

IF YOU CAN SEE IT YOU CAN BE IT



Visibility and Representation in Surgery

Saturday 19 September 2026

Conference Schedule

12.30PM
-
1.00PM

REGISTRATION AND WELCOME

Registration and Networking

Welcome to the College

1.10PM
-
2.10PM

SESSION ONE: DISPELLING THE "MYTHS"

RCSED Women in Surgery & Younger Fellows Groups

Flexibility for caregivers and maternity

Representation in male dominated specialties

Surgical Culture - what's it like?

COMFORT BREAK

2.20PM
-
3PM

SESSION TWO: DISPELLING THE STEREOTYPES

Diversity in economic and social backgrounds

LGBTQ+ Representation and experiences

Championing Disabled Clinicians

REFRESHMENT, SURGICAL ACTIVITIES & NETWORKING

3.50PM
-
4.30PM

SESSION THREE: SURGICAL CAREER ADVICE

Surgical Aspirations

Training Advice and early career opportunities

Core Trainee Programme

Allyship

Full Schedule and Speakers Information below

CONTACT:

MUSEUM@RCSED.AC.UK



Symposium Hall

The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

Hill Square, Edinburgh, EH8 9DW

Complimentary access to Surgeons Hall Museums from 10am		
Registration and Networking	Symposium Hall Doors open at 12.30pm	
Welcome	Anna Paisley, Vice President RCSED	1.00pm
<i>Dispelling the “myths”</i> : Representation and Surgical Culture		
Introduction to the Hunter Doig Women in Surgery Group and Young Fellows Group	Helene Stevenson and Sandra McAllister	1.10pm
An overview on flexible training and options for maternity leave and care givers	Morven Allen	1.30pm
Dispelling the myths – male dominated specialisms	Joanne Banks	1.40pm
Surgical Culture - what's it like?	Alice Hartley	1.50pm
<i>Dispelling the Stereotypes</i> : Diversity in Surgery		
Diversity in economic and social backgrounds	Mr Y Michla	2.20pm
Representation of diversity in surgery, a personal experience of being transgender in surgery.	Phillipa Burns	2.30pm
Championing disabled clinicians and a personal journey after injury.	Mr Mohammed Belal	2.40pm
Breakout Activities, Stalls and Networking or a chance to visit Surgeons’ Hall Museum	Tea & Coffee	3.00pm -3.45pm
<i>Surgical Careers</i> : Advice and Support		
The Dream, The Doubt, The Climb	Heen Shamaz	3.50pm
Training Advice and early career opportunities	John Taylor	4.00pm
Information on the Core Trainee Programme	Sanskriti Sravanam	4.10pm
Allyship	Andrew Martindale	4.20pm
Close 4.30pm		

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Breakout Session & Refreshments



Activities

Orthopaedic Training Activity

Demonstration from orthopaedic surgeons and hands on activities using equipment kindly supplied by Arthrex – Sports Medical Company

Laparoscopic Station

Demonstration by practicing surgeons and hands on activities using a surgical laparoscopic training stack

Surgical Knot tying

Demonstration by practicing surgeons and hands on activities using training apparatus from the College's Surgical Skills Laboratory

Stalls



The Foundation Trainees Surgical Societies UK

Lead by Mr Y Michla this stall will provide information and the role of the Foundation Trainees Surgical Societies.

Core Trainee Forum

Lead by Sanskrithi Sravanam this stall will provide information and the role of the Core Trainee Forum

Faculty of Surgical Trainers and career advice

Lead by Mrs Robyn J S Webber this stall is an opportunity to ask questions of practicing surgeons and The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh

Meet the speakers

Ms Anna Paisley

Ms Anna Paisley is a Consultant General and Upper GI Surgeon at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. She has a particular interest in surgical recruitment, training and assessment. She was Regional Surgical Adviser for Southeast Scotland for 4 years, is current Year One Director of the Edinburgh Surgical Sciences Qualification and was elected onto College Council in 2015. In 2024 she became Vice President of The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh.

Miss Helene Stevenson

Miss Helene Stevenson is a Consultant Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgeon at Liverpool University Hospitals Foundation Trust. Her clinical practice centres on upper limb surgery, with particular interests in arthroscopic and arthroplasty procedures. Miss Helene Stevenson plays an active role in the management of complex trauma cases within the Merseyside and Cheshire Major Trauma Centre, contributing to multidisciplinary decision-making and high-quality patient care. Since attending the University of Liverpool, she has been driven by a strong commitment to pursuing a career in surgery. She currently chairs The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh Hunter Doig Women in Surgery Group.

Miss Sandra Mcallister

Miss Sandra McAllister is a Consultant Plastic Surgeon at the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald, specialising in soft tissue sarcoma and complex skin cancer. She is Chair of the Northern Ireland Regional Sarcoma Multidisciplinary Team and has led regional quality improvement initiatives in sarcoma services. Within the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, she is a member of the Younger Fellows' Committee, the Surgical Specialty Board in Plastic Surgery, and the Hunter Doig Women in Surgery Group. She has a strong interest in education and surgical training, particularly in multidisciplinary education.

Mrs Joanne Banks

Mrs Joanne Banks is a Consultant Orthopaedic & Trauma Surgeon at The Royal Liverpool & Broadgreen University Hospitals, where she specialises in knee surgery and in particular arthroscopic/sports injuries. She is Educational Supervisor for the higher surgical trainees in the Royal Liverpool & Broadgreen Hospitals and organises the Medical Student orthopaedic teaching programme. In addition she is a member of the event medical team for the British Judo Association and has been an active member of St John Ambulance for over 20 years.

Meet the speakers

Miss Morvan Allen

General Surgical Trainee, south-east Scotland and previous Surgical Trainee Committee member. ECAT Clinical Lecturer. Colon Cancer Genetics Group, Institute of Genetics and Cancer, University of Edinburgh.

Alice Hartley

Alice is a Consultant Urologist specialising in urological oncology at Northumbria Healthcare Trust. She has a subspecialty interest in metastatic prostate cancer and completed a PhD in prostate cancer molecular biology during her training. Whilst chair of the Trainees' Committee at the RCSEd between 2015 and 2017, she led the #LetsRemovelt Campaign to tackle undermining and bullying in surgery and went on to co-chair a pan-NHS committee to try and reduce the impact of oppressive behaviour within healthcare. A mum of four, she is really keen to widen access to surgical careers and has actively promoted this through workshops, teaching and committee membership. In 2024 she was awarded an MBE for services to the NHS.

Mr Y Michla

Mr Michla is a Consultant Trauma and Orthopaedic Surgeon. He has a specialist interest in shoulder and elbow surgery. Mr Michla is Deputy Director of the Royal College of Surgeons' Foundation Trainees Surgical Societies programme and is Regional Surgical Ambassador. He is also an Honorary Senior lecturer at both Newcastle University's and the University of Sunderland's School of Medicine. He is an academic mentor at the Northern Deanery too.

Mrs Phillipa Burns

Mrs Burns is a Vascular Surgeon in Edinburgh where she has been a Consultant since 2009 and currently practices as a Consultant Vascular Surgeon at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh. Mrs Burns practices all areas of Vascular Surgery but has special interests in the treatment of thoraco-abdominal aortic aneurysms, minimally invasive treatment of vascular disease and surgery for haemodialysis access. She is on the Surgical Training Committee for Vascular Surgery for SE Scotland and has been part of The Royal College of Surgeons of England's Pride in Surgery Forum (PRiSM) since it first formed. She has given numerous talks and interviews on Life as a Transgender Surgeon.

Meet the speakers

Mr Mohammed Belal

Mr Mohammed Belal, is a Consultant Urological Surgeon who has worked at the Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham for 15 years. He is one of the UK's leading specialists in functional reconstructive Urology and is Vice president for education at the British Association of Urological Surgeons. Mr Belal is a course director of an internationally recognised urodynamics course, attended by surgeons and nurses and has published widely. He receives referrals for patients throughout the West Midlands and beyond and is the regional lead for sacral neuromodulation, a new and effective approach for a range of different bladder problems.

Mr Belal is a passionate advocate for inclusivity in surgery, drawing on his lived experience as a spinal cord injury survivor to champion the rights of disabled clinicians and patients alike.

Heen Shamaz

Heen Shamaz is an FY1 doctor based in Edinburgh. She graduated from The University of Edinburgh earlier this year with her MBChB, and intercalated BMedSci in surgical sciences. Heen has a strong passion for cardiothoracic surgery, medical education and widening access to medicine and surgery. She currently serves on the Royal Society of Medicine Cardiothoracic Surgery Council and the SCTS Women in Cardiothoracic Surgery Committee, advocating for representation and mentorship. She is also the founder of YouTube channel H.S.TV, dedicated to medical education and showcasing life as a medic. Through her outreach work, she has supported aspiring medical students, particularly those from widening participation backgrounds, in navigating the journey into medicine and pursuing careers they may not have previously seen themselves in.

Heen lives by the principle "lift as you climb" embodying this in everything from her academic excellence and leadership to her outreach, content creation, and role modelling across the medical community.

Mr John Taylor

Mr John Taylor is a Consultant Trauma & Emergency General Surgeon and Clinical Director at Aintree University Hospital in Liverpool.. From 2007 to 2014 Mr Taylor was a Consultant Vascular Surgeon at the North Devon District Hospital before returning to Aintree to take up an appointment focused on acute surgical care and trauma, both emerging subspecialties which he had an interest in whilst training. A Fellow of The Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, Mr Taylor is a member of the Faculty of surgical Trainers.

Meet the speakers

Sanskrithi Sravanam

Sanskrithi is a junior Neurosurgical trainee in the West Midlands deanery. She was the founding member of the Cambridge Foundation Trainee Surgical Society. She is enthusiastic about medical education and widening access. Sanskrithi is part of the marketing team for the RCSEd Core Trainee Forum.

Dr Andrew Martindale

Dr Andrew Martindale is a Consultant Urological Surgeon at NHS Tayside. Originally from Yorkshire and educated at the University of Oxford, he undertook early training at Guy's Hospital, London, before relocating to Scotland for further surgical training over thirty years ago. In NHS Tayside, he has held key leadership roles, including departmental lead, surgical clinical director at Perth Royal Infirmary, and urology lead for the North Cancer Alliance. Andrew is a committed trainer, former Training Programme Director, and current MRCS examiner. He also serves the College as Educational Tutor, Regional Surgical Ambassador, and is a member of the Surgical Specialty Board in Urology. Alongside numerous roles within the College, Andrew now sits on the Hunter Doig Women in Surgery Group.
