

Clare Schilling

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Associate Professor

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I am a consultant surgeon and clinical academic specialising in the treatment of head and neck cancers in a busy central London MDT. I undertake clinical research including surgical and clinical trials as Associate Professor at UCL. My research interests include development of surgical technology (such as radioguided surgery and augmented reality), detection of early metastasis, fluorescence guided surgery, quality outcomes, and health inequalities. I head up and active research program including PhD and MSc students.

I hold over £1 million in research funding as Chief Investigator of NIHR funded multicentre trial, “LOOC”, for lymphatic mapping of oropharyngeal cancers. I am co-director of Headstart, the Royal College of Surgeons accredited national training program for sentinel node biopsy in oral cancer.

As a clinician I find the management of patients with salivary cancer amongst the most challenging, and I believe improvement in treatments and outcomes requires an approach which can only be achieved through collaborative and strategic planning.

As an active researcher with an understanding of the challenges faced by patients diagnosed with salivary gland cancer I can translate these into achievable research questions.

Through my work, and as part of the BAHNO committee, I have built up a network of collaborators across the UK and internationally and I would be able to draw on this resource in future research projects. Whilst I was a trainee I undertook an NCRI research fellowship which grounded me in the ethos of research strategy and the delivery of projects within the UK, understanding the portfolio of adopted projects should match the research priorities set out by the coordinating strategic body.

Additional roles:

British Association of Head and Neck Oncology (BAHNO) - BAHNO Council National OMFS Representative

PhD and MSc supervisor University College London

Personal tutor UCL Medical School

Co-director national Sentinel node training program – “Headstart”

Current active grants and funding:

NIHR (EME) – Chief Investigator LOOC (Lymphatic mapping Of Oropharyngeal Cancer). £1.1 million funding

AO CMF Start-up Grant 2021 CHF 25,0000

Use of augmented reality planning and performing for a facial hard-tissue defect

BAOMS Endowment funding 2021 – Augmented reality in head and neck surgery £19,316

SORG Research Grant Award 2020 Augmented reality in Head and Neck surgery. £7500