

Clinical Surgery NEWS

Mr Ewen Harrison is a Senior Lecturer and Honorary consultant transplant & HPB surgeon. Ewen leads the Surgical Informatics Group conducting data linkage and data science research into surgical outcomes on a global scale, as well as having an interest in laboratory-based studies into reducing kidney injury during transplantation

The Surgical Informatics group (www.surgicalinformatics.org)



works at the interface between medical research and data science, using the latest technologies to capture and analyse large and diverse datasets.

Working with Data Manager, **Dr Riinu Ots**, the group are also developing data analysis training and education through their HealthyR courses (www.healthyr.org), which focus on using advanced data analysis packages, specifically in the healthcare setting.

Ewen was a co-founder of GlobalSurg in 2013 (www.globalsurg.org), which has now grown to global network of more than 5000 surgical researchers with a presence in 106 countries. Earlier this year, with consortium partners the Universities of Edinburgh, Birmingham and Warwick, the GlobalSurg network formed the basis of a successful NIHR £7 million grant award

to establish the first Global Surgery Unit. Over the next 4 years, the Global Surgery Unit will establish and develop 5 research hubs around the world, including in low and middle income countries. With local leadership on the ground, each hub will support research skills training, contribute to research priority setting, as well as conducting global cohort studies and randomised controlled trials – building long term research infrastructure and capacity, often in countries currently lacking even basic surgical care.

Ewen is Principle Investigator for the TWIST study – a randomised controlled trial aiming to reduce time to diagnosis of surgical site infections by using smartphone technology to allow post-operative patients to upload images of their surgical wounds for assessment.

In addition, Ewen is involved in transplant research, contributing various clinical trials as well as supervising **Kevin Gallagher's** PhD project investigating the role of RIP-1 Kinase in kidney cell death in collaboration with GlaxoSmithKline.

Ewen is also the Programme Director for the ChM in General Surgery and contributes to the surgical curriculum for undergraduate medical teaching.

Welcome to the Autumn 2017 Edition of the Department of Clinical Surgery Newsletter

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Recent Publications

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Raza A, Raza I, Drake TM, Sadar AB, Adil M, Baluch F, Qureshi AU, Harrison EM; **GlobalSurg Collaborative. The efficiency, accuracy and acceptability of smartphone-delivered data collection in a low-resource setting - A prospective study.** *Int J Surg.* 2017 Aug;44:252-254

Jones CH, O'Neill S, McLean KA, Wigmore SJ, Harrison EM. **Patient experience and overall satisfaction after emergency abdominal surgery.** *BMC Surg.* 2017;17(1):76

Albert V, Mndolo S, Harrison EM, O'Sullivan E, Wilson IH, Walker IA. **Lifebox pulse oximeter implementation in Malawi: evaluation of educational outcomes and impact on oxygen desaturation episodes during anaesthesia.** *Anaesthesia.* 2017

Recent grant awards

NIHR Global Health Unit on Global Surgery, 2017-2021; £7 million. NIHR

HOT-2 A blinded randomized controlled investigation into the efficacy of heme arginate in improving primary graft function in deceased donor kidney transplantation. 2017 - 2021: £750,000; Kidney Research UK

Visiting Professors

The Department of Clinical Surgery are delighted to welcome two visiting Professors who will spend year long sabbaticals contributing to the clinical, educational and research activities of the department. Professor Thomas Weiser joins the department from Stanford University and Professor Kjetil Soreide joins us from the University of Bergen in Norway.

Professor Kjetil Soreide, MD PhD

Department of Clinical Medicine, University of Bergen, Norway

Kjetil Soreide MD PhD is a visiting professor and honorary consultant surgeon at the HPB unit at the Royal Infirmary. He is an editor of the British Journal of Surgery and has research interest in gastrointestinal cancer both clinically and in basic science. Also, he has a portfolio in trauma and emergency surgery, including international and global focus on these topics.



With a family of 6, with 4 boys aged 3 to 11, there is a lot to organize but we are settling in well in Edinburgh. My wife Annbjorg is also a doctor but currently buffers as housewife, at least for a temporary period.

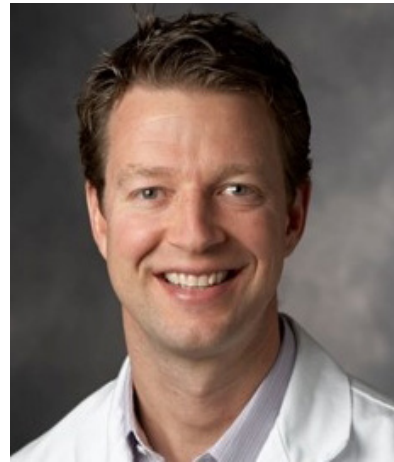
I did my medical training in Freiburg in Germany and trained in general and gastrointestinal surgery in Stavanger, Norway. My PhD was based on biomarkers in colorectal cancer and I am currently leading a small group of clinicians and basic scientists who work on molecular themes in cancer (ACROBATICC project), more specifically now focusing on resected colorectal liver metastasis. More information on the ACROBATICC project can be read [here](#)

I am excited to come to Edinburgh with my family

and to have the chance to work with the fantastic team at RIE. My clinical focus for the stay would be to further specialise in hepatobiliary and pancreatic surgery, particularly learning from the vast experience and the range of procedures and complex disease that is being handled at RIE. The transplant activity that goes together with the HPB service is obviously also an opportunity for learning. I aim to explore research opportunities within the HPB and global surgery fields, and I am sure the surfacing ideas will mature into well designed and publishable projects during the time here.

Professor Thomas G Weiser, MD MPH

Associate Professor, Stanford University Medical Centre



Thomas G Weiser MD MPH FACS will be spending a sabbatical year in the Royal Infirmary as a Visiting Professor at the University of Edinburgh. He is an associate professor in the Department of Surgery at Stanford University Medical Center, where he

practices general and emergency surgery and surgical intensive care. He is a member of the Trauma and Acute Care surgery team and Surgical ICU at Stanford Medical Center, an American College of Surgeons accredited Level I Trauma Center. His clinical practice involves caring for patients with critical traumatic injuries and acute general surgical emergencies, as well as critically ill surgical patients.

His research focuses on quality and safety of surgical of care, and strategies for improving the safety and reliability of surgical delivery in resource poor settings. From 2006-2009 he was part of the World Health Organization's Safe Surgery Saves Lives program where he helped quantify the global volume of surgery and create, implement, evaluate, and promote the WHO Surgical Safety Checklist. He was a contributor to the recent Disease Control Priorities Project, a World Bank initiative that evaluates the cost effectiveness of

health interventions. DCP has identified a suite of emergency and essential operations as a very cost-effective, and has highlighted surgery's importance in a strong and well-functioning health system. He was also involved in the work of the Lancet Commission on Global Surgery, and helped organize and craft its key messages and findings.

He is also a board member of Lifebox, a charity devoted to improving surgical safety worldwide. A major portion of his work this year will be devoted to the development of its Clean Cut program, a multinational effort to improve surgical safety and prevent surgical infections. This program is a checklist-based intervention that focuses on improving compliance with six essential components of perioperative infection prevention: skin decontamination, the maintenance of a sterile field, appropriate timing and selection of antibiotics, assurance of instrument sterility, routine swab counts, and the use of a checklist to improve communication. The work is currently being evaluated in Ethiopia in conjunction with the Federal Ministry of Health of Ethiopia.

Tom is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons and a member of the American Association for the Surgery of Trauma and the Surgical Infection Society.

Research Fellows

The advent of the new academic sessions sees new research fellows, **Katie Connor** and **Janice Miller** commence projects in the department, whilst **Rachel Forsythe** returns to clinical work as a vascular trainee having recently transferred her national training number from London to South East Scotland

Katie Connor

After completing her early surgical training in Edinburgh and South Africa, Katie Connor is currently training as a general surgical registrar in the South East Scotland. She is now looking forward to undertaking her PhD in renal transplantation under the supervision of



Prof. Wigmore and Ms. Lorna Marson. Primarily she will be working with the H0T2 trial: a multicentre randomized trial assessing the superiority of heme arginate (HA) vs. placebo, in reducing delayed graft function in DCD renal transplant recipients. Katie will lead the H0T2R (H0T2 Research) arm of the trial, which will be investigating the effect of HA on macrophage microRNA expression and renal microvascular perfusion. This work will be complemented by experimental work employing in vitro and animal models.

Alongside this work Katie is currently working as a research fellow in transplant surgery. She also continues to teach and work with the CASE (Clinical Anatomy Scheme of Edinburgh) committee, which works with surgical trainees in the teaching of clinically relevant anatomy to senior undergraduates.

Janice Miller

Janice Miller is undertaking a two year MD under the supervision of Mr Richard Skipworth,



Professors Wigmore and Ross. Janice's project is investigating the molecular and clinical consequences of skeletal muscle loss in cancer cachexia. The project is targeted at evaluating the relationship between different cachexia definitions, systemic inflammation and signalling pathways

within cachectic human muscle. It will also look at changes in the adipose transcriptome in order to identify how it responds in cancer cachexia and if any identified pathways in fat point to a potential for fat-muscle crosstalk.

Janice will be funded by Novartis, CRUK and RCSEd.

Congratulations & Recent Grant Awards

Mr Gabi Oniscu has been elected Secretary of the European Society for Organ Transplantation

Mr Robert O'Neill was awarded the ASBGI Gold Medal for the highest mark in the FRCS exam in May this year.

Miss Rachel Forsythe was awarded the prize for the best UK abstract at the Society for Cardiovascular CT, Washington DC (July 2017) and the Centre for Cardiovascular Science Imaging Prize at the University of Edinburgh CVS Symposium (June 2017)

The **Edinburgh Transplant Unit** Ranked 6th in #StrongerTogether competition for the highest number of abstracts submitted at the European Society for Organ Transplantation (ESOT) 2017

Mr Richard Skipworth will deliver an invited lecture entitled, '*Novel Molecular Targets of Muscle Recovery in Older Cancer Patients*' at ESPEN this autumn in a session dedicated to the memory of Professor Ken Fearon.

E M Harrison, OJ Garden plus consortium partners at the Universities of Birmingham and Warwick. *NIHR Global Health Research Unit on Global Surgery.*

National Institute for Health Research: 2017-2021; £7 million

A Choy, J Huang, I Mordi, C Lang, D Newby, R Forsythe. *Desmosine as a prognostic marker in aortic aneurysm (DES-MA3RS)*

Chief Scientist Office: 2017-18; £33,000

N Carragher, JR O'Neill, TR Hupp, RC Fitzgerald. *Mechanistically informed Phenotypic Screening to Advance New Therapeutic Treatments for Oesophageal Cancer Patients*

Cancer Research UK: £260,000

S Forbes, G Oniscu, J Campbell, N McGowan. *Defining the regenerative capacity of ductular cells from non-transplantable human liver*

Medical Research Council; £1.8 million

R Forsythe

The Edin-Vasc Study: PET scanning vascular tissue ex vivo

Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh Pump Priming Grant; 2017-18; £9,986

News Round Up

Congratulations to the MSc Primary Care Ophthalmology students and staff! The inaugural graduates of the latest edition to the ESSQ suite of distance learning programmes graduated in July this year. They will be followed in December by the first graduates of the ChM Ophthalmology.



MSc Primary Care Ophthalmology graduates pictured with programme director, Professor Baljean Dhillon, and academic e-facilitators, Dr Heather Ellis and Dr Domenica Coxon.

New MSc in Patient Safety and Human Clinical Factors

The Department of Clinical Surgery is a world class leader in on-line education and the ESSQ suite of programmes will continue to expand in 2018 with the launch of a new MSc degree. Led by Programme Director, Mr Simon Paterson-Brown, and Academic e-Facilitator, Dr Domenica Coxon, the new MSc in Patient Safety and Human Clinical Factors will be a 3-year, part time distance learning degree programme which will support clinicians in using evidenced-based tools and techniques to improve reliability and safety of everyday health care systems and processes.

To register interest and receive updates about the new MSc, including application deadlines, please visit

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/PatientSafe>

Clinical Trials Update

**** Now OPEN for Recruitment****

TWIST—Tracking Wound Infection with Smart Phone Technology

A randomised controlled trial to investigate if a smartphone tool can shorten time to diagnosis of surgical site infections.

All patients (>16) undergoing abdominal surgery who a smartphone are eligible to enter the study. Visually impaired patients are excluded.

Patients will be randomised to receive either standard post-operative care or standard post-operative care plus use of the smartphone tool.

Those in the smartphone group will receive a series of questions via text message and have the facility to upload a photograph of their surgical wound.

Primary outcome measure is time to diagnosis of an SSI and secondary outcome measures will consider use of A&E and GP services

For more information please contact Principle Investigator, **Mr Ewen Harrison**

New Trials

The ROMIO Trial

A multicentre randomised controlled trial comparing minimally invasive versus open esophagectomy for esophageal cancer.

This trial is being run by the University of Bristol. Site initiation for ROMIO took place in July 2017; NHS Lothian will open soon as a trial site and begin patient recruitment

For more information please contact **Mr Peter Lamb** or **Mr Richard Skipworth**

The HOT-2 Trial

HOT-2 is a blinded randomized controlled investigation into the efficacy of heme arginate in improving primary graft function in deceased donor kidney transplantation. Ms Lorna Marson is the Chief Investigator and Edinburgh will be the lead centre for this multicentre trial

It is anticipated that Edinburgh will open as the first trial site and begin recruitment late in 2017/early 2018.

For more information about HOT-2 please contact Chief Investigator, **Ms Lorna Marson**.

On Going Trials

The Balanced Anaesthesia Study

An international multicentre RCT to assess whether 'deep' general anaesthesia is associated with altered perioperative outcome. Inclusion criteria include age above 60, ASA 3 or 4, and requiring a general anaesthetic of at least 2 hours duration.

Patients will be randomised into 1 of 2 groups, targeting 'deep' or 'less deep' anaesthesia – this is achieved by using BIS (modified EEG) monitoring and targeting a BIS level of 35 or 50. Primary outcome will be all-cause mortality at one year, and secondary outcomes will include various complications of surgery or anaesthesia

For more information contact the Edinburgh principle investigator, **Dr Gary Morrison** or local research nurse **Alastair Lang** (0131 242 9453)

OCCAMS—Oesophageal Cancer Clinical and Molecular Stratification.

A Multicentre Study to Determine Predictive and Prognostic Biomarkers and Therapeutic Targets for Oesophageal and Junctional Adenocarcinoma including Whole Genome Sequencing

This study, part of the International Cancer Genome Consortium (ICGC2), has recently been refunded by CRUK for 5 years and is continuing recruitment

For more information please contact **Mr Rob O'Neil** or **Mr Richard Skipworth**

The NeoAegis Trial

A phase III, open-labelled RCT comparing the MAGIC neoadjuvant/adjuvant chemotherapy regimen with the CROSS neoadjuvant chemoradiation protocol in patients with cT2-3 N0-3 M0 adenocarcinoma of the oesophagus or junction. The primary objective is to evaluate 1, 2 and 3-year survival.

This trial is currently recruiting. For more information contact **Mr Richard Skipworth**.

Recruitment Complete

The MA3RS Trial

MRI in AAA to predict rupture and surgery - this trial has now closed. The primary analysis is complete and published in Circulation

The SoFIA3 Trial

Sodium Fluoride Imaging (18F-NaF PET-CT) in AAA - this trial has also recently completed. The primary analysis is complete and being prepared for publication.

Recent Publications

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Future Conference Submission Deadlines

Conference	Date	Location	Abstract Submission
Society of Academic & Research Surgery	10 - 11th January 2018	Nottingham, UK	Closed
British Transplant Society (BTS)	14th - 16th March 2018	Brighton, UK	November 23rd
International Hepato-Pancreato-Biliary Association (IHPBA)	3rd - 7th September 2018	Geneva, Switzerland	Save the date - TBC
Association of Surgeons of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (ASGBI)	9th - 11th May 2018	Liverpool	January 10th 2018
Royal Australian College of Surgeons (RACS) Annual Scientific Congress	7th - 11th May 2018	Sydney, Australia	Save the date - TBC

Upcoming Events

Edinburgh School of Surgery Day

December 1st, 2017



Full details of the programme and abstract submission deadline to follow later in the year.

The Chiene Medal for Basic Science research and The Ian B Macleod Medal for Clinical Research will be awarded at the event.

Visiting Professors Tom Wesier and Kjetil Soreide will deliver keynote addresses at this year's School of Surgery Day.

Please email Susan Keggie (s.keggie@ed.ac.uk) to book your place

PURE Reminder

Have you had a manuscript accepted for publication recently?

In order to increase the accessibility of Edinburgh University research, all manuscripts must now be deposited in PURE within **3 months of acceptance**.

Any publications not deposited in PURE within 3 months of acceptance will not be eligible for the next ref.

What do you need to do?

The Clinical Surgery Research Manager, Dr Katie

Shaw, will deposit manuscripts in PURE on your behalf.

More information about PURE can be viewed at: www.ed.ac.uk/governance-strategic-planning/research/pure



HealthyR: R for healthcare data analysis

22nd - 24th November 2017 - **FULLY BOOKED**

The next HealthyR (www.healthyr.org) course in November is now fully booked. Join the waiting list [here](#) or email Dr Riinu Ots (R.Ots@ed.ac.uk) to join the mailing list and be updated on future course dates.

The Surgical Informatics group are extending the HealthyR suite of programmes to include 1 day advanced courses, such as Practical Logistic Regression. If you would like to request a course on a specific topic please email R.Ots@ed.ac.uk with suggestions

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 is at the end of the year and will feature the annual research report.