

# London Respiratory Team Biographies



## Commissioning Support for London



**Dr Louise Restrick**  
**London Respiratory Team Lead**  
**Clinical Lead – Stop Smoking as a treatment for COPD workstream**

Louise Restrick is a consultant respiratory physician at the Whittington Hospital NHS Trust and an integrated respiratory physician at NHS Islington. She has a long-standing commitment to improving the care of patients with respiratory disease, in particular working across pathways with Quit Smoking services, palliative care teams, the London Ambulance Service, psychologists and cardiologists. She co-leads the Whittington Hospital multi-disciplinary COPD Team (*Hospital Doctor* COPD Team of the Year 2006). Louise is a member of IMPRESS (Improving and Integrating Respiratory Services), a joint British Thoracic Society (BTS) & Primary Care Respiratory Society (PCRS-UK) group and chairs the NHS Camden and Islington Respiratory Prescribing network.



**Dr Noel Baxter**  
**GP Lead**  
**Clinical Lead – Stop Smoking as a treatment for COPD workstream**

Noel Baxter has been a GP partner in Southwark since 2003, and has been developing a respiratory service within his own practice during this time. Known within the locality as a respiratory champion, in 2007 he was appointed to a charity-funded integrated COPD project in Lambeth and Southwark, to lead the community-based multidisciplinary element of this service. Through innovative outreach to GP surgeries and patients, the team has raised COPD standards of care and for this won the 2009 Impress innovation award. A key aim for Noel has been to increase awareness in primary care of the opportunities that COPD patients should now be experiencing. He also believes that building relationships with colleagues beyond practices and finding agreeable pathways to and from acute services is essential to the COPD strategy reaching its goals. Noel has been involved with primary care respiratory leadership through PCRS-UK and is now working across London to find and connect the current primary care respiratory champions, as well as identifying those with the potential to develop into future leaders.



**Ms Sasha Wilson**  
**Patient and Carer Representative**

Sasha Wilson has taken on the patient and carer representative role having cared for her mother from diagnosis with COPD, to the end stages of living with the disease. Sasha has considerable experience of interacting with the COPD acute and community based services in North London. She is able to offer her perspective as a carer and to represent the views of her mother as a patient. Sasha has a strong commitment to helping to improve services for patients with chronic respiratory disease and to highlight from a patients perspective the areas where the care delivered is already excellent. This has developed as a result of both her and her mother's experience. Sasha has also been a carer for family members with cancer and this has given her the opportunity to reflect on the contrasts between services. Professionally Sasha is a nurse specialised in Haematology for over 20 years. She has worked in a number of hospitals across London, and trained at UCLH Foundation Trust where she is currently employed. The experience of being at the receiving end of health service delivery has given her considerable insight into how the perceptions of health care professionals may benefit from input from service users.



**Dr Chris Cooper**  
**Clinical Lead**

Chris Cooper is a full time GP and GP trainer in Archway, North London. In his current practice he is clinical lead for respiratory medicine and joint lead for mental health. Locally, he participates in the practice-based commissioning group as COPD lead and attends the local respiratory prescribing and oxygen subgroup meetings as GP representative, as well as having been involved in the development of the COPD local enhanced service for primary care. He is also a GP member of NICE Technology Appraisal Committee C.

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**Ms Siân Williams**  
**Programme Manager**  
**Managerial Lead – Pulmonary Rehabilitation workstream**

Sian Williams has a MSc in public health for non-clinicians from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine. She has extensive management experience in London and set up the UK division of IntraMed. For the last ten years she has worked with clinicians and managers on whole system change and service development, in primary and respiratory care. She project manages IMPRESS, to improve and integrate respiratory services and provides the BTS with policy advice (particularly around secondary care reconfiguring itself to support patient-centred care in the community). She is the Executive Officer of the International Primary Care Respiratory Group (IPCRG), a Master Practitioner in Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP), which she uses in her consultancy, coaching and in negotiating with her two young sons. She is interested in the power of patient and professional storytelling and narrative to influence change in complex systems such as health and social care. Sian also has a wealth of publications she has contributed to.



**Ms Maria Buxton**  
**Clinical Lead - Pulmonary Rehabilitation workstream**

Maria Buxton qualified as a physiotherapist in 1988 from Kings College and worked in London, Australia and the USA. After specialising in respiratory care she was appointed clinical specialist at Central Middlesex Hospital (CMH) in 1997, where she developed one of the first early discharge COPD schemes in London and started the pulmonary rehabilitation programme. She became a consultant physiotherapist in 2005, in a jointly funded post between CMH and NHS Brent and continues to work outside the traditional physiotherapist role leading the chronic respiratory community team. Maria is committed to the provision of comprehensive, accessible, equitable services for people with COPD, that address individual needs and provide support in understanding and living better with COPD. She is the Acute Oxygen Champion for CMH, has worked with the BTS Education Committee, chairs the Respiratory Physiotherapy Consultant Group, and is the physiotherapy member on the Expert Working Group for the Respiratory HRG.



**Ms Samantha Prigmore**  
**Clinical Lead - Pulmonary Rehabilitation workstream**

Samantha Prigmore is a respiratory nurse consultant at St Georges Healthcare NHS Trust and honorary lecturer at The Royal Brompton Hospital and Imperial College London. Sam's background is in cardiothoracic nursing and she has specialised in respiratory medicine for the last 18 years. She has particular interests in managing complex patients in the community, non invasive ventilation, palliative care, admission avoidance, adolescent asthma and has worked closely with PCTs and trusts to improve the respiratory patient pathways. Sam is a Trustee for the British Lung Foundation, has been Chair of the Association of Respiratory Nurse Specialists (ARNS) and has been the respiratory nursing representative on a number of national committees including the BTS Education Committee and Nurse Advisory Group and the National Clinical Strategy for COPD Group. She also regularly reviews articles for the Nursing Times and Advanced Journal of Nursing.



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**Ms Caroline Gilmartin**  
**Head of Service Redesign, CSL**  
**Managerial Lead – Medicines Management and Stop Smoking as a treatment for COPD workstream**

Caroline Gilmartin has enjoyed a varied career in the NHS, spanning clinical educational and commissioning roles. She has worked extensively in primary care and has a strong track record in addressing issues of quality and performance. She believes strongly that effective team work including an ability to work across organisation boundaries is essential if we are to ensure that patients are to enjoy the best that the NHS can deliver. She has worked as a practice nurse, nurse adviser and manager. She has had responsibility for large clinical services and large commissioning budgets. She holds a BSc in Nursing and MSc in Health Services Management and Research. She is currently working with Commissioning Support for London supporting service redesign in Primary and Community Care.



**Dr Vince Mak**  
**Clinical Lead – Medicines Management workstream**

Vince Mak is a consultant respiratory and critical care physician at North West London Hospitals Trust since 1994 with a special interest in COPD, respiratory failure and sickle cell lung disease. Vince is the Clinical Director for Emergency Services and has a significant commitment to acute medicine. He is an honorary senior lecturer at Imperial College and frequently talks on Asthma and COPD. Vince developed the first “one-stop” COPD clinic in the UK. He was involved in clinical redesign of the new Central Middlesex Hospital and developed an Integrated Community Service for Respiratory Disease in Brent with his colleague, Maria Buxton. Together, they also formulated one of the first agreed prescribing and management guidelines for respiratory drugs between primary and secondary care. His likes walking, photography and cooking and keeping up with his children!



**Ms Jane Mehta**  
**Assistant Director Primary and Community Care, CSL**  
**Managerial Lead – Responsible Use of Home Oxygen workstream**

Jane Mehta has worked in the NHS for 19 years having started as a business manager in a London mental health trust in the early 1990s. Jane's background covers both provider and commissioning experience across all health sectors. More recently Jane has been a Director with NHS Redbridge working across a number of areas including managing the development and opening of London's first purpose built polyclinic. She brings her programme management and service re design experience to the London Respiratory Team.



**Dr Craig Davidson**  
**Clinical Lead - Responsible Use of Home Oxygen workstream**

Craig Davidson is a consultant in respiratory & critical care at Guys & St Thomas' Foundation Trust. He is also Director of a tertiary care service of home mechanical ventilation, the Lane Fox Respiratory Unit. He has been a champion for COPD for many years both locally and nationally. He leads on a transformation project in South London that has involved patients in designing a comprehensive and integrated service with primary and secondary care providers in Lambeth & Southwark which was awarded the Impress 2009 Prize for innovation.

