Kent Institute of Medicine & Surgery delivering world-class healthcare facilities for the people of Kent.

KIMS is an independent, clinician-led and part clinician-owned medical facility.

Our mission is to provide the best care to every Kent patient in the communities in which we serve, through a uniquely clinician-led service of innovative clinical practice, education and research.

Our vision to achieve this is to be recognised as a world-class healthcare centre of excellence, delivering the finest quality medical care from a committed and professional team from across the globe.
Welcome

I am proud to be the Chairman of Kent Institute of Medicine & Surgery (KIMS). KIMS is a new tertiary/acute care hospital located in Maidstone, Kent that will offer excellent conditions for clinical practice, whilst serving the healthcare needs of the population of Kent, both privately and in conjunction with the NHS.

KIMS will deliver complex surgical care, day treatment and outpatient consultation for a variety of clinical specialties. Tertiary care hospitals, in addition to performing those services that are performed at general/secondary hospitals, are used by highly-trained clinical specialists with the ability to undertake treatments and procedures that are complex and often necessitate an intensive care unit and/or a longer in-patient recovery period. Tertiary hospitals are places of clinical excellence. They and their clinicians write and disseminate state of the art medical procedures and policies, and they benefit from, and in turn enhance, the reputation of the eminent clinicians who work there.

KIMS has been privately funded and will primarily service its clinicians’ private practices but will accept referrals from the NHS according to need. This is an obligation that we and our clinicians are keen to embrace.

The hospital will be unique in offering clinicians working throughout Kent and in London the opportunity to provide complex treatments for their patients in a fully equipped and properly staffed setting, close to home and without the need for the patients and their families to travel to the London for such care. Historically patients living in Kent have had no alternative but to make this journey. Local healthcare needs for the most demanding conditions will be met locally for the first time.

KIMS will be the first new Private Hospital in Kent for over 20 years and is being designed to provide the very best standards of patient comfort and safety. Part-owned and operated by prominent and first-rate clinicians, and supported by an excellent and experienced management team, this modern, purpose-built, and one stop hospital facility will offer a wide range of general and complex procedures. The focus will also be on achieving efficient and effective communications with a large network of GP practices, prompt access to outpatient consultations, and a comprehensive and sophisticated imaging and diagnostic testing.

A centre of clinical excellence in Kent. A world-renowned teaching hospital where the best clinicians want to be and where patients requiring acute care want to go. A place where consultants can manage their patients’ treatment from start to finish, ultimately improving the healthcare of the region through improved patient outcomes. It took over eight years, but for the people of Kent we believe that it will be worth the wait.
Introducing division one

A pioneering team

Division One is a pioneering, consultant-led specialist team providing the South East with around 110 well-respected clinicians working across a broad range of specialisms.

Mr Phil Dale
Divisional Director

A
ll our consultants will continue their work in local NHS hospitals and will manage this alongside their responsibilities here at Kent Institute of Medicine & Surgery (KIMS). As part of their service our consultants will also visit local GP practices to present the extensive services provided at KIMS to GPs, practice managers and nurses. As part of KIMS’ commitment to becoming an advanced and leading-edge medical centre, divisional consultants will also lecture at universities, colleges and schools.

The role of Divisional Director

I became Divisional Director in November 2013. Providing a collaborative, professional and patient-focused service are the key motivators behind what I am aiming to achieve.

Before joining KIMS, I worked for BMI Healthcare, with responsibility for driving both private and NHS business to the 14 BMI hospitals across the South. This experience provided me with the advantage of well-established working relations with many of the consultants now working here at KIMS. I am looking forward to supporting this new team as they create a truly pioneering consultant-led service, dedicated to providing the very best healthcare to patients in the South East.

Clinical directors

Dr Sam Chong BSc (Hons) MB BS MD FRCP
Mr Richard Gullan BSc MB BS FRCP FRCS
Professor Anan Shetty MChir FRCS (Ed) FRCS (Eng) FRCS (Orth)
Dr Tony Hammond BSc MBCS MD FRCP

GPs, practice managers and nurses are welcome to visit KIMS to see our excellent facilities. Simply call me on 07889 547 301 or e-mail me on phil.dale@kims.org.uk and I will be delighted to arrange a tour.

Clinical disciplines

- Neurology/Neurorehabilitation
- Neurosurgery/Trauma surgery
- Kent Spinal Centre: spinal interventions and pain procedures
- Orthopaedic surgery
- Limb Reconstructive surgery
- Rheumatology
- Pain management
- Rehabilitation
Rebuilding limbs

At KIMS we want to develop the best limb reconstruction unit in the South East, if not in the world. We will be treating patients with deformities, non-union of fractures, infections, complications of surgery and other disease processes that have resulted in pain, reduced mobility and impaired function as well as cosmetic problems.

Limb reconstruction is complex surgery that takes the patient through a journey requiring intensive multidisciplinary care and a holistic approach to the patient’s wellbeing. Treatment of such patients is far from routine, and requires individualised management; this kind of treatment is difficult to deliver at units designed for ‘production line’ surgical pathways.

A ‘no compromise’ approach
Limb reconstruction treatment requires a thorough evaluation, detailed counselling and comprehensive planning, even before any treatment starts. The treatment is often lengthy and during this time the patient needs support, rehabilitation, monitoring for progress and sometimes further adjustments to the plan. At the KIMS' limb reconstruction unit we understand that success relies on a committed team with strong leadership and a ‘no compromise’ approach. This team includes dedicated limb reconstruction practitioners, comprehensive radiology support, a specialist theatre team and a comprehensive rehabilitation framework; it delivers very patient-centric and individualised care that is replicated in few other centres.

Tools for accurate evaluation
This level of care requires more than just compassionate staff; at KIMS we have in house access to resources, equipment and infrastructure that are essential to enable the team to make decisions, implement the treatment plan and monitor progress. Advanced imaging resources take much of the guesswork out of the management of patients and give us the tools for accurate evaluation and monitoring of the patient’s condition and therapeutic progress. Theatre facilities are ergonomically designed for efficiency, safety and infection prevention, and stocked with the industry’s proven best in instrumentation and implants. Our rehabilitation unit is equipped to allow rapid recovery and return to full function. And this level of care provision does not stop at discharge from the hospital: we have facilities to allow the patient and carers in the community to reach us using a variety of media, including video conferencing, so that even when they are at home, support is never far away.

Application of novel techniques
As our understanding of the healing process deepens, we hope to provide leading-edge treatment for our patients including computerised TSF frame and stem cell therapy. The application of novel techniques is combined with our commitment to research and development in all aspects of limb reconstruction. As a unit, we hope to develop a register of limb reconstruction, which will be used to guide the evolution of surgical techniques to deal with these complex problems.

Provision of a limb reconstruction service is certainly a challenge, and it’s one that we are excited about. There are no short cuts to success; through KIMS our dedicated team is given the best tools to fulfil our commitment to ‘no compromise care’.

For more information please tel 01622 237 727 or email reservations@kims.org.uk
Orthopaedic surgeons at KIMS

Professor Anan Shetty
Mr Suhail Sail
Mr Neil Slater
Mr Kasetti Ravikumar
Mr Sudhir Rao
Mr Keith Borowsky
Mr Jonathan Walczak
Mr Sunil Jain
Mr Srinivas Samsani
Mr Bijay Singh
Professor Amit Tolat
Mr Alan Hammer
Mr Sajid Shariff
Mr Abhijit Dey
Mr Omar Yanni
Mr Guy Slater
Mr Jai Relwani
Mr Simon Ellis
Mr P J S Chan Jeer
Mr Ravi Singh
Mr Philip Housden
Mr Hagen Jahnich
Mr Lee David
Mr James Casha
Mr Marcos Katchburian
Mr Farid Samir Mofhah
Mr Michael Fordyce
Mr James Smith
Mr Michael Thilagarajah
Mr James Ritchie
Mr Sathya Murthy
Mr John McAllister
Mr Dimitri Yanni
Mr Max Edwards
Mr Paul Gill
Mr Sam Singh
Mr Adel Tavakkolizadeh
Mr Crispin Southgate
Mr Harry Belcher
Mr Vishal Prasad
Mr Dimitrios Karadaglis
It is estimated that in the UK there are eight million people with neurological disorders. Two studies, one in 1987 and another in 1994, have reported that 19 per cent of all district general hospital medical inpatients have a neurological disease. This percentage is likely to be much higher in the 21st century as the population ages.

There is a need for neurologists to work closely with colleagues to deliver timely and expert care in a patient-centred way. Too often this is not the case. Waiting lists for outpatient consultations, investigations and follow-up appointments are too long. Even when neurological disorders are appropriately managed, patients report that they receive inadequate explanations of their symptoms. Many patients with potentially serious neurological disorders currently admitted to district general hospitals experience delays obtaining neurological input, and often wait for long periods to be transferred to tertiary centres in London for further investigations. There are simply not enough neurologists to handle the day-to-day care for these patients. This creates uncertainty, which generates anxiety for patients and their relatives, and compromises optimal care.

Traditional providers or a multidisciplinary team

For all these reasons, those who are able would opt for private neurology care. However, the traditional private provider is a single-handed neurology consultant. There is little opportunity for accessing the multidisciplinary services that are usually needed by neurological patients. If more specialised investigations and treatments are needed, there is still a long wait to access admission to the private wing of a hospital in London.

No surrogate targets – care to the highest standards

KIMS will provide an opportunity for groups of consultant neurologists, neurophysiologists, neuroradiologists and neurosurgeons to work together, with the aim of delivering tertiary level care locally for patients in Kent. Proximity to the M20 motorway means that it will also be accessible for patients from South London, Sussex and South Essex, too. The latest technology and infrastructure, together with some of the best clinicians available, will allow care delivery to the highest standard for both private and NHS patients. Frontline KIMS’ clinicians will be supported by the appropriate teams of secretaries, medical technicians and ancillary staff.

The role of administration will be put in its proper place: only used to enable good clinical care. There will be no need to chase surrogate targets in everyday clinical practice. Instead, the true marker of good clinical care — that delivered at the highest possible standard to achieve the best outcome and patient satisfaction — will be the aim of all our activity at KIMS.

Please contact reservations@kims.org.uk to arrange visits and to join in our various educational activities that will help shape this service.

**Consultant specialists**

Dr Robert Hadden MA BM BCh (Oxon) FRCP PhD
Dr Mike Samuel MA MD FCRP
Dr Dennis Chart BSc PhD MB BCH MD FRCP
Dr Ian Redmond IA MB BCH MRCP
Dr Ioannis Zoukos MD PhD
Dr Lal Landham MBBS FRCS (Ed) FRCP
Dr Mayur Bodani FRCP (Edin) FRCP (Psy)
Dr S S Surenthiran MBBS FRCP (Lon) FRCS (Oxon) MSc DEC
Dr Nandini Mullatti MD FRCP
Dr Alistair Martin Purves MD FRCP
Dr Timothy Hampton MB BSc MRCP FRCR

Dr Gerry Saldanha MSc (Oxon) MBBS MD FRCP
Dr Sam Chong BSc (Hons) MBBS MD FRCP

**Neurology**

Local tertiary level care

It is estimated that in the UK there are eight million people with neurological disorders. Two studies, one in 1987 and another in 1994, have reported that 19 per cent of all district general hospital medical inpatients have a neurological disease. This percentage is likely to be much higher in the 21st century as the population ages.
Chronic pain is a symptom of numerous disorders, but can also be a disease in its own right. Causes of chronic pain are multifactorial. Treatment should involve a multidisciplinary team comprising doctors, nurses, physiotherapists and psychologists; these should be professionals with specific training and clinical expertise in managing chronic pain. Currently, such teams work exclusively within the NHS, which means that the services provided are at risk of long waiting lists and disjointed care. Rehabilitation is usually not emphasised in NHS chronic pain management. This is a serious omission because, for the patients, rehabilitation towards normal living improves quality of life more than pain reduction.

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Vision of a multidisciplinary pain team
Multidisciplinary working in managing chronic pain involves regular assessments, treatment and coordinated intervention to help patients. Medications and procedures such as nerve blocks and stimulation analgesia must be used with complementary therapies such as TENS, acupuncture. Pain physiotherapists support and educate patients to optimise their physical capabilities, initiating rehabilitation programmes. Psychologists tease out underlying factors exacerbating and prolonging pain; they help patients to cope with their pain and increase mental resilience. Such a team working together is more likely to be successful in treating pain and alter unhelpful chronic pain behaviour.

Prevention: acute pain
Many surgical procedures are carried out at KIMS, where it is recognised that inadequate acute pain control can lead to the development of chronic pain. Therefore, our Acute Pain Team, comprising doctors and nurse specialists, is crucial for managing post-surgical pain. This is especially important when there is pressure to reduce the length of stay after surgery. We believe that patients should only be sent home with good pain control, having the assurance of an agreed management plan should the initial pain relief strategies break down.

Barriers
The main barrier to organising such a team has been the traditional way that doctors work in private practice; one consultant with a secretary is often the sum total of a treatment unit. Reimbursements by healthcare insurers also disincentivise teams working and there is reluctance among private providers to pay for many of these services. This is partly from lack of understanding but also because the value of multidisciplinary pain management has not been appreciated. At KIMS, we have overcome these obstacles to create a comprehensive pain management service.

Organisation
The Pain Team comprises pain specialists from all disciplines: anaesthetics, rheumatology, neurology, rehabilitation, as well as psychologists, physiotherapists and nurse specialists. The moulding of such a team has involved sharing resources and agreed methods for cross-subsidising treatment not currently reimbursed. This has the benefit of encouraging cooperation and teamwork. Treatment results are rigorously recorded so that proper outcome data is collected to inform on future developments. Members of this team are experts in their field in partnership with local clinicians who are familiar with the local services. Our aim at KIMS is to continue to apply evidence-based clinical practice to private care and allow clinicians to tailor therapy for their patients. This will drive up the standards of care still further and ameliorate the burden of chronic pain for many of our patients. The clinical activity also encourages research, so that there is a constant drive to further improve and understand the problems of chronic pain.

Please contact reservations@kims.org.uk to arrange a visit or join in our various educational activities that will help shape this service.

Surveys estimate that between 20-35 per cent of the population in Europe experiences chronic pain. Head, back and joint, commonly in combination, are usual sites of pain. Between 50-60 per cent of working age people with chronic pain are unemployed or underemployed as a direct result of pain. Pain prevalence increases with age and the number affected will increase as the population ages; 95 per cent of those with chronic pain have disturbed sleep and 60 per cent have depression, anxiety or both. However, in one EU survey, only 2 per cent of patients with moderate to severe chronic pain are under the care of a pain specialist.

Coordinated multidisciplinary care
Driving up standards in healthcare

Introducing Dr Tony Hammond, Consultant Physician and Rheumatologist specialising in interventional spinal pain management and Chairman of the KIMS Medical Board.

After graduating in Edinburgh in 1980, I trained in internal medicine and rheumatology in Bristol, Bath and London including the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases, The Royal Postgraduate Medical School and St Bart’s Hospital London.

I was awarded a doctorate (MD) for my thesis on the immunology of systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE) in 1990. In 1992 I was appointed a general physician and the first rheumatologist for Maidstone Hospital where, over time, I built and led a successful department comprising consultant colleagues, research and specialist nurses and associates.

I have been active in research, training, teaching and administration regionally, nationally and internationally, particularly in establishing and leading the system for the introduction and administration of biologic therapies for rheumatoid arthritis (RA) throughout Kent.

Unmet clinical need
My sub-specialism in interventional management of painful spinal conditions grew from the challenge of unmet clinical need in this area. Patients with chronic painful spinal problems are often referred to rheumatology departments, principally for the diagnosis of relatively uncommon spinal diseases (for example ankylosing spondylitis). For the majority of patients with mechanical (wear and tear) related pain, however, there has historically been little to offer beyond therapy to maintain function and painkillers to give some relief.

Looking around the world, there are many techniques and technologies designed to resolve or effectively treat painful spinal pathologies. I have brought many of these into my practice, which is based on the technical standards and principles of precision interventional diagnostics and treatments espoused by the International Spinal Intervention Society (ISIS), whose training I have pursued, and for whom I now teach in the UK and Europe as well as a number of other UK organisations. Within this arena, I have developed particular skills in the diagnosis and treatment of intervertebral disc-related problems utilising a variety of advanced, and some novel, techniques. These problems are said to account for up to 40 per cent of cases of back pain, back spasms, sciatica and slipped disc.

Chairman of the Medical Board
In 2011, I left Maidstone Hospital to continue the development of KIMS, a project I have been involved with since its inception, and to become the Chairman of the Medical Board whose object is the achievement of the highest standards of healthcare for private and NHS patients in Kent and beyond.
Bringing a vital practice to KIMS

KIMS offers the first real opportunity to bring neurosurgical practice directly into the heart of Kent. Currently, almost all neurosurgery for Kent is undertaken at King’s College Hospital, London – including a very substantial amount of spinal surgery. The high technology aspects of the whole KIMS concept make it the ideal forum to begin to locate some areas of neurosurgical practice much closer to patients’ homes, GP practices and local hospitals.

Disc disorders causing sciatica or brachialgia are likewise common and highly treatable conditions. The primary purpose of surgery is to free trapped nerves with the minimum disturbance to the spine itself; symptom relief, and often neurological improvement, results. Quality of life evaluations have demonstrated that a well-undertaken lumbar decompression procedure for spinal stenosis causing neurogenic claudication, in neurosurgical practice, can rival or even just exceed the quality of life improvement from a total hip joint replacement. Many new techniques have evolved over the past two decades and our neurosurgical team at KIMS is fully versed in being able to offer state-of-the-art surgery of high standard, including new percutaneous and endoscopic spinal surgical techniques.

Neurosciences and pain management

The natural affinity of neurosurgeons to the field of clinical neurosciences, encompassing the fields of neurology, neurorehabilitation (a projected major area of development at KIMS), neuroradiology and neurophysiology, as well as helping and cooperating with pain management teams, is an important part of providing a robust and high-quality service to this group of patients. Delivery of this important area of patient care by one hospital centrally located in Kent, able to comfortably and safely provide the costly and highly specialised facilities and skill mix for spinal neurosurgery, is ideal. Indemnity payments for spinal surgery are now the highest for all surgical disciplines, highlighting the absolute importance of this surgery being undertaken by very highly trained and specialised surgeons with the ability to engage in active peer review and, as needed, joint clinical decision-making and operative work. KIMS offers a unique opportunity for this to be done, allowing care to be provided as evenly to the population as possible.

A reality staring us in the face

Long overdue for our local patients, we are determined to establish at KIMS, as rapidly as possible, an excellent spinal unit with additional rehabilitation facilities and backup. The opportunity to do this only comes once in a lifetime, but this is, at last, a reality staring us in the face.

Mr Richard Gullan
BSc MBBS FRCP FRCS
Neurosurgery can be broadly divided into brain and spinal surgery, but within these there are many sub-specialised areas. London Neurosurgery Partnership comprises 11 neurosurgeons who all work at King’s College Hospital and work in a private partnership. The subspeciality interests of the consultants cover all aspects of cranial and spinal neurosurgery. A key ethos of the group is collaborative working to ensure best patient care at all times. This means that a patient will be referred to the neurosurgeon with the most appropriate expertise. Surgery may be performed by more than one neurosurgeon to combine operative skills and improve the safety of the procedure.

I have been a consultant neurosurgeon at King’s College Hospital, London since 1998. I qualified from The London Hospital (now known as The Royal London Hospital) and completed neurosurgical training at the Atkinson Morley’s Hospital, the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, and Great Ormond Street Hospital. I completed a spine fellowship at Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

Skull base, pituitary and complex spinal surgery
My areas of interest include skull base surgery, both transnasal endoscopic and lateral approaches, and complex spinal surgery. The common tumour which requires the endoscopic approach is the pituitary adenoma and a lateral approach is most frequently performed for an acoustic neuroma. I also have expertise in complex spinal surgery and neurofibromatosis. I am the Clinical Lead for skull base surgery at King’s College Hospital and currently Secretary to the British Skull Base Society of which I will be President next year. I am also the neurosurgical lead for the nationally funded London neurofibromatosis service. I regard KIMS as an ideal environment in which to provide a service to the Kent population. For many years, several neurosurgeons, including myself, Mr Gullan, Mr Selway and Mr Bell have run peripheral clinics at the Medway, Kent and Canterbury, Kent and Sussex, Maidstone, BMI Alexandra and Spire Tunbridge Wells hospitals. There has been a strong commitment of the neurosurgical unit at King’s to provide a regional service to Kent and the development of the KIMS’ site will enhance this ability. We believe many patients can be treated (including being operated upon) at KIMS, thereby avoiding travelling into London.
Introducing division two

Experts in their field

Division Two is a group of around 120 specialists working together at KIMS in the fields of cardiology; cardiac surgery; respiratory medicine; thoracic surgery; vascular surgery; radiology; and anaesthetics.

Mrs Hannah Browning
Divisional Director

I joined KIMS as the Divisional Director from Spire Tunbridge Wells Hospital where I was a member of the senior management team and the Business Development Manager. However, my career began further north, at Nuffield Health Grosvenor Hospital in Chester where I received an excellent grounding in customer services, NHS contracts and business development. I then moved to London and became a member of the GP Liaison Department at London Bridge Hospital where I also helped to develop and expand the team.

KIMS is an exciting opportunity for me to bring all of the skills I have developed and to focus on building clinical services that excel in patient care. I have the privilege of working with some of the leading consultants in the country, which gives KIMS a solid and exceptional base on which to build a world-class service.

All the consultants partnering with KIMS are experts in their field – patients will always be able to be referred to a specialist to diagnose and help treat their condition. The diversity and range of expertise we have been able to draw together is critical to the success of KIMS and the health outcomes of our patients. We are keen to guarantee that a patient referred to KIMS has access to all of the relevant consultants across the range of specialties and sub-special interests, should they need an onward referral. We are also one of the only hospitals that is fostering and promoting multidisciplinary working being led by clinicians. This ensures that the patient is at the heart of everything we do; patient care is paramount to all of us within the hospital and we have put in place systems to ensure a coordinated approach to their care.

Division Two is well resourced with a large number of experienced consultants working within the division; I am particularly delighted to be involved in the diagnostic work being undertaken at KIMS, led by expert radiologists. KIMS is unusual in Kent as an independent, clinician-led and part clinician-owned medical campus able to offer the full range of diagnostics, in-house, with the relevant specialists to perform and report on the scans. This ensures that our consultants have access to the services they need to enable quick diagnosis and appropriate treatment for patients.

KIMS cardiology, cardiac care and cardiac surgery

The cardiologists cover a range of specialist interests including heart failure, arrhythmias, electrophysiology, pacing, ablation, angiography, stents, imaging, hypertension and angioplasty. This means that patients will be seen by a specialist experienced in that relevant field.

Cardiac surgery in Kent

The service for cardiac care will also be expanding with five leading cardiac surgeons working with KIMS, undertaking heart surgery. Cardiology is one of the keystones of KIMS and with our capability to perform cardiac surgery, KIMS will be the only hospital in Kent which can offer the level of expertise, specialist interests and complexity in one setting.

A one-stop service

The cardiology service is led by Dr Phyllis Holt, a renowned cardiologist with a wealth of experience in her field. Dr Holt has practices in both Kent and London and has an extensive knowledge about how a world-class service needs to be run. By working closely with Dr Holt and her colleagues, our aim is to build a cardiology service that has a strong outpatient diagnostic provision at its core. KIMS has invested in all the latest technology necessary to deliver a comprehensive, one-stop service that will enable the cardiologists to make timely and accurate diagnoses.

KIMS is privileged in the consultants that we are partnering with as we are passionate about delivering premium levels of patient care and outcomes. We are delighted to be working with some of the leading interventionalists including specialists in simple and complex pacing, coronary angiography and PCIs. In addition to the interventionalists, we will be offering an electrophysiology service in our state-of-the-art cath labs.

What makes KIMS different to all other providers in Kent is our ability to undertake complex cardiac surgery. This means that any patient referred to KIMS with a heart complaint can be confident that their whole patient pathway will be managed by professionals using the latest technology, in a purpose-built facility, with the necessary clinical support that puts patients at the heart of everything we do.

For more information please contact me on 07889 547 297 or hannah.browning@kims.org.uk

Clinical directors

Professor Richard Underwood
MA BM BDCH MD FROP FRCS FESC FACC
Dr Praveen Bilagi MRCs FROR
Dr Peter Barker MBBS (Lon) FRCR
Dr Phyllis Holt MD FRCP FESC FACC

Professor Marjan Jahangiri
MBBS MS FRCS FRCS (CTH)
Dr Graeme Sanders MBChB FRCA
Dr James Wood
Dr Scott Takeda MB BS (Lon) MRCP

Leads

Invasive radiology
Dr Praveen Bilagi MRCs FROR
Dr Peter Barker MBBS (Lon) FRCR
Cardiology
Dr Phyllis Holt MD FRCP FESC FACC
Dr Scott Takeda MB BS (Lon) MRCP

Cardiac surgery
Professor Marjan Jahangiri
MBBS MS FRCS FRCS (CTH)

Respiratory medicine
Dr Ravish Mankragod
MBBS MRCP (UK)

Thoracic surgery
Mrs Karen Harrison-Phipps

Vascular
Mr Sam Andrews BA (Hons) MBBS

Endocrine
Dr Jesse Kumar MBBS MRCP

Endocrine
Dr John Dupuis MBBS MRCP
Top-to-toe imaging

I am delighted to be able to write a few words to introduce the state-of-the-art imaging facilities that are available at KIMS. The radiology department is now fully staffed with 30 radiologists and nuclear medicine specialists whose expertise covers the whole breadth of imaging, meaning we can look at a patient from ‘head to toe’.

The department has a 3T MRI scanner, a low dose thin slice CT scanner, several ultrasound machines, fluoroscopy, mammography and a dedicated interventional suite, unusual in a private setting. The radiologists will be able to use the various imaging modalities to offer patients the best and safest form of imaging including: neuroradiology; head and neck; breast; chest; cardiac; hepatobiliary; colorectal, including virtual colonography; urology; gynaecology; paediatric; and musculoskeletal imaging services.

The interventional suite

The Interventional suite will be able to offer peripheral angiography/stenting; abdominal aortic aneurysm screening and aortic stenting; embolisation; hepatobiliary and urology interventional procedures; radio frequency ablation; as well as a more controlled and safer environment for drainage and biopsy procedures.

Access to a specialist radiologist

All the radiologists at KIMS can access scans remotely and this will greatly enhance our service provision for a quick turnaround and enable a more productive dialogue between clinician and radiologist.

At least one radiologist is available every day during normal working hours for anyone wishing to discuss and report a case urgently. Furthermore, with the remote reporting facility available, any clinician can obtain an opinion from a radiologist of his or her choice at any time. I would be delighted to discuss with you in more detail the imaging services at KIMS, so please don’t hesitate to contact me through the Imaging Department.

Dr Praveen Bilagi
MRCS FRCR
Clinical Director

Dr Bilagi studied medicine at Cambridge, followed by a three-year rotation in surgery. His specialist radiology training was at King’s College Hospital, London.

Dr Bilagi’s specialist fields include musculoskeletal (with a specialist interest in biochemical imaging of cartilage, discs and tendons) and abdominal imaging.

He serves on the Imaging and Educational Committees for The International Cartilage Repair Society (ICRS). He is currently the Clinical Lead for Medway Radiology and the Lead Radiologist for Urology, Musculoskeletal and Hepatobiliary Imaging.
Invasive radiology core team

Dr Praveen Bilagi (Lead) MRCS FRCR
Dr Peter G Barker (Lead) MBBS (Lon) FRCR
Dr Lucas Maischner
Professor Richard Underwood MA BM BCh MD FRCP FRCR FESC FACC FASNC
Dr Tim Hampton MB BS MRCP FRCR
Dr Ata Siddiqui MBBS MD DNB FRCR
Professor Paul Sidhu BS MB BS MRCP (UK) FRCR DTM and H (Lon)
Dr Pippa Mills BM MRCP FRCR
Dr Phil McMillan BM MRCP FRCR
Dr Varada Reddy BS MBBS FRCP
Dr Vijayakumar Ganeshti MD (Radiology) FRCR
Dr Vivek Raman BS MBBS MRCP FRCR PG Cert Nuclear Medicine
Dr John Donaldson MA (Cantab) MRCs LRCP FRCR
Dr Tom Johnson-Smith BS (Hons) MBBS MRCP (UK) FRCR
Dr Natalie Ryan MBCHB FRCR
Dr Sasha Houghton MBBS MRCP FRCR
Dr Paul Ryan MD FRCP
Dr Meeran Farook Naji MBCHB MRCS FRCR MSc
Dr Giorgio Giancola MB KCH FRCR
Dr Panayiotis Koumellis MSc MRCP FRCR
Dr Sukanya Ghosh MBBS MRCP FRCR
Dr Fabian Sebastian MBBS MD FRCR
Dr Anil Madhavan MBBS FRCS (Ed) FRCR
State-of-the-art

I forged my interest in nuclear medicine as a Consultant Radiologist to the Army and have joined the team at KIMS having left a full-time position at Maidstone Hospital.

Maidstone Hospital was one of the first hospitals in the UK to invest in the GE Discovery 670 gamma camera. This co-registers CT and scintigrams to help investigations required by orthopaedic surgeons, oncologists, cardiologists and physicians, and is now available at KIMS together with research grade MRI and other CT scanners. This will mean, among other things, that KIMS can offer the full range of nuclear medicine as well as bone density studies for osteoporosis, for example, making it easy for GPs to refer patients for a prompt diagnosis.

Myocardial perfusion and breast sentinel node studies

We will undertake myocardial perfusion studies for Dr Phyllis Holt, Consultant Cardiologist and her colleagues. Audit has demonstrated a high predictive value for coronary heart disease, allowing cardiologists to select patients suitable for intervention. Our gamma camera will also provide coronary artery calcium scoring.

My own experience of performing breast sentinel node studies for surgeons Peter Jones and Sue Jones has obviated the need for many axillary node clearances. This work will continue at KIMS.

An international reputation

Professor Richard Underwood of the Royal Brompton Hospital, an international expert in all forms of cardiac imaging, will be clinical lead for nuclear medicine at KIMS.

At Maidstone we are already at the forefront internationally in cervical and vulval cancer sentinel node studies, which we perform for Professor Devaja and his colleagues, and at KIMS we will continue this work and expand into endometrial cancer, probably as the first UK centre to do so. We expect this expertise to attract patients from well beyond Kent’s county boundary.

Helping establish PET-CT in Kent five years ago, I was one of the first reporters when a national programme was rolled out and my experience is reflected in excellent audit figures. This is a new modality which has revolutionised diagnosis and treatment in oncology and I expect that it will also be pivotal in a national dementia screening programme. Initially, KIMS will have a mobile PET-CT service, although a dedicated unit is planned as part of our Phase 2 development.
A dream come true

Several years ago, consultant cardiologists in Kent attempted to establish an NHS Cardiothoracic Tertiary Centre in the county. Despite our best efforts we were unsuccessful. However, this dream did not die; the idea of KIMS was born and came to fruition in April 2014.

Our cardiothoracic facilities are fully comprehensive. They include the following: ECG; exercise testing including respiratory physiology and full monitoring of blood pressure; ECG monitoring (one to seven days); and patient activated monitors. We can also offer tilt testing. Echocardiography includes contrast echo, stress echo and 3-D echocardiography.

State-of-the-art imaging
Imaging is state-of-the-art, with CT scanning for CT coronary angiography, 3 Tesla MRI for cardiac imaging, plus a mobile PET scanner. All this equipment comes with guaranteed upgrades for a ten-year period from our suppliers.

Cardiac catheterisation laboratories
We have two extremely sophisticated cardiac cath labs. Both are manufactured by GE Healthcare. The ‘hybrid’ lab is to theatre standard and is used for transaortic valve interventions (TAVIs) and mitral valve clipping. We will also be undertaking conventional angiography, percutaneous coronary intervention (PCI) and electrophysiological studies. The cardiac cath labs will also be used for peripheral angioplasty and stenting, along with renal artery denervation (for patients who have intractable hypertension).

In terms of arrhythmias, we offer all ablation services including atrial fibrillation (AF), accessory pathway and ventricular tachycardia (VT treatment). These procedures will be undertaken by local electrophysiologists and colleagues with international reputations from London tertiary centres.

Cardiothoracic surgery will be available to both NHS and private patients. We will offer minimally invasive plus conventional valve surgery and bypass grafting. This will be supported by a seven-bed ITU. Thoracic and abdominal aortic stenting and surgery will also be provided.

In terms of arrhythmias, we offer all ablation services including atrial fibrillation (AF), accessory pathway and ventricular tachycardia (VT treatment). These procedures will be undertaken by local electrophysiologists and colleagues with international reputations from London tertiary centres.

Research is encouraged and will be supported by KIMS. This will include pharmacological research and device research (we are a Medtronic reference centre and a GE reference centre). In addition, heart failure devices (LVADS) will be fostered and led by Professor Stephen Westaby, who has an international reputation in this field.

Teaching is mandatory from all of our consultants. This will initially be postgraduate, but will also include undergraduate level once our university is established.

Specialist nursing is extremely important to us, both in the hospital and outside. We believe that the cardiac and cardiothoracic patients’ care does not end when they leave the hospital; we provide ‘angels’ who will visit our patients in the hospital and at home. We also provide full physiotherapy support, both in hospital and in the community or at home. For those patients who require full care packages, these will also be arranged and put into place prior to their discharge.

We know how important communication is, and all patient activity at KIMS will be followed with a summary to the referring physician, GP and patient, sent out within 24 hours.

Our ethos is purely patient first
We welcome feedback, and indeed we welcome visits. If you wish to view our facilities please do not hesitate to contact either myself or Mrs Hannah Browning on: 07889 547 297.

Dr Phyllis Holt
MD FRCP FESC FACC
Angiography and angioplasty

What attracted you to KIMS?
The provision of cardiac services in Kent has greatly improved over the past decade, especially with the development of local coronary angiography and angioplasty. There are, however, significant limitations and patients continue to travel to London for complex cardiac procedures and – importantly – all cardiac surgery. Unfortunately, plans for a cardiothoracic centre based in Ashford, Kent in 2003 never came to fruition.

A decade later, KIMS will provide residents of Kent with the opportunity to have access to a full range of cardiac services including cardiothoracic surgery. This is a major step forward, allowing patients to be treated locally with access to the latest cardiac diagnostic tests and cutting-edge treatments.

What facilities does KIMS offer?
Excellent cardiac imaging, for example cardiac CT and MRI, which are services that have not been well provided for in Kent up until now. KIMS also has two very impressive highly equipped cardiac catheter laboratories for carrying out coronary intervention, pacing and more complex cardiac treatments such as TAVI. And, for the first time in Kent, there will be cardiac surgery on-site with heart surgeons performing heart bypass surgery and valve replacement.

What is your personal vision for the department?
I was heavily involved with the original plans for the cardiothoracic centre based in Ashford and understandably very disappointed when it never came to fruition. We now have a second opportunity to revive our original vision of a centre of excellence, providing the full range of cardiac services to the people of Kent.

And the future?
The provision of cardiac services will begin in May of this year, starting with coronary angiography and pacing, progressing to coronary angioplasty and surgery in the latter part of the year. We will have a team of local cardiologists and visiting surgeons with different subspecialties and interests. These are exciting times.

My specialist interests are heart failure, cardiac imaging and complex device therapy (implantable cardiovertor defibrillators and biventricular pacemakers). I am particularly excited as we now have at KIMS the most advanced echo technology currently available. This will enhance diagnosis and assessment of our cardiac patients – in particular patients with ischaemic heart disease, heart failure, valvular heart disease and more complex cardiomyopathies.

A full echo service and up-to-date imaging
We have a full echo service with the most up-to-date imaging and analysis hardware and software. This will deliver a major step up in image quality, which will aid assessment in traditionally difficult patients to echo and, in addition, have the availability of contrast echo, which can help hugely in the assessment of ventricular function in difficult echo subjects, and aid stress imaging.

A full stress echo service will be available for assessment/diagnosis of coronary artery disease as well as helping target areas of viability or ischaemia to aid decision-making for revascularisation (PCI or CABG).

The technique is also the modality of choice in more difficult cases of valvular heart disease (for example patients with coexistent poor LV function and advanced valve disease).

Real-time 3-dimensional echo
The most exciting advance, which has now become a clinical reality, is the availability of real-time 3-dimensional echo. This enhances, in particular, the assessment of patients with heart valve disease to aid the cardiac surgeon in decision-making and planning of surgery. It is the most accurate way of assessing LV function, especially in patients with complex LV geometry. We can also perform 3D stress echo – allowing a comprehensive assessment of the area of myocardium that is ischaemic or at risk.

Lastly, we will offer a full transoesophageal echo service with a state-of-the-art 3-dimensional TOE probe – the most advanced imaging technique for patients undergoing cardiac surgery/complex valvar intervention (ie TAVI procedures).

I look forward to discussing and demonstrating some of these advanced techniques in real clinical cases seen at KIMS, in future editions of Clinical Opinions.
Core team

Dr Phyllis Holt  MD FRCP FESC FACC
Dr Scott Takeda  MBBS (Lon) MRCP
Dr Richard Cooke  BA (Law) MD FRCP
Professor John Deanfield  MA MB BCHR (Cantab) FRCP FESC FACC
Dr Jaswinder Gill  MA MD FRCP FACC
Dr Dennis Gaufield  MBBS, MRCP
Dr Clive Handler  BSc (Hons) MBBS MD MRCP FACC FESC
Dr Intisar Mirza  BM BSc PhD MRCP
Dr Bet Mishra  MA (Cantab) MBBS (Lond) MRCP (Lond)
Dr Kevin Ward  BSc MD FRCP
Dr Winston A Martin  BSc (Hons) MBBS FRCP (UK)
Dr George Amin-Yousseff  MSc MRCP
Dr Konrad Grossef  MRCP PhD
Dr Kayvan Kamalvand  BSc MBBS MD FRCP FACC
Dr Nikhil Patel  MBBS MRCP CCST FRCP
Dr Guy Lloyd  MBBS FRCP MD
Dr Edward Petzer
Dr Laurence Nunn  MA (Cantab) MBBS MRCP PGCHE
Dr Neil Sulka  BSc (Hons) DM FRCP PHRSC PFRS FESC FACC
Dr Edward Langford  MA MD FRCP

Associated specialist clinicians

Professor Carlo Di Mario  MD PhD FESS FACC FRCP
Dr Ed Rowland  MD FRCP FESC FACC
Dr Michael Mullen  MB BS MD MRCP
Professor Michael Henein  MB ChB MSc PhD

Cardiology core team
Marjan Jahangiri operates on between 280 and 300 patients each year. This is one of the largest cardiac surgical services in the country. Her overall mortality rate for all cases, including complex and major complex heart operations, is 1.5-3.5 per cent.

Speciality areas
Marjan’s major interests in the field of clinical cardiac surgery include: surgery of the aorta including aneurysms, especially major and major complex cases (Marfan syndrome), aortic valve surgery, minimally invasive aortic valve procedure (one of the largest services in the UK), beating heart surgery and cardiac surgery in pregnant patients. She has contributed to advances in protecting neurocognition and has been instrumental in developing minimally invasive surgery.

Research and publications
As many as seven full-time research fellows work under Marjan’s direct supervision towards higher research degrees (MD Res and PhD). Research areas include:
- Genetic causes of aortic valve and diseases of the aorta. Proteomic analysis of causes of aneurysm formation
- Neurological function and neurocognition during and following cardiac surgery
- The role of stem cells in the development of coronary artery disease

Marjan is a frequently invited speaker at national and international conferences and the author of over 200 peer-reviewed articles and published abstracts; on the regular review board of several national and international academic journals; Chairman of the Training Board for London; and is in charge of the largest training programme for cardiothoracic registrars in the UK.
There is no doubt in my mind that the surgical and interventional treatment of heart disease in the UK is exceptional. Recent data has shown that the outcome following heart surgery in the UK is 25 per cent better than the rest of Europe. Building on this national advantage, I have been keen to continually improve the way we treat patients with heart disease. I have witnessed the benefits that keyhole techniques, in particular, can offer patients: avoiding division of the breast bone (as in traditional heart surgery) can allow recovery within days rather than weeks, as well as offering remarkable clinical and cosmetic benefits.

World-class programme

The Keyhole Heart Clinic itself has always been committed to providing patients with both information and access to specialised, minimally invasive cardiac therapies, so I am delighted to have been asked to be part of the world-class programme at KIMS. The commitment to investment in technology and research will allow us to build on the excellent clinical outcomes we have already seen in our keyhole heart surgery programme, as well as improving access for Kent patients and their families. The hand-picked team has worked extremely hard to create a programme that allows safe access for patients to new evidence-based keyhole therapies within cardiology and cardiac surgery. When delivering such complex procedures, it is essential to ensure that the clinical governance aims of the organisation are geared towards multidisciplinary team-based decision-making. At KIMS, only those clinicians who have demonstrated excellence in their specialist area will perform these operations via keyhole surgery.

New robotic surgery programme

Looking ahead, KIMS plans to introduce a unique robotic surgery programme across many surgical disciplines including cardiac surgery. This is another example of the innovation and commitment that is at the heart of the organisation.

Dedicated Clinical Liaison Team

Patients referred to KIMS will experience courteous and efficient help and advice from the Clinical Liaison Team and we believe that this will add an invaluable dimension to the experience of our patients which will be second to none.

Inderpaul Birdi joined the NHS in 1989 and quickly developed a passion for the structure and function of the heart. This led him to specialise as a cardiothoracic surgeon. In 2003 he became a consultant surgeon and went on to found The Keyhole Heart Clinic in London. He and his team are looking forward to practising at KIMS and being part of our skill transfer programme.
Ready to tackle increasing disease burden

Respiratory diseases are on the rise with an increasing disease burden due to smoking, pollution and the ease of travel around the world. Furthermore, the increasing prevalence of obesity is leading to obesity hypoventilation and obstructive sleep apnoea. Today, every second acute admission to hospital is related to respiratory illnesses.

It’s an exciting opportunity to offer respiratory services at KIMS, a high-tech hospital with cutting-edge technology and a vision for the future. At KIMS our team of respiratory consultants and other staff offer a high-quality and personalised service with quick and easy access to diagnostic services including HRCT scans, thoracic ultrasound, video bronchoscopy, full sleep studies, lung function and allergy testing, and also to outpatient treatment. We are also delighted to provide inpatient respiratory critical care, having access to four critical care beds and three high dependency beds. These are in addition to the purpose-built inpatient beds. KIMS is already set up to provide easy access to collaborate with other specialties such as thoracic surgery, neurosurgery, oncology and others when required. This will improve health outcomes and make the patient experience much more satisfactory.

Respiratory physiotherapy and CBT services are also available on-site. In the next phase of our development we aim to provide bronchial thermoplasty, medical thoracoscopy and endobronchial stenting and develop KIMS as a tertiary centre close to home.

I am delighted to announce that the other members of our team of respiratory consultants are:

- Dr Syed Arshad Hussain  
- Dr Majid Mushtaq  
- Dr Simon Webster  
- Dr Lisa Vincent-Smith

This team of experienced professionals is determined to provide the highest standards of diagnostic and therapeutic services related to respiratory problems. We aim to do so as part of a well-coordinated and comprehensive health service for patients in Kent and beyond, and so make a real difference to their quality of life.

Vascular surgical services

New spoke for the Medway Hub

Vascular surgical services in West Kent currently work on a ‘hub and spoke’ system, with the ‘hub’ at Medway Maritime Hospital and ‘spokes’ at Maidstone Hospital, Gravesend Hospital, Sittingbourne Memorial and Sheppey Hospital. It is hoped that KIMS will also become one of these ‘spoke’ hospitals, delivering all aspects of venous surgery, vascular investigations, some arterial procedures and outpatient services.

Outpatient and day-case procedures

Outpatient and day-case procedures are provided at the spoke hospitals, which hopefully will include KIMS. These include open and endoluminal varicose vein surgery (endovenous laser, endovenous radiofrequency ablation), management of leg ulcers and vascular investigations (duplex ultrasound, CTA, MRA and conventional angiography).

All services at KIMS will be provided by a group of highly experienced consultant vascular surgeons; they are also involved in teaching, research, audit and management. This combination of skills ensures we can provide a first-class experience and the highest standards of care for all our patients. We are very much looking forward to being part of the skills’ transfer programme and to practising at KIMS.
Surgical oncology & chemotherapy

KIMS has a dedicated cancer care unit, based in the Copperfield Suite, established and resourced to be able to give our patients the highest standards of comfort, care and privacy. The service is led by specialist oncologists who work closely with a team of dedicated nurses as well as other specialists to guide and support patients throughout the journey from diagnosis to treatment. As well as running a diagnostic and chemotherapy service, KIMS is also able to offer a full range of surgical options; surgical oncology being one of the six key areas of specialism at the hospital.

From the first day we opened our doors to receive and care for patients, KIMS has been able to offer chemotherapy as well as surgical treatments for cancers in adult patients. Adjuvant radiotherapy is offered in association with the highly regarded Kent Oncology Centre (KOC) in Maidstone where no provision for specialist surgery currently exists. As well as the local link with KOC, KIMS has also established close ties with other national tertiary centres which serve to benefit our patients including those attending from further afield.

As cancer treatments have evolved to combine surgery and multi-modal therapies, so our surgical oncologists are highly skilled, each with special interests in many of the latest surgical techniques (including minimally invasive surgery, sentinel node biopsy and reconstructive surgery), and treatments (including highly focused radiotherapy, targeted molecular therapies and poly-chemotherapy). KIMS will continue to invest to keep pace with proven advances to ensure our patients receive the most effective therapy, targeted to their particular type of cancer.
Delivering the 6Cs at the heart of KIMS

Excellent clinical services are at the heart of KIMS. The hospital is a beautifully designed, purpose-built environment in which to deliver healthcare services; but it’s the quality of our staff, their competence, compassion and care that will make the most difference to our patients.

Clinical services

Clinical services includes the whole multidisciplinary team, not only our consultant staff and nurses, but also our pharmacists; diagnostics and imaging specialists; physiotherapists; physiologists; resident medical doctors; and the many staff who provide ‘guest services’ to our patients. This is the team that will be working together to put every patient first; every member is important and every member has a part to play.

As Director of Clinical Services, it is my job to coordinate this team and to ensure that the organisation’s values and behaviours are lived during the day-to-day running of the hospital. Every clinical environment has its challenges and it’s going to take a very special team of people to make sure that not only are clinical outcomes excellent, but they are delivered by staff who genuinely care about the wellbeing of patients.

Nursing care

KIMS is an exciting hospital development for our local population. Our vision for each of our nurses is to enable them to be the best professional they can be. My vision, as Matron, is that our investment in staff will mean we are able to recruit and retain high calibre people with the right blend of knowledge, experience and caring attitude. We would like KIMS to be recognised as a centre of excellence for nursing, with the ultimate focus on our patients and their needs.

We expect our nursing staff to take great pride in caring for the patients who need us. Our main focus is on delivering the ‘6Cs’:

- Caring
- Compassion
- Competence
- Communication
- Courage
- Commitment

We will be developing a strategy with the involvement of nurses, healthcare workers and patients to move our nursing agenda forward. In the past few months we focused on recruiting our senior nurses, establishing our clinical teams, and ensuring new staff attended an induction programme so they were familiar with their new working environment.

Nursing is unique: we work with patients of all ages in sickness and in health. We are allowed into the most personal and intimate episodes of people’s lives and entrusted to take care of those who are at their most vulnerable. At KIMS we aim to have the most capable nursing staff to ensure our patients feel they can place that trust and confidence in us.

Mrs Sharon Takeda
Matron

Mrs Shirley Edwards
Director of Clinical Services
Introducing division three

Surgical Services

Dr David Sweetnam
Divisional Director

Conceived as the third of the three divisional model at KIMS, Surgical Services offers one of the most comprehensive surgical offerings in Kent and the South East. Surgical Services incorporates gastroenterology; upper and lower GI; general surgery; women’s health including breast surgery and gynaecology; ear, nose and throat (ENT), and audiology; cosmetic/plastic surgery; dermatology; oncology; endocrinology; and psychological medicine.

Leading the way with a range of high-quality and innovative offerings, KIMS’ consultants are experts in their respective fields. Patients referred to KIMS have access to consultants across a full range of specialities and sub-special interests. Promoting an integrated approach with multidisciplinary working ensures that the needs of the patient are at the heart of everything we do.

As examples of how this integrated approach works:

• The Urology Centre provides the full spectrum of diagnostic tests including MRI and ultrasound; urodynamics; flexible cystoscopy; and surgical interventions. The multidisciplinary approach means that investigation, diagnosis and treatment may potentially involve input from a consultant urologist and a radiologist, together with a consultant histopathologist and pathology support. An example of how this approach works is the one-stop prostate clinic combining consultation, diagnostic tests and a treatment pathway.

• The KIMS Skin Clinic provides a dedicated facility that combines advanced consultant-led dermatological treatments including photodynamic treatments for psoriasis, diagnostic laser scanning and, as part of the multidisciplinary approach, plastic/cosmetic surgical treatments with nationally renowned consultants.

• Women’s health is comprehensively supported with consultants specialising in breast surgery. This is a one-stop service and women can be confident that they will have access to consultant support in one location. As part of a multidisciplinary team, the breast consultant works closely with a reconstructive surgeon, an oncologist, and a specialist histopathologist; and is supported by full on-site imaging and diagnostic facilities. Similarly, this level of treatment and approach is available via our gynaecology consultants.

KIMS has a wide-ranging ENT faculty, able to provide expert consultant support for many surgical procedures. In addition, and backed by years of combined consultancy experience, the treatment of head and neck cancers, complemented by our excellent diagnostic equipment, is another major capability available at KIMS. Offering more than just surgical intervention, KIMS provides patients with one of the few local comprehensive ENT services that include a consultant-led ‘balance clinic’, access to a full audiology suite and a specialist hearing aid service.

Dr David Sweetnam would be delighted to meet anyone who would like to discuss any of these areas. David can be contacted on 07834 740 902 or david.sweetnam@kims.org.uk

Clinical directors
Dr John Schofield
Professor Amir Nisar
Professor Matin Sheriff
Mr Paul Reddy
Mr Peter Jones
Dr Larry Shall

Leads
General surgery
Mr Peter Jones
Upper/Lower GI
Professor Amir Nisar
Gynaecology
Mr David Penman
Mr Rowan Connell
Urology
Mr Paul Reddy
ENT surgeon
Mr Nigel Padgham
Mr Paul Gluckman
Dermatology
Dr Larry Shall
Geriatrics
Dr Chris Thom
Psychological medicine
Dr Shirin Pezeshgi
Anaesthetics/ITU/HDU
Dr Graeme Sanders
Dr James Wood
Crown diagnostics
Dr Neil Arnott
The Urology Centre at KIMS offers a comprehensive service for the treatment of general and specialist urological disorders involving the kidneys, bladder (including male and female urinary incontinence), prostate, male infertility and erectile dysfunction.

Urology at KIMS

In addition to general urology, we also provide a number of specialist services:

- Prostate assessment clinics
- Haematuria clinics
- Erectile dysfunction clinics
- Transrectal ultrasound scans of prostate with standard and template biopsies
- Urodynamics service
- Flexible cystoscopy service
- Urinary stones service including lithotripsy and lasers
- Holmium Laser Prostate Treatment (HOLEP)
- Urogynaecology clinic (for female urinary incontinence and uterus preserving prolapse surgery)
- Laparoscopic (keyhole) surgery for prostate, kidney and bladder disorders, including sacrocolpopexy with pelvic floor repair for prolapse

Meet our urology centre experts

Professor Matin Sheriff MBBS (Lon) PhD FRCS FRCSI FRCS (Urol) FEBU
Consultant Urological Surgeon and Professor of MIS, Canterbury Christ Church University

Matin Sheriff, Director of Medical Education at KIMS, has been a Consultant Urological Surgeon at Medway NHS Foundation Trust (MFT) since 2000. He graduated from University College London and completed postgraduate training at the internationally renowned Institute of Urology, London.

In addition to general urology, his major interests are prostate cancer, reconstruction and urinary incontinence including laparoscopic pelvic floor recontruction. He introduced a number of laparoscopic procedures in Kent including radical prostatectomy, radical cystectomy and sacrocolpopexy with pelvic floor for prolapse.

In recognition of his contributions to surgery, he was awarded an honorary doctorate by University of Kent and invited to 10 Downing Street and Buckingham Palace. He is Director of Urology, Lead for West Kent Urology Centre at MFT, and Professor and Programme Director of Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS) at Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU).

Mr Paul Reddy LRCP FRCS FRCSI FRCS (Urol) FEBU
Consultant Urological Surgeon

Paul Reddy was appointed Consultant Urological Surgeon at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells Trust (MTW) in 1991. He performs a wide range of general urological surgery. His main area of interest is pelvic oncology including laparoscopic prostatectomy for prostate cancer, reconstructive surgery for pelvic floor for prolapse and bladder cancers with neobladder surgery.

In recognition of his contributions to surgery, he was awarded an honorary doctorate by University of Kent and invited to 10 Downing Street and Buckingham Palace. He is Director of Urology, Lead for West Kent Urology Centre at MFT, and Professor and Programme Director of Minimally Invasive Surgery (MIS) at Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU).

If you would like more information please contact us:
Telephone 01622 237 727 or email reservations@kims.org.uk
Urology team

Mr Paul Reddy (Lead) MBBS LRCP FRCS FRCSI
Professor Matin Sheriff MBBS (Lon) PhD FRCS FRCS (Urol) FEBU
Mr John Donohue MB BCH FRCSI FRCS
Mr Roy Isworth MRCS
Mr Howard Marsh MBCHB MD FRCS (Urol)
Mr Seshadri Iver Sriprasad MBBS DNS MSc (Unit) FRCS FRCS (Urol)
Mr Hugh Evans MS FRCS (Unit)
Mr William Hong Choi MBBS FRCS (Eng) FRCS (Urol)
Mr Mark Stefan Cynk MBBS MSc FRCS (Unit)
Mr Ben Eddy BDS MBBS FRCS (Unit)
Mr Shikohe Masood MBBS FRCS FRCS (Urol) FEBU
Mr Sanjeev Madaan MBBS MS PhD FRCS (Unit) FEBU
Mr Munir Ahmed FRCS (Eng) FRCS (Unit) MSc, [Med Ed Cert II] MAnaMed
Mr Edward Streeter DM MA FRCS (Urol)
Mr Rajeshwar Krishnan MBBS MS Dip Unit FRCS (Edin-Glas Eng) FEBU FRCS (Urol)
Mr Alastair Henderson MBBS FRCS (Unit) PhD
M y special interest is laparoscopic surgery in general gynaecology and gynaec-oncology. I perform a wide range of laparoscopic procedures related to general gynaecology as well as gynaecological oncology. I offer some unique procedures not available in most hospitals: fertility sparing surgery for cervical carcinoma, sentinel lymph node detection (SLND) and complex laparoscopic surgery.

A one-stop clinic and colposcopy at KIMS
I run a one-stop clinic and colposcopy clinic at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust and will be providing the same service for KIMS with my fellow consultant gynaecologists, Mr Andreas Papadopoulos and Mr Steve Montalto. The clinic aims to streamline the diagnostic procedures to enable rapid patient assessment in one appointment for most gynaecological conditions including abnormal smears and HPV infection.

Information and understanding
Our careful and considered approach allows patients to leave our clinic with an in-depth understanding of their condition. This is achieved through a detailed consultation and the wide variety of investigative tools at our disposal.

These include:
- Blood tests including hormonal screens and a variety of tumour markers
- The facility to perform in-clinic ultrasound scans
- Colposcopy, vulval and cervical biopsy, and LLETZ treatment
- HPV testing and advice concerning prophylactic HPV vaccination
- Hysteroscopy and endometrial biopsy
- Specialist advice concerning screening for gynaecological cancer including ovarian cancer

Speciality accreditation for general gynaecology
I have speciality accreditation for general gynaecology and subspecialist accreditation in gynaecological cancer diagnosis and surgery. This means that I have the specialist skills to support patients from an initial diagnosis through to the final treatment for a variety of gynaecological conditions including benign and malignant diseases. We are the only team with the facility for intraoperative gynaecological frozen section (FS). This allows us to individualise the patient’s treatment strategy depending on the FS result during surgery, thereby avoiding more aggressive surgery and reoperation, which can delay a patient’s treatment.

A wide range of conditions
Our service covers a wide range of conditions including:
- Menorrhagia
- Irregular bleeding
- Post-menopausal bleeding
- Abnormal smears, colposcopy and treatment (LLETZ)
- Fibroids
- Pelvic masses
- Ovarian cysts
- Endometriosis
- Vulval symptoms (pruritus, soreness, abnormal skin lesions)
- Dysmenorrhoea
- Pelvic pain
- Uterine endometrial and cervical polyps
- All gynaecological malignancies

I am a general gynaecologist with additional subspecialist training in gynaecological oncology; this means I have trained in advanced and complex surgical skills. I work in the NHS as well as the private sector and investigate and treat a full range of gynaecological cases. These include procedures such as colposcopy and well woman screening, the diagnosis and treatment of simple pelvic masses (for example, ovarian cysts and fibroids), and abnormal bleeding. In addition, I treat those presenting with suspicious scans of complex masses and confirmed cancer cases.

Referrals to NHS and private practice
I receive referrals from both GPs and consultant colleagues in my NHS and private practice. Referrals include cases ranging from benign pelvic masses through to potential cancer diagnoses: patients with bleeding irregularities (including postcoital bleeding, menorrhagia, or post-menopausal bleeding); pelvic pain and vulval disorders. However, I do not see vaginal prolapse or urinary incontinence cases.

In the NHS, all cases where intraoperative frozen section would be of value come to our team from other consultants in West Kent. In the private sector, patients with Two Week Wait (TWW) similar symptoms referred directly to our team will receive prompt investigation and will continue to have surgical treatment under our care, as we are permitted to treat any suspected malignancy as per the NHS pathway. I have an interest in colposcopy, abnormal bleeding and minimal access surgery, performing complex laparoscopic surgery and lecturing on this subject. Another particular interest of mine is fertility preserving surgery in gynaecology. The facilities at KIMS will allow our team approach to patient care to continue. We aim to provide a full diagnostic service, streamlining our patients along the pathway and allowing complex surgery to be performed laparoscopically, with the back-up of intraoperative frozen section. I am looking forward to working with local GPs and other consultants, as well as my own team, to deliver the best possible care at KIMS.
Our new gynaecological department has four core areas of service: general gynaecology; urogynaecology; fertility; and oncology. Our gynaecological consultants have been specifically selected to offer women both a generalist and a highly specialist service. They treat patients with a wide range of gynaecological issues including: irregular or problematic periods; PCOS; unexplained infertility; pelvic floor issues; endometriosis; fibroids; incontinence and vaginal prolapse.

Confidentiality and sensitivity

We understand that, for our patients, a referral to a specialist team can signal a worrying time about the most intimate of issues. We aim to handle these medical issues with the utmost sensitivity, confidentiality and respect, and are able to offer a chaperone service for those patients who need a sense of added security and peace of mind.

General gynaecology

The general gynaecological department will have access to world-class and pioneering diagnostic testing equipment to perform minimally invasive standard and/or full investigations, such as:

- Ultrasound
- Laparoscopy
- Keyhole surgery
- Female sterilisation
- Colposcopy
- Urodynamics
- Flexible cystoscopy

Our consultants will always aim to use the least invasive methods of diagnosis and treatment where possible.

Advanced urogynaecology

For more severe gynaecological issues, our well-respected urogynaecological consultants work as a close-knit team providing a seamless service and the best result for each patient. They combine their skills and experience to create the best solutions and have formed a subspecialist group within the gynaecology department.

The urogynaecological team treat:

- Severe vaginal prolapse
- Vaginal reconstructive surgery
- Incontinence

Our aim is to support women through these procedures in a relaxed way, ensuring questions are answered honestly and straightforwardly.

Our general gynaecology team will investigate and treat:

- Conditions requiring hysterectomy
- Infertility
- Endocrinological disorders
- Contraception
- HRT
- PCOS
- Endometriosis

Leading edge

The gynaecological team are involved in national and international research, which they present to learned societies worldwide. Research is essential in this field and we are at the cutting edge of new drug and surgical techniques.

Our ambition is to be regarded as the UK and EU centre of excellence for gynaecology. With our close contacts and research and development often undertaken in collaboration with major London hospitals, academic and international centres, we are confident we can achieve this goal.

Lectures and open meetings will be held from time to time for healthcare professionals in order to improve knowledge of this area and promote women’s health.

KIMS aims to provide comprehensive, efficient and timely gynaecological services in a welcoming, discreet and 21st century hospital environment. KIMS will provide diagnostic appointments on the same day of referral for emergency patients and a “next available appointment” to receive the results and a treatment plan. GPs can feel confident that their patients will see the appropriate consultant and have first-class treatment here.

Mr David Penman (Lead) MBBS MD MRCPG
Consultant Gynaecologist

Specialist gynaecologists will treat:

- Infertility
- Oncology (including ovarian, womb and cervical cancer)
- Abnormal smears (colposcopy)
- Incontinence
- Prolapse

Mr David Penman (Lead) MBBS MD MRCPG
Professor Dib Datta MBBS MD MRCPG (UK) MRCP (Ireland)
Professor Omer Devajá MD MSc PhD MRCPG
Mr Andreas Papadopoulos MBBS BSc MD MRCPG
Professor Ali Asif Ahmed MBBS (London) FRCPG MSc (Dist) Adv Obst Et Endosc
Mr Hany Habeeb MB Bch MRCPG
Mr Sadoon Sadoon MB ChB MRCOG
Mr Mohamed Ali Mossa MB ChB DGO MRCPG
Dr Steve Attard-Montalto MD MRCPG MD (London)
Miss Anne Henderson MA MB BChir MA MRCPG
Mr Elias Kovoor MD MRCPG
Professor Jonathan Duckett MB ChB MD (Paris) FRCPG
Mr Abhishek Gupta MBBS MD MRCPG
Mr Brian Wise MBBS MD MRCPG
Mr Alex Slack MBBS MRCPG
A first-class service

KPS pathology is providing a full medically led pathology service at KIMS including haematology; blood transfusion; immunology; microbiology; clinical biochemistry; and cellular pathology. Each department is fully resourced with appropriately skilled and supervised staff.

We will provide a first-class service to KIMS clinicians, our patients and local GPs. KPS will achieve accreditation with all relevant bodies such as MHRA and UKAS/CPA, and will follow the best practice guidelines of NICE and BCSH.

Quality results in a timely manner – always

Putting patients first, we will consistently provide quality results in a timely manner that is meaningful for the correct interpretation of the patient’s condition. Point of care testing will be provided in the intensive care area and there will be a blood transfusion refrigerator in theatre. All services will be maintained and quality controlled by our qualified pathology staff. KPS is establishing a user committee, a point of care committee and a blood transfusion committee to give our users the opportunity to specify their requirements and ensure that our services continuously improve and evolve.

A pathology handbook will shortly be available, and regularly updated, to provide useful and helpful information to our users. The handbook will include details of sample containers for each test, opening times, reference ranges, and the application and usefulness of every test. Pathology at KIMS will evolve and grow as we develop more tests that our users require. As KIMS grows, we will grow with it to provide the latest techniques using the latest technology to provide meaningful results quickly, enabling patients to receive their treatments faster and reduce their bed days.

KPS will forge links with other pathology departments – NHS and private – and will provide two-way service level agreements to deliver a seamless service in times of unforeseen events such as equipment failure or major trauma.

Our Laboratory Information System (LIMS) will integrate with the IT systems at KIMS to enable results to be seen as soon as they are authorised and allow KIMS staff to request electronically, any pathology tests. Tests will be grouped under profiles to make it easy to request a group of related tests in one go, such as renal tests and liver screens.

An invitation

We hope some of you will agree to join our user group for the benefit of providing a first-class service for your patients and so we can get to know each other. Please contact Nigel Leftley, Pathology Services Manager, KPS by email: pathology@kims.org.uk
At last, the dream has been realised. After a long period of planning and construction, the most exciting project to affect dermatology care in Kent is at last a reality. A brand new, purpose-built, dedicated unit for people concerned they might have a skin problem has now opened at KIMS.

The aim of the Cutaneous Medicine Unit is to treat all patients in a caring, stress-free environment that lends itself to aiding the healing process. No matter what the problem, there will always be a specialist with the necessary expertise to help. Staffed by a dedicated multidisciplinary team, we have the experience and skills to treat skin conditions using the latest cutting-edge therapies. For example, some skin cancers will be amenable to treatment such as photodynamic therapy and MOHS micrographic surgery. Lasers, fillers and neurotoxins can be used for photoageing and scars, as well as biological therapy for psoriasis and melanoma.

The common, the rare and the infectious
All forms of skin problems can be addressed and treated in the unit, from cosmetic queries to common disorders such as eczema; psoriasis; acne; moles; photoageing; skin cancer and allergies, to the rare and more exotic such as immunobullous disorders; genetic skin, hair and nail diseases; and infectious diseases.

Teaching – the Skin Club
Teaching plays an important part in our daily work as it equips future doctors with the tools they need to help their patients. The Skin Club, a ‘local institution’ built up over the years, will continue with new vigour. In this forum, open to local GPs, doctors are taught about the skin disorders that present on their own patients in real time. Any dermatological queries or problems can be addressed during these sessions.

In the long term, the Cutaneous Medicine Department intends to be part of the medical school that is planned at KIMS, teaching undergraduates as well as being involved in clinical and basic science research.

I hope you are all as excited as I am about this amazing opportunity that has dropped on our doorstep. I look forward to welcoming you at the Cutaneous Medicine Department or at the Skin Club.
Plastic surgery

Plastic, cosmetic and reconstructive surgery

Plastic surgery is a huge speciality dealing with a variety of clinical problems, ranging from skin cancer treatment to breast reconstruction following mastectomy; hand and leg trauma; reconstruction for congenital defects, such as cleft lip and palate; and the removal of lesions from head to toe.

In addition to correcting form and function, plastic surgeons also improve the status quo as many patients seek to improve the appearance (for cosmetic reasons) of various body parts including the breasts, body and face.

International plastic surgical expertise in Kent

Every member of the plastic surgical team is committed to providing a premium service for all of our patients. This means excellence in everything we do, and a total focus on safety and personalised care. In addition, by working very closely with other departments - including the dermatology team, the breast team and the orthopaedic team - we ensure our patients gain the full benefit of our combined knowledge and medical and surgical skill-sets.

We look forward to welcoming you to KIMS.

Cosmetic surgery

Mr Martin Jones BSc (Hons) MBBS MD FRCS Ed FRCS Ed (Plast)  
Mr John Davison MBChB FRCS Ed (Plast) MSc  
Mr Sam Orkar BM BCH FMCS (Eng) FMACS (Plast) FRCS Ed FRCS Ed (Plast)  
Mr Roger Smith MChw FRCS  
Mr Simon Mackey BSc (Hons) MBBS FRCS (Plast)  
Miss Anita Hazari MBBS MD FRCS (Plast)  
Mr Marc Pacifico BSc (Hons) MB BS MRCS MD FRCS (Plast)  
Mrs Mona Khandwala MS FRCS (Opht)

Oral surgery

Dr Kenneth Sneddon MB BS FDSRCS FRCS
Sue Jones, together with her husband Peter Jones, started a dedicated breast clinic in 1993. This developed into a specialist multidisciplinary team, based at the Peggy Wood Breast Care Centre at Maidstone Hospital, now one of the busiest NHS clinics in the UK, assessing more than 4,000 new patients each year of whom some 400 will have breast cancer.

Sue Jones now works exclusively in the private sector. She has wide experience in all aspects of breast surgery; this includes the whole spectrum of operations that are available for the treatment of breast cancer, with an emphasis on breast reconstruction wherever possible.

Sue also has wide experience of sentinel lymph node biopsy and other axillary lymph node surgery. Along with Peter, she was a lead researcher in the microbubble detection of sentinel lymph nodes, which gives a much more comprehensive evaluation of lymph nodes prior to surgery.

When mastectomy is deemed to be the best option, Sue is always able to offer immediate or delayed breast reconstruction.

Sue also provides responsible cosmetic breast surgery including breast reduction and breast augmentation (enlargement).
Gastroenterology

A challenging journey of discovery

Whereas some subspecialities in medicine can boast of progressive success in the understanding and management of their pathologies, gastroenterologists continue to be faced with some unpleasant truths. The incidence of adenocarcinoma of the oesophagus is increasing; we still don’t fully understand the pathogenesis of inflammatory bowel disease; cholangiocarcinoma (bile duct cancer) has increased 14-fold over the last 20 years; deaths from chronic liver disease are also on the increase. And why have we not been able to eradicate hepatitis C when we know exactly how it is transmitted? And hepatitis B when for the last 25 years we have had a perfectly good vaccine which can confer lifelong protection?

Endoscopy, with the purpose of picking up pathology early, has become more accessible than ever. With the recognition that obesity and gastric reflux are risk factors for carcinoma of the oesophagus, there is increased impetus to check for upper GI malignancy or premalignant change. Better imaging of the GI tract from modalities such as MRI, CT and capsule endoscopy have provided us with much more detailed information on the state of the small and large bowel, and a more logical approach to treatment.

Personalised antiviral therapy

Another area where there has been a quiet revolution in gastroenterology is the treatment of chronic viral liver disease. We can now cure hepatitis C in over 60 per cent of patients with personalised antiviral therapy. Hepatitis B, which is becoming much more common in the UK, predominantly due to population flows, can also be treated with powerful antivirals that suppress viral replication, prolong life and decrease the chance of primary liver cancer.

World leading

In one area the UK probably leads the world in gastroenterology – quality control, accreditation and continual audit have all been given enormous emphasis in recent years. Guidelines and protocols, particularly in endoscopy, have greatly enhanced the quality, safety and reliability of both routine procedures and the increasing range of interventional techniques seen in our practice. These will transfer to our work at KIMS.

Building on firm principles

Diabetes, high blood pressure and high cholesterol are leading causes of heart disease and stroke. In the UK, diabetes alone accounts for 10 per cent of the total NHS budget (approximately £10 billion/year) and is associated with significant mortality rates. In addition, coexistent disorders like obesity, hypothyroidism and hypogonadism add to the burden, and also other stand-alone thyroid, adrenal and pituitary problems, which are often unrecognised in their subclinical state (eg TSH elevated above 7 mU/L, despite normal FT4 increases CV risk). Endocrinology, therefore, is a cornerstone of wellbeing, health and life.

I am a specialist consultant trained in diabetes, endocrinology and general medicine (dual specialty). I have worked at Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust (MTW) since 2006 and completed higher specialist training in endocrinology at the South Thames Deanery (includes Guy’s and St Thomas’ NHS Foundation Trust). I had the privilege to work as the Clinical Director of Acute and Emergency Medicine, Maidstone Hospital, 2008 to 2011; Honorary Senior Lecturer at King’s College Hospital, London (current); and the Lead for Diabetes Commissioning (2011 to date) at MTW. I have been the principle (and sub) investigator in many research trials and have also worked to initiate structured patient education through DAFNE and DESMOND training for diabetes; a university accredited Foundation and the PITSTOP injectable courses for GP practices to offer level 2 diabetes care in the integrated care model. I am one of the few endocrinologists to hold the ARSAC certification for radiiodine treatment of overactive thyroid disease and am a core member of the thyroid cancer MDT.

A patient-centric approach

I strongly believe that effective clinical care is a combination of core consultation involving evidence-based practice, a patient-centred approach and seamless communication through modern technology. My private patients (and their GPs) have full read/write access to their electronic clinical records (SNOMED coded) from anywhere in the world and at all hours via secure internet access. This supports an innovative ‘always on’ concept for patients to have access to urgent advice in times of need. I aim to provide cutting-edge, up-to-date treatments and provide the right care, in the right environment, to urgent advice in times of need. I aim to provide cutting-edge, up-to-date treatments using innovative, modern technology in an ever accessible way for both patients and healthcare professionals. My practice offers a full spectrum of treatments including modern treatments for diabetes (insulin pumps, continuous glucose measurements, GLP-1 analogues), thyroid radioiodine and thyroid eye disease clinics; and also offers nurse-led thyroid clinics and dynamic function testing for hormones (special tests requiring protocol to investigate complex endocrine problems) in NHS practice.

KIMS – the right environment

The future is to build on these firm principles to provide the right care, in the right environment, as close to the patient’s home as possible and also to offer a comprehensive learning experience for patients through the use of technological innovation. I am looking forward to ensuring these principles are upheld in my clinics at KIMS.
Upper/lower GI

Technological advances improve recovery times

The last two decades have seen a transformation in surgery with the introduction of minimal invasive techniques. Laparoscopic surgery offers many benefits to patients in terms of less post-operative pain, quicker recovery, early return to work and excellent cosmetic results. In general surgery, most of the operations are being done with these keyhole techniques. The surgeons performing these operations through small incisions with fine instruments are using the most sophisticated cameras to obtain magnified high-definition views to ensure precision surgery.

In addition to the skills developed over a period of years to master these surgical techniques, technology also plays a vital role. And as technology advances at a rapid pace, hospitals must continually invest to enable their surgeons to offer the best possible care to their patients. KIMS has acquired top of the range equipment for endoscopic and laparoscopic surgery – high definition and 3D Olympus camera system.

Expertise and leading-edge equipment

KIMS is able to offer a combination of expertise in the field of general surgery covering upper gastrointestinal and colorectal surgery, backed by excellent facilities and the most up-to-date equipment. We have excellent diagnostic facilities with Olympus endoscopic equipment for gastroscopy and colonoscopy with state-of-the-art radiological backup. At KIMS our theatres are equipped with high definition (HD) ENDOALPHA™ Olympus integrated theatres. These theatres provide the most modern and efficient environment for the surgeons to perform complex surgery.

Open and minimally invasive techniques

Our specialist upper and lower GI surgeons offer the full range of procedures for general and specialist surgical conditions including traditional surgical management options as well as the most modern minimal invasive approaches.

The common surgical conditions that we treat in KIMS are gall bladder stones, hernias and reflux disease. Laparoscopic cholecystectomy, laparoscopic inguinal hernia repair, laparoscopic incisional hernia repair and laparoscopic Nissen fundoplication (for GORD) are a few of the operations where we have leading experts in KIMS offering treatment to the patients. We also perform assessment and treatment for rectal bleeding, diverticular disease, ulcerative colitis, Crohn’s disease and bowel cancer. Diagnostics such as gastroscopy, ERCP, flexible sigmoidoscopy and colonoscopy are also available.

Bariatric surgery at KIMS

We have a dedicated team for bariatric (metabolic syndrome) surgery. Weight loss surgery is not only helpful to lose excess weight, but is also effective for managing high blood pressure, dyslipidaemia and type II diabetes in patients with excess weight.

At KIMS we aim to offer a high-quality, patient-centred service with a full range of specialist services and facilities under one roof.

Clinicians

Mr Haythem Ali  MBChB FRCS (Eng) FRCS (Gen) MD (Lon)
Mr Simon Bailey  BSc (Hons) MBBS (London) MSc MRCS FRCS (Gen Surg)
Mr Abuchi Okaro  MBBS FRCS MS
Mr Pankaj Ghandi  MBBS FRCS (Ed) FRCS (Gen Surg)
Mr Ahmed Hamouda  MBChB MS FRCS MD FRCS (Gen Surg)
The gold standard

Following a Shouldice repair (a procedure named after the pioneering Canadian surgeon E E Shouldice) of an inguinal hernia, patients can expect to recover quickly from their operation and have less than a 1 per cent chance of ever having that hernia recur. This repair is internationally recognised as one of the safest and most effective techniques for repairing hernias and, as far as we are aware, Peter and Sue Jones – a husband and wife team at KIMS – are the only surgeons in England offering this type of repair.

When performed by a trained and experienced surgeon, this pure, natural tissue repair virtually eliminates complications. Repair combines a proven surgical technique with the powerful benefits of the body’s own natural healing ability. This results in a secure, reliable repair and a rapid, comfortable recovery.

Problems with mesh repairs
Prior to introduction of mesh repairs, this was the only method of repair that achieved low rates of recurrence. Other methods have recurrence rates that were generally in the region of 20 per cent and it was a common surgical procedure to repair a recurrent groin hernia. With the introduction of mesh repairs recurrence rates fell to much lower levels, but unfortunately, mesh repairs are often accompanied by some very poor outcomes. Whether performed laparoscopically (keyhole) or by an open repair, the body can react against meshes and the most common problem is persisting pain for prolonged periods after surgery.

Published outcomes reveal that up to 50 per cent of patients undergoing an open mesh repair still have pain more than two years after their surgery, and after a keyhole repair, more than 10 per cent have similar problems. A more serious complication associated with mesh repairs is infection. It can prove to be impossible to eradicate infection when such a large foreign body is placed in the groin region; often, the infection can only be effectively dealt with by removing the mesh.

Peter and Sue Jones have specialised in the repair of all types of hernias for many years. Using the principles of the Shouldice repair, all the problems and complications of mesh repair are avoided and most patients make a speedy and uneventful recovery with an early return to full normal activity including work, leisure and sports. KIMS is delighted to be able to offer this procedure to patients in the future.
Anaesthesia

Our department comprises some 60 consultant anaesthetists. In delivering our services, we strive to provide safe, efficient anaesthetic care to every patient. The consultant anaesthetists are all subspecialists in providing anaesthesia for patients undergoing different types of surgery. We cover complex anaesthesia for cardiothoracic surgery; neurosurgery; vascular surgery; upper and lower gastrointestinal surgery; ear, nose and throat (ENT) surgery; ophthalmic surgery; bariatric surgery; orthopaedics; urology; plastics; maxillofacial; breast surgery; general surgery; paediatric surgery; and gynaecology.

Many of our team are skilled in placing regional blocks for all extremities to manage intraoperative and postoperative pain. We specialise in ultrasound-guided regional anaesthesia using GE LOGIQ ultrasound scanners to minimise post-operative pain. A consultant anaesthetist with a special interest in acute pain and an acute pain nurse are available 24/7 to consult with clinicians. Our advanced, multimodal protocol for pain management helps us enhance patient comfort, avoids the side-effects of excessive narcotics, shortens the average length of stay, and much more.

The department runs a comprehensive pre-assessment service where all patients having major surgery or with complex comorbidities are evaluated by a consultant anaesthetist, risks are objectively estimated using cardiopulmonary exercise testing and informed consent is completed.

Critical care

Consultant anaesthetists with a specific interest in critical care (intensivists) lead the daily care of all patients admitted to the critical care areas, working closely with all other specialists within the hospital. A consultant intensivist will see all patients twice a day to ensure high-quality care. The hospital is a member of the Intensive Care National Audit & Research Centre (ICNARC), thereby benchmarking ourselves against all units in the country.

The hospital has 7 critical care beds that can flex between intensive care unit (ICU) and high dependency unit (HDU) patients. We are able to provide full ‘level 3’ care for patients with multi-organ failure. Complex ventilation modes, advanced cardiovascular support with cardiac output monitoring, and renal support with haemofiltration are all available. The critical care nursing team, led by a matron, provide continuous specialist nursing care. There is daily support from a multidisciplinary team including specialist nurses, physiotherapists, microbiologists, pharmacists and dieticians.

Operating theatres

There are five operating theatres with adjoining anaesthetic rooms. Each theatre is specifically equipped to carry out the full range of operations, though some have been designed with certain specialities in mind (orthopaedics, bariatrics and cardiac, for example). All theatres have facilities for remote viewing of operations by visiting surgeons or staff from other hospitals. There is a large post-anaesthesia care unit (PACU) adjacent to the five theatres. The theatre team including the theatre manager, registered nurses, operating department practitioners, surgical care practitioners, healthcare assistants and ancillary staff are highly trained and many have subspecialist interests.
Anaesthetists

Medway

Dr Athmaja Thottungal MBBS FRCA
FFPMRCA EDRA
Dr Manikundalam Badrinath FFARCS MD
(Anaesthesia) DA
Dr Bob Buist BA MBBS FRCS FFPMRCA
Dr Gordon Cross
Dr Akintunde Dada MBBS FRCA
Dr Nandita Divekar
Dr Paul Hayden BSc MBBS MRCP FRCA DICM
FFICM
Dr Raju Kalidindi BSc MBBS MD (Anaesthesia)
FFARCSI FICA
Dr Rupinder Kaur
Dr Sandesha Kothari MBBS MRCPRCA DA
Dr Arystarch Makowski
Dr Beata Misztal MD PhD
Dr Kirti Mukherjee MBBS FRCS MA
(Clin Educ)
Dr Seyi Oyesola BSc MB BS FRARCS
Dr Pavol Palcovic MD
Dr Zita Petrovic MD FCARCSI DEAA
Dr Tara Rampal FRCA MBBS
Dr Raja Reddy MD FRCA FFPMRCA FIPP
Dr Graeme Sanders MBBS FRCA FFICM
Dr Manisha Shah
Dr David Simpson
Dr Ravi Singh-Verma
Dr Kumaravel Veerappan MBBS DA FCARCSI
FRCA
Dr Sonia Verma MBBS MD DA
Dr Sri Vishnubala

Dr Graeme Sanders (Lead) Medway
MBChB PhD FRCA FFICM
Dr James Wood (Lead) WKAG

West Kent

Dr Richard Leech MBBS FRCA
Dr Cheron Bailey
Dr Phil Blackie
Dr Mike Browning MBBS FRCA
Dr Alistair Challiner
Dr Kevin Fai
Dr Mark Howells
Dr (Abdul) Cass Jappie MBChB FRARCSI
Dr (Andrew) Paul Moran
Dr Jon Norman
Dr Andy Taylor
Dr Angus Turner
Dr Rob Williams

Tunbridge Wells’ anaesthetists

Dr Jonathan Appleby
Dr Lee Baldwin
Dr Helen Burdett MB CHB MRCP (UK) FRCA
Dr Raymond Chung
Dr Richard Griffiths BSc MBBS FRCA FFPMRCA
Dr Greg Lawton MBBS FRCA
Dr Paul Sigston MB CHB FRCA FFICM (Edin)
Dr Mark Sinden MB BS FRCA DCH (RCP) DA (UK)
Dr Garth Sommerville MBBS FRCA
Dr Kate Stannard
Dr Hilary Taylor
Dr David Yates

Individual

Dr Narayan Venkat
Dr Punitha Sri-Ganeshan
Dr Namal Senasinghe MBBS FFARCS
D P Med FFPMRA
Dr Anupama Relwani
Meeting the needs of all patients

It is widely believed that independent hospitals exist to cater for elective surgical patients. While there is a grain of truth in this, no independent hospital, and certainly not KIMS, can function effectively without general medicine and the general medical specialities. First and foremost, this is because KIMS is here to meet the needs of all our patients and our patients need general medicine as much as they need anything else. But equally, if we are to give an outstanding service to surgical patients, who increasingly are elderly and with multiple comorbidities, we must have a strong general medical presence in the hospital.

We will be providing outpatient services in general medicine and all its specialities. Full diagnostic services will be available on an outpatient, day-case or short-stay basis. Consultant physicians will be available at KIMS seven days a week, partly to provide necessary support to our surgical colleagues, but also to develop a service for medical inpatients, providing a real alternative to the NHS for those patients who choose it. Whereas most private and independent hospitals have ‘no’ as their default response to a request to take a medical admission, KIMS is determined to provide for every patient, medical as well as surgical, if we possibly can.

My own practice is in general medicine, care of the elderly and stroke medicine. I am very much looking forward to seeing outpatient referrals in the wonderful facility we have in KIMS, a facility that expressly caters for elderly and frail patients. For example, I will have the luxury of plenty of space to assess patients with Parkinson’s disease and assess their mobility. With other physicians, I shall be part of a rota providing elective or urgent medical opinions on surgical patients. I expect to be looking after my own inpatients with a variety of general medical conditions. And looking to the future, I am very excited at the prospect of developing outstanding and innovative approaches to neurorehabilitation on the KIMS campus.

KIMS is the sort of opportunity that only comes along once in a professional lifetime. I am privileged and tremendously excited to be part of it. With my colleagues, I intend to be part of a ground-breaking independent, clinician-led hospital medical unit, providing our patients with everything they need in the way of medical care in a wonderful environment.
ENT and audiology

Making a difference

Led by Mr Nigel Padgham and Mr Paul Gluckman, consultant ENT surgeons, KIMS provides a specialist multidisciplinary ear, nose and throat service for patients of all ages. Working closely with the audiology team on both an outpatient and inpatient basis, we assess and treat a broad range of ENT conditions, as well as all types of hearing problems including those caused by chronic ear disease, glue ear, infections and eardrum perforations.

The newly formed ENT and audiology team at KIMS includes a group of 11 consultant surgeons and two audiologists supported by multidisciplinary specialists and other medical staff. ENT is part of KIMS Division 3, Surgical Services, and has on-site access to modern treatment rooms and high specification operating theatres.

Most of our specialists are already well-known practitioners in their own fields; together they will make an immediate and significant contribution to the quality of life of those affected by a wide range of ENT disorders. All our consultants have a surgical area of subspeciality interest and expertise.

Special interest clinics are offered in:

- Allergy
- Cochlear implants
- Ear deformity correction
- Head and neck cancer
- Hearing loss in young children
- Laryngology
- Nose and sinus disorders/endoscopic sinus surgery
- Obstructive sleep apnoea
- Paediatric otoLOGY
- Rhinology
- Thyroid disease
- Voice disorders

The audiology team leads on:

- Audiological investigations
- Balance testing and rehabilitation clinic
- Customisation of ear aids
- Hearing/tinnitus counselling

ENT surgeons

- Mr John Shotton MBBCh FRCS (Eng) FRCS (Edinburgh)
- Mr Jeremy Davis BSc MBBS FRCS
- Mr Jerome Lim BSc MBBS FRCS (ORL-HNS)
- Mr Henry Richard Sharp MBBS FRCS
- Mr Rahul G Kanegaonkar MBBS BSc (Hons) MRCORCS (ORL-HNS)
- Mr Manuel Oyarzabal LMS FRCS Ed FRCS (ORL-HNS)
- Mr James Fairley BSc MBBS FRCS MS
- Mr David Golding Wood BSc MBBS FRCS FRCS (Ed)
- Mr Julian Hamant FRCS (ORL) MRCORCS Ed MSc BSc (Hons) MBBS (Lond) MBA

Audiology

- Mrs Jenny Rose
- Mr Ray Rose

Mr Nigel David Padgham (Lead) FRCS (Eng) FRCS (Ed)

Mr Paul Gluckman (Lead) BA MBBS FRCS (Eng) FRCS (Ed) DLOCRS (Eng)
Ophthalmology

Mr Frank Ahfat MB ChB FRCS Ed FRCOphth
Mr Christopher Jenkins MRCP FRCS FRCOphth
Mr David James Schultz MB BS
Mr Joseph G J Devereux FRCOphth
Mr Wallace Ka Ming Poon MB BS
Mr Luis Amaya MD FRCOphth
Professor Ejaz Ansari BSc (Hons) MB BS FRCS Ed MD
Mr Syed Taseer Hasan MBBS FRCS ED (Ophthalmology)

The KIMS vision

KIMS champions clinical excellence in the care of eye diseases and brings together a team including leading consultant ophthalmic and oculoplastic surgeons who diagnose, treat and perform a range of surgical procedures.

The Ophthalmology Department at KIMS has more than a dozen members of staff. Our multidisciplinary team includes ophthalmologists, optometrists, orthoptists, specialist nurses and technicians. We also work closely with optometrists in the area. Our specialist vision unit embraces a core value of teamwork to address individual patient needs. From routine eye examinations to complex surgical procedures, we work cohesively and involve other medical specialties at KIMS to help diagnose and treat the specific underlying problem.

Specialist services
KIMS offers innovative techniques in eye care including diagnostics and treatments. Our specialist services manage all eye problems including diabetic retinopathy; cataracts; glaucoma; macular degeneration; corneal and eye surface disease; eye misalignment (strabismus); and lazy eye (amblyopia) in children and young adults.

Our extensive diagnostic capabilities at KIMS include imaging, visual fields, together with access to dedicated consulting rooms to meet a range of visual treatments. Leading-edge techniques such as those employed in vitreoretinal surgery are available for complex conditions.

Dedicated surgical expertise
Eye care experts also perform refractions, prescribe corrective lenses and offer refractive laser surgery, cosmetic eye surgery and glaucoma surgery. We also have special expertise in cancer of the eye, diseases of the eyelids and orbit, vitreo-retinal diseases and neuro-ophthalmological disorders.

To find out more about our Ophthalmology department you are warmly invited to contact Dr David Sweetnam, Divisional Director, on 07834 740 902 or by email: david.sweetnam@kims.org.uk
Paediatrics

First-class outpatient diagnostic services

KIMS will be supporting local children and their families by offering additional, specialist paediatric diagnostic outpatient services in the region. These are delivered in a way that ensures the medical and emotional needs of children and their families are sensitively addressed and supported.

Five paediatric consultants are responsible for the creation and delivery of the service, which we expect will grow throughout the year. Our paediatric consultants have a variety of specialist backgrounds ranging from cardiac and general surgery to paediatric medicine. Clinics are held in a dedicated suite of consulting rooms that are child-friendly and secure, and appointments are available throughout the week. If, following examination, a child needs to be quickly admitted to hospital, this can be arranged at the most appropriate centre (at this stage in our development KIMS does not have inpatient facilities for children).

Our extensive range of diagnostic imaging includes:

• CT
• Ultrasound
• MRI
• Nuclear medicine
• X-ray

Additional diagnostic services for young children suspected of congenital or acquired heart disease include: echocardiograms; electrocardiograms; cardiac angiograms and electrophysiology (EP).

Consultants

Dr Richard Patey MBBS MRCPCH MRCP
Dr Asankha Ranasinghe MBBS DCH MRCPCH MD
Dr Naser Benramadan MBBS DCH MRCPCH MRCPath
Dr Kumarval Veerapanan MBBS DA FCARCSI FRCA
Dr Robin Abel BSc MBBS PhD FRCSI FRCSE Paeds
Psychology

No health without mental health

I have been an NHS consultant in general psychiatry since 1999 and have experience in managing a wide range of mental health conditions including mood disorders, anxiety spectrum disorders and psychosis. I run bipolar and psycho-education, as well as psychosis medical education groups, in compliance with NICE guidelines to promote enablement and patient recovery.

My special areas of interest are:
• Mood disorders (bipolar disorder and depression)
• Cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT)
• Liaison psychiatry with a special interest in perinatal medicine

My teaching experience includes tutoring for postgraduate education with the Royal College of Psychiatrists in the past and since 2004 I have been an examiner for Royal College MRCPsych examinations.

Mental and physical health
The present mental health strategy, No health without mental health, ensures mental health is afforded parity with a patient’s physical health problems to achieve wellbeing in a holistic approach. It is a challenging time for organisations in a very competitive market, and with clear expectations to provide a quality centered service with the best outcome.

Modern psychiatry is about the availability of a range of robust clinical interventions that are evidence-based and that enable the service users to identify and learn coping skills; manage stress; overcome day-to-day challenges; and develop awareness of their own mental health issues.

Accessible services at KIMS
Our objective at KIMS is to provide a comprehensive range of services that are accessible to the public, innovative, effective, outcome-oriented and patient-centric. I am looking forward to our first clinics at KIMS and to working with local GPs to improve mental health provision in the area.

Psychiatric services at KIMS

Dr Pamadeth Shobha
MB BS MRC Psychiatrist

Dr Shirin Pezeshgi (Lead) BSc MBBS MSc MRCPsych

Mrs Vicki Norris General Certificate in Online Counselling (BACP) 2011 Advanced diploma in Humanistic Person Centred Counselling (BACP accredited training) 2004

Dr Amer Sarfraz BCPSych DPM PhD

Psychiatry has come a long way from the time of the institution and social exclusion to the era of recovery-focused social inclusion. Despite this, stigma and discrimination remain attached to mental ill health due to negative stereotypes and prejudicial attitudes. The attitude of UK society is changing slowly, but there is still much work to do.
Pharmacy

Medicines management

The primary role of the pharmacy department at KIMS is to care for patients by providing the right medicines while ensuring their best use by offering information and advice about them to both patients and the professionals who treat them.

Medicines are the most commonly used form of healthcare treatment. They provide relief from everyday ailments, life-saving interventions for acute illnesses, as well as support for people with long-term medical conditions such as asthma, or progressive illnesses such as arthritis and multiple sclerosis.

The pharmacy at KIMS provides dispensing services to inpatients and outpatients as well as ward pharmacy services (a member of the pharmacy team, a pharmacy technician or pharmacist, visits the wards each weekday). A ward pharmacist will refer to medication histories and discuss any concerns with other members of the healthcare team. The pharmacist will 'screen' the prescription chart making sure that doses and dosage times are appropriate and checking for any drug interactions.

A medicines’ management policy is key to the safe use of medicines in healthcare organisations. The policy at KIMS provides a framework for doctors, nurses and pharmacists to prescribe, administer and dispense medicines safely.

Patients may not always come into contact with the pharmacy team, but will often see the work of pharmacy as most patients will have medicines while in hospital and will also go home with some form of medicine, usually antibiotics or painkillers. The medicines taken home will always have a label specifying directions as to how to take them and there will be an accompanying patient information leaflet (PIL) giving clear additional information about the medicine.

Some of the unseen work of pharmacy includes all aspects of medication management such as: the procurement, storage and stock control of medicines, and the disposal of waste medicines.

During their stay at KIMS patients will be prescribed medication they require on an inpatient chart. Nursing staff will usually administer most medication. The details of medication taken home on discharge will be provided on a discharge summary letter; a patient’s regular medication will not normally be dispensed on discharge.

The pharmacy at KIMS is located on the ground floor and has been equipped with high specification storage furniture by Stirling Medical, giving it a bright and professional image.

Mr Graham Batty
Pharmacy Manager

If you have any questions about pharmacy management at KIMS please contact me personally on 07985 609 719.
Physical therapy

Multidisciplinary team strives for clinical excellence

KIMS provides an opportunity for the clinicians involved to influence and shape the future of healthcare within Kent. This will be strengthened by comprehensive and rapid diagnosis, refined targeted interventions where necessary, and integrated therapeutic management. We plan to complement the last aspect with an evidence-led appropriate and progressive therapy and rehabilitation programme for every procedure performed in the hospital, as well as external referrals.

Uniquely, by recognising that expertise in therapeutic management is shared across different professions, we have set out to create a new multidisciplinary team of the very best practitioners, regardless of their professional background. We have therefore recruited from physiotherapy, chiropractic and osteopathy professions a like-minded, cohesive team with an inimitable knowledge base in musculoskeletal management.

The organisational format of our department was the brainchild of Dr Anthony Hammond (Consultant Rheumatologist, Pain Specialist, Specialist in Spinal Interventions and the Clinical Chairman of KIMS). He recruited Mr Jesper Dahl (Chiropractor and now the Managing Director of our department) and myself to help execute this cutting-edge approach to physical therapy.

This management team will continue to drive the aspirations of the department for clinical excellence and to exceed patients’ expectations, supported by strong clinical leads in day-to-day operations. We already have strong links with two universities to help facilitate our ambition to be an institution driven by learning and underpinned by quality, and our entire team will be afforded opportunities for excellent continued professional development, both within the hospital and through the universities’ master’s and doctorate programmes.

I qualified from Queen Margaret University in Scotland with an MSc in Physiotherapy and have extended my postgraduate qualifications with a Diploma in Orthopaedic Medicine and an Accreditation in Sports Medicine. I was selected to be a member of the medical team at the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games. I remain Principal Physiotherapist in my own practices of PhysioFit Kent.

Mr Charlie Plummer
MSc Physiotherapy; Diploma in Orthopaedic Medicine; Bronze Accreditation in Sports Medicine
Physiotherapist and Clinical Director

Mr Jesper Dahl
Ms Kate Savage
BSc (Hons) Physiotherapy

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Hospitality

The chefs at KIMS offer patients freshly cooked hot meals, prepared on-site every day. The timings of our dining service have been thoughtfully developed in response to feedback, but if patients need to eat outside of these times a wide selection of food from our deli or salad section is always available via our Room Service menu. Patients who require any form of special diet, including halal or kosher food, are also fully catered for.

As well as our regular meal times, room service is available every day from midday to 8pm and choices can be made from the Room Service Menu found in the Patient Directory. Visitors are always welcome to join our patients for meals, subject to an additional charge.

Before patients are discharged from KIMS, they are invited to complete a short patient satisfaction survey. The results from this survey give our catering team invaluable feedback, which we use to improve our service.
Courses

Our education programme

KIMS offer courses in partnership with our clinical partners, other leading industrial clinical partners and international associates of a high reputation. We provide a broad range of tailored clinical courses and workshops. These are led by the KIMS’ clinicians, technicians and equipment manufacturers and suppliers.

Bespoke training programmes
KIMS provides organisational and secretarial support to GP practices. We conduct an audit of needs to improve your own practice. We facilitate data collection and analysis or fund development where suitable. GPs can apply for these bespoke training programmes to complete their own educational requirements. KIMS’ consultants can also offer one-to-one training.

Postgraduate education
KIMS offer postgraduate education (PGE) for all referring GPs, to include practice nurses, practice managers – all GPs are contractually committed to furthering and updating their skills.

Streamed live surgeries
GPs will have the opportunity to see live surgeries/procedures streamed from theatre to the educational centre.

Find a Course
KIMS partner with local GPs to support your career needs. From managing a locum workload to building your own practice.

Breast surgery
Cardiology and cardiac surgery
ENT
Medical and surgical interventions in digestive diseases
Neurology, neurosurgery and imaging
Neurology, neurosurgery and pain
Orthopaedics and imaging
Orthopaedics and rheumatology
Prostate surgery
Urology
Women’s health

Training Venues in Kent
There are 18 Skill Transfer Classes between May and July 2014 across three venues in Kent. Find a course near you.

Canterbury Campus
North Holmes Road,
Canterbury, Kent CT1 1QU
Tel: 01634 894 479
www.canterbury.ac.uk

Medway Campus
Rowan Williams Court
30 Pembroke Court
Chatham Maritime
Kent ME4 4UF
Tel: 01634 894 479
www.canterbury.ac.uk/medway

KIMS Campus
Newnham Court Way
Weavering Maidstone Kent
ME14 5FT
Tel: 01622 237 755
www.kims.org.uk

‘Fireside’ chats
Our consultants invite GPs to discuss common ground within the NHS and topics relating to their daily practice. We recognise that GPs have special interests and offer them the opportunity to acquire additional knowledge from our clinicians. These sessions are offered in partnership with industry and the practice based commissioning (PBC) groups.

Industry and Local CCGs
Increase your knowledge about the industry and get closer understanding of local CCGs. Our consultant speakers will ensure your practice is up to date with the latest information.

Skills’ transfer meetings
A KIMS’ clinician will host an informal ‘lecture’ or ‘workshop’ in their specialist field. To include a question and answers at end of the session. There will be three speaker consultants of the same or related discipline to share knowledge with up to 25 GPs in one session.

Distance learning
We have a national and international distance learning programme. You can connect to a live web-based ‘broadcast’ of tutorials, seminars and surgical procedures. We have associations with 15 national and international universities. Alternatively, download for a small fee, the back catalogue of tutorials and procedures.

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Multi-disciplinary learning opportunities between all Consultants.

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National and international medical research is essential for the wellbeing of all of us; without it, clinical medicine and pharmacology would not progress. Equally, the development of new techniques, procedures and equipment would also be hampered.

Research is no longer merely a national activity; it is an international one. KIMS will therefore be associated with a number of world-renowned university centres, both nationally and internationally.

By the time KIMS treats its first patient, there will be approximately 350 consultants with excellent reputations who will have signed a Practice Privilege Agreement. Embedded within the agreements are commitments to:

- Undertake research in their chosen field
- Undertake to teach at postgraduate level
- Undergo postgraduate training to enhance and improve their specialised skill-set

In our second year, KIMS has committed to funding an ongoing research and development (R&D) scheme; the fund will be matched by industry. The R&D pot has been forecast to equate to £2.5m in year two (3 per cent of gross turnover matched by an equal amount from industry).

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The R&D budget will be managed directly by a clinician executive board that will govern how the available funds are awarded, to foster high-quality research and education. Key members of the KIMS’ governing R&D board have had positive preliminary discussions with other leading centres of excellence, both nationally and internationally, to establish joint research commissions. It is largely the university centres in the UK that carry out R&D; they are very heavily supported by industry. However, the amount of medical and clinical research in the UK is way below the acceptable levels found in the rest of Europe and most other advanced countries.

Our clinicians hope to contribute towards changing this situation. It is widely accepted that clinical research greatly benefits from being co-located with a clinical facility. By being housed within or adjacent to a hospital, the clinicians and researchers have direct access to a readily available patient pool in addition to the equipment, expertise and knowledge of a wide range of clinicians and healthcare professionals.

All our research activities will be subject to the usual audits, governance and scrutiny processes in cooperation with clinical partners here in the UK and overseas.

Accredited insurers

KIMS has a clinical relationship with:
- NHS tertiary centres
- NHS (DGHs)
- General practitioners
- Clinical commissioning groups (CCGs)
- Primary care - Choose and Book

Private healthcare insurers:
- BUPA
- AXA/PPP
- AVIVA
- Simply Health
- Pru Health
- Cigna
- and all PMIs

Partner contracts:
- Dermatology Kent Ltd
- Crown Diagnostic Ltd
- Kent Pathology Services Ltd
- KIMS Therapy Services Ltd

Clinical partners and insurers throughout Kent

Clinical opinions • Edition 1 • Spring 2014

Developing the future

90 KENT INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE & SURGERY

CLINICAL OPINIONS • EDITION 1 • SPRING 2014

91
The Duke of Gloucester opens KIMS with CEO Jayne Cassidy

Your Health. Your Hospital.

Kent Institute of Medicine & Surgery delivering world-class healthcare facilities for the people of Kent.

KIMS is an independent, clinician-led and part clinician-owned medical facility.

Our mission is to provide the best care to every Kent patient in the communities in which we serve, through a uniquely clinician-led service of innovative clinical practice, education and research.

Our vision to achieve this is to be recognised as a world-class healthcare centre of excellence, delivering the finest quality medical care from a committed and professional team from across the globe.