



Annual Scientific Conference

12th and 13th May 2026

Austin Court, IET Birmingham, B1 2NP

Tuesday 12th May

12.30 CVN provided lunch and opportunity to view sponsor stands

Session 1

13:00 Tracking Influenza: What's Spreading, What's Changing, What's Next

Dr Jade Cogdale / Senior Healthcare Scientist, Respiratory Virus Unit (RVU), UKHSA.

13:30 RSV in the era of vaccination

Simon Drysdale / Associate Professor and Consultant in Paediatric Infectious Diseases and Immunology, University of Oxford.

14:00 Offered paper: Facemask sampling of exhaled SARS-CoV-2 for assessing infectiousness and transmission in the Omicron era: prospective observational studies

Daniel Pan, University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust.

14:15 CVN Commercial Sponsor slot: several short presentations from industry sponsors.

14:35 Offered paper: Treatment of Respiratory Viral Infections in Immunocompromised Hosts: A Systematic Review of Current Evidence

Dr Athanasios Mamarelis & Dr Thomas Sammut, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust & University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust & Royal Free Hospital.

14:50 Break

Session 2

15:15 Metagenomics in Returning Travellers: A Year in Review

Dr Olivia Turner / Senior Bioinformatician, Barts Health NHS Trust.

15:45 Offered paper: Novel pan-genotypic amplicon sequencing methods for Mumps and Measles viruses applied to contemporary clinical cohorts from The Netherlands

Patrick McClure, University of Nottingham.

16:00 Offered paper: Digital PCR for the diagnosis of inherited chromosomally integrated HHV-6 (iciHHV-6)

Julianne Brown, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust.

16:15 Offered paper: Next-Generation Sequencing of Human Cytomegalovirus for the Identification of Resistance Mutations

Hope Johnston, Barts Health NHS Trust.

16:30 HSV antiviral resistance experience in the UK

Dr Michael Ankcorn / Consultant Virologist & Dr Suha Akili / Infectious Diseases & Virology Registrar, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

17:00 HIV indeterminate CVN audit findings and opt-out BBV testing

Dr Andrew Bosworth / Consultant Virologist, UK Health Security Agency, Bristol.

17:20 CVN Business

17:30 – 18:30 Poster Viewing

20:00 CVN Networking Dinner (pre-booking required)

Venue: Chaophraya Thai Restaurant

Location: Saint Martins Square, 6 Spiceal St, Birmingham, B5 4BW

Poster session (Tuesday 12th May 17:30-18:30)

Choosing between two Varicella Zoster IgG assays

Hannah Tanner, Tracey Barnett, Husam Osman. UKHSA Public Health Laboratory, Birmingham.

Disseminated Adenovirus Infection in a Patient on Bi-specific Antibody Treatment for Myeloma

Dr Kirsten Hunter, Dr Rhys Williams, Dr Stephanie Hutchings, Dr John Boyes, Dr Patrick McClure, Dr Mat Donati, Dr Andrew Bosworth. UKHSA Bristol & Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Expanding the net: validation of a Cytomegalovirus UL97 antiviral genotypic assay to detect emerging maribavir and cross-resistance mutations in transplant patients

Houdini H.T. Wu, Aisling Gillooly, Jenny Shepherd, Victoria Larkin, Ffion Jones, Amanda Symonds, Tracy Barnett, Husam Osman. UKHSA Public Health Laboratory, Birmingham.

Hepatitis B core antibody test algorithm for a screening assay with no grey-zone

Wamba A, Vora N, Lampejo T, Zuckerman M.

Infection Sciences, King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, London.

Evaluating the use and impact of multiplex lateral flow (M-LFD) testing for influenza A, B and SARS-CoV-2 viral infections in a South London hospital

Vora N, Jones B, Wamba A, Lampejo T, Zuckerman M.

Infection Sciences, King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust, London.

Expanded dengue syndrome with myocarditis, colitis and acalculous cholecystitis: A case report

Wael Goravey, Julian W. Tang, Manish Pareek. University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust.

Faster, cheaper, better – Bringing HHV8 quantification in-house

Ffion Jones, Helen Kirk-Granger, Tracey Barnett, Husam Osman. UKHSA Public Health Laboratory, Birmingham.

Gaps in the Cascade of Care for People Living with HTLV-1 in England

Shanice Lawrence, India Clancy, Gary Murphy, Cuong Chau, Katy Davison, Daniel Bradshaw, HTLV Cascade of Care Audit Group (Hospital Virologists and Microbiologists). UKHSA Colindale.

Genetic Epidemiology of Enterovirus E9 across three UK cities, 2022-23

Nivedita Varagunan, Stuart Astbury, Patrick McClure. University of Nottingham.

Low-level CMV IgM reactivity on Abbott Alinity/ARCHITECT assays: retrospective audit of specificity, reporting practice, and laboratory impact

Dr Aye Chan Oo, Dr Husam Osman, Tracey Barnett, Blessing Osita.

UKHSA Public Health Laboratory, Birmingham.

Rapid Genomic Characterisation of Avian Influenza Viruses Using Nanopore Sequencing

Lynne Ferguson, Imogen Johnston-Menzies, William Harvey, Rory Gunson, Emily Goldstein.

West of Scotland Specialist Virology Centre.

Rapid hybridisation capture workflow for targeted metagenomics of respiratory infections

Oscar Enrique Torres Montaguth, Laura Buggiotti, Amelie Busam, Luz Marina Martin Bernal, Tony Brooks, Ines Ringue, Gabriela Kuczmar, Angelika Kopec, Sarah Buddle, Lamisha Ahmed, Rachel Williams, Julianne Brown, Sofia Morfopoulou, Judith Breuer.

University College London Hospital & Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Trust.

Rethinking Stewardship: Broadening the Antimicrobial Horizon

Emily Goldstein, Shadin Hassan, Rachel Home, Laura McGovern, Yusuf Kameshki, Scott Gillen, Lee Stewart, Rory Gunson. West of Scotland Specialist Virology Centre.

Standard precautions prevent transmission of Hepatitis C on a dialysis unit

Lydia Gale, Benjamin Canning, Andrea Apuzzo, Rooman Yarkhan. Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust.

Streamlining HIV-1 antiviral resistance mutation detection with next generation sequencing

Tanner, H¹, Wilson, S¹, Patil, A², Bhuller, R², Myers R.²

¹UKHSA Public Health Laboratory, Birmingham, ²UKHSA Bioinformatics, Digital and Data.

The conundrum in CMV viraemia: To treat or not to treat?

Arjun Bhugra, Samuel Elliot Moses. East Kent Hospitals University NHS Foundation Trust.



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Wednesday 13th May

09:30 Registration opens

Session 1

10:00 Offered paper: Maribavir for treatment of CMV in allogeneic haematopoietic stem cell transplant recipients: real-world experience from a UK tertiary centre

Dr Clare Thakker, University College London Hospital.

10:15 CVN Commercial Sponsor slot: several short presentations from industry sponsors.

10:35 Offered paper: A retrospective analysis of patients receiving organs from HHV-8 positive donors at a large transplant centre

Dr Ben Ravenhill, Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Trust.

10:50 HHV-8 Q&A

Dr Ines Ushiro-Lumb / Consultant Virologist, Clinical Microbiology Lead in Organ and Tissue Donation and Transplantation, NHS Blood and Transplant.

11:20 Break

Session 2

12:00 Offered paper: Whole-genome sequencing of congenital cytomegalovirus: preliminary results from the UK cCMV Consortium pilot and validation of a novel Nanopore sequencing protocol

Cristina Venturini, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust & University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

12:15 Offered paper: Varicella Zoster Vasculopathy in two children and investigation in a third

James Hartley, Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Trust.

12:30 Offered paper: Bioinformatic identification of lentivirus transfer plasmid contamination causing false-positive HIV NAT results in a high-throughput molecular screening laboratory

Shannah Secret, University of Oxford.

12:45 Offered paper: Chronic Hepatitis E: A case of Ribavirin and Sofosbuvir resistance

Lydia Gale, Nottingham University Hospital NHS Trust.

13:00 CVN provided lunch and opportunity to view sponsor stands

Session 3

13:45 Interactive Complex Case Discussions

Dr Cariad Evans / Virology Consultant, Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust &

Dr Catherine Houlihan / Virology Consultant, University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Professor Judith Breuer / Virology Consultant, Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children NHS Foundation Trust & University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

14:15 Offered paper: Overcoming Technical Barriers in Hepatitis Delta Virus Genotyping: Development of a Whole-Genome Sequencing Method

Rosalind Tucker, Barts Health NHS Trust.

14:30 Offered paper: Antenatal HCV screening pilot study: clinical and laboratory experiences

Rachel Kettles, UKHSA Birmingham Public Health Laboratory.

14:45 Offered paper: Hepatitis B Virus Reactivation in Allogeneic Haematopoietic Stem Cell Transplant Recipients with Past Resolved Infection: A Case Series

Dr Athanasios Mamarelis, University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

15:00 David Brown lecture: Reflections on a career as an academic clinical virologist

Professor Will Irving, Emeritus Professor, University of Nottingham.

15:45: William Tong Prize and CVN conference closing remarks

Thank you for attending and thanks to our sponsors for supporting the meeting:



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