

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES (in order of presentation)

KATE KENYON

23 years old. Long term chronic renal failure sufferer. Writer of blog :'Local dialysis girl on tour'. "I wish I wasn't sick" will make you sick! A positive mental attitude can get you through anything and I want to share my story so others can find hope that everything will be alright in the end... if it's not alright, it's not the end. Follow me on <http://dialysisgirlontour.blogspot.co.uk/>

KATH EVANS

Experience of Care Lead, Maternity, Infants, Children & Young People, NHS England
RGN, RSCN, MSc (Nursing), PG Dip (Education), BSc (Hons), PG Dip (Management), Institute of Leadership and Management (ILM) Accredited Coach.

Kath is a registered general and children's nurse and her career has included clinical, educational, managerial and service improvement roles. She is Experience of Care Lead for Maternity, Infants, Children and Young People at NHS England where she is committed to ensuring the voice of children, young people, families/carers and maternity service users are heard in their care and in the design, delivery and commissioning of services.

Kath is a keen user of social media (@KathEvans2) to connect with communities to inform programmes of work and is a Health Care Ambassador for Save the Children.

Kath is delighted to have been identified as a HSJ Inspirational Women Leader (2014), a Nursing Leader by the Nursing Times (2014 & 2015), a 'Rising Star' by the HSJ (2013), as delivering an 'Outstanding Contribution to Improving Patient Experience' (2013) by the Patient Experience Network and an NHS Innovator of the Year (2012) finalist by the NHS Leadership academy.

ALEX HAMILTON

Alex is a Renal/GIM Registrar in the Severn Deanery and is currently undertaking a BKPA/Kidney Research UK fellowship investigating the impact of ESRD requiring RRT on the lives of young adults at the University of Bristol. Alex is the Chief Investigator of the Surveying People Experiencing young Adult Kidney failure (SPEAK) study and is also part of the UK Renal Registry.

CONSTANTINA (TINA) CHRYSOCHOU

Renal Consultant at Salford Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust and an Honorary lecturer at the University of Manchester.

Tina is the department lead for Young Adult / Transition Medicine and Inpatient governance. Her clinical commitments include glomerulonephritis, renovascular disease and dialysis. She is the Oldham Kidney Care Centre lead. Her research interests are in atheromatous renovascular disease, fibromuscular dysplasia and nephrogenic systemic fibrosis, and she has been an active lecturer for the MRCP exams through Pastest for 10 years. Tina is also the Trust's Freedom to Speak up Guardian.

ROB ELIAS

Rob is a Consultant Kidney Doctor (Nephrologist) at King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust in London. He is a member of the Programme Board for Transforming Participation in Chronic Kidney Disease. Rob's education includes his Philosophy Degree at Cambridge followed by Medicine and research into decision-making, including a doctorate entitled 'How decisions about dialysis are made'. He previously worked as a Clinical Advisor at NHS Kidney Care. He is co-chair of the BRS Transition and Shared Decision Making special interest group.

Rob is also 'Candour Guardian' for King's College Hospital Trust. He likes swimming in the Welsh sea and being up mountains with his family.

MATTHEW GRAHAM-BROWN

Matthew Graham-Brown (BSc *Hons*, MBChB *Hons*, MRCP) is a Doctoral Research Fellow at the National Centre for Sport and Exercise Medicine, University of Loughborough and Specialist Registrar in Renal Medicine at The John Walls Renal Unit, University Hospitals of Leicester. Current research uses cardiac MRI to assess the effects of intra-dialytic exercise on cardiac structure and function in haemodialysis patients. He is interested the development of cardiac imaging biomarker development and the use of social media in nephrology for patient and clinician benefit.

CRISTINA VASILICA

Cristina Vasilica is undertaking a PhD project to explore the impact of social media on patient information provision, networking and social support. She is supervised by Professor Paula Ormandy. Cristina's research has two key aims: to develop a sustainable interactive social hub in partnership with people with renal disease to offer information and support, and to follow 18 patients in depth to explore their experience of using social media. The website is called the Greater Manchester Kidney Information Network (GMKIN, <http://gmkin.org.uk/>). The aims of the site are to provide links to existing information rather than duplicating what is already available, and to enable networking and support.

GEMMA HOCKEY née KING

Gemma graduated as a Youth Worker in Manchester in 2007 and has worked with young people in health settings since then. In her work for Brook, the young people's sexual health charity, she campaigned for young people to receive better and more appropriate sex and relationships education, and provide better services in the community. Working with young people in both clinical and education settings, enabled Gemma to empower young people to make informed decisions about their sexual health.

Gemma joined the renal team at the Royal Free Hospital in 2014. Here, she works with the renal team to facilitate a smoother transition for young people in their journey from paediatric to adult services. In her role as Young Adult Worker, she works with young patients and their families to enable the young person to become independent and make informed decisions about their health care. She enjoys being able to work with young people in a healthcare setting, supporting young people to not only take care of their health, but also succeed in their life goals as well.