Sharmila Nebhrajani OBE - Chair of the HTA

Sharmila has been Chair of the Human Tissue Authority since April 2014. She also holds a part-time post as Director of External Affairs for the Medical Research Council. Sharmila was previously Chief Executive of the Association of Medical Research Charities (AMRC), following a varied career spanning business, media, technology and health. She spent 12 years at the BBC latterly as Chief Operating Officer of BBC Future Media and Technology, managing the business functions of bbc.co.uk including the launch of the iPlayer. She also served for two years as Executive Director of Finance and Performance for NHS Sussex.

Sharmila has held non-executive roles in a broad range of sectors including Deputy Chair of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, the body that regulates all embryo research and licenses assisted reproduction clinics in the UK, and six years as a Charity Commissioner. In addition to her non-executive work, she took a world fellowship at Yale University in 2007/08, where she lectured on both media policy and practical cases in medical ethics.

Sharmila is currently a Board Member of the BMJ and the General Council of University of Sussex, and is an Independent Trustee-director of the Towers Watson Master Trust pension scheme.

Sir John Chisholm - Executive Chair of Genomics England

Sir John is a Cambridge graduate who started work in the automobile industry. His career took flight when he founded CAP Scientific Ltd, which grew rapidly to become a core part of the CAP Group plc and subsequently the Sema Group plc of which he was UK Managing Director.

He was then asked by the government to take on the transformation of its defence research laboratories into a commercial organisation. In due course these became an internationally successful technology services company and were floated on the LSE as QinetiQ Group plc of which Sir John became Chairman in 2006.

At the same time he was asked to take the Chair of the Medical Research Council and in 2009 he also took the Chair of Nesta. Sir John retired from QinetiQ in February 2010.

Sir John is a past president of the IET and holds a number of honorary Doctorates and Fellowships, including the Royal Academy of Engineering. He was knighted in 1999.

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Dr David Bailey - Vice President for Communications, Royal College of Pathologists

David is a cellular pathologist based at Peterborough Hospital. Over the last 12 years, he has held a number of key positions at the Royal College of Pathologists including most recently, as Director of Training and Assessment.

In his NHS consultant role, David has been head of cytopathology, a clinical governance chair, a cervical screening programme coordinator and an active autopsy pathologist, having carried out over 3000 autopsies in his career to date.

David has written several articles on the challenges facing the coronial autopsy service and on recent developments including imaging-based autopsies. He has also worked to raise awareness of pathology amongst his health service colleagues and the public, regularly delivering presentations to GPs and other allied health professionals, as well as patient groups.

Pankaj Chandak - Specialist Registrar in Transplant Surgery

Pankaj is a Specialist Registrar in Transplant Surgery at Guy’s and St Thomas’ and Great Ormond Street Hospitals and currently a Royal College of Surgeons of England and MRC Centre for Transplantation, KCL, Research Fellow, under Professor Nizam Mamode, Professor Anthony Dorling and Mr Chris Callaghan. Having qualified from Guy’s King’s and St Thomas’ University of London, Pankaj was Anatomy Demonstrator under Professor Harold Ellis and is currently a member of the Teaching Faculty of Surgical Anatomy at the Royal College of Surgeons of England.

He is recipient of The Royal Society of Medicine Adrian Tanner Prize 2013, The Royal College of Surgeons of England Lister Prize and Medal 2014 and The Royal College of Surgeons of England Ronald Raven Barbers Award 2015. He is a past Hunterian Scholar and delivered the Inaugural King’s College London Surgical Society Joseph Lister Lecture at the Royal College of Surgeons and The Royal Society of Medicine on the important translational legacy of Lord Joseph Lister into modern day surgery. He holds Honorary Lectureship at King’s College London and was awarded The Royal College of Surgeons Arnott Lecture and Medal, delivered at the British Transplantation Congress 2016, on the “Surgery of Living Donor Transplantation.”

His interests include paediatric transplantation, organ perfusion and innovation. His multidisciplinary work on integrating 3D printing technology to help with complex paediatric transplantation as a world first was awarded The Royal Society of Medicine Norman Tanner Medal 2016 and the prestigious Worshipful Company of Cutlers’ Clarke Medal and Surgical Prize for Innovation, 2016. Mr Chandak was elected a Fellow of the Royal Asiatic Society.
Professor Mark Lowdell - Director of Cellular Therapeutics and RFH/UCL Cancer Biobank

Mark is the Professor of Cell & Tissue Therapy at University College London and Director of the Centre for Cell, Gene & Tissue Therapeutics / Honorary Consultant Immunologist at Royal Free Hospital London. He is a qualified diagnostic immunopathologist as well as holding MHRA Qualified Person status for the release of ATMPs for clinical trials and is the current Vice President (Europe & Middle East) of the International Society for Cell Therapy.

He has over 20 years’ experience in adoptive immunotherapy of cancer and has focussed on the role of the innate immune responses; especially the role of natural killer (NK) cells. He has been particularly interested in translational research and established the first academic GMP facility in the UK for the production of human cells as medicines in 2001. This GMP facility now produces somatic cell medicines, gene therapies and tissue engineered products. Professor Lowdell led the technology transfer of his own adoptive NK cell therapy product into three commercial CMOs in the US and was the chief scientific officer for the US clinical trial.

His interest in clinical translation of cell and tissue therapies led to him being responsible for the first GMP-compliant stem cell-derived airway transplant produced as an ATMP in the EU and he now holds >£12m funding to perform formal clinical trials of stem cell derived trachea and larynx as well as the first UK clinical trial of an iPS cell-derived product. His newly refurbished ATMP GMP suite at RFH consists of 10 state-of-the-art manufacturing labs and over 20 staff supporting multiple academic and commercial trials.

Professor Lowdell has held and holds numerous appointments to academic and government advisory boards in the UK and overseas. Recently he was a member of the UK Government Regenerative Medicine Expert Review Group and is a member of the scientific advisory boards or consultant to many of the key companies involved in ATMP development in the EU and USA.

Professor Penney Lewis - Co-Director of the Centre of Medical Law & Ethics at King’s College London

In addition to being qualified as a barrister and solicitor in Ontario, Canada, Penney is Professor of Law at the Dickson Poon School of Law and Co-Director of the Centre of Medical Law and Ethics at King’s College London. She is a member of the UK Donation Ethics Committee and the Clinical Ethics Committee of St Christopher’s Hospice.

From 2004 to 2016, she was Vice-Chair of the King’s College London Research Ethics Committee. Penney is an invited member of the Working Group on Deceased Donation of the European Platform on Ethical, Legal and Psychological Issues in Transplantation (ELPAT), and was part of a small expert group which drafted recently published European guidance on the ethical, legal and psychosocial aspects of organ donation after circulatory death (DCD).
Imran Khan - Chief Executive of the British Science Association

Imran is chief executive of the British Science Association, an institution dedicated to making science a more fundamental part of our culture and society. A biologist by training, he believes that society will benefit from stronger engagement between scientists and the public. Imran was previously director of the Campaign for Science & Engineering (CaSE), and worked in Westminster as a political researcher. He serves as trustee of the technology-focused international development charity Practical Action, and is a member of the board of the Longitude Prize. He has been named by The Times as one of the ten most influential people in British science under the age of 40.

He has studied at the University of Oxford, Imperial College London and Cass Business School.

Sarah Bedwell - HTA Director of Regulation

Sarah joined the HTA in October 2011 as Director of Regulation. Sarah leads the Regulation Directorate managing our licensing processes and overseeing inspections across all sectors. She leads the development of new policies and procedures including the implementation of the European Directive on the Quality and Safety of Organs Intended for Transplant.

Sarah has spent most of her career in regulation. She has worked at the Nursing and Midwifery Council and the General Medical Council managing governance processes, leading fitness to practise investigations and delivering service improvements.