

Crucible 2024



Liam Butler

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Liam joined the Department of Biological and Biomedical Sciences in 2024 as a postdoctoral researcher working under the supervision of Dr Timothy Humpton. Liam is an affiliate researcher to the School of Cancer Sciences at the University of Glasgow, where he works collaboratively within the CRUK Scotland Institute. Before joining GCU, Liam attained both his MSci Biochemistry (2019) and PhD for research (2023) from the Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Science, where his thesis focused on the interactions and S-acylation of the Sprouty and SPRED tumour suppressor proteins. Liam's research interests are focused on the cellular and molecular basis of disease, immune-oncology, protein biochemistry, and metabolism. His current research is funded by the Medical Research Council (MRC) and investigates the protective role of the p53 tumour suppressor protein in fatty liver disease. Liam currently sits on the Scottish University Life Science Alliance (SULSA) early career researcher committee and is a member of both the British Society for Cell biology and the Biochemical Society. Liam is regularly involved in community/public outreach activities, science policy engagement, and continues to contribute to both international conferences and research publications.



Martha Canfield

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Martha is a Lecturer in Psychology. Before joining GCU in October 2023, Martha held a series of research posts in England. Her primary research interest is in substance misuse including its intersection with mental health problems and social determinants of health, the impact of substance misuse in the family and the provision of treatment services. She has recently completed her first research project as PI, a Nuffield Foundation research on parents of dependent children attending substance use treatment services and involvement in care proceedings (Family Court).

Martha is also interested in research methods applied to Psychology and the use of routinely collected electronic records data in research. She has worked as an adviser for the NIHR Research Design Service (RDS) London between 2017-2023. She holds research honorary positions with King's College London, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust, Faculdade Paulista de Ciencias da Saude (Sao Paulo, Brazil) and Victoria University of Wellington (New Zealand). At GCU, Martha is a member of the Substance Use and Misuse group and the Child and Adolescent Health group.



Elaine Coulter

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Elaine is a Physiotherapist and completed her PhD in 2012, focusing on wheelchair and walking physical activity in people after spinal cord injury. She has worked in split research, teaching and clinical posts for a number of years within NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, NHS Ayrshire and Arran, University of Ulster, University of Glasgow and Queen Margaret University. In 2018, she joined Glasgow Caledonian University on a full-time basis as a Lecturer in Physiotherapy. Since 2022 she has held the significant department role of Programme Leader of the Doctorate in Physiotherapy (pre-registration) programme.

Elaine's research has been dedicated to supporting the rehabilitation of people with multiple sclerosis, stroke and spinal cord injury. She has a particular interest in physical activity, exercise, measurement and use of digital technology in delivering neurological rehabilitation. This work has led to over 25 published research articles in internationally recognised journals. Within the Research Centre for Health (ReaCH), Elaine is an active member of the Stroke and Neurological Rehabilitation Research Group (SYNERGY) Research Group and serves as the Research Impact Champion. Elaine is a co-founder of Giraffe Healthcare, www.giraffehealth.com, a not-for-profit social enterprise, spin-out company, that provides an online platform for personalised, video-based rehabilitation to NHS and non-NHS providers.



Elaine Duncan

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Dr Elaine Duncan is a Senior Lecturer in Psychology at Glasgow Caledonian University. She is a Chartered Scientist, Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society (BPS), and an HCPC registered practitioner of Sport and Exercise Psychology. Her research and applied practice foci are the promotion of mindful movement and physical activity, therapeutic writing, athletic injury, secondary stroke prevention and the design and efficacy of self-administered well-being interventions. Her current strategic priorities are to enhance psychological service provision to those awaiting and in receipt of transplant and to promote transplant recipients' access to sports participation and active living to enhance their physical and mental health status. Elaine has extensive experience in public engagement and third-sector partnership work. She seeks opportunities to disseminate her expertise at community, and grassroots levels, particularly in matters of mental health and well-being where the promotion of active lives is an investment in human capital. As the Director of SOMA Wellbeing, she offers a counselling and yoga therapy service, underpinned by a humanistic philosophy and a person-centred approach.



Lucyna Gozdzielewska

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Dr Lucyna Gozdzielewska is a lecturer in Adult Nursing at Glasgow Caledonian University, and a member of the Safeguarding Health through Infection Prevention (SHIP) Research Group where she leads the Applied Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Interventions workstream. Lucyna completed her BA (Hons) in Nursing Studies in 2014, and a PhD in 2021, focusing on the 6-step hand hygiene technique for healthcare staff. Since then, she has been involved in a variety of research projects and systematic reviews conducted by the SHIP Research Group, mainly concerning hand hygiene, which helped her to develop networks with international partners, including the World Health Organization (WHO) and Infection Control Africa Network (ICAN). She currently leads a systematic review, funded by the WHO, focusing on the effectiveness of IPC interventions in long-term care facilities, and a Delphi survey, funded by NHS Education Scotland, aiming to develop an educational framework for the specialist IPC workforce. She also supervises a PhD student project, investigating the role of hand-washing sinks in the spread of infections in hospitals. Her long-term career plan is to develop a wider programme of work, focusing on improving hand hygiene practice in healthcare, by integrating evidence-based interventions, multidisciplinary approaches, and public involvement.



Anika Hoque

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Originally from Denmark, Dr. Anika Hoque embarked on her academic journey by earning a BSc (Hons) in Podiatry from Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU) in 2019. Her interest in research developed during her participation in the Versus Arthritis AHP and Nurse Internship Programme. This pivotal experience inspired her to pursue a PhD at GCU, where she worked on the development and validation of the first patient-reported outcome measure for assessing foot disease activity in rheumatoid arthritis.

In 2021, Anika expanded her expertise by obtaining a post-graduate certificate in Medical Musculoskeletal Ultrasound. Currently, she is a post-doctoral research fellow at GCU, contributing to the POD-SCAN project funded by Great Foundations. This project explores the impact of musculoskeletal ultrasound imaging on the diagnosis and management of painful foot problems in podiatry.

Dr. Hoque's primary research interests lie in inflammatory arthritis and musculoskeletal ultrasound imaging. Her work is dedicated to improving diagnostic and management strategies for foot-related issues. Through her research, Anika aims to enhance patient outcomes and advance the field of podiatry.



Nicola Irvine

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I am an early career research fellow in Health Economics. I gained my master's in Economic Evaluation for Healthcare Technology Assessment from the University of York in 2019 and completed my PhD in Management Science in 2023 as a JARA scholar with partial funding from the Scottish Government. I am also an established consultant physician specialising in acute and internal medicine, with 25 years of experience delivering clinical care in the UK.

My PhD explored the effectiveness of remote senior decision-making in urgent care resource allocation. This was a mixed methods study that used ethnography to inform a hybrid computer simulation model (agent-based and discrete event simulation). The model was used to evaluate national policy on early decision-making.

I continue with my mixed methods research and the use of dynamic simulation modelling in the Yunus Centre with current research interest in healthcare service design and delivery, rural health, chronic health care, and the use of simulation modelling in evaluation.

Prior to working in the Yunus Centre, I contributed to NHS Scotland's Unscheduled Care Directorate as a working group participant, researcher, and co-author of National guidelines. I was part of an award-winning collaboration that developed real-time critical care resource need predictions during the COVID-19 pandemic, and have provided both unpaid and paid advisory services for public service bodies in the UK.



Vicky Joshi

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Vicky Joshi is a Lecturer in physiotherapy in the Department of Physiotherapy and Paramedicine. She qualified as a Physiotherapist in 2001 from the University of Southampton. Specialising in neurorehabilitation she worked in the NHS until 2016 when she moved to Denmark and worked at the University of Southern Denmark and Odense University Hospital. While there she undertook research in cardiac rehabilitation and complex intervention development and completed a PhD in rehabilitation after cardiac arrest.

Vicky's research continues to focus on post-cardiac arrest interventions for survivors and their families, working closely with Save A Life for Scotland to develop a pathway for cardiac aftercare. She is also currently evaluating a new bystander support service delivered by Chest Heart and Stroke Scotland aimed at reducing the mental burden suffered by those involved in delivering cardiopulmonary resuscitation. She has published widely in international journals and been invited to speak at national and international conferences on cardiac arrest aftercare. She is a member of the Resuscitation Council UK (RCUK) Cardiac research sub-committee and is an author on the upcoming RCUK Quality Standards for cardiac arrest recovery.

Vicky is Year 2 lead for the MSc Pre-reg Physiotherapy course, module lead for the MSc Pre-reg Neurorehabilitation module and provides supervision to students undertaking their pre- and post- registration MSc dissertations as well as Director of Studies for one PhD student.



Sennan Mattar

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Dr Mattar is lecturer with the Mary Robinson Centre for Climate Justice and teaches on the MSc Climate Justice and MSc Environmental Management programmes. He began a PhD at the Centre in 2015 on climate-induced migration to slums in Zambia and submitted in 2020. His background is environmental science with subsequent training in social science. Dr Mattar's remit within the Centre is research on just transitions, namely decarbonisation of energy & transport, Arctic studies, and climate displacement & migration. In addition, Dr Mattar supervises five PhD projects on community-led just transition, community energy, aviation regulation, climate-induced migration, and climate action using AI. Dr Mattar is committed to research that informs equitable climate policy and implementation of climate action that achieves meaningful impact at the local level. As such, he regularly organises dissemination, networking, and consortium building events.



Rosalind Parr

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I am a historian of twentieth century South Asia with a particular focus on gender and women. I graduated from the University of Edinburgh with PhD in History in 2018 and taught at the University of St Andrews before joining GCU in 2023. I am particularly interested in transnational women's movements and my work addresses several themes linked to international relations, public health, human rights and gender. My first book (2021) examined the international activities of anticolonial women during the struggle for Indian independence. Currently, my research is focussed on South Asian women's movement in the post-1947 period.

This is my second career. Prior to academia I worked as a producer/director in the broadcasting and the creative industries. I live in Edinburgh with my partner, two teenagers and a Labrador.



Katy Proctor

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Dr. Katy Proctor is a Senior Lecturer in Gender, Violence, and Criminology (Zemiology) in the Department of Social Sciences at Glasgow Caledonian University and is a Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. Her research interests include gender-based violence (in particular domestic abuse and stalking), zemiology, equalities and the criminal justice system. Having spent over ten years working within the third sector as a support worker for women and children experiencing gender-based violence in both voluntary and paid roles, her research is heavily influenced by victim-centred support principles. Her personal and professional priority is to disseminate her research findings to those who can utilise them for the benefit of victim/survivors and consequently, she has been proactive in designing and delivering her own research informed training to over 400 professionals in Scotland on 'Understanding the Dynamics of Stalking'. This includes how to support those who are victimised. She is currently researching domestic abuse and stalking in remote rural Scotland.



Kirsten Trayner

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Kirsten Trayner is an Early Career Researcher, and currently holds a Research Fellow position at GCU in the Blood-borne Virus (BBV) research team and is a member of the Substance Use research team. Her principal research interests are the epidemiology of drug-related harms (HIV, Hepatitis C (HCV) and overdose) and harm reduction interventions that can be implemented to improve the health and wellbeing of people who use drugs. Since 2018, she has also held an Honorary Epidemiologist position at Public Health Scotland, where she contributes and leads on research and surveillance activities relating to the transmission of BBVs among people who inject drugs.

Kirsten completed her PhD at GCU from 2018 – 2021, which was focused on understanding the epidemiology of, and response to high levels of drug-related harm among people who inject drugs in Scotland. A large proportion of her PhD was dedicated to the largest outbreak of HIV among people who inject drugs in over 30 years in the U.K., concentrated in Glasgow. Her research has fed into local and national public health policy and practice, including informing public health responses to Glasgow's HIV outbreak, HIV and HCV elimination, proposals to establish safer drug consumption facilities (SDCF) in the UK, and national recovery plans from the COVID-19 pandemic. At present, she is working on the evaluation of the first SDCF in the UK, which is due to open in Glasgow in October 2024.



Andrew Wilson

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Dr Andrew Ross Wilson is a Lecturer in Environmental Management at Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU). He holds a BSc (Hons) in Environmental Management from GCU and a PhD in Mechanical and Aerospace Engineering from the University of Strathclyde.

Andrew specialises in space sustainability, with a particular focus on life cycle assessment, carbon accounting and energy systems of engineering projects. However, Andrew's technical background is in environmental management, and his work is extremely interdisciplinary. In this regard, Andrew's services are often consulted by external parties with regard to the assessment, mitigation and communication of sustainability issues. This can often vary from being very specific and technical-facing, to being broad and societal-facing, and the range of risks, impacts and decision-making processes in between. Ultimately, his work aims to inform how society can transition towards a future that is truly sustainable, as envisaged through the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Due to his contribution to science and technological development, Andrew was awarded the 2018 Young Scot Environment Award, designated one of Junior Chamber International's Ten Outstanding Young Persons of Scotland in 2019, won the ESA-EISC Space for Sustainability Award 2021, and was named GCU Alumni of the Year 2022.
