



Monty Losowsky Memorial Lecture



Monty Losowsky Memorial Lecture 2025

Thursday 16th October 2025, 17:30 – 20:45
University of Leeds Campus, Worsley Building

In conjunction with the Thackray Museum of Medicine, the University of Leeds School of Medicine welcomes you to the 2025 annual memorial lecture competition celebrating the work of **Professor Monty Losowsky**, a former Dean of Medicine at the University of Leeds.



Professor Losowsky also played a crucial role in establishing St James University Hospital and Thackray Museum of Medicine.

We thank the prize sponsors of the event, **OneMedical Group and the Thackray Medical Research Trust.**

Agenda

- 5:30** Welcome drinks and light buffet, Level 7 Worsley Building
- 5:50** Introduction and welcome by **Dr Neil Kaiper-Holmes** Chairman of Trustees, Thackray Museum of Medicine, Medical Lecture Theatre, Level 7 Worsley Building
- 6:00** **Ashmit Bhardwaj** (MBChB student) '*The Neurology of Violence: Towards a Brain-based Approach to Care*'
- 6:30** **Isabel Candir**, (MBChB student) '*Clinicians Across Borders: Health Inequalities, Patient Outcomes, and the Role of Medicine*'
- 7:00** **Catherine Young** (MBChB student) '*The Importance of the Eye as in Prediction & Diagnosis of Disease: From Ancient Observation to AI-Powered Diagnostics*'
- 7:30** **Comfort Break**
- 7:45** Keynote speech of **Dr Shirley Curtis-Summers**, '*Unveiling the Medieval Body: Life, Death, & Bioarchaeology*'
- 8:30** Announcement of winner, presentation by **Dr Hamish McLure**, Judging Panel Chairman and closing speeches

Master of Ceremonies



Dr. Neil Kaiper-Holmes

**Chairman - Board of Trustees,
Thackray Museum of Medicine**

Leeds Medical School graduate and former GP, Dr Neil Kaiper-Holmes brings an outstanding record of managing diverse businesses and extensive experience in all matters of governance.

Previously both Group Medical Director and Managing Director of a group of healthcare and communications PLC businesses, Neil is also a trustee of the much-loved Leeds Rhinos Foundation. During his time as chair of the foundation, he implemented transformative change relating to income generation, as well as organisational restructuring to ensure the foundation continues to deliver life-changing initiatives to various communities. He remains a member of their Heritage Committee.

Neil is a director of a multi-academy educational trust and chairman of their Risk and Audit Committee and a Parish Councillor.

His passion and commitment to changing lives and the wealth of experience he has in the charity sector mean he is well equipped to achieve our mission and propel Thackray forward as the leading independent medical museum in the country.

Keynote Speaker

Dr Shirley Curtis-Summers

Assistant Professor in Archaeological & Forensic Sciences, University of Bradford



Dr Shirley Curtis-Summers is an assistant professor in archaeological and forensic sciences, and MSc Human Osteology and Palaeopathology programme director at the University of Bradford. Her research focuses on using stable isotope and osteological methods to reconstruct aspects of diet, disease, and trauma on individuals from medieval and early modern Britain.

Shirley has a particular interest in medieval and early modern Scotland, focusing on interpersonal violence, palaeodiet, and maternal-child health. Shirley has worked on skeletal assemblages from archaeological sites across the UK and is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of Scotland.

The shortlisted entrants and summary of lecture presentations

Ashmit Bhardwaj

Ashmit Bhardwaj is a third-year medical student at the University of Leeds and an EXSEL Scholar with a strong research interest in the neurosciences, particularly neurology and neurosurgery. Alongside his academic pursuits, he is a YouTuber and indulges in a wide range of activities like archery and triathlon training. Fascinated by how biology shapes morality and decision-making, Ashmit aims to pursue a career in the academic neurosciences, combining clinical practice with research that bridges neuroscience, ethics, and society.

Lecture Title and Summary

'The Neurology of Violence: Towards a Brain-based Approach to Care'

In this lecture, Ashmit explores one of humanity's most unsettling questions — why people commit acts of violence. He challenges the conventional notion of “choice” as a purely moral act, proposing instead that behaviour is a reflection of neural circuitry, trauma, and biology. Drawing on neuroscience, psychiatry, and philosophy, the talk examines how damage to the brain — whether through tumours, trauma, or chronic abuse — can distort emotion and impulse control, and how our justice system fails to recognise this. Inspired by his passion for neurology and ethics, Ashmit advocates for a paradigm shift: to view violence not simply as a moral failure, but as a disorder of the brain — one that demands understanding, prevention, and compassion rather than punishment.

Isabel Candir

Isabel Candir is a final-year medical student here at Leeds and a keen widening participation student. She founded the Leeds Access to Medicine Society to promote wider accessibility to medicine and provide support to individuals with a disadvantaged background. She has organised events like Access to Surgery and conducted free Mock MMIs that benefit the wider community. Her work is ambitious, visual, and experience-based. Beyond medicine, she is a member of the RAF University Air Squadron, where she gets to challenge her leadership skills in adverse situations.

Lecture Title and Summary

‘Clinicians Across Borders: Health Inequalities, Patient Outcomes, and the Role of Medicine’

This lecture discusses how health inequalities, locally, nationally and globally, impact patient outcomes. Isabel, drawing on her own experience as a widening participation student, brings lived experience and fierce activism to the stage. From postcode to passport, she shares how many factors impact health in the population. From overlooked communities to global divides, the lecture underscores why clinicians must be agents of equity. Medicine must move beyond treating illness to actively challenging injustice and shaping a fairer future for all. Using storytelling and passion stemming from lived experience, Isabel challenges us to rethink our responsibilities and reimagine a future where medicine does not preserve borders, but rather breaks them down.

Catherine Young

Catherine Young is a third-year medical student with a strong interest in ophthalmology, first sparked at age 10 after watching a lateral rectus recession on the show 'Operation Ouch'. She is part of the University's Ophthalmology Committee, helping organise events such as colour blindness awareness and eye health workshops for children in partnership with the Teddy Bear Charity. Also, Catherine is the University of Leeds ambassador for EyeAcademy and recently completed the Heaton Park Half Marathon in support of Sightsavers. Outside medicine, she is the captain of the University's first lacrosse team and Catherine enjoys tennis, with Rafael Nadal as my favourite player.

Lecture Title and Summary

'The Importance of the Eye as in Prediction and Diagnosis of Disease: From Ancient Observation to AI-Powered Diagnostics'

While watching an episode of *House MD*, Catherine first saw Kayser-Fleischer rings in Wilson's disease and realised how much could be learned from simple visual signs. Since then, she has been fascinated by observations like corneal arcus or yellowing sclera, and the idea that a patient's health can often be assessed through a handshake and eye contact—without immediately resorting to needles, MRI scans, or blood tests. This approach intrigued Catherine further, especially as she explored retinal fundus imaging for diabetes, OCT in Multiple Sclerosis, and other innovations. Understanding how these tools can be applied in rural or low-resource settings reinforces the eye's critical role in early detection and diagnosis. Her lecture will explore these concepts, highlighting how ocular signs provide powerful, accessible insights into systemic disease.

The Judging Panel

Judging Panel Chair

Dr Hamish McLure

Regional Medical Director

Higher Level Responsible Officer & Chief Clinical Information Officer NHS England - North East & Yorkshire Consultant Anaesthetist, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust



Hamish studied medicine at St Andrews and Manchester Universities before moving to London to train as an anaesthetist. He took up a consultant post at the Royal Marsden Hospital then in an unsuccessful attempt for a quieter life, he moved north to Leeds Teaching Hospitals. He's been Lead Clinician and Clinical Director for Theatres and Anaesthesia, Medical Director for Professional Standards & Workforce Development as well as the

Responsible Officer at LTHT. He was also interim Chief Medical Officer for much of 2023 before being seconded to North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Trust to support the CMO function. He's now moved the NHSE working as the Regional Medical Director for the Northeast and Yorkshire, although he maintains a foothold in the clinical world as an anaesthetist one day a week in Leeds.

Outside of these hospital roles, he's a Regional Medical Appraiser where he appraises clinical leaders from a variety of roles around the North of England. He was the Chair of the RCoA Clinical Leaders in Anaesthesia Network Executive, Chaired the RCoA 2020 Census group, was on the Board of the

Association of Anaesthetists of Great Britain & Ireland, and is the England Representative on the College Workforce Strategy Group. Outside of work, he likes hill walking, photography, travel, keeping fit and gardening under the close supervision of his wife.

Mark Kearney

Executive Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health



Professor Mark Kearney is Executive Dean of the Faculty of Medicine and Health at the University of Leeds. He is also British Heart Foundation Professor of Cardiovascular and Diabetes Research and clinical consultant cardiologist with an interest in the mechanisms underlying diabetes related heart disease and the natural

history and new treatments for patients with heart failure.

Mark has served on the research committee of Diabetes UK and on the project and fellowship committees of the British Heart Foundation. He joined the MRC Experimental Medicine Committee in 2022, and also became a member of the MRC Infrastructure and Capital Advisory Group (ICSAG). Mark became an NIHR Senior Investigator in 2025.

His research group includes members with a wide range of skills addressing the link between diabetes and cardiovascular disease. Within ten years over 500million people will suffer from type 2 diabetes which we now know is a disease of the large and small blood vessels. Mark Kearney's team is working on the link between changes in insulin and IGF-1 signalling in the blood vessel wall and diabetes with the aim of designing new ways of treating the devastating cardiovascular complications of type 2 diabetes. Mark is passionate about training tomorrow's leaders in cardiovascular research.

Edward Appleyard

Chief Executive, Thackray Museum of Medicine



Edward joined Thackray as Chief Executive in January 2023.

Prior to joining Thackray, Edward was Director of Engagement at Harewood House Trust, where he led the business through all aspects of audience engagement (marketing, communications, visitor

experience, membership, programming and more), building on two decades' experience of working within arts and culture environments.

Before entering the museums and heritage sector, Edward's focus was on music and he led the hugely successful re-brand of the London Symphony Orchestra (LSO), part of a team winning 26 national and international awards, later using this experience to re-brand Harewood which won Large Visitor Attraction of the Year in 2020 at the White Rose Awards. Before that he was based in Manchester at the Royal Northern College of Music and University of Manchester.

Edward is driven by a continuing ambition to connect people with culture, heritage and the arts.

Nosober Latif



Board of Trustees, Thackray Museum of Medicine

Nosober Latif is Partnership Development Lead at NHS Digital and currently leads the international engagement activity for the organisation, previously she led on industry liaison and introduced a model for industry engagement and established a strategic partnership with techUK.

She has extensive experience of working in the UK public sector and has held senior positions in the NHS and local government, including Programme Delivery Manager at NHS England, Senior Project Manager at Leeds Community Healthcare Trust, Deputy Chief Executive at Doncaster New Deal for Communities and Resources Director for Burngreave New Deal for Communities. She has worked on policy and strategy for Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council and on partnership activity for Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council and Sheffield City Council.

In her spare time, she enjoys the outdoors and taking her children for long hikes at the weekend.

Dr Ai Lyn Tan

**Associate Professor & Honorary Consultant
Rheumatologist**

Medical Director in Research and Innovation LTHT

Lead for CARES Year 1 Integrated Core Unit

Co-Lead for Leeds Movement and Physical Activity

Interdisciplinary Research Network



[Dr Ai Lyn Tan](#) is an Associate Professor at the Leeds Institute of Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Medicine, School of Medicine at the University of Leeds, and an Honorary Consultant Rheumatologist at the Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust, where she is also the Medical Director of Research and Innovation.

Dr Tan is a researcher at the NIHR Leeds Biomedical Research Centre, currently leading on MRI research in muscle pathology. Dr Tan leads the MBChB Year 1 CARES (Clinical Assessment, diagnostic Reasoning, Ethical and legal aspects and patient Safety) Integrated Core Unit, and will soon be co-leading MBChB Year 4. Dr Tan also co-leads the [Leeds Movement and Physical Activity Interdisciplinary Research Network](#), and is a steering committee member of the [EmpowerLeeds Women Network](#) at the University of Leeds.



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