# Speaker summaries\* (\*not exhaustive!)

**Jim McMullan:** I am a GP from Armagh and have worked in Chronic Pain both in Belfast and the Southern Trust for over 20 years.

I am heavily involved in Undergraduate and Postgraduate Medical education and i am passionate in advocating for better teaching in managing Chronic pain.

I believe that collaborating with Versus Arthritis is helping with my goal and i look forward to meeting you in Belfast on 6th June!

Dr McMullan also holds posts of Clinical Teaching Fellow and Honorary Lecturer QUB and Training Program Director NIMDTA.

**Claire Yacoub:** I'm Claire and I have been a patient voice volunteer for Versus Arthritis for little over a year now. I really enjoy giving back to an organisation that has been vital for me as I have rheumatoid arthritis. I am a second year Children's and Young People's Nurse with a particular interest in autoimmune conditions and holistic care.

**Conor Gorman:** Dr Gorman​ holds the following roles amongst his wealth of experience:

GP Partner East Antrim ​, GP with Special interest Orthopaedics (NHSCT)​, Clinical Lead in the GP Federation's GP Elective Care Service (GPECS)​, and GP member Northern LCG. Dr Gorman is also an MSK Core Skills trainer with Versus Arthritis.

**David Gibson:** Dr David Gibson is a Senior Lecturer and Research Group Lead of the Personalised Medicine Centre, based in the School of Medicine, at Ulster University. He is a biochemist with 20 years of experience in arthritis and immunology translational research. Dr Gibson has over 80 publications, including patents and book chapters and has held research posts in both the USA and UK. He was awarded a prestigious fellowship in 2010 by Arthritis Research UK to perform diagnostics research in the University of Colorado, Denver, USA. He holds a PhD from Queen’s University Belfast, awarded in 2001 for work on drugs to reduce spread of brain cancers. His current research is focused on finding new ways to treat and monitor adult forms of arthritis. He has active research projects in pharmacogenomics to personalise prescribing for improved efficacy and safety and a Versus Arthritis funded project to develop a user friendly blood collection device, BloodTrackR, for home based disease activity monitoring.

**Gillian Coward:** Gillian Coward has lived with rheumatoid arthritis for over 30 years. She has been involved with Arthritis Care / Versus Arthritis for over 20 years. She is passionate about enabling arthritis patients through self management training. She is also determined that what she has learned from her own journey is acknowledged as the lived experience of many arthritis patients and should help inform and reshape services and treatment paths in Northern Ireland. Gillian is also a patient representative and steering committee member with the National Joint Registry ensuring patient safety and best outcomes in joint replacement.

**Jason Brooks:** Dr Brooks has been a Consultant in the Belfast Trust Pain Service since 2005 and is currently acting as the lead for the service.  He trained in London completing clinical training in pain management and two years pain research with Professor Rice at Imperial College.

**Seamus O’Brien:** Joined the NHS in 1984 - qualified from the BCH as an RGN in July 1987, and gained a PhD from the School of Engineering at Queen’s University Belfast in July 2003.  My thesis was entitled ‘’The effect of femoral and acetabular component placement on final hip geometry using the Belfast Custom Hip Replacement’’.  I started working in orthopaedics in 1989 and after completing a Dip/N (Lond) with distinction (in 1991) and a BSc (Hons) (in 1993, with a 2:1) I joined the ‘’hip pool’’ outcomes unit in 1993 on a 3-year research secondment- co-ordinating all clinical research and patient follow-up for the ‘’Belfast Custom Hip project’’.  I was appointed to a Senior Manager (USM2) post in Musgrave Park in 1996. I was one of 10 Finalist’s in the Nurse of the Year 2001 Awards, where I received a Commendation.  The team I managed achieved 1st place in the British Association of Medical Managers (BAMM) team of the year awards in 1999. I have 51+ peer reviewed publications, and 52+ poster presentations.  I have previously managed (over 50 studies/trials) and published the outcomes of some of the biggest orthopaedic research trials in the UK, e.g. (a) The early outcomes of single incision minimally-invasive total hip arthroplasty – published in the JBJS – April, 2005. I have been a Member of the Editorial Board of the International Journal of Orthopaedic and Trauma Nursing since its inception, I regularly review articles for publication in this, and other peer reviewed journals. Presently Senior Manager (Orthopaedics) in BHSCT.

**Carmel Tierney**: Qualified as a Physiotherapist in 2009, specialised in the area of Trauma & Orthopaedics within the Belfast H&SC Trust. Currently works as Clinical Team Lead Physiotherapist Orthopaedics, Musgrave Park Hospital.

**Gillian Graham:** Gillian Graham has worked in BHSCT since 2000 and has held the post of clinical lead physiotherapist in the Regional Spinal Orthopaedic Team since 2008 and has been involved in many quality and service improvement projects over the years.

**Claire Benson:** Dr Benson has been a Consultant Rheumatologist in Belfast Trust for the last 10 years. She is now Clinical Director for Rheumatology and Dermatology. One of her specialist interests is education and has completed a Master’s Degree in Clinical Education. She also is committed to quality improvement having just successfully completed the Scottish Improvement Leader programme.

**Anne Flynn:** Anne originally trained in Physiotherapy and Health Promotion and took up her current role providing quality improvement and business support, to services including Rheumatology, in July 2018. Within this role she has completed the Scottish Improvement Leader programme and supported a number of rheumatology quality improvement projects.

**Keren Kerr:** Keren is the Interim Assistant Service manager for Rheumatology in the Belfast Trust. A nurse by background, she joined the Rheumatology service in May 2022. She has an interest in Nursing development, service improvement and patient education.

**Dearbhla McKenna:** I am consultant working in the Paediatric and Adolescent Regional Rheumatology team in NI. I completed a Paediatric Rheumatology Ultrasound fellowship with the team in Belfast. I undertook a one-year clinical fellowship in Paediatric Rheumatology in Great Ormond Street Hospital, London. I hold a master’s in clinical education, and a currently a member of the BSR Education Committee.