



# The Christie International Fellowship Programme Newsletter

Issue Three

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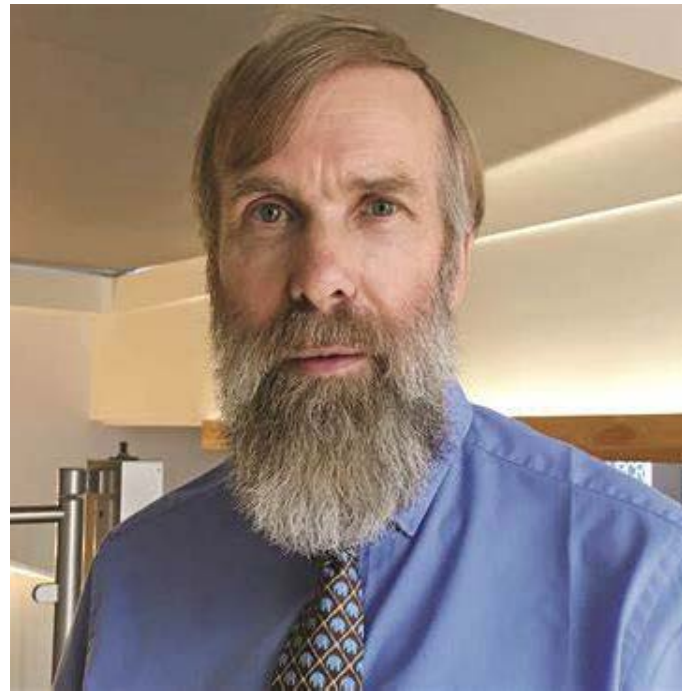
# Welcome from Professor Peter Hoskin

Hello and welcome to the third edition of The Christie International Fellowship Programme's newsletter.

It is my pleasure to present some of the latest profiles from both fellows and alumni across the trust, and celebrate our programme activities which are happening within various specialties in both a clinical and research capacity.

We were delighted with the success of our Christie fellows academic receptions which took place at ESTRO in Vienna and ESMO in Madrid throughout 2023. You can read more about the ESTRO reception within this issue, and the fantastic opportunity for our radiation fellows, alumni and present, to network with colleagues at a major European meeting. We are now looking forward to our next reception in Glasgow for ESTRO 2024 to provide further networking opportunities for our fellows, alumni and supervisors.

I am also excited to see the launch and expansion of our reciprocal shadowing programme run with the Manchester Cancer Research Centre. This allows laboratory based scientist trainees to gain experience and observation of Christie clinics, and Christie-based fellows to do the same with research experience in laboratories based just across the road in the Oglesby Cancer Research Building, or the newly-opened Paterson research building. If you are interested in taking part in this scheme as a current fellow, please do get in touch via [the-christie.fellowships@nhs.net](mailto:the-christie.fellowships@nhs.net)



**Professor Peter Hoskin**  
Fellowship lead

We remain keen to hear from you all to capture the great work that is going on within fellowships across the Trust and are very grateful to those who have contributed to this edition. Please send all future submission suggestions to: [the-christie.fellowships@nhs.net](mailto:the-christie.fellowships@nhs.net)

If you are reading this as a potential candidate considering The Christie as the next step in your career, then I hope that this newsletter gives you some insight into what being a fellow is like and I encourage you to apply to our future opportunities!

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The Christie International Fellowship Programme is overseen and managed by Professor Peter Hoskin (fellowship lead), Rachel Chown (head of academic education), and Jenny Espin (education coordinator). The success of the fellowship programme is generously enabled through the support of our funders, including The Christie Charity.

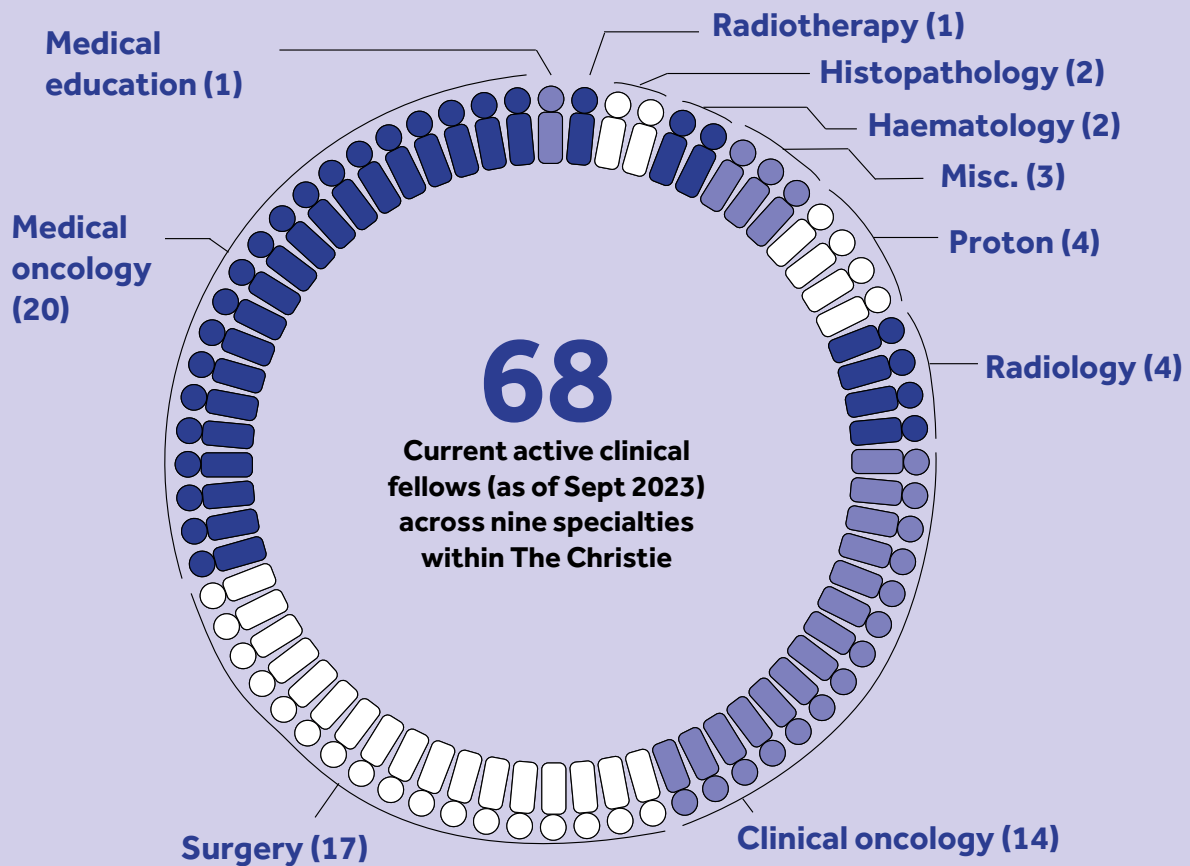


**Rachel Chown**  
Head of academic education



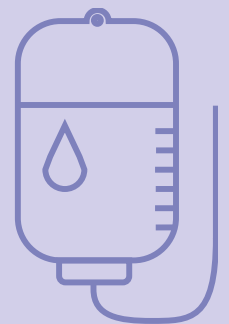
**Jenny Espin**  
Education coordinator

# The Christie International Fellowship Programme - at a glance



**~97,000**

Over 97,000 chemotherapy treatments are delivered to patients each year.  
One of nine UK Centres to offer advanced CAR-T therapies



**~87,000**

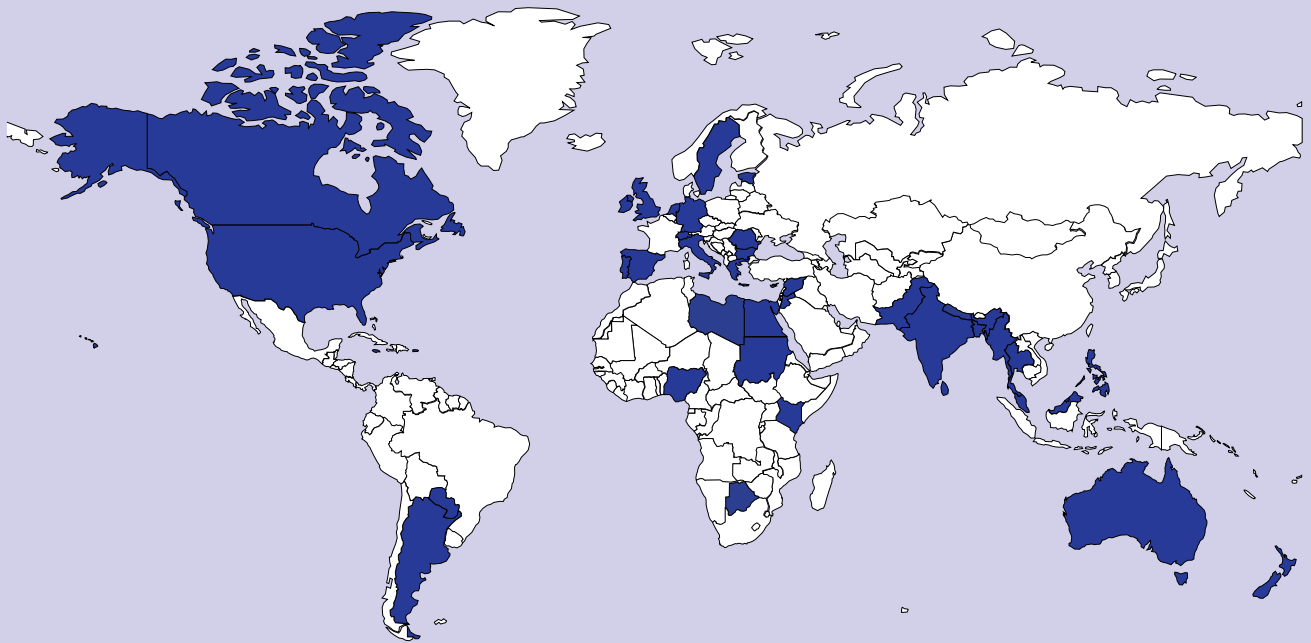
Extensive radiotherapy facilities providing over 87,000 treatments each year in fields including: MR-linac, proton beam therapy, SABR, adaptive radiotherapy.

The Christie is one of only two sites worldwide to offer such advanced radiotherapy treatments.

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# We are International

Current and past Christie Fellows have come from across the globe to undertake a fellowship at The Christie, covering 46 countries.

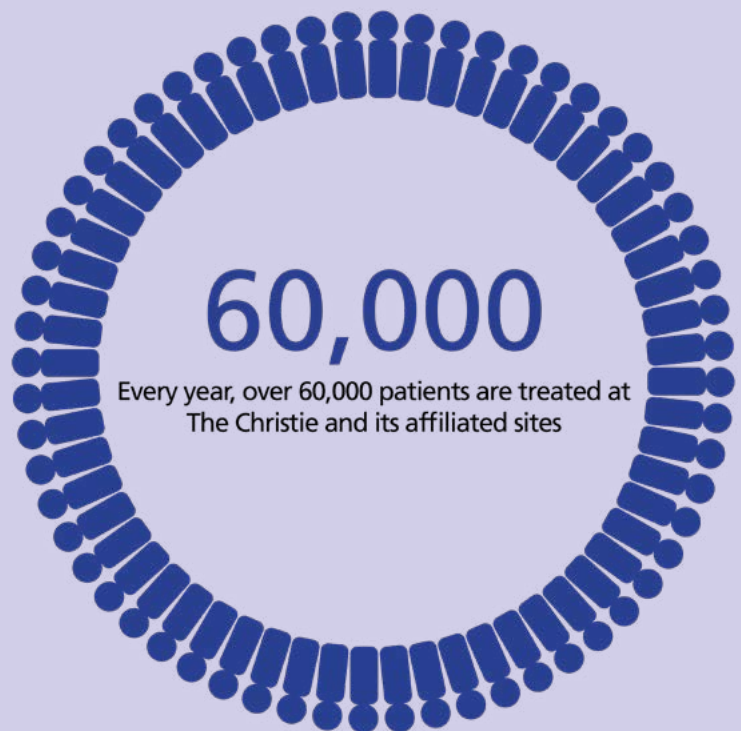
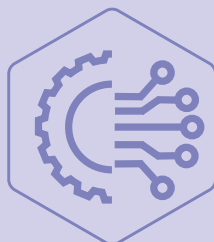


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## 1st

The Christie was the first UK member audited and accredited as a comprehensive cancer centre by the Organisation of European Cancer Institutes.

The Christie is one of the most **technologically advanced hospitals in the world**



# Fellow profile

## Dr Thitikorn Nuamek (Pao)

Dr Thitikorn Nuamek (Pao), clinical research fellow in electronic Patient-Reported Outcome Measures (ePROMS). ePROMS are tools used to capture patients' reports of their outcomes such as disease symptoms, treatment toxicities and quality of life, without any interference or modification by healthcare professionals.

### What is your fellowship specialism and where were you based before joining The Christie?

I am a clinical research fellow in electronic Patient-Reported Outcome Measures (ePROMS). Originally from Thailand, I obtained a first-class medical degree from Romania and previously worked as a junior clinical fellow at King's College Hospital in London.

### What attracted you to The Christie?

The Christie is a world-renowned cancer centre, known for its outstanding cancer care, cutting-edge research, and forward-thinking environment. I am particularly drawn to The Christie because of its pioneering work in revolutionising cancer care through its transformative ePROMS service 'MyChristie-MyHealth'. With my passion for oncology, background in computer science and experience in service improvement, I feel incredibly fortunate to have the opportunity to learn from the experienced ePROMS team at The Christie and contribute my skills to advance cancer care using digital technology.

### What have you enjoyed most about your fellowship?

I have enjoyed the opportunity to explore various clinical areas and engage in meaningful discussions about the potential benefits of ePROMS. Beyond capturing patients' outcomes and personalising care, I have been thrilled to witness and support teams using ePROMS in addressing diverse challenges, including streamlining treatment pathways, initiating new service, and conducting valuable research and clinical trials.



Furthermore, I find immense fulfilment in working within a supportive environment that values research and encourages creativity.

### What has been your biggest achievement?

Within the first month of my fellowship, in addition to implementing ePROMS in different disease groups, I took the initiative to lead an ePROMS-driven service for patients with metastatic prostate cancer. This project aims to streamline follow-up processes by avoiding appointments for patients who are tolerating treatment well, allowing more time to be spent in clinic with patients with significant clinical needs.

Moreover, I feel honoured to be invited to speak on how ePROMS enhance patient care and improve quality of life at the upcoming NIHR Living With and Beyond Cancer Research Education Event in November 2023. Beyond my role as clinical fellow, I am the technology lead for British Oncology Network for Undergraduate Societies (BONUS), spearheading the development of a first-of-its-kind mobile app 'BONUS Official,' dedicated to education in cancer care.

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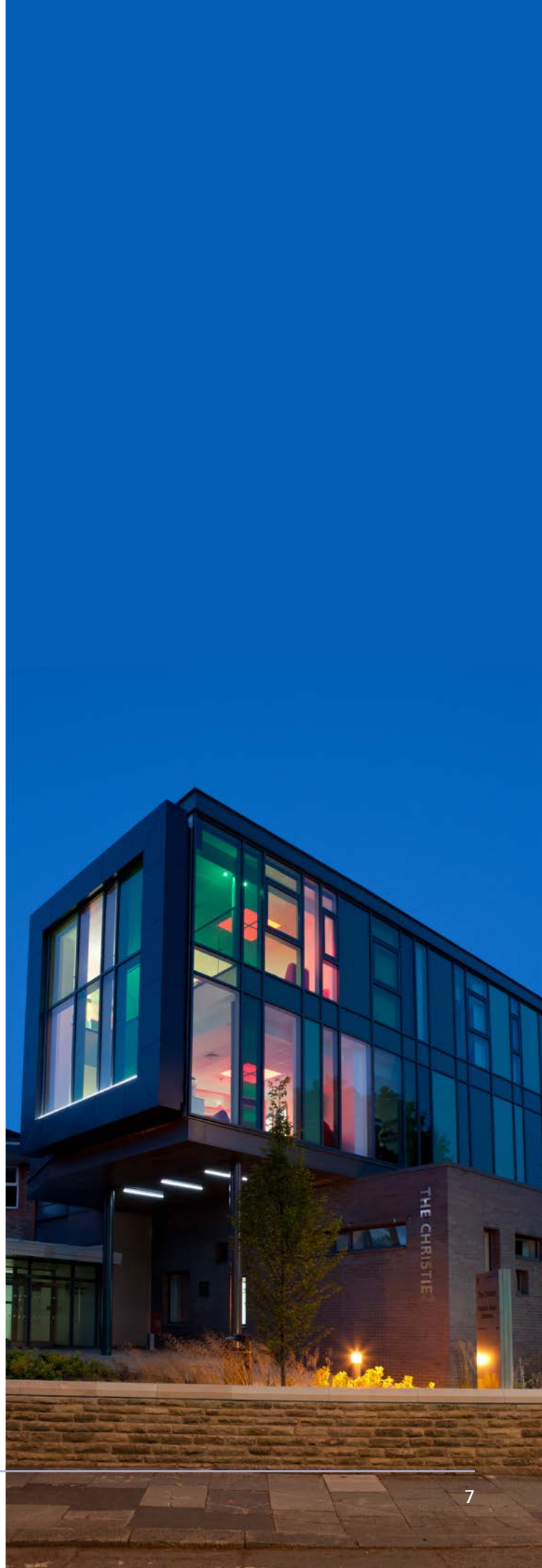
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#### What do you plan to do next?

As I progress through my 18-month fellowship, my focus will be on providing continuous support to clinical teams in implementing ePROMs. I aspire to promote ePROMs as an integral part of our conversations within the trust, fostering a culture of awareness and engagement with this powerful tool. By sharing our experience and successes both nationally and internationally, I aim to showcase the impact of ePROMs in improving patient outcomes and quality of care. I am excited about the opportunities ahead and looking forward to making a meaningful difference in the field of oncology through this innovative tool. This fellowship experience will pave the way for my future training in oncology.

#### What advice would you give to other fellows to make the most of their time at The Christie?

Enjoy every moment and remember that whatever you do, whether your work is patient-facing or not, can have a profound impact on patients' lives and their families. Embrace the collaborative and forward-thinking culture at The Christie and engage with a wide range of experts as they share your passion and commitment in patient-centred care.



# Fellow profile

## Dr Diego Sanchez-Martinez

Dr Diego Sanchez-Martinez is a clinical research training fellow in the translational oncogenomics group at the Cancer Research UK Manchester Institute.

### What is your fellowship specialism and where were you based before joining The Christie?

I am a histopathologist from Paraguay and have obtained my medical and specialist degrees from the National University of Asuncion in my home country. I was trained as an academic researcher by Dr Antonio Cubilla, a Paraguayan histopathologist who devised the current World Health Organisation classification for penile squamous cell carcinoma, a field which I continue to work in. Before joining The Christie, I studied at Johns Hopkins University for a MSc in bioinformatics and worked there at the Sidney Kimmel Comprehensive Centre, researching the role of non-coding RNA in human cancers for two years. After returning to Paraguay, during the COVID 19 pandemic, I worked at my alma mater as a consultant and lecturer in histopathology.

### What attracted you to The Christie?

When you search for "The Christie Hospital" on the internet, "the largest single site cancer centre in Europe" is one of the most impressive quotes you come across. After further investigation online, it is striking to see the seamless integration of The Christie with the University of Manchester and CRUK through the Manchester Cancer Research Centre. It is clear to see that The Christie works hard to cover every aspect of cancer research, to not only treat patients with cutting-edge approaches, but also to provide the best environment for understanding the complexity of this group of diseases.

I am working in penile cancer research, an under-researched disease that is most frequently observed in low-income and underdeveloped countries with lack of patient or government advocacy. This setup has hindered the understanding of this cancer's underlying biology and, consequently, the development of tailored medicine approaches.



The Christie is part of a Penile Cancer Supra-network serving the population of north west England, accruing a population equivalent to the total population of my home country. Such centralisation ensures a cohort of homogeneously managed patients with accurate diagnoses, the best standard of care, and consistent follow-up, making The Christie a unique institution with the capability to drive this research in both basic and translational medicine from bench to bedside.

### What have you enjoyed most about your fellowship?

I am a CRUK-funded clinical research training fellow, meaning that my full-time commitment to research is leading to the completion of a PhD. This unique setting takes advantage of The Christie's multidisciplinary environment; I have had the opportunity to work with consultants in histopathology, urology, and oncology, as well as interacting with researchers from cell biology, and biomarkers to translational oncology.



This multidisciplinary attitude, not only in the clinical aspect of medicine but also in the scientific diversity with researchers in basic and translational research, is embedded in the core of the institution. The collaborative environment makes a rich soil for development of ideas and fosters excellence in research while always keeping in mind improvement of patient outcomes. The aphorism “Medicine is Art and Science” is something you not only feel but live while working here.

What I have enjoyed the most from this experience is the opportunity to discuss ideas with different people who are always willing to give you their perspectives on the subject. The diversity in backgrounds ensures every idea and every problem can be tackled from different angles, which promotes a holistic view of the disease as well as the patients.

### **What has been your biggest achievement?**

Every single step I am taking, from overseeing the ethics, selecting the cohorts, going through the biobank application, reaching the diagnosis, planning the experiments, and analysing and interpreting the data, requires commitment and direct involvement from my end. Being able to perform such tasks under the care of accomplished supervisors gives you the confidence to embark in a career where complexities could be overwhelming. Acquiring the tools to improve myself and feel confident in this environment driving my own project is the biggest achievement I have accomplished here.

### **What advice would you give to other Fellows to make the most of their time at The Christie?**

Take advantage of having colleagues with both clinical and research experience collaborating in the same place. Do not miss any opportunity to share your ideas with them, whether it is about your own project or about what they are doing. All points of view infuse fresh air in the development of your project and, subsequently, your career. Be open to every opportunity to network with your peers, and ultimately enjoy every step you take here.



# Fellow profile

## Dr Martín Igor Gómez-Randulfe Rodríguez (Igor)

Dr Martín Igor Gómez-Randulfe Rodríguez is a Clinical Research Fellow in the medical oncology department at The Christie specialising in lung cancer.

### What is your fellowship specialism and where were you based before joining The Christie?

I completed my medical oncology training in Galicia, finishing in May 2022. My residency included external rotations at some of Spain's top centres. Unfortunately, the pandemic restricted my plans to gain experience abroad.

### What attracted you to The Christie?

In the final years of my specialty training, I developed an interest in thoracic malignancies. When I learned about the clinical research fellow position at The Christie, I was immediately drawn to it. The international reputation of consultants like Prof Califano or Prof Blackhall were also significant factors in my decision. On top of that, my brother had been living in Manchester for a few years, so I had already been to the city, and I loved it! Navigating post-Brexit bureaucracy and the IELTS exam was challenging, but in the end, I was able to start my role in March 2023.

### What have you enjoyed most about your fellowship?

Although it has already been six months, I am continually amazed by the robust support for research here, in terms of resources and time allocated. However, the highlight for me is undoubtedly the lung team. From consultants to healthcare assistants, and particularly the exceptional research and clinical specialist nurses, everyone has been incredibly welcoming. Their expertise and kindness are unparalleled.

### What has been your biggest achievement?

I have initiated several clinical audits that are now showing promise. Additionally, with Prof Califano's guidance, I have authored some editorial



commentaries and reviews, with some already published. Furthermore, being at a leading cancer centre like The Christie provides opportunities to collaborate on projects with other international centres. This exposure places me at the forefront of oncology research and allows me to connect with peers globally, starting joint projects that will hopefully show results in the next months.

### What advice would you give to other Fellows to make the most of their time at The Christie?

Transitioning to a large centre in a foreign country can be intimidating. However, rest assured, everyone here is approachable and supportive, so do not be afraid to ask as many questions as necessary! Seize every opportunity early on, as time flies. If your fellowship is a year or even a few months, initiate projects promptly. Last but not least, immerse yourself in Manchester's rich culture and lively nightlife. It is essential to enjoy the city's offerings alongside your fellowship.

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# Education fellow alumni profile

## Dr Ertan Teodorescu-Arghezi, undergraduate education fellow

### **What is your fellowship specialism and where were you based before joining The Christie?**

I am originally from Romania, where I started my training in ear, nose and throat (ENT) in a head & neck oncology hospital, before moving to the UK in 2019. I subsequently did my foundation years training in Ipswich and Darlington followed by a post foundation fellowship post in Bradford at the Bradford Royal Infirmary. During this time, I have also started a MEd in Clinical Education at University of Leeds.

### **What attracted you to The Christie?**

The Christie has an international reputation as being one of the most important cancer research centres but also a place dedicated to research and teaching. I was attracted by the opportunity to work and develop both my clinical and teaching skills.

### **What did you enjoy most about your fellowship?**

There are so many things I have enjoyed! Firstly, everyone has been welcoming and supporting, from my supervisors to my colleagues in the education

department. Teaching year 4 medical students from The University of Manchester has been the highlight of my fellowship: it was fun, interactive, challenging at times, but extremely rewarding. I have also had the opportunity to spend my clinical days in the interventional radiology and psycho-oncology departments and also to continue with my MEd in Clinical Education.

### **What was your biggest achievement while at The Christie?**

I cannot point to just one, there were many: I have published a case report in radiology as first-author, I have co-authored an original research article in medical education and I have presented at two medical education conferences in Birmingham and Glasgow.

I also had the opportunity to shadow the researchers at the new Paterson research building which was an eye-opening experience. Finally, I have submitted my research proposal for my MEd in Clinical Education which is related to my teaching activity undergone during my time spent at The Christie.

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“There are so many things I have enjoyed! Firstly, everyone has been welcoming and supporting, from my supervisors to my colleagues in the education department. Teaching year 4 medical students from The University of Manchester has been the highlight of my fellowship.”

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**What are you doing now/what do you plan to do next?**

Following my clinical experience in psycho-oncology at The Christie, I have managed to obtain a training position in psychiatry. I will be starting my core psychiatry training in the north west deanery.

**How did your Fellowship support your career plans/professional development?**

First of all, the fellowship allowed me to further gain and improve my teaching skills and abilities and also gain new perspectives of working in medical education. Through this fellowship I have also discovered the field of Psycho-Oncology which ultimately led me to obtaining a training position in Psychiatry.

As teaching is an important part of my activity, I was extremely grateful to be able to continue my formal studies in medical education. Finally, I could not have achieved this with the support of my supervisors, Dr Lubna Bhatt, Dr Daniel Anderson, Dr Damian Mullan, Dr Ganesh Radhakrishna and the team in the medical education department.

**What advice would you give to other Fellows to make the most of their time at The Christie?**

I would encourage to take hold of the opportunities The Christie is offering, in both clinical and research areas, to discover what they like and keep an open mind, to befriend the other fellows and also to not forget how beautiful and enjoyable life in Manchester is.

# Education fellow alumni profile

## Dr Ahmed Elamin Ahmed, postgraduate education fellow

### **What is your fellowship specialism and where were you based before joining The Christie?**

Prior to joining The Christie, I was based in Australia, working as a surgical registrar in Box Hill Hospital, Melbourne, where I had been working since completing my foundation training in the United Kingdom.

### **What attracted you to The Christie?**

Having completed my foundation training in the north west area, I was well acquainted with the prestigious reputation of The Christie as a world-renowned cancer centre, leading the way in numerous recent advances in treatments. Its reputation had reached beyond the UK, as my colleagues in Australia were also well aware of its excellence. Many of them had previously completed fellowships at The Christie before returning to work in Australia and they spoke very highly of their experiences.

### **What did you enjoy most about your Fellowship?**

Building my teaching skills alongside the dedicated education team was a highlight, empowering me to become a more effective and engaging educator. There were plenty of opportunities available to develop these skills and the other members of the education team did a brilliant job of directing me to those. I also really enjoyed the exposure to the highly specialist cases that are managed at The Christie, giving an insight into the importance of the work that is done here.

### **What was your biggest achievement while at The Christie?**

I had numerous achievements during my time at



The Christie, making it hard to select just one. One notable accomplishment was completing a research project investigating the impact of COVID-19 on trainees' development, which I plan to publish soon. Additionally, I had the privilege of presenting at two conferences this year, namely BAPIO and ASiT.

However, the achievement that I am most proud of was collaborating with a team from King's College London Hospital to develop an oncology masterclass for junior doctors at a specialized cancer centre in Abuja, Nigeria. Being able to contribute to the education and training of fellow medical professionals in an international setting was a fulfilling experience.

### **What are you doing now/what do you plan to do next?**

I am about to start as a radiology trainee in Manchester. My experience at The Christie, as well as the support of the staff there, allowed me to obtain my first choice job for specialty training. I look forward to returning to The Christie during my registrar training. I was encouraged and supported, by my supervisor to begin studying towards a Masters in Clinical Education, which I will be continuing after I leave The Christie, with the aim of completing it within the next two years.

### **How did your fellowship support your career plans/professional development?**

My fellowship at The Christie has been invaluable in supporting my career plans and professional development. It provided me with a platform to hone my teaching style and skills. Engaging with students and receiving valuable feedback from both students and staff has been instrumental in fine-tuning my approach and continuously improving as an educator. In addition to this, I was introduced to medical education research, which I have greatly enjoyed and will continue to participate in whenever possible.

The hands-on experience in various clinical areas allowed me to make an informed and confident decision to transition from surgery to radiology, paving the way for a rewarding career change. This exposure not only bolstered my knowledge and expertise but also played a pivotal role in securing the job I desired for my specialty training.

### **What advice would you give to other fellows to make the most of their time at The Christie?**

Completing a fellowship at The Christie offers an array of wonderful opportunities, but time can feel like it's flying by. To ensure you reap the benefits, it's crucial to set realistic goals early on. Embrace the diverse learning experiences and be open to feedback to make the most of your time here. While focused on your professional growth, don't forget to explore the city of Manchester, with its many attractions it has to offer and nearby destinations, such as the Lake District. Make sure to take time off to savour the city and enjoy all that it has to offer.



# Further developments

## The Christie-MCRC Shadowing Programme

2023 saw the beginnings of The Christie-MCRC Shadowing Programme, through which Christie fellows and MCRC PhD students are permitted to have observational access to MCRC labs and Christie clinics respectively, providing them with an opportunity to gain understanding of the links between research and clinical practice and outcomes.

A handful of Christie fellows and PhD students have had visits over the last few months and we are looking forward to the continuation of the programme in the new academic year.

If you are interested in getting involved with The Christie-MCRC Shadowing Programme, please contact the fellowships team who will be able to advise further, at [the-christie.fellowships@nhs.net](mailto:the-christie.fellowships@nhs.net)



I had the opportunity to join the research team at the new Paterson building for two days. I had the pleasure of shadowing one of the PhD students, Florentia Mousoullou and her colleagues, who explained and showed me the current research they are undergoing in leukaemia. I also took part in their journal club and a weekly teaching session delivered by an international speaker.

Although short, my time in the labs at The Paterson building was well spent, and everyone was very welcoming and eager to share their work and experience. I hope this experience exchange programme between the fellows at The Christie and the research team at the Paterson will continue, as it provides a good insight on how cancer research impacts clinical activity.

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## The Christie Fellowship Alumni Network

The Christie Fellowship Alumni Network aims to continue links with Christie fellows who have left the Trust. Through this network, we may contact fellow alumni for information on success and progress since leaving The Christie, invitations to events, circulation of Christie newsletters, and any other general alumni communications. If you are interested in signing up to The Christie Fellowship Alumni Network mailing list, please visit [The Christie Fellowship Alumni Network](#)



## The Christie-MCRC ESTRO 2023 Academic Reception

A highlight for Christie Fellows in 2023 was the MCRC-Christie ESTRO 2023 Academic Reception on 14th May, which was held in Vienna as part of the annual ESTRO Conference. The event was jointly hosted by The Christie and Manchester Cancer Research Centre, and presented current and former fellows and PhD students with the opportunity to reconnect and network with colleagues from all over the world.

The reception was well-attended by cancer professionals from Manchester as well as international sites such as Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre in Australia and OncoRay, the National Centre for Radiation Research in Germany. Following this, we hosted a second MCRC-Christie Academic Reception at the ESMO 2023 Conference in Madrid in October for our colleagues in medical oncology. We aim to host another reception at ESTRO 2024 in Glasgow as part of our wider work in providing regular opportunities for our colleagues and Manchester alumni to connect and collaborate.



## Fellow representatives

Relocating to the UK to practice medicine comes with its set of challenges. From dealing with paperwork to missing close ones, the initial days can be a bit tough.

As fellow representatives, Igor and Richa hope to support those transitioning to life in Manchester. Additionally, they are looking forward to organising social events. It is a great opportunity to meet, connect, and hopefully forge new friendships.



**Dr Sonia Raj**



**Dr Igor Randulfe**



**Dr Richa Tiwari**

# Upcoming events

Fellows are invited to fortnightly teaching sessions, facilitated by a range of subject experts. Invites to these events are shared directly with all fellows with instructions on how to get involved.

Date	Subject	Speaker
Tuesday 9th January 2024	The treatment of muscle-invasive bladder cancer	Prof Ananya Choudhury
Friday 26th January 2024	The evidence for risk adapted approach to radiotherapy in breast cancer	Dr Carmel Anandadas
Tuesday 6th February 2024	Pelvic exenteration	Mr Paul Sutton
Friday 16th February 2024	Immunotherapy: efficacy and toxicity	Dr Angelos Angelakas
Friday 23rd February 2024	Educational research opportunities	Dr Ganesh Radhakrishna
Friday 15th March 2024	Radiotherapy and IO combinations	Dr Sapna Lunj
Friday 22nd March 2024	Early phase clinical trial design	Dr Natalie Cook
Tuesday 9th April 2024	Surgical management of metastatic testicular cancer	Mr Aziz Gulamhusein
Tuesday 16th April 2024	Abstract writing and poster presentation	Dr Tom Waddell
Tuesday 14th May 2024	Classification and management of appendiceal tumours	Mr Jonathan Wild
Tuesday 11th June 2024	Molecular genomics and interpretation of results	Dr Matthew Krebs
Friday 28th June 2024	Radiotherapy biomarkers: moving towards personalised radiotherapy in clinical practice	Dr Laura Forker



# Engagement

For any enquiries about The Christie International Fellowship Programme or queries on how to apply please visit:



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<https://www.christie.nhs.uk/education>  
<https://www.christie.nhs.uk/internationalfellowship>



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## The Christie School of Oncology

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All content within correct as of 1st September 2023