

Professor Caroline Gordon MA, MD, FRCP

Professor of Rheumatology

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About

Caroline Gordon is Professor of Rheumatology and a Consultant Rheumatologist.

She is involved in research and teaching at undergraduate and post-graduate level at the University of Birmingham. Her clinical and research interests include the inflammatory rheumatic diseases especially systemic lupus erythematosus, and also anti-phospholipid syndrome, Sjogren's syndrome, vasculitis, and inflammatory arthropathies including rheumatoid arthritis. She undertakes most of her clinical work as a consultant rheumatologist in Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust.

She has one of the largest established cohorts of lupus patients in the UK with over 700 patients recruited since 1989 at Queen Elizabeth Hospital Birmingham and City Hospital, Birmingham. The cohort has provided the foundation for long term outcome studies in lupus and provides a patient base for future clinical trials. She has a well-established clinic for pregnancy and rheumatic diseases as well.

The main focus of her research work has been to improve disease assessment, treatment and outcome of lupus. She has published about 150 research papers in scientific journals as well as reviews and book chapters predominantly in the fields of lupus, pregnancy, inflammatory arthritis and vasculitis. She has received major grants from Arthritis Research UK and Lupus UK. She works closely with the charities Lupus UK and Lupus Foundation of America on their educational and research programmes.

Qualifications

- Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians 2000
- MD from University of London 1994 (Research on Cytokines in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus)
- ECFMG from USA 1989
- Membership of the Royal College of Physicians 2000
- MA University of Cambridge 1982
- MB BS London Hospital Medical College 1981 (Distinction in Pathology)
- BA University of Cambridge (First Class degree) Part 2: Pathology: Immunology and Virology

Biography

Caroline Gordon undertook pre-clinical medical studies at King's College Cambridge and graduated from the University of Cambridge in 1978. She studied clinical medicine at the London Hospital Medical College and graduated from the University of London in 1981. After training in internal medicine in Brighton and Bristol from 1982 to 1984, she was awarded a Harkness Fellowship by the Commonwealth Fund of New York and spent 2 years in her research fellowship in immunology and arthritis at the University of California, San Francisco. She returned to the UK having been appointed a Clinical Lecturer at the University of Birmingham in 1989 and she set up the Birmingham Lupus Clinics. She was awarded an MD from the University of London for her research on cytokines in Systemic Lupus Erythematosus in 1994. She was appointed Senior Lecturer and Consultant in Rheumatology in 1996, was promoted to Reader in 2003 and Professor of Rheumatology in 2007.

In 2002 she was awarded the Edmund L. Dubois, MD, Memorial Award for research in to lupus by the American College of Rheumatology Research and Education Foundation. Given her experience in undertaking an epidemiological survey of lupus using multiple methods of case ascertainment she has been a consultant to the Centre for Disease Control (CDC) SLE registries in USA since their inception in 2004. The Birmingham lupus clinics were awarded the title of LUPUS UK Centre of Excellence in 2005, the first lupus centre in the UK to receive this award and it has been reconfirmed at bi-annual review since. In 2009 she was appointed advisory expert to the ESF Research Networking Programme: The Identification of Novel Genes and Biomarkers for Systemic Lupus Erythematosus (BIOLUPUS).

Much of her research work has focussed on the epidemiology, aetiopathogenesis and treatment of systemic lupus erythematosus, disease assessment methodology for outcome studies and clinical trials, clinical and laboratory markers of disease flare, the genetic susceptibility to SLE and the role of ethnicity in predicting disease susceptibility and long-term outcome. She has been Co-Chair of the EULAR SLE Task Force since 2005 and she led the EULAR SLE Task Force on points to consider for conducting clinical trials. She is an active member of several national and international research groups.

Teaching

Teaching Programmes

- **[Medicine and Surgery MBChB \(undergraduate/courses/med/medicine.aspx\)](#)** : - Until 2013 she was lead for the musculo-skeletal curriculum group responsible for organising the teaching and assessment of musculo-skeletal medicine in the 3rd, 4th & 5th years and vertical integration.
- She is currently clinical co-ordinator for the muscles, joints and movement module in year 1 and teaches musculoskeletal assessment and management in year 3 and year 4.

• **B Med Sci (Undergraduate/courses/med/medical-sci.aspx)** : - contributes lectures and examination questions

• MSc Rheumatology - contributes lectures and examination questions

Postgraduate supervision

Academic FY1 and FY2 doctors: - educational and clinical supervisor ; also lectures regularly on the design of clinical trials and research studies on the academic FY2 course

Academic Clinical Fellow and Clinical Research Fellows: educational supervisor (M Res, MD, PhD programmes)

Specialist Registrars: lectures to those training in Rheumatology, Immunology, General Medicine, Obstetrics and Gynaecology, and A&E in the Midlands; and supervises rheumatology registrars in clinical and research work at City hospital, Birmingham

MSc in Rheumatology: local lecturer and external lecturer at University of London (Guys' Hospital)

Research

RESEARCH THEMES

Systemic Lupus Erythematosus, Pregnancy and the Rheumatic Diseases, Methodology for Clinical Trials in Autoimmune Rheumatic Diseases

RESEARCH ACTIVITY

Her research programme focuses on systemic lupus erythematosus but she has also contributed to research in to inflammatory arthritis, vasculitis, Sjogren's syndrome and anti-phospholipid syndrome. Caroline Gordon is a member of the British Isles Lupus Assessment Group (BILAG), the Systemic Lupus International Collaborating Clinics (SLICC), Co-Chair of the European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) Task Force for Systemic Lupus Erythematosus and has been a member of several American College of Rheumatology and Lupus Foundation of America committees for lupus research. She has been the lupus lead on the arthritic research campaign systemic autoimmune disease clinical study group and is currently the deputy for lupus on this committee.

Much of her work has focused on disease assessment for clinical trials and outcome studies, particularly the development of the BILAG disease activity index and the epidemiology of lupus. She has also been involved in the development of the SLICC/ACR damage index and in the assessment of quality of life in lupus patients using the SF-36 and the Lupus QoL surveys. Caroline Gordon has a longstanding interest in improving the treatment of systemic lupus erythematosus and has been involved in organising two investigator led trials: IV cyclophosphamide versus oral cyclophosphamide in lupus nephritis (EULAR sponsored) and cyclosporine versus azathioprine in severe SLE (arc funded). More recently she has been involved in trials of epratuzumab (monoclonal antibody that targets CD22) for lupus. She has led the initiative producing EULAR points to consider for conducting clinical trials in SLE and advises the pharmaceutical industry on organising and analysing clinical trials and is a consultant to the Centre for Disease Control on epidemiological studies of lupus in the USA. She is interested in both clinical and laboratory markers of disease flare, the genetic susceptibility to lupus, predictors of response to treatment and health economics, the importance of ethnicity in predicting disease susceptibility and long-term outcome, and the health of children born to mothers with lupus.

Other activities

American College of Rheumatology (ACR)

1997-1998 - Member of the ACR committee for the assessment of neuro-psychiatric disease in systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE)

1998-2003 - Lupus Study Group member

2002-2003 - Member of the ACR committee for the development of SLE response criteria for clinical trials

2002-2005 - Co-chair/chair ACR Annual Meeting SLE Abstract selection committee

2003-2006 - Member of the ACR Renal Lupus Response Criteria Workgroup

Arthritis Research UK (Arthritis Research Campaign)

2007-2010 - Lead for lupus research in the Autoimmune Rheumatic Disorders Clinical Study Group

British Isles Lupus Assessment Group (BILAG)

1991-current - Member

2003-current - Deputy Chair

British Society for Rheumatology

1996-2002 - Convenor (chair) for the BSR Lupus Special Interest Group

1998-2001 - Research and Training Committee

2000-2005 - BSR/British Renal Ass. Lupus Nephritis Study Group

European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR)

2003-2006 - Scientific Committee member

2005-2006 - Chair of the Abstract Selection Committee

2005-2008 - Chair for SLE Task Force on "Recommendations for clinical end-points and conducting trials in SLE"

2005-current - Co-Chair for the SLE Task Force on Recommendations for management of SLE" and for "the management of neuropsychiatric SLE" and for "the management of lupus nephritis"

Lupus Nephritis Terminology Advisory Group

2006-8 - Co-Chair for UK and European Consensus groups (first author)

National Institute for Health Research (NIHR)

2007-2012 - Lead for the Birmingham and Black Country (BBC) Comprehensive Local Research Network (CLRN) Immunology and Inflammation Speciality Group

2008-2012 - Chair of the National Comprehensive Clinical Research Network (CCRN) Immunology and Inflammation Speciality Group

2009-2011 - Member of the UKCRN Experimental Medicine Steering Group

Royal College of Physicians

2008-2009 - Chair for the SLE group revising Map of Medicine Clinical Pathways

Systemic Lupus International Collaborating Clinics

1992-1996 - Member

1997-2005 - Member of executive committee (agenda organiser)

2006-current - Member

Publications

Yee CS, Isenberg DA, Prabu A, Sokoll K, Teh LS, Rahman A, Bruce IN, Griffiths B, Akil M, McHugh N, D'Cruz D, Khamashta MA, Bowman S, Maddison P, Zoma A, Gordon C, (2008), BILAG-2004 Index captures SLE disease activity better than SLEDAI-2000, Annals Rheumatic Diseases, 67: 873 - 876

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Bertsias GK, Ioannidis JP, Boletis J, Bombardieri S, Cervera R, Dostal C, Font J, Gilboe IM, Houssiau F, Huizinga T, Isenberg D, Kallenberg CG, Khamashta M, Piette JC, Schneider M, Smolen J, Sturfelt G, Tincani A, van Vollenhoven R, Boumpas DT, Gordon C, (2009), EULAR points to consider for conducting clinical trials in systemic lupus erythematosus: literature based evidence for the selection of endpoints, *Annals Rheumatic Diseases*, 68(4):477-483

Yee CS, Farewell V, Isenberg DA, Griffiths B, Teh LS, Bruce IN, Ahmad Y, Rahman A, Prabu A, Akil M, McHugh N, Edwards C, D'Cruz D, Khamashta MA, Maddison P, Gordon C, (2009), The BILAG-2004 index is sensitive to change for assessment of SLE disease activity. *Rheumatology (Oxford)*, 48(6):691-695.

Prabu A, Patel K, Yee C-S, Nightingale P, Situnayake RD, Thickett DR, Townend JN, Gordon C, (2009), Prevalence and risk factors for pulmonary arterial hypertension in patients with lupus, *Rheumatology (Oxford)*, 48(12):1506-1511

Griffiths B, Emery P, Ryan V, Isenberg D, Akil M, Thompson , Maddison P, Griffiths ID, Lorenzi A, Miles S, Situnayake D, Teh L-S, Plant M, Hallengren C, Nived O, Sturfelt G, Chakravarty K, Tait T, Gordon C, (2010),The BILAG multi-centre open randomized controlled trial comparing ciclosporin versus azathioprine in patients with severe SLE: ciclosporin is safe and has similar corticosteroid-sparing properties. *Rheumatology (Oxford)*, 49(4):723-32.

Yee CS, Cresswell L, Farewell V, Rahman A, The LS, Griffiths B, Bruce IN, Ahmad Y, Prabu A, Akil M, McHugh N, D'Cruz D, Khamashta MA, Isenberg DA, Gordon C, (2010),Numerical scoring for the BILAG-2004 index. *Rheumatology (Oxford)*, 49(9):1665-1669

Yee CS, Farewell VT, Isenberg DA, Griffiths B, Teh LS, Bruce IN, Ahmad Y, Rahman A, Prabu A, Akil M, McHugh N, Edwards C, D'Cruz D, Khamashta MA, Gordon C, (2011), The use of Systemic Lupus Erythematosus Disease Activity Index-2000 to define active disease and minimal clinically meaningful change based on data from a large cohort of systemic lupus erythematosus patients. *Rheumatology (Oxford)*, 50:982-988.

Wallace DJ, Kalunian K, Petri MA, Strand V, Houssiau FA, Pike M, Kilgallen B, Bongardt S, Barry A, Kelley L, Gordon C, (2013), Efficacy and safety of epratuzumab in patients with moderate/severe active systemic lupus erythematosus: results from EMBLEM, a phase IIb, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, multicentre study. *Annals Rheumatic Diseases*, Jan 12, 2013. [Epub ahead of print: doi:10.1136/annrheumdis-2012-202760]

