

RCOG Review- Assessors Biographies:

Professor Henry Kitchener (Chair) **Gynaecology Oncologist**



Henry Kitchener graduated in Medicine at Glasgow University, qualifying in 1975, and went on to train in Obstetrics and Gynaecology. He completed his higher degree in the MRC Virology Unit where he studied the viral aetiology of cervical cancer. He moved to Aberdeen as Consultant and Senior Lecturer in Gynaecological Oncology and in 1996 he was appointed to a newly established Chair in Gynaecological Oncology in the University of Manchester, remaining in that post until retiring in 2016, when he received the title of Professor Emeritus.

Professor Kitchener's research has been principally in the field of clinical trials in gynaecological surgery and cervical cancer prevention. A major area of his work has been in cervical screening, most notably the use of primary HPV testing in the ARTISTIC trial, but also trials of automated cytology, HPV triage for low grade cytology, and HPV as test of cure. These have informed the development of screening protocols in the UK and internationally.

Amongst a number of leadership roles, he was responsible for a 1996 report to the Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology recommending the establishment of Gynaecological Cancer Centres across the UK in order to ensure specialised care for all women within the NHS. This had been fully implemented within 10 years. He has been Chair of the Advisory Committee for Cervical Screening in England since 2005, including a national pilot of HPV primary screening since 2013. He was former President of the British Society of Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology. He has chaired CRUK's CTAAC, which is the main awarding body for Cancer trials in the UK. In the University of Manchester he has held the post of Director of the Institute of Cancer Sciences. He is a former Chair of the Gynaecological Cancer InterGroup and the initial chair of the Cervical Cancer Research Network. Professor Kitchener was elected to the UK Academy of Medical Sciences in 2007.

Dr Patrick Walker FRCOG (Deputy Chair) **Gynaecology Oncologist**



Patrick Walker is a past President of the British Society of Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology (BSCCP) and of the International Federation for Cervical Pathology and Colposcopy (IFCPC). He was for twenty-five years the lead clinician for colposcopy and gynaecological cancer services at the Royal Free hospital in London. He has a long experience in clinical governance. He was Chairman of the Quality Assurance in Colposcopy Group of the National Health Service Cervical Screening Programme (NHSCSP) as well as serving on six working parties for the NHSCSP including: '*Guidelines for managing incidents in the NHSCSP*'

and '*Audit of invasive cancers*'.

He has considerable experience in peer review, having been a lead assessor for obstetrics and gynaecology for the General Medical Council Performance Procedures for eight years and a panelist and subsequently chair of Fitness to Practice tribunals at the Medical Professional Tribunal Service (MPTS). He has experience of external service reviews, including an invited independent review of colposcopy services at St George's hospital in 1998 and as the invited Visiting Fellow of the Ministry of Health of Singapore to advice on their gynaecological cancer, colposcopy and screening services in 2004.

Dr Karin Denton
Consultant Cytopathologist



Dr Karin Denton has been a consultant cytopathologist at North Bristol NHS trust since 1994, specialising in cervical screening. From 1996 she was instrumental in setting up Quality Assurance in cervical screening, and subsequently led Quality Assurance of breast and bowel screening before taking up a post as Regional Head of Quality Assurance for Public Health England, in 2013. In this role she oversaw QA of all cancer and non- cancer screening programmes across the whole South of England whilst providing national leadership on issues relating to cervical screening to PHE.

In 2018 she returned to full time clinical practice in Bristol. She is a former president of the British Association for Cytopathology, Former Chair of the British Society for cervical cytology and former chair of the RCPATH cytology committee. She has contributed to all significant pathology and quality assurance policies and publications in the NHS cervical screening programme over many years.

Professor John Tidy
Gynaecology Oncologist



John Tidy is Honorary Professor of Gynaecological Oncology and Consultant Gynaecological Oncologist at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield. He is a BSCCP certified colposcopist and a recognized specialist in gynaecological cancer surgery.

He is the immediate past President of the British Society for Colposcopy and Cervical Pathology and chair of both the National Clinical and Professional Group for Colposcopy and Research Advisory Committee for Cervical Screening. John is active in clinical research attracting funding from Cancer Research UK, World Cancer Research Fund International, NHS New and Emerging Technologies Programme and the Pharmaceutical Industry. He is involved in the English Primary HPV screening evaluation and previously contributed to the HPV triage and test of cure projects. He was a member of

Public Health England HPV primary screening implementation board.

Dr Michael Hannemann
Gynaecology Oncologist



Dr Michael Hannemann (MBBCh, MRCOG, PhD) has been a Consultant Gynaecologic Oncologist based at the Royal Devon and Exeter Hospital since 2009. He has a particular interest in laparoscopic surgery and colposcopy.

He has led the local colposcopy service for 7 years, represented the England South West region at the BSCCP for 3 years, and worked for the colposcopy QA (England south) as Professional Clinical Advisor for the last 3 years. In this role, he has participated in the reorganisation of cervical screening guidance and governance, performing in an assessment and advisory role at colposcopy QA visits, and more recently, also chairing such visits.

He is also a keen proponent of the use of data to inform clinical research as well as service improvement.

Nicola Forbes

Lay Assessor



Nicola is a senior policy advisor in the civil service and former defence litigation solicitor with many years' experience in advocacy, stakeholder engagement and independent review processes.

She has just completed her first three year term as member of the RCOG Women's Network and represents the network on the RCOG Ethics committee. She regularly provides lay contribution to work relating to the development of a range of RCOG policies and research papers which impact on women's healthcare across the UK and beyond. Through her role as lay assessor with the RCOG Invited Reviews process since 2015, she works to ensure that the voice of women, patients and the public is central to any review process.

Dr Pierre Martin-Hirsch MBChB MD FRCOG

Gynaecology Oncologist



Pierre Martin-Hirsch is a Consultant Gynaecological Oncologist at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals from 2001. He is current President of the British Society for Colposcopy and cervical Pathology. His research interests include evidenced based colposcopy, cervical screening and translational research. Pierre is also a contributor to the UK and European Cervical Screening and Colposcopy Guidelines.

Cath Broderick MSc, BA (Hons), Dip Lib, FRCOG

Lay Assessor



Cath Broderick, is an independent consultant and director of We Consult, and has extensive experience as a professional in the field of patient and public engagement, consultation, facilitation, training and the development of statutory bodies for patient and public engagement in communities, including local Healthwatch.

She is Chair of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists Equality and Diversity Committee and recently finished her term as Chair of the RCOG Women's Network. She

has worked with the College to develop its approach to patient and public engagement, is a Lay Examiner for the Part 3 MRCOG and a Lay Assessor for RCOG Invited Reviews.

Her work has focused for many years within the NHS in the field of patient and public engagement and consultation in national projects with the Department of Health, Healthwatch England and the CQC, and at regional level in Greater Manchester and the North West.

She has an MSc in Strategic Leadership (Learning and Development), BA Hons Humanities and Social Studies, FRCOG (Hon), and also has a background in information, with a Postgraduate Diploma in Library and Information Studies.

Julia Palmer MBBCh, MD, MRCOG
Consultant Gynaecologist & Gynaecological Oncologist



Julia Palmer is a consultant Gynaecological Oncologist at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, Sheffield. UK. She is a BSCCP certified colposcopist and lead for colposcopy services in one of the largest colposcopy units in the UK.

Julia has served as Deputy Director of the North East Yorkshire & Humber Quality Assurance Group – Colposcopy. She has also served as the BSCCP North East representative from April 2013 to April 2019. She is currently a member of the Cervical Screening Programmes Colposcopy CPG.

Julia is active both in clinical research, and in education.