

# Translational Cancer Pathology Group Newsletter



December 2024



## Highlights from 2024

We are excited to launch the first of our quarterly newsletters, where we'll keep you updated on the latest developments in our research. Our work is dedicated to improving outcomes for patients with bowel cancer, both in the short-term and long-term.

First, we would like to express our gratitude to all of our patient advocates and public contributors for their continued support and engagement with our research - you play a vital role in everything we do!

Enjoy this quarter's newsletter!

*The Edwards Lab*



We welcomed several **new members** to the lab: Pamela, Leonor, John and Lewis.

It was a **bumper year for babies** with the lab and collaborators welcoming five new arrivals: Caroline, Salman, Florence, Mairi and Hamish.

We **expanded our PPIE group** and welcomed new members.

On the academic side of things, we're thrilled to announce that Emma, C, Ashley, Assya and Amna all successfully **completed their PhDs**.

The team published over **thirty papers**.

We had a fantastic **team-building day** in Largs in August.

In November, we had the privilege of **hosting Bowel Cancer UK** for a tour of the lab space and to hear about our research.

In this newsletter you can expect:

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Highlights from 2024

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Our 2025 Plans

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Public Engagement News

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Date For Your Diary

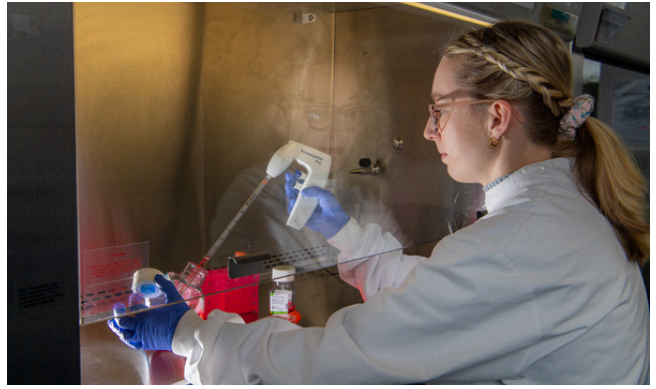
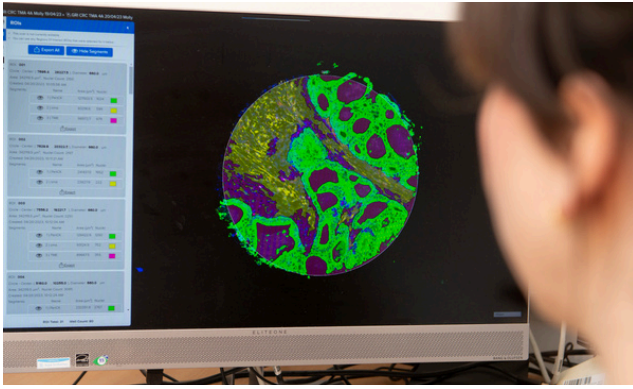
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Conference Round-up

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Funding Round-up

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## Our 2025 Plans

**Publications:** We are working on several papers that we plan to publish in 2025, sharing our latest research findings with the wider scientific community.

**Website overhaul:** We aim to make our research more accessible by including plain English summaries of our projects and publications on our website.

**Public engagement:** We will expand our successful “Polyp Patrol” activity (see below) to local schools, thanks to £400 from the Biochemical Society. We will also design a new public engagement activity as part of Amplify 2 in collaboration with Glasgow Science Centre.

### Conferences and events:

- Molly is going on a **knowledge exchange trip to Australia** to collaborate with international experts.
- Members of the team are attending the **6th International Cancer Symposium in Lyon, France** in January.
- We are looking forward to the **Cancer Research UK Scotland Centre Colorectal Cancer Theme Day in Glasgow** in February.
- Our team and collaborators are going on a **lab retreat** at Loch Lomond in March.
- We will **submit abstracts** to the British Association of Cancer Research conference, the American Association of Cancer Research conference and the NHS Research Scotland Patient and Public Involvement event.



## Public Engagement News

Our team has been busy raising awareness about bowel cancer and bowel screening through creative public engagement activities.

Emma, Sara and Tom ran an interactive activity called “**Polyp Patrol**” as part of **Explorathon 2024**. This was made possible thanks to **£170** from the **University of Glasgow’s MVLS IEE Public Engagement Delivery Fund**.



## Date For Your Diary

**Save the date** for our next Glasgow Colorectal PPIE group meeting. Here are the details:

- **Date:** 19 Feb 2025
- **Time:** 3pm-5pm
- **Format:** Hybrid in-person/Teams
- Look out for an email from Emma in the New Year with the agenda and Teams link.

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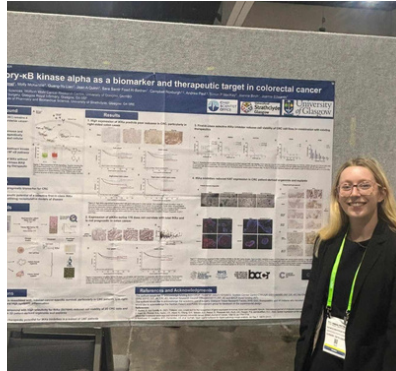
# Conference Round-up

Our team has been busy sharing their work and connecting with the wider research community at conferences worldwide this year. Here are the highlights:



Several of the team attended the **Cancer Research UK Scotland Centre Colorectal Cancer Theme Day** in Edinburgh in February.

Natthamon, Amna and Aula presented posters while Phimmadda (pictured) and Chris delivered talks.

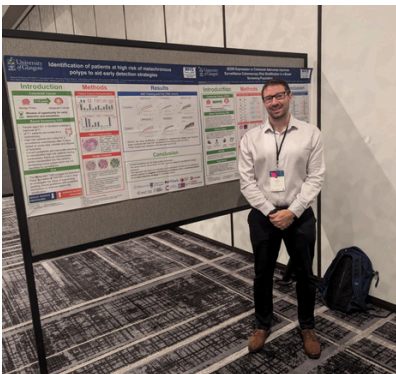


Kathryn (pictured), Gerard and Joanne attended the **American Association for Cancer Research's Annual Meeting** in San Diego, USA in April.

Kathryn presented her work on therapeutic biomarkers in bowel cancer and Gerard presented on predictive biomarkers on behalf of the INCISE collaboration.

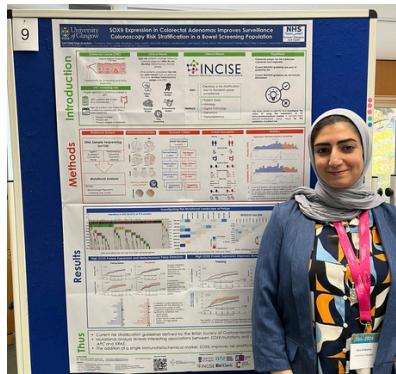


Pamela gave a talk on the use of human tissue in research at the **Scottish Association of Histotechnology's 45th Scientific Meeting** in Edinburgh in June.



Gerard (pictured), Emma and Pamela attended the **Early Detection of Cancer Conference** in San Francisco, USA in October.

They presented three posters on behalf of the INCISE collaboration, focusing on risk stratification and outcomes and barriers of bowel surveillance.



Sara (pictured) and Stephen attended the **4th International Conference on Cancer Prevention** in Heidelberg, Germany in October.

Sara presented her PhD research on risk stratification in bowel surveillance through a poster and a flash talk.

## Conference Attendance

- Gerard, Emma and Kathryn attended the **NHS Research Scotland (NRS) and Chief Scientist Office (CSO) Patient and Public Involvement Event** in Dundee in March.
  - Shakeera, Ghazal, Scott and Mayuri attended the **University of Glasgow's Technical Conference** in June.
  - Emma attended the **25th Beatson International Cancer Conference** in Glasgow in July.
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**We would like to acknowledge the generous support of our funders, past and present, who make our research possible.**

## Funding Round-up

2024 has been a fantastic year for securing funding to advance our research and public engagement efforts. This year, we received funding from:

- **Cancer Research UK** to study patient response to radiotherapy in rectal cancer.
- **Medical Research Council** to explore a new treatment for inflammatory-driven cancers.
- **Guts UK** to use cutting-edge techniques to study individual cells in tissue from polyps, aiming to predict which patients are at high risk of developing future polyps or bowel cancer.
- **Cancer Research UK** to explore how the immune system interacts with bowel polyps.
- **University of Glasgow MVLS Engage** to support development and delivery of “Polyp Patrol” (see page 2).
- **Bowel Cancer UK** to investigate participants’ experiences of colonoscopy surveillance.
- **Beatson Cancer Charity** to support the Glasgow Tissue Research Facility to invest in cutting-edge digital pathology technology.

- **Biochemical Society** to support delivery of “Polyp Patrol: On the Move”, a school-focused extension of our public engagement activity educating children about bowel cancer and cancer research.
- **BASO/Rosetrees** to explore breast cancer surgery outcomes.

We are incredibly grateful to our amazing collaborators and funding partners - your support is critical to our work, and we look forward to continuing these partnerships in 2025!

A special thank you to the Glasgow Colorectal PPIE Group for their invaluable feedback on multiple grant applications and for guiding our research priorities across all of our projects. We couldn’t do it without you.

Finally, we would like to extend our thanks to the patients who generously donate tissue for our research.

*Thank you for reading!*

Contact Emma with suggestions for future issues	emma.parsons@glasgow.ac.uk
<a href="http://www.gla.ac.uk/research/az/translationalcancerpathology/">www.gla.ac.uk/research/az/translationalcancerpathology/</a>	Follow us on X: @LabEdwards