

Diagnostics Advisory Committee Interests Register

Topic: Artificial Intelligence assisted Echocardiography to support diagnosis of heart failure: Early Value Assessment

NICE's declaration of interest policy can be accessed [here](#)

Name	Role with NICE	Type of interest	Description of interest	Interest arose	Interest declared	Interest ceased	Comments
Tom Clutton-Brock	Committee member, Chair	Nil	-	-	-	-	<i>No further action</i>
Amit Parekh	Committee member, Vice chair	Nil	-	-	-	-	<i>No further action</i>
Neil Hawkins	Committee member, Vice chair	Financial	I am a director in company providing consultancy services with respect to health technology assessment to pharmaceutical and biotech companies. No services have been provided to any of the named stakeholders or in respect of the named technologies.		December 2025	Ongoing	<i>Declare and participate</i>
Andre Nunes	Committee member	Nil	-	-	-	-	<i>No further action</i>
Andrew Renehan	Committee member	No reply to request to declare conflicts of interest for the topic.					
Alex Novak	Committee member	Nil	-	-	-	-	<i>No further action</i>
Brian Shine	Committee member	Nil	-	-	-	-	<i>No further action</i>
Farai Goromonzi	Committee member	No reply to request to					

		declare conflicts of interest for the topic.					
John Cairns	Committee member	Financial	Advising Johnson & Johnson Innovative on multiple myeloma submission.	May 2025	December 2025	May 2025	<i>Declare and participate</i>
John Cairns	Committee member	Financial	Advice to BeiGene on economic modelling of a treatment for small cell lung cancer. Date arose: October 2024. Date ceased: September 2025.	October 2024	December 2025	September 2025	<i>Declare and participate</i>
John Cairns	Committee member	Financial	Advice to Johnson & Johnson Innovative on a treatment for generalized myasthenia gravis.	October 2025	December 2025	October 2025	<i>Declare and participate</i>
Jonathan Weir-McCall	Committee member	Nil	-	-	-	-	<i>No further action</i>
Joy Allen	Committee member	Financial	Employee of Roche Diagnostics. Roche manufacture NTproBNP which is a biomarker used in patients with suspected Heart Failure to triage for echocardiology. We have previously held working groups to collaborate with US2.ai, although no formal relationship exists, where NTproBNP would be used in combination with handheld echo to determine who needs to go on for full echocardiography. We are not in any active discussions and decided not to take forward any further projects however they were in touch with my global colleagues in 2024/2025.	September 2021	July 2025	Ongoing	<i>Declare and participate</i>
Joy Allen	Committee member	Non-financial professional and personal interests	Published a paper on the cost-effectiveness of using age-specific NTproBP cut offs in the emergency department 2023 Dec;10(6):3276-3286.	September 2023	July 2025	September 2023	<i>Declare and participate</i>

			doi: 10.1002/ehf2.14471. Epub 2023 Sep 11.				
Joy Allen	Committee member	Non-financial professional and personal interests	Roche's NTproBNP was utilised in an AstraZeneca-funded project in Scotland called PROJECT OPERA-HF, an initiative designed to enhance digital diagnostic pathways for HF, working in partnership with NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, the West of Scotland Innovation Hub and the University of Glasgow. In the pilot, PROJECT OPERA led to a reduction in echocardiogram waiting times to just six weeks from 12 months. This was where blood samples were taken alongside handheld echo and sent for NTproBNP testing. Roche didn't fund this study but was in discussions with AZ on the next steps following its roll out in Scotland.		January 2026	February 2024	<i>Declare and participate</i>
Kate Xu	Committee member	Nil	-	-	-	-	<i>No further action</i>
Keith Abrams	Committee member	Nil	-	-	-	-	<i>No further action</i>
Matt Stevenson	Committee member	Nil	-	-	-	-	<i>No further action</i>
Michael Morton	Committee member	No reply to request to declare conflicts of interest for the topic.					
Patrick McGinley	Committee member	Nil	-	-	-	-	<i>No further action</i>
Rashmi Kumar	Committee member	Nil	-	-	-	-	<i>No further action</i>

Ruth Ajayi	Committee member	Nil	-	-	-	-	<i>No further action</i>
Sam Creavin	Committee member	Indirect	GP Principal in NHS Practice				<i>Declare and participate</i>
Gerald Carr-White	Specialist Committee member	Nil	-	-	-	-	<i>No further action</i>
Muhammad Murad Khan	Specialist Committee member	Financial	Worked with AstraZeneca on community heart failure project where they funded pharmacist time and also purchased a handheld echo device for use in the project	2019	July 2025	2023	<i>Declare and participate</i>
Sarah Blake	Specialist Committee member	Financial	Women in Cardiology Committee BCS	2022	July 2025	Ongoing	<i>Declare and participate</i>
Sarah Blake	Specialist Committee member	Financial	Digital Health and IT Committee BCS	2025	July 2025	Ongoing	<i>Declare and participate</i>
Suzie Power	Specialist Committee member	Non-financial professional and personal interests	Non-executive Director for an Integrated Care Board	2022	July 2025	Ongoing	<i>Declare and participate</i>
Suzie Power	Specialist Committee member	Non-financial professional and personal interests	Patient representative for Health Data Research Ltd	2023	July 2025	Ongoing	<i>Declare and participate</i>
Suzie Power	Specialist Committee member	Non-financial professional and personal interests	Public Representative, NICE Digital Platforms for Cardiac Rehabilitation	2025	July 2025	Ongoing	<i>Declare and participate</i>
Maria Paton	Expert	Financial	Private practice, on call cardiac physiologist at Nuffield Health Leeds	2016	July 2025	Ongoing	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>

Maria Paton	Expert	Financial	GE Healthcare, payment for speaking engagement	October 2024	July 2025	October 2024	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Maria Paton	Expert	Financial	Medtronic, payment for speaking engagement	July 2023	July 2025	July 2023	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Maria Paton	Expert	Financial	Medtronic, heart failure advisory group	March 2023	July 2025	March 2023	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Maria Paton	Expert	Financial	AstraZeneca, personal payment for research	January 2024	July 2025	September 2024	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Maria Paton	Expert	Non-financial professional and personal interests	Chair of Research, British Society of Echocardiography	January 2020	July 2025	Ongoing	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Maria Paton	Expert	Non-financial professional and personal interests; Indirect	Trustee, British Society of Echocardiography	September 2022	July 2025	Ongoing	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Maria Paton	Expert	Non-financial professional and personal interests	Proposed plan to undertake research into AI-enabled point of care echocardiography; Leeds Biomedical Research Centre Postdoctoral Award & British Society of Echocardiography associated project	July 2025	July 2025	Ongoing	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Maria Paton	Expert	Non-financial professional and personal interests	Co-applicant for awarded project: OPTimising screening for left ventricular systolic dysfunction in pacemaker patients using AI-enabled echocardiography; Leeds Cares charity funded.	December 2024	July 2025	Ongoing	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>

Maria Paton	Expert	Non-financial professional and personal interests	Deputy & Emerging Lead for the Cardiometabolic theme of Leeds NIHR Biomedical Research Centre; as such sit on the BHF/NIHR partnership steering committee to represent Leeds when required	October 2024	July 2025	Ongoing	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Maria Paton	Expert	Non-financial professional and personal interests	NHSE Heart Failure expert advisory group for heart failure, member (as British Society of Echocardiography representative	January 2024	July 2025	Ongoing	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Maria Paton	Expert	Non-financial professional and personal interests	British Society of Echocardiography representative with the Academy for Healthcare Science professional bodies council	September 2024	July 2025	Ongoing	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Maria Paton	Expert	Indirect	University of Leeds (primary employer); may benefit/or be perceived to benefit via research grants/funding	July 2025	July 2025	Ongoing	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Maria Paton	Expert	Financial	Consultancy fees from Medtronic (2023) and AstraZeneca (2024)	2023	September 2025	2024	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Maria Paton	Expert	Financial	Speaker fee's from GE Healthcare (2023, 2024, 2025), Abbott (2023 and 2024), and Medtronic (2024 and 2025)	2023	September 2025	2025	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Maria Paton	Expert	Financial	Research funds agreed but not yet received from Medtronic (to University of Leeds, not personal, 2025-2027).	2025	September 2025	Ongoing	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Maria Paton	Expert	Financial	Quality improvement project fees from Abbott (to Leeds Teaching Hospitals, not personal, 2024-2025)	2024	September 2025	2025	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>

Maria Paton	Expert	Financial	Previously held NIHR doctoral and postdoctoral fellowships (2017-2024).	2017	September 2025	2024	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Maria Paton	Expert	Financial	Currently hold BRC (NIHR) postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Leeds (2025-2027).	2025	September 2025	Ongoing	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Maria Paton	Expert	Financial	NIHR capital funding bid submitted in 2025 for echocardiography equipment including handheld echo in association with Leeds Teaching Hospitals (2025).	2025	September 2025	Ongoing	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Maria Paton	Expert	Non-financial professional and personal interests	Leeds Cares (hospital charity) funding to investigate the role of handheld echo (utilising AI echo) in identifying and optimising therapy for people with pacemakers (co-investigator, 2024-2026)	2024	September 2025	Ongoing	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Maria Paton	Expert	Non-financial professional and personal interests	Currently seeking funding from GE Healthcare for a research pilot utilising handheld echocardiography to optimise heart failure diagnosis and therapy initiation (primary investigator, leading on the project on behalf of the British Society of Echocardiography).	2025	September 2025	Ongoing	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Maria Paton	Expert	Non-financial professional and personal interests	Preparing a BHF preliminary special project grant application on determining the progression of aortic stenosis as a national echocardiography database project. Leading the application, but with some input from Professor Paul Leeson as a Co-Investigator.	2025	September 2025	Ongoing	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Maria Paton	Expert	Non-financial professional and personal interests	Potentially relevant publications: Co-author on a publication titled: Clinical research and trials in echocardiography: rationale, requirements and future opportunities to identify the landscape and potential for research within echocardiography. https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40784952/		September 2025		<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>

			<p>First author on a paper: Echocardiography reporting in heart failure with preserved ejection fraction: Delphi consensus study. https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40154975/</p> <p>Co-author on a publication: Changes in coronary disease management decisions in real-world practice between 2015 and 2023: insights from the EVAREST/BSE-NSTEP observational study: https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40119705/</p> <p>Pending publications: The prognostic relevance of a false positive stress echocardiography response: A systematic review and meta-analysis - myself and Paul Leeson are co-authors but along with many other people</p> <p>Current practice in stress echocardiography within physiologist-led clinics (James Willis as first author, Prof Leeson as lead author)</p> <p>Full publication record: https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/?term=Paton%20MF&sort=date&page=3</p>				
Nick Hartshorne-Evans	Expert	Non-financial professional and personal interests	CEO and founder of Pumping Marvellous.	2010	July 2025	Ongoing	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Nick Hartshorne-Evans	Expert	Non-financial professional and personal interests	Pumping Marvellous, the UK's Heart Failure Charity use US2.ai as a supplier in our National BEAT to TREAT project. They are currently supplying their platform to the charity free of charge to one site in Scotland. All other sites in the 2026 programme will be paid for by the charity.		December 2025	Ongoing	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Nick Hartshorne-Evans	Expert	Non-financial professional	Co-author of Early Detection of Cardiorespiratory Diseases at Everton BEAT-Breathlessness Community Hub: How Football Can Help Save Lives, JACC:	April 2025	July 2025	April 2025	<i>Declare and attend to provide</i>

		and personal interests	Heart Failure vol 13 no 4 https://www.jacc.org/doi/10.1016/j.ichf.2025.01.008 Sankaranarayanan R, Hartshorne-Evans N , Mclean L, Jones J, Salla M, Chakrabarti B, Hadcroft J, Pritchard C, Smith A, Lam CSP.				<i>expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Rajiv Sankaranarayanan	Expert	Non-financial professional and personal interests	Publication of project outcomes from use of AI echo in Everton Beat Breathlessness Hub - Sankaranarayanan R , Hartshorne-Evans N, Mclean L, Jones J, Salla M, Chakrabarti B, Hadcroft J, Pritchard C, Smith A, Lam CSP. Early Detection of Cardiorespiratory Diseases at Everton BEAT-Breathlessness Community Hub: How Football Can Help Save Lives. JACC Heart Fail. 2025 Apr;13(4):663-665.	April 2025	July 2025	April 2025	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Rajiv Sankaranarayanan	Expert	Non-financial professional and personal interests	I am the Chief Investigator for 1 research Study (AmySUSPECT) which will investigate use of AI echo (US2.AI) for ATTR cardiac amyloidosis. I am the clinical lead for the Everton BEAT Breathlessness Project which received funding to continue from the BHF from Nov 2025 and uses US2.AI for AI echo for suspected heart failure. I am the clinical lead for an innovation project which is due to start in my Trust evaluating workflow efficiencies incorporating AI echo (MyCardium AI). I am also the clinical lead for an ICB approved project conducted at Whiston Hospital comparing std echo with AI echo (US2.AI)		December 2025	Ongoing	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Rajiv Sankaranarayanan	Expert	Non-financial professional and personal interests	Board Councillor British Society for Heart Failure	December 2023	July 2025	April 2025	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Rajiv Sankaranarayanan	Expert	Non-financial professional	Vice President British Cardiac Society Digital Committee	June 2025	July 2025	Ongoing	<i>Declare and attend to provide</i>

		and personal interests					<i>expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Rajiv Sankaranarayanan	Expert	Non-financial professional and personal interests	Clinical Advisory Board The Pumping Marvellous Foundation	January 2019	July 2025	Ongoing	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Rajiv Sankaranarayanan	Expert	Non-financial professional and personal interests	Digital Committee Member European Society of Cardiology Heart Failure Association	December 2024	July 2025	Ongoing	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Rajiv Sankaranarayanan	Expert	Non-financial professional and personal interests	NHS England Expert Advisory Group Member	August 2024	July 2025	Ongoing	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Rajiv Sankaranarayanan	Expert	Non-financial professional and personal interests	GIRFT Clinical lead for Virtual Wards	August 2023	July 2025	Ongoing	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Sadie Bennett	Expert	Non-financial professional and personal interests	Elected Trustee of the British Society of Echocardiography	October 2020	July 2025	October 2026	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Sadie Bennett	Expert	Non-financial professional and personal interests	Vice Chair of Research, British Society of Echocardiography.	September 2025	September 2025	September 2028	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Sadie Bennett	Expert	Non-financial professional and personal interests	Planned Doctoral application to NIHR exploring artificial intelligence in aortic stenosis. If funded by NIHR this will commence in March 2027. As part of this, a research visit to Ultromics is planned for				<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>

			2028 (funded by NIHR). Primary Supervisor for this application is a shareholder of Ultromics and patent of AI models within echocardiography. No funding is being sort from Ultromics, or any other AI companies, for this doctoral application.				
Sadie Bennett	Expert	Non-financial professional and personal interests	Lead author for the AI position paper for the British Society of Echocardiography	August 2025	September 2025	Ongoing	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Sadie Bennett	Expert	Non-financial professional and personal interests	Lead author for an article under consideration for publication - Development and validation of echocardiography AI models - A narrative review.	September 2025	September 2025		<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Sadie Bennett	Expert	Non-financial professional and personal interests	Primary supervisor for pre-doctoral NIHR award is a shareholder in Ultromics and hold patents for AI models within echocardiography. NIHR pre-doctoral award dates: September 2023 - September 2025.	September 2023	September 2025	September 2025	<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>
Sadie Bennett	Expert	Non-financial professional and personal interests	Funding grant from BHF-CRC to undertake a systematic review into the application of AI within Echocardiography		September 2025		<i>Declare and attend to provide expertise for Part 1 only</i>