

CURRICULUM VITAE

Dr Sarah Elizabeth Whitehead

MBChB FRCPath

September 2024

Dr Sarah Elizabeth Whitehead

Consultant Medical Microbiologist

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Date of Birth: 24th December 1964

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Qualifications: FRCPATH Medical Microbiology & Virology, December 2008

MBChB Medicine, University of Manchester, June 2000

Decontamination Module of Infection Control MSc, University of
Highlands & Islands, June 2010

Professional Associations

I am a member of the British Infection Association, the Central Sterilising Club and the Hospital Infection Society. I was the representative for Scotland on the Association of Medical Microbiologists trainees' committee 2006-9. I was the membership & website secretary for the Scottish Microbiology Association 2013 - 2017.

Medico-legal work

Since August 2021 I have provided expert Microbiology reports for a UK based medico-legal partnership which assists trusts in assessing claims regarding medical negligence & advising whether they are likely to be defensible in court. I have provided 160 reports for them, of which 8 have been disclosable to the court, with the remainder being short reports to assist in settling out of court or as preliminary opinion before proceeding to disclosable reports.

I have also provided a disclosable report independently to a firm of solicitors in 2024.

I have provided opinions on how infections have been acquired or worsened, and on the optimal use of antimicrobials for a wide range of cases, particularly central nervous system viral and bacterial infections, prosthetic joint and surgical wound infections, selection of and side effects of antibiotics, and infections acquired from the hospital environment.

Current post:

May 2020 – date

Consultant Microbiologist, Golden Jubilee National Hospital
Agamemnon St, Clydebank G81 4DY

Previous Posts:

January 2015 – April 2020

Consultant Microbiologist, NHS Lanarkshire
Monklands District General Hospital
Airdrie

February 2009 – December 2014

Consultant Microbiologist, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
Southern General Hospital, Glasgow & Royal Alexandra Hospital, Paisley

October – December 2011

Visiting Consultant Microbiologist
Sultan Qaboos University Hospital, Oman

This was a 3 month visit with a view to setting up an exchange program with the Omani lab to include consultants, laboratory staff & PhD students

May 2004 – Jan 2009

Specialist Registrar Microbiology, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
Western Infirmary, Glasgow

December 2002 – April 2004

Specialist Registrar Virology, NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde
Gartnavel General Hospital, Glasgow

August 2002 – November 2002

Locum Appointment for Training Virology

Barts & the London NHS Trust, London

August 2001 – July 2002

Senior House Officer Microbiology

St Helens & Knowsley NHS Trust

Whiston Hospital, Merseyside

February 2001 – July 2001

Junior House Officer General & Renal Medicine

Withington Hospital, Manchester

August 2000 – January 2001

Junior House Officer General & Orthopaedic Surgery

Trafford General Hospital, Manchester

Committee Membership

- I am a member of the Golden Jubilee Infection Prevention & Control Committee which oversees the governance of Infection Control in the health board & I am on the Water Safety Group, Heating Ventilation & Air Conditioning, & Decontamination Group subcommittees
- I am chair of the Golden Jubilee Antimicrobial Management Team which produces the hospital antibiotic policies & gives support to initiatives designed to use antimicrobials more effectively
- I am on the steering group of the Scottish Microbiology & Virology Network
- I represent both the Golden Jubilee & the Scottish Ambulance Service on the Scottish Antimicrobial Prescribing Group & on the Scottish Infection Control Doctors Network
- I am on the Laboratory Steering Group for the Golden Jubilee & work closely with the Clinical Director for Pathology and laboratory manager to develop the Microbiology service
- I was the U.K. Medical Microbiology representative on the Central Sterilising Club (UK advisory committee on decontamination) from 2012 – 2017

Experience in Bacteriology

I have extensive experience of giving clinical advice on the use of antimicrobials and the appropriate requesting & interpretation of microbiological tests. I was involved in regular visits to general & neurosurgical intensive care and orthopaedics and spinal injuries units in NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde & NHS Lanarkshire, as well as multidisciplinary meetings in

Haematology & Renal Medicine. At the Golden Jubilee, I regularly liaise with cardiothoracic & orthopaedic surgeons, intensivists, ophthalmologists, advanced nurse practitioners, pharmacists & tissue viability nurses to discuss the management of infections in their patients.

I was involved in the management of a large outbreak of anthrax in intravenous drug users in Glasgow 2010 – 11. I saw a number of cases of brucellosis whilst working in Oman and a considerable number of cases of typhoid in returning travelers in the Infectious Diseases unit in Glasgow as well as cases of leprosy & schistosomiasis and other parasite infections.

I participate in regular antimicrobial ward rounds with the antimicrobial pharmacist at the Golden Jubilee. I regularly attend Intensive Care, endocarditis & Orthopaedic multidisciplinary meetings, including some with NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde

Experience in Virology

I have considerable experience of advice on the diagnosis & management of viral infections, including chickenpox and shingles, HIV, viral hepatitis, viral meningoencephalitis, CMV & other viral infections in immunocompromised patients, COVID-19, herpes simplex, mumps, measles & rubella. I was involved in the diagnosis of a considerable number of mumps cases in the West of Scotland during a very large UK outbreak of several thousand cases across Scotland.

Whilst working in virology I regularly attended ward rounds at the Infectious Diseases department in Glasgow to discuss patients with both viral & bacterial infections, including a considerable number of AIDS patients. I regularly attended a multidisciplinary meeting at the Cardiac Transplant Unit at Glasgow Royal Infirmary to give advice on the prevention and management of viral infections in their patients. I was also involved with the management of a number of Hepatitis B surface antigen positive pregnant women and medical students whilst working in Oman, as well as a number of AIDS cases there.

I was extensively involved in setting up protocols in NHS Lanarkshire in 2015 for the management of suspected Ebola cases presenting to one of the hospitals, covering laboratory protocols, infection control, liaison with Public Health & clinicians & transportation of samples. During 2020-22 at the Golden Jubilee I was involved in producing protocols for laboratory testing for & infection control of COVID-19 on a background of rapidly evolving knowledge about the pandemic.

Infection Control

I was the lead Infection Control Doctor for NHS Lanarkshire from 2015 - 2019 & I was an Infection Control Doctor for 6 years for NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde with a special interest in decontamination. I regularly chaired hospital outbreak meetings, including outbreaks of

Streptococcus pyogenes, norovirus and Salmonella & I frequently liaised with Public Health colleagues about community and hospital cases & outbreaks of infection, including *E coli* O:157 and tuberculosis.

I was Infection Control Doctor for Argyll & Bute 2012 - 2014, covering remote community hospitals. I did a great deal of education & lecturing across the various rural sites to assist staff in dealing with *Clostridium difficile*, MRSA & other issues. This included the G.P.s responsible for the local hospitals & nurses, infection control nurses & managers.

I have been the Infection Control Doctor for the Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS) since 2016. I support the SAS Infection Control team, liaise on their behalf with the NHS Assure Antimicrobial Resistance and Hospital Acquired Infection (ARHAI) team, advise on specific infection issues unique to the ambulance service, including the transport of infected patients on their fixed wing and helicopter air ambulances & attend the SAS Infection Control committee meetings.

I am currently the Infection Control Doctor for the Golden Jubilee Hospital, which includes giving advice on specific incidents, advising on policies and reports & advising on the development of education and training programmes & audits of infection control.

I was involved in giving advice about carbapenem resistant Gram negative infections in Oman, which were a major problem in the Middle East, particularly in bloodstream infections in intensive care.

I have given advice since 2009 on infection control in the built environment in NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde, NHS Lanarkshire and NHS Golden Jubilee. I was the infection control doctor advisor on the Monklands Hospital Rebuild/Refurbishment Project from 2019 to 2020, regularly liaising with building designers, architects, estates and facilities and clinicians involved in the design process. At the Golden Jubilee Hospital I regularly attend Hospital Acquired Infection System for Controlling Risk in the Built Environment (HAI-SCRIBE) meetings to agree the infection control precautions needed to protect patients, visitors and staff during construction and refurbishment works.

Management

I was Head of Department for Microbiology in the South Sector of NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde for 6 years, with medical management responsibility for 10 consultants and 6 medical trainees and I worked closely with the Microbiology Head of Service and the hospital management to develop the Microbiology service for the whole of the Greater Glasgow & Clyde.

I was Clinical Lead 2019-20 for Microbiology in NHS Lanarkshire, working closely with the Technical Lead and service manager for Microbiology to restructure the Microbiology Service across NHS Lanarkshire. I chaired the laboratories subgroup of the Monklands Hospital Rebuild/Refurbishment Project which oversaw the design and specification of the entire laboratories service for the new hospital.

Audit

I am chair of the Golden Jubilee Prosthetic Joint Infection Audit Group, which is designing an audit of infection rates in prosthetic joints. This will look both at historical rates & provide regular feedback on infection rates going forwards

Audits undertaken

April 2017 Irvine J, Chapman A, Whiteheads S: Reaudit of clinical details supplied with requests for urine culture submitted to Monklands Hospital Microbiology Dept

June 2016 Whitehead S: Audit of relevance of clinical details from urine samples submitted to Monklands Hospital Microbiology Dept for microscopy and culture

Keane C & Whitehead S: Time to Administration of Antibiotics in Sepsis audit Glasgow 2010. This audit resulted in the Antimicrobial Utilisation Committee changing the NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde doctors' prescribing guidance to make it mandatory to administer appropriate antibiotics within 1 hour of the diagnosis of sepsis & contributed to the NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde safety notice 'Sepsis is a Medical Emergency' Issue 11, February 2012

Reaudit of ganciclovir prophylaxis in CMV negative recipients of CMV positive renal transplants in 2004 Whitehead S, McCruden E, Geddes C

Audit of ganciclovir prophylaxis in CMV negative recipients of CMV positive renal transplants in 2003 Whitehead S, McCruden E, Geddes C. This audit was published in the Royal College of Pathologists Bulletin 2005 and on the RCPATH website as an example of best practice in audit

Publications

- Cutaneous Purpureocillium lilacinum and Fusarium coinfection in a heart transplant recipient. L. Farrugia, V. Baston, L. Burfield, L. Melly, S. Whitehead *et al.* Submitted to *Medical Mycology Case Reports*
- Whitehead S, Hobson S *et al.*: Lessons learned from a case of invasive *Aspergillus terreus* in a cardiac transplant recipient. Poster Federation of Infection Societies Conference Manchester 5th-9th November 2021

- WG Mackay, S Whitehead *et al*: Infection Control Implications of the Laundering of Ambulance Staff Uniforms and Reusable Mops. *Journal of Hospital Infection* 96 (2017) 59-62
- Catheter Specimen Urines: Are They Worth Culturing? Kamaljit Khalsa, Ashutosh Deshpande and Sarah Whitehead. *J Infect Dis Ther* 2015, 3:1
- Book Chapter: Fever and Ventriculoperitoneal Shunt, *Sarah Whitehead* in 'Problem Solving in Infection' Ed. Stephanie Dancer & R Andrew Seaton. *Clinical Publishing Oxford* 2012
- Microbiology training in the UK: a snapshot survey on behalf of the Association of Medical Microbiologists Trainees' Committee *RCPATH Bulletin* 2006;135:14-18
- Inkster T, Whitehead S: Rapid culture of *Brucella melitensis* Poster Federation of Infection Societies Conference, Cardiff, 2005
- *Mycobacterium malmoeense* Septic Arthritis *Journal of Infection*, Volume 46, Issue 1, 60-61
S.E. Whitehead, K.D. Allen, V.E. Abernethy, L. Feldberg, J.B. Ridyard 2003