary vascular diseases in extremely preterm neonates.

Additionally he is focussing on the usefulness of biomarkers for outcome prediction in sick neonates and children.



Dr Silvia Martini

Assistant Professor

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, IRCCS Policlinico di S. Orsola, Italy

In 2011, I obtained the medical degree with top marks at the University of Bologna. In the following years, I participated in several research projects under the mentorship of Professor Luigi Corvaglia, gaining advanced research skills and deepening my knowledge in neonatal gastroenterology and nutrition. Presenting my research results at international conferences also constituted a unique opportunity to share ideas, meet leading experts, and establish international contacts.

In 2013, I entered the pediatric training program of Bologna University. Being keen to expand my knowledge in neonatal neurology and brain monitoring, in 2016 I did a clinical and research fellowship at the Rosie Hospital, Cambridge (UK), under the supervision of Professor Topun Austin. Collaborating to the activities of his research group, made up of clinicians, psychologists, physicists, and engineers, was of great inspiration and confirmed my willing to pursue a research career. To this end, in collaboration with the Brain Physic Laboratory of the University of Cambridge, headed by Professor Marek Czosnyka, I designed a research proposal aimed at shedding light on transitional cardiovascular and cerebrovascular hemodynamics in preterm infants using novel non-invasive technologies. In 2017, I obtained a PhD at the University of Bologna, and this research proposal became my core PhD project.

After my doctoral graduation in 2021, I obtained a post as a Researcher and Consultant Neonatologist at the University Hospital of Bologna, IRCCS Policlinico di Sant'Orsola. In the same year, I won the European Society for Paediatric Research (ESPR) Post-Doc Research Grant with a project on non-invasive cerebral hemodynamic monitoring in neonatal encephalopathy. I am particularly interested in exploring neonatal physiology and hemodynamics, and I am member of the ESPR special interest group on NIRS.

In recent years, I have mentored several students and trainees in their initial research experiences. To them, I suggest to feed their curiosity by asking questions and making observations, to catch any precious occasion to learn, and, finally, to be humble and aware of the importance of teamwork.



Professor Eirik Nestaas

Associate Professor

University of Oslo, Norway

Consultant at Akershus University Hospital, Norway, and Associate Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Oslo, Norway. Council member of the European Society for Paediatric Research (ESPR), section secretary of the ESPR Section on Circulation, Oxygen Transport and Haematology, chairman of the ESPR special interest group Neonatologist Performed Echocardiography and associate editor in Acta Paediatrica. Main research interests relate to assessment of heart function by echocardiography.



Professor Charles Christoph Roehr

Professor of Neonatal and Perinatal Medicine, Faculty of Health and Life Sciences

University of Bristol, UK

Charles Christoph Roehr (aka "CC") is Professor and Chair for Neonatal and Perinatal Medicine at the University of Bristol, and Honorary Consultant Neonatologist at Bristol Southmead Hospital. He is affiliated with the University of Oxford, where he's the Consultant Advisor to the Clinical Trials Unit at the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit.

Charles is immediate past-president of the European Society for Paediatric Research (ESPR) and current chair of the European Board for Neonatal and Childhood Research (EBNCHR), responsible for the European Neonatal Syllabus.

Charles chairs the ESPR Special Interest Group on "The most preterm infants (sub 25/40) and is the newly elected Research Lead for the BAPM (British Association of Perinatal Medicine) "Nano-Prem" special interest group.



Professor Jean Christophe Roze

Professor Emeritus of Pediatrics, Nantes University, France

President of the French Society of Neonatology (since 2020), Elected.

Head of the Paediatric Intensive Care and Neonatology Department at Nantes University Hospital 1994-2021.

345 publications referenced in Pubmed, index H at 49 (web of science) and 65 (google scholar) ; more than 10 publications in the field of ductus arteriosus, published in The Lancet, JAMA, Journal of Pediatrics, Pediatric Research, Acta Paediatrica and pharmacology review.



Prof Arvind Sehgal MD, FRCPCH (UK), FRACP, PhD, DmedHS, FACC

Staff Neonatologist, Clinician Scientist and Head of Neonatal Cardiovascular Research, Monash Children's Hospital.

Professor of Pediatrics, Monash University, Australia

Prof Arvind Sehgal is a Neonatologist at Monash Children's Hospital and Professor of Paediatrics at Monash University, Melbourne, Australia. He has been the Head of Cardiovascular Research at Monash Children's Hospital for the past 13 years. He completed his PhD in 2016 while working as a full time intensivist and this year completed Higher Doctorate in Perinatal Haemodynamics. Prof Sehgal's research was awarded the ANZNN Best cardiorespiratory Research Award in 2019 and 2024. He was awarded the Professional Excellence in Research Award by the University for the year 2022.

Prof Sehgal's current research focuses on cardiovascular adaptations in infants with severe bronchopulmonary and those with fetal growth restriction. He has more than 150 publications in international journals.



Dr Nim Subhedar

Consultant Neonatologist,

Liverpool Women's Hospital, UK

Dr. Subhedar is a Consultant Neonatologist working at Liverpool Women's Hospital and Honorary Senior Clinical Lecturer at the University of Liverpool. His research interests include neonatal pulmonary hypertension, inhaled nitric oxide therapy, neonatal haemodynamics and echocardiography. He was a co-applicant on the UK multicentre NIHR-HTA funded Baby OSCAR trial into early selective treatment of patent ductus arteriosus. He led the first randomised controlled trial of inhaled nitric oxide in preterm neonates. He is currently the Chief Investigator for the international Registry of Pulmonary Hypertension in Neonates (RePHYNe) and a member of the BAPM NEOFOCUS-UK executive group.



Professor Jonathan Wyllie

Consultant Neonatologist with Expertise in Cardiology

James Cook University Hospital, Middlesbrough

Professor Jonathan Wyllie is a neonatologist and paediatrician with expertise in cardiology at The James Cook University Hospital in Middlesbrough. He has a long-standing interest in resuscitation and neonatal haemodynamics as well as an interest in paediatric cardiology.

Originally on the Advanced Paediatric Life Support (APLS) international working group, he became one of the originators of the Newborn Life Support (NLS) course in the UK and Europe. He was President of the Resuscitation Council UK (2017-2021), Vice President (2016-2017 and 2021-2022) and a founding member and chair of the Newborn Life Support (NLS) and Advanced Resuscitation of the Newborn Infant (ARNI) subcommittees for the Resuscitation Council UK. He is also an ex co-chair of the ILCOR Neonatal Task Force for the evidence evaluation process and was on the task force from 1998-2022. He was a co-author of newborn resuscitation guidelines for Europe and the UK for 2010, 2015 and 2021. In 2010 he received the Fellowship of the European Resuscitation Council for services to resuscitation, in 2015 Honorary membership of the Resuscitation Council UK and in 2018 Honorary Fellowship of the RCPCH.

He is an elected member of the RCUK Executive and Chair of the North East and North Cumbria Congenital Heart Disease Network.