

Generation Scotland Symposium 2025 Speaker Bios



Professor Dame Anna Dominiczak – Chair/Speaker



Professor Dame Anna Dominiczak DBE MD FRCP FAHA FRSE FMedSci is the Regius Chair of Medicine at the University of Glasgow and the Chief Scientific Advisor (Health) for the Scottish Government.

Recognized as a world leader in cardiovascular science and clinical academia, Professor Dominiczak held the British Heart Foundation Chair of Cardiovascular Medicine at the University of Glasgow from 1997 to 2010, and served as the Director of the BHF Cardiovascular Research Centre between 2000 and 2010. Her research focuses on hypertension, cardiovascular genomics, and precision medicine, with over 550 publications in top-tier journals and an h-index of 123. She has also secured more than £100M in research funding over the past decade, including leading a major fundraising initiative with the British Heart Foundation.

Between 2010 and 2020 she was Vice-Principal and Head of the College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences at the University of Glasgow. She was the driving force behind the fundraising, development and delivery of the university's clinical academic campus at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, where she led a triple helix partnership between academia, the NHS, and industry to accelerate innovation, and maximise patient benefits and economic growth.

In July 2022, Professor Dominiczak was appointed as the Chief Scientific Advisor (Health) for the Scottish Government, where she leads and coordinates health research and innovation, working in partnership with the NHS, academia and industry to develop rapid translation and adoption of transformative innovations for the Scottish NHS.

Professor Cathie Sudlow - Speaker



Professor Cathie Sudlow OBE is the Head of School of Public Health Sciences and the Director of the Usher Institute at The University of Edinburgh.

Cathie has vast experience leading on major research initiatives in UK health data science for several years, including roles as Chief Scientist for UK Biobank, inaugural Director of the British Heart Foundation Data Science Centre, and Chief Scientist of Health Data Research UK.

In November 2024, she published an independent review for UK Government of the UK's health data landscape, making recommendations that are already influencing UK government policy in health and the life sciences.

She is currently also Director of the UKRI Adolescent Health Study, and has expertise in epidemiology, population health, large-scale health data, data science and neurology

Professor Andrew Morris - Chair



Professor Andrew Morris is the inaugural Director of Health Data Research UK. He is Professor of Medicine, and Vice Principal of Data Science at the University of Edinburgh, and an honorary consultant physician in NHS Lothian. Professor Morris was elected as the President of the Academy of Medical Sciences in April 2024. In early 2025, Andrew joined the Board of Trustees at the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR), Singapore's lead public sector research and development agency.

Andrew was Chief Scientist at the Scottish Government Health Directorate (2012-2017) and has served and chaired numerous national and international grant committees and Governmental bodies.

His research interests span informatics and chronic diseases. He has published over 350 original papers.

Andrew was previously Governor of the Health Foundation (2009-2017), a leading UK charity that supports quality improvement in health care, and chaired the Informatics Board at UCLPartners, London (2014-2017). In 2007 he co-founded Aridhia Informatics, which uses high performance computing and analytics in health care.

He is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Edinburgh and the Academy of Medical Sciences.

Andrew was awarded a CBE (Commander of the British Empire) in 2018.

Andrew was awarded The Royal Society of Edinburgh Medal on the authority of Her Majesty the Queen which recognises exceptional achievement in science, academia and public engagement in 2023.

Professor Andrew McIntosh - Speaker



Andrew McIntosh is a Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Edinburgh. He leads the Generation Scotland Expert Working Group for Psychiatric Disorders, co-chairs the Major Depressive Disorder Working Group of the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium (PGC) and is Director of the UKRI Mental Health Platform.

Professor Riccardo Marioni – Chair/Speaker



Professor Riccardo Marioni is a co-investigator of Generation Scotland and Professor of Molecular Epidemiology of Ageing at the University of Edinburgh. Professor Marioni heads an expert working group which links information from DNA samples and blood markers to better understand the biology that underlies disease and to improve risk prediction.

Professor David Porteous - Speaker



Professor David Porteous is a recently retired geneticist and medical researcher who set up and led Generation Scotland from the start. He continues in an advisory role, and is a fully signed up volunteer for Generation Scotland.

Professor Roger Halliday - Speaker



Roger Halliday is CEO at Research Data Scotland, providing leadership to improving public wellbeing through data driven innovation and insight. Roger was Scotland's Chief Statistician from 2011 to 2022. During that time he was also Scottish Government Chief Data Officer (2017-20), and jointly led Scottish Government Covid Analytical Team during the pandemic. Before that, he worked in the Department of Health in England as a policy analyst managing evidence for decision making across NHS issues. He became an honorary Professor at the University of Glasgow in 2019.

Xueyi Shen - Speaker



Xueyi Shen is a Senior Research Fellow at the University of Edinburgh. Her research focuses on the intersection of multi-omic biomarkers with major psychiatric conditions, modifiable environmental factors and pharmaceutical target prioritisation. She is a Research Fellow, Division of Psychiatry, Centre for Clinical Brain Sciences, The University of Edinburgh

Professor Heather Whalley - Speaker



Heather Whalley is Professor of Neuroscience and Mental Health at the Centre for Clinical Brain Sciences at the University of Edinburgh and is currently Chief Scientist for Generation Scotland. She has an interest in linking neuroimaging data with genetic and environmental risk factors and clinical phenotypes, across and between disorders, to provide a more integrated and mechanistic understanding of mental illness. She has a particular interest in adolescent mental health, links between physical and mental health, the use of AI approaches in psychiatric research.

Professor Blair Smith - Speaker



Professor Blair Smith is Chair of Population Health Science, University of Dundee

Blair was one of the founders of Generation Scotland. He is an academic general practitioner, recently also retired as Consultant in Pain Medicine (NHS Tayside) and as Clinical Director of the Tayside Clinical Trials Unit. Graduating at the Universities of Glasgow (MBChB, 1987) and Aberdeen (MEd Distinction 1998; MD 2000), he held an NHS Primary Care Career Scientist Award (2000 to 2005) and was Professor of Primary Care Medicine at the University of Aberdeen until 2011 before taking up his current post.

His research on chronic pain and neuropathic pain has been published widely, specifically studying its epidemiology, genetics, primary care management and self-management. He has published >300 peer-reviewed research papers, various book chapters and reports, and two volumes of poetry. He has been listed in the Web of Science as a “highly cited researcher” (top 0.1% globally) from 2020 to 2024 (Scopus h-Index 81), and has been (co-)investigator on research grants totalling >£28.3M. He was awarded “Principal Investigator of the Year” by the Society for Academic Primary Care in 2023. In 2025 he was given biennial the Lady Margaret MacLellan Award for outstanding contribution to medical research in Scotland.

As well as co-founding GS, Blair was one of its earliest participants, where he joins around 10 first- or second-degree relatives (he thinks!).

Professor Nic Timpson - Speaker



Nic is Director for Population Research UK (PRUK) a new national resource designed to maximise the use of UK longitudinal population studies across social, economic and biomedical science. PRUK is funded by the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Infrastructure Fund.

Nic’s research focuses on the application of genetic epidemiology to the dissection of potentially causal relationships between modifiable risk factors and complex health outcomes. He is the PI for the Avon Longitudinal Study of Parents and Children (ALSPAC) and an affiliate programme lead at the Medical Research Council Integrative Epidemiology Unit where work focuses on understanding body mass index (BMI) as a risk factor.

Currently, his work uses a mixture of study designs and resources (genetic epidemiology, metabolomics, proteomics, trials, challenge studies, human microbiome) to examine potentially causal pathways. Recent work has also examined the contribution of genetic variation to microbiome profiles, how rare genetic variation relates to differential life course adiposity, how genetic contributions to response to feeding underpin observed variation and how these types of basic science findings can allow for a cross-examination of complex disease risk (e.g. renal cell carcinoma).

Nic is involved in the strategic deployment of population based resources in a coordinated manner to address population health. The potential of population based resources was demonstrated in the case of COVID_19. Through collaboration with the UK Coronavirus Immunology Consortium, Wellcome Longitudinal Population Studies COVID-19 Questionnaire Research Group and National Core Studies (Longitudinal Health and Wealth) Nic helped provide a population based contribution to the understanding of pandemic impact.

Most recently, he has taken on the role of Director for Population Research UK (PRUK). PRUK is a new national resource designed to maximise the use of UK longitudinal population studies across social, economic and biomedical science. PRUK is funded by the UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) Infrastructure Fund.

Professor Naveed Sattar - Speaker



Professor Naveed Sattar is Professor of Cardiometabolic Medicine/Honorary Consultant, University of Glasgow.

He joined the staff of the University of Glasgow and in early 2005 was appointed as Professor of Metabolic Medicine at the Institute of Cardiovascular & Medical Sciences (now School of Cardiovascular and Metabolic Health). He continues as an Honorary Consultant in Metabolic Medicine at the Glasgow Royal Infirmary, where he co-leads a CVD prevention clinic. He is a Fellow of the Royal College of Pathologists; the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons, Glasgow; the Royal Society of Edinburgh; and the UK Academy of Medical Sciences.

He is regularly asked to speak at international conferences and has sat on several national and international guideline committees, including: European Society of Cardiology (ESC) Task Force to develop 2023 Guidelines on diabetes and cardiovascular disease; Joint British Societies 3 CVD prevention recommendations; SIGN obesity and CVD prevention guidelines (latter as Chair); and European CVD prevention guidelines. In later 2023 he was appointed as the UK Government's new Obesity Mission Chair.

He has epidemiology, mechanistic and trial expertise in diabetes, obesity and cardiovascular disease, having contributed to several lifestyle (e.g. DIRECT, STANDBY, UPBEAT, EUROFIT) and drug (e.g. REMOVAL, TRUST, AMPLITUDE-O, EMPEROR Heart failure) trials, with ongoing activity in several outcome trials. He is an Associate Editor for Diabetes Care and is on the editorial boards for BMC Medicine and Diabetes & Metabolic Syndrome: Clinical Research & Reviews. He has previously been an Associate Editor for Circulation and sat on committees for Diabetologia, Diabetes Digest, Diabetes UK, European Association for Study of Diabetes (EASD), Lancet Diabetes and Endocrinology, American Diabetes Association, Scotland's Chief Scientist Office, British Heart Foundation, and UK Biobank.

He has authored / co-authored over 1200 published papers and has been cited more than 120k times (Web of Science) and >200K (google scholar). He has been in the top 1% of cited clinical academics in the world since 2014, according to the annual Clarivate Analytics Highly Cited Researcher list. He has received several national and international prizes for his research, including the following lectures: Banting Memorial, Camillo Golgi, Dorothy Hodgkin, Minkowski, John French Rank Nutrition, and the and the RD Lawrence Lecture.

Justine Ehimen – Volunteer Panel Member



Justine Ehimen is a strategic project management professional with over 15 years of experience across banking, finance, project delivery, and community development. Justine has contributed his expertise to Edinburgh Napier University, the National Records of Scotland, and the Fair Justice System of Scotland, Migration Policy Scotland, Turn2us Edinburgh Trust, and the Poverty Alliance, driving initiatives in equality, and community wellbeing.

In his current role at Passion4Fusion, he leads programmes that empower young people, support mental health, employability and build skills for sustainable futures. Holding an MBA in Strategic Project Management, Justine is passionate about collaboration, innovation, and using his expertise to create meaningful impact across business and community.

Eva Drummond – Volunteer Panel Member



Eva is a passionate youth advocate and social activist with a focus on anti-bullying, youth mental health, youth advocacy and disability awareness. She's worked numerous organisations such as respectme, Generation Scotland, #iwill, SAMH, and Versus Arthritis where she used her personal experiences to help create content, advise policymakers, and raise awareness about a number of issues.

She has been awarded a British Citizen Youth Award and was named on the Young Women's Movements 30 under 30 list for her work. Eva is also just about to start university to study Social and Public Policy and English Literature.