Dr Laurentiu Craciunas

CONSULTANT GYNAECOLOGIST | SUBSPECIALIST IN REPRODUCTIVE MEDICINE & SURGERY

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Professional Profile

Consultant Gynaecologist and Subspecialist in Reproductive Medicine and Surgery at the Royal Victoria Infirmary and Newcastle Fertility Centre. Clinical practice includes general and specialist gynaecology, minimally invasive surgery, ectopic pregnancy and early pregnancy assessment, infertility, assisted reproduction, reproductive endocrinology, recurrent miscarriage, and fertility preservation. Experienced in critical appraisal of clinical evidence, systematic reviews, guideline development and multidisciplinary decision-making. Available to provide independent expert opinions in clinical negligence and personal injury matters within current and demonstrable clinical expertise, subject to conflict checks and instructions.

Areas Relevant to Medicolegal Instructions

- General gynaecological assessment, investigations, treatment planning and referral pathways.
- Benign gynaecological conditions including ovarian cysts, fibroids, abnormal uterine bleeding, endometriosis and pelvic pain.
- Early pregnancy complications, including ectopic pregnancy: diagnostic assessment, ultrasound and hCG interpretation, management options and follow-up.
- Fertility and reproductive medicine: infertility investigation, IVF/ICSI, recurrent miscarriage, implantation failure and fertility preservation.
- Personal injury: gynaecological and reproductive consequences of injury, including pelvic pain, reproductive organ damage, impaired fertility, prognosis and future treatment needs.
- Gynaecological and reproductive surgery, including laparoscopy and hysteroscopy; perioperative decision-making and informed consent.
- Interpretation of clinical guidelines, medical records, investigation results, multidisciplinary decisions and standards of care.
- Assessment of breach of duty and clinical causation where within expertise; clear explanation of alternative clinical outcomes and uncertainty.

Clinical Leadership and Specialist Responsibilities

- Reproductive Medicine Representative, RCOG Genomics Standing Committee.
- Reproductive Medicine Representative, Royal Victoria Infirmary Endometriosis Multidisciplinary Team (BSGE-accredited centre).
- Lead for urgent oncology and transgender fertility-preservation referrals.
- Lead for reproductive endocrinology clinic.

Qualifications and Specialist Training

- Medical degree (2011); Membership of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (MRCOG 2019).
- RCOG subspecialty training and certification in Reproductive Medicine and Surgery (2023).
- PhD, University of Birmingham (2023): endometrial receptivity and recurrent miscarriage.
- MSc in Genomic Medicine, Newcastle University (2018).
- Postgraduate Certificate in Health Professions Education (2021).
- Postgraduate Certificate in Clinical Research (2016); NIHR Academic Clinical Fellowship.

- Medicolegal Training: Report Writing for Expert Witnesses, Bond Solon (2026). Currently undertaking the Cardiff University Bond Solon (CUBS) Expert Witness Certificate.

Academic, Research and Guideline Experience

Research interests include endometrial receptivity, recurrent miscarriage, assisted reproduction, reproductive endocrinology and evidence-based clinical practice. Experience includes original clinical research, multicentre cohort studies, randomized controlled trials, systematic reviews and meta-analyses, including Cochrane reviews. This methodological background supports independent appraisal of scientific literature and evaluation of disputed clinical decisions.

- Editorial involvement with Cochrane Gynaecology and Fertility and Human Reproduction Update.
- Co-author of the British Fertility Society (BFS) guideline on prevention of ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome (OHSS).
- Co-author of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE) guideline on the number of embryos to transfer during IVF/ICSI.
- Professional and educational roles with the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE), including the Special Interest Group for Early Pregnancy and Implantation.
- Research fellowship work with Tommy's National Centre for Miscarriage Research.

Selected Publications

- Craciunas L, et al. Conventional and modern markers of endometrial receptivity: a systematic review and meta-analysis. Human Reproduction Update. 2019; 202–223.
- Craciunas L, et al. Hormone therapy for uterine and endometrial development in women with premature ovarian insufficiency. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. 2022; CD008209.
- Craciunas L, et al. Oxytocin antagonists for assisted reproduction. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. 2021; CD012375.
- Craciunas L, et al. Intrauterine administration of human chorionic gonadotropin for subfertile women undergoing assisted reproduction. Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews. 2018; CD011537.
- Alteri A, et al. ESHRE guideline: number of embryos to transfer during IVF/ICSI. Human Reproduction. 2024.
- Tsampras N, et al. Prevention of ovarian hyperstimulation syndrome (OHSS): British Fertility Society policy and practice guideline. Hum Fertil (Camb). 2025.

Professional Registration and Links

- General Medical Council (GMC): registration 7212004.
- Newcastle Hospitals consultant profile: https://www.newcastle-hospitals.nhs.uk/consultants/dr-laurentiu-craciunas/
- Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG): MRCOG and subspecialty certification.
- European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology (ESHRE): professional membership and leadership roles.
- Google Scholar publications (60+): https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=bmVgOLEAAAAJ&hl=en
- Fully insured by Alliance Medical Indemnity
- Registered with the Information Commissioner's Office.

Methodological Approach to Liability and Consent

Clinical assessments are rigorously conducted within the established frameworks of UK medical law, specifically applying the **Bolam** and **Bolitho** tests to evaluate the reasonable standard of care and determine breach of duty. Furthermore, all evaluations concerning perioperative decision-making and informed consent strictly incorporate the

legal principles established by **Montgomery [2015]**, ensuring a thorough analysis of whether material risks and reasonable alternative treatments were appropriately discussed with the patient.

Medicolegal & Independent Expert Experience

Independent, evidence-based opinions confined strictly to matters within current and active clinical practice. Experienced in analysing clinical chronologies, applying relevant professional standards, and evaluating standard of care and clinical causation.

• Ombudsman Expert Advisor: Undertakes independent clinical case reviews for the Health Service Ombudsman, assessing standards of care and potential failures in healthcare delivery.

• **Formal Training**: Completed **Report Writing for Expert Witnesses (Bond Solon)**, focusing on objective analysis, professional report structuring, and procedural compliance.

• **Procedural Compliance**: Fully familiar with the overriding duty to the court as an independent witness under **Civil Procedure Rules (CPR) Part 35** and the accompanying Practice Direction.

• **Analytical Rigour**: Extensive experience in critical appraisal of scientific evidence and national guideline development (BFS/ESHRE) ensures an objective, evidence-led approach to disputed records.

Instructions and Availability

• **Scope**: Instructions welcomed for clinical negligence and personal injury matters within general gynaecology and reproductive medicine/surgery.

• **Impartiality**: Fully balanced profile; prepared to accept instructions from both Claimant and Defendant legal teams to maintain absolute independence.

• **Turnaround Time**: Standard report delivery within **14 to 21 days** from receipt of complete medical records and formal instructions.

• **Logistics**: Available for desktop paper reviews and remote video consultations. Physical examinations can be accommodated in Newcastle upon Tyne as required.

• **Fees & Terms**: Fee schedule, terms of business, and secure data transfer arrangements are available upon request.

• **Contact for Instructions**: Formal letters of instruction and conflict checks should be sent directly via secure email to Laurentiu.Craciunas@nhs.net.