

Guest Editors

Nick A. Maskell



Nick A. Maskell undertook his Doctor of Medicine thesis on pleural diseases in Oxford (UK) prior to taking up a consultant post at North Bristol NHS Trust (Bristol, UK) in 2003. His research interests include clinical trials in pleural disease, mesothelioma and patient safety during pleural procedures. He leads the pleural service at the North Bristol NHS Trust and the Bristol Pleural Clinical Trials Unit at the University of Bristol (Bristol, UK).

Nick Maskell is the chief investigator for a number of pleural randomised controlled trials. He was Co-Chair of the 2018 British Thoracic Society (BTS) mesothelioma guidelines and is one of the Chairs of the forthcoming BTS pleural disease guidelines.

Christian B. Laursen



Christian B. Laursen is Head of Research and Associate Professor at the Respiratory Research Unit in the Department of Clinical Research at the University of Southern Denmark (Odense, Denmark). In his clinical work, he is a consultant at the Department of Respiratory Medicine at Odense University Hospital (Odense, Denmark).

Christian Laursen has a PhD in point-of-care ultrasound and his main research interest has been in the use of TUS within the field of respiratory medicine.

At an international and organisational level, he is Chair of the European Respiratory Society (ERS) Ultrasound group, is Co-Chair of the ERS Task Force on TUS, and is part of the committee organising the ERS TUS Training Programme.

Y.C. Gary Lee

Y.C. Gary Lee is a professor and clinician scientist, and leads a clinical and translational research programme in pleural medicine. The programme is patient-focussed and uniquely integrates clinical and lab research arms with the most active pleural service in Australasia, which he directs. He has built major platforms that have delivered research with clinical impact. These include the multicentre Australasian MPE (AMPLE) clinical trial network (with centres from Australia and Asia), an allied health pleural research group and a bench-to-bedside pipeline, bringing new therapeutic targets to human trials.



His programme has trained over 20 clinical pleural fellows worldwide and has 10 (current and graduated) PhD research students.

Gary Lee currently works as a Professor of Respiratory Medicine at the University of Western Australia (Perth, Australia), and directs Pleural Services at the Respiratory Department of Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital (Perth, Australia). He is also the Head of the Pleural Medicine Unit at the Institute for Respiratory Health (Nedlands, Australia).

Gary Lee has over 280 publications with a total citation of over 9000, and an H-index of 52. He has delivered more than 300 invited lectures on pleural diseases in 30 countries.

Najib M. Rahman

Najib M. Rahman runs the Oxford Pleural Unit (Oxford Centre for Respiratory Medicine, Oxford, UK), directs the Oxford Respiratory Trials Unit (Churchill Hospital, Oxford, UK) and conducts research in pleural disease at the Oxford Centre for Respiratory Medicine. Having qualified in Oxford, he underwent his medical senior house officer rotation at Queen's Medical Centre (Nottingham, UK), and re-joined Oxford as a Specialist Registrar in 2003. He undertook a DPhil and MSc in this period and was appointed Senior Lecturer and Director of the Oxford Respiratory Trials Unit, Consultant and Lead for Pleural Disease in Oxford in 2011. He was appointed as Associate Professor in 2014 and Professor of Respiratory Medicine in 2018.



Najib Rahman is currently involved in randomised and observational studies in pleural infection, pneumothorax and MPE intervention.

He is trained in thoracoscopy, TUS and clinical trials methodology, and has published over 180 papers with citations of >6000.