

## Remote-by-Default External Advisory Group [updated 2021.03.20]

### **Anica Alvarez Nishio (Chair)**

Anica is an experienced public advocacy consultant and editor. She has served on and chaired a number of boards, funding committees and government organisations with a focus on health, education, marginalised groups and community engagement (NICE Quality Standards Advisory Committee; NIHR Programme Grants for Applied Research and Quality Safety Outcomes Policy Review Unit; Adolescent Mental Health Data Platform; Veterans Advisory Pensions Committee; Independent Monitoring Board HMP Erlestoke). Through her roles as a lay rep with Health Education England, a local councillor and an advocate for social-enterprise charities, she has first-hand experience in the practical delivery of health and mental-health care strategies, primarily making these equitably accessible for those in farming, military and mixed communities. She has an interest in the effective usage of data and technology and particularly in the ethical issues surrounding the delivery of care.



### **Dr Fredua Akosa MD MPH MBA**

Fredua works for the venture capital fund, Northzone. He was previously a Venture Manager in Artificial Intelligence and Health for Creative Destruction Labs, a tech accelerator for early-stage start-ups at the University of Oxford. He is passionate about AI, Deep Tech and healthcare's ability to rapidly transform lives at scale, and is a mentor for Digital Boost, BCG Digital Ventures' programme to help SMEs digitise post-COVID and EnterpriseTECH Star, a University of Cambridge programme to help its PhD students and postdocs commercialise technology. His experience spans 3 continents: working as a GP in Ghana and other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, as a data analyst in medical and public health research at Yale in the US, and as a consultant evaluating and recommending sectors for Creative Destruction Labs' expansion in the UK/Europe.



**Dr Minal Bakhai MBBS (Hons) BSc (Hons) MRCGP MRCP  
DFSRH FFCI**

Minal is the National Clinical Director for Digital First Primary Care at NHS England and NHS Improvement. She is a practicing GP, working at an inner-city London practice for almost 10 years. Minal has a unique portfolio with experience stretching across policy, national programme strategy, research and implementation. Additionally, she is an expert advisor at NICE appraising the effectiveness and safety of digital tools used in primary care to reduce preventable ill health and empower patients. She is passionate about harnessing the power of technology to support the delivery of a vibrant, high quality, sustainable general practice and developing a shared learning system to ensure the use of digital tools meet the challenges of our population.



**Dr Kiren Collison MA (Cantab) MBBS MRCP MRCGP DRCOG  
DFSRH**

Kiren is a GP in Oxfordshire, the Clinical Chair of Oxfordshire CCG and co-chairs the ICS Primary Care Board. She is also a board member of NHS Clinical Commissioners. Kiren has a particular interest in preventing illness and tackling health inequalities and has also led work on maternity services. By writing a weekly health column, Kiren is able to keep her creative flare alive whilst spreading important health messages to a national and international audience.



### **James Ford**

James is a compliance and investigations lawyer at Mayer Brown, where he focuses on corporate governance, regulatory compliance, transactional advice and investigations in the areas of economic sanctions, export controls, anti-corruption, business and human rights and money laundering. He has advised financial institutions and corporates across a range of sectors, including medical device manufacturers and pharmaceuticals companies. He has also spent time working in the in-house legal teams of five major companies in the finance, mining, defence and oil and gas sectors. James is a former Board Fellow of Spark Inside, a charity that delivers coaching programmes in prisons to young offenders to encourage rehabilitation and contribute towards a reduction in violence and reoffending. James also founded the Transparency International Professional Supporters (TIPS) Network, a volunteer initiative that supports the advocacy and outreach efforts of Transparency International, a leading NGO voice on anti-corruption and business integrity affairs. The TIPS Network has more than 350 members across the public and private sectors, as well as academia.



### **Jean Gaffin OBE Hon DSc MSc**

Jean took her degree in Government and an MSc in social policy from LSE as a mature student, then for 20 years taught social policy at further and Higher Education levels. She has held a variety of roles in the voluntary sector, first running the Child Accident Prevention Committee, then British Paediatric Association (now Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health), Arthritis Care and lastly National Council for Hospice and Palliative Care. She has been a member of NICE Technical Appraisal and Quality Standards Advisory Committees and has chaired both a Community Trust and a Primary Care Trust. Her patient advocacy work includes membership of a general practice Patient Participation Group, member of Royal College of Physicians Patient and Carer Unit and Chair of the Patient Liaison Committee of the British Pain Society. Currently she is an Associate Hospital Manager in two NHS Trusts, Expert by Experience for CQC participating in inspection of care homes and domiciliary care agencies and community member of the Medicines Management Committee of North Central London CCG.



### **Bob Gann**

Bob is an independent consultant specialising in digital inclusion and combating digital health inequalities. Most recently, he has worked with NHS Digital as Digital Inclusion Specialist and with Public Health England on the equality impacts of moving from print to digital information. He was commissioned to carry out an independent review of digital inclusion and health in Wales and continues as expert advisor to the Digital Communities Wales programme. Earlier in his career Bob was Director of Strategy & Partnerships for the NHS website ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk)), Director of the NHS Widening Digital Participation programme, Specialist Advisor in Digital Health to the Care Quality Commission, and a member of the WHO eHealth Technical Advisory Group. He is a member of the Board of Trustees of the Dipex charity, responsible for the Healthtalk website, and is Visiting Professor in Health Informatics at Plymouth University. He presents regularly on digital inclusion issues worldwide and sits on the steering groups of a number of research projects.



### **Charles Lucas**

Charles has over 20 years in investment banking, arranging and advising mergers and acquisitions, capital raisings, strategic advice, running and building businesses, fintech etc. He brings pan-European expertise and logistical skills. He excels at strategic goal setting and project management; simplifying complex situations and ensuring and facilitating good governance. His interests include working with *West London Welcome*, a charity that provides support and food to refugees and asylum seekers, arable farming and issues involving rural communities, and the application of technology to everyday problems.



### **Tracey Marriott**

Tracey is an MBA (Henley Management College) qualified commercial and transformational change professional who has worked in both the private sector (material science and health) and the public health sector for the past 15 years. She has extensive experience of delivering complex programmes regionally, nationally and across Europe (budget values up to £1.6billion). Prior roles include turn-around of failing business units, south of England regional digital supplier management for a national programme, large scale deployments for secondary and primary care systems, innovation development, commercialisation and successful deployment, acquisitions and mergers and hospital site re-development. Tracey set up the Clinical Innovation Adoption Team in 2014 and has developed a team of experts to deploy a large portfolio of innovations, improvement and sustainability projects to the Thames Valley/Milton Keynes and South East regions. In addition to this, Tracey is also a Director for the European Innovation Technology (EIT) for Health, working with European allies to develop innovators and entrepreneurs and influence policy within the UK and Europe. She recently obtained a qualification in Genomics and Genetics from Stansted University.



### **Dr Helen Walthall**

Helen is a cardiac nurse by clinical background who has worked in all areas of cardiac care following training in London as an adult nurse. She has worked across a number of NHS Trusts in England, in a variety of roles including staff nurse, ward sister and Lecturer Practitioner. In 1999 she joined Oxford Brookes University (OBU) as a lecturer, where she also studied for a part-time PhD in Cardiac Care. She has taught on and led a number of programmes, including critical and specialist care, advanced practice, and additionally was the Research Lead for Nursing and Senior Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. She has recently joined the Oxford University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust as the Director of Nursing Research and Innovation. Helen is an active nurse researcher who is currently working on studies in heart failure, acute coronary syndromes and diabetes. She has experience of grant delivery as PI and Co-I and has published and presented many papers to national and international audiences. All of the studies encompass working with patients, their informal carers and the



multidisciplinary team to improve patient experience, care and outcome.

### **Dr Margaret Whoriskey MBE**

Margaret is Head of the Technology Enabled Care and Digital Healthcare Innovation within Scottish Government. She is responsible for the national cross-sector Technology Enabled Care (TEC) Programme in partnership with the NHS, Local Government, Third, Housing and Independent sector providers which is aiming to support at scale deployment in Scotland. This is centred around the citizen, and focuses on improving access to services by using digital technologies, including the ability to self-manage remotely. This included the national VC programme Near Me. She leads the national Digital Health and Care Fest in Scotland, proving a national and international focus to developments in Scotland. She is active in the European arena and is responsible for the International Engagement Team for digital health and care. Margaret was a finalist in Digital Leaders (UK) 2019. Margaret is currently leading a number of scale-up digital programmes in the context of the COVID emergency.



### **Sara Ward BSc PhD**

A natural scientist to training, Sara and spent ten years as a research fellow in London. She successfully transferred her skills to management and moved to Oxford where she has held several posts at director level in University and health focused environments including primary care. She is currently the Chief Operating Officer for Oxford Academic Health Partners - one of eight centres in England - supporting collaborative working across NHS and University organisations and the AHSN network as they aim to improve health and social care.

