



THE SMAE INSTITUTE™

2026 ANNUAL CONVENTION

Oxford Belfry Hotel, Thame, Oxfordshire

Friday 2nd & Saturday 3rd October 2026

EARLY BIRD RATE

Book before 28th August and

SAVE £20

Join us for an exceptional event that combines expert-led learning with valuable networking opportunities. Hear from renowned lecturers, explore an extensive trade exhibition, and enjoy the comfort of a beautiful 4-star hotel with luxurious accommodation.

Throughout the event, you'll be treated to delicious snacks, unlimited refreshments, and a tempting hot and cold buffet lunch. As the day draws to a close, celebrate with colleagues at our Gala Dinner, featuring a Celebration of Achievement, followed by an evening of music and dancing.

Whether you're looking to expand your knowledge, gain valuable CPD, discover new ideas, or connect with like-minded professionals, this event has something for everyone.



TO BOOK YOUR PLACE

Scan the **QR code**,
visit **www.smaeinstitute.co.uk/smae-store**
or call the Convention Hotline
on **01628 560654**

"Always walk through life as if you have something new to learn, and you will" VERNON HOWARD

Friday 2nd October

8.45am – 9.50am Registration, Trade Exhibition & Arrival Refreshments

9.50am – 10.00am Welcome by **Tracey O'Keeffe**

10.00am – 11.00am **Belinda Longhurst** *BSc (Hons); PGCert; FHEA; FFPM RCPS (Glasg)*
Podiatry Lecturer

An Introduction to Dermoscopy

Dermoscopy was, for many years, a quiet and largely unnoticed revolution in healthcare. It is now widely recognised as a standard tool that assists health professionals in the clinical diagnosis of benign, premalignant, and malignant skin lesions. This presentation is designed to spark the interest of practitioners who may be considering incorporating dermoscopic assessment into their clinical practice. We will explore how dermoscopy can enhance dermatological assessment, improve both naked-eye and dermoscopic lesion recognition skills, and support appropriate referral pathways to optimise patient outcomes.

11.00am – 11.40am Refreshment Break and Trade Exhibition

11.40am – 12.40pm **Dr Ron Daniels** *BEM Founder and Chief Medical Officer: UK Sepsis Trust*

Sepsis, severe infection and AMR: a holistic approach

This presentation will cover the scale of the health and economic burden of sepsis and severe infection. Whilst often perceived to be competing interests, it will also explore the intrinsic interrelationship between sepsis and antimicrobial resistance and how awareness among the public and health professionals, together with strategic action by government, can help to mitigate the harms of both.

12.40pm – 2.00pm Hot/Cold Buffet Lunch and Trade Exhibition

1.05pm – 1.50pm **Breakout Session** (Optional – £15pp)

Hands-on Dermoscopy with Belinda Longhurst

This session will provide delegates with the opportunity to gain hands-on experience using handheld dermatoscopes to assess skin lesions. The session will also include an interactive, case-study-based quiz designed to develop participants' understanding of dermoscopic visual clues, helping to inform appropriate management plans for patients with benign, premalignant, and malignant skin conditions.

2.00pm – 3.00pm **Rachel Thompson** *Partner - DWF*

Legal Insights: Consent and Record-Keeping

Consent is a fundamental legal and ethical principle. This presentation will provide an overview of the legal landscape and essential requirements for your practice:

- Types of consent: implied, verbal and written
- Timing of consent: how long does consent last?
- Material risks and alternative treatment options – an informed discussion
- The consequences of good and bad record-keeping
- Example case studies

3.00pm – 3.40pm Refreshment Break and Trade Exhibition

3.40pm – 4.40pm **Dr Andrew Hill** *DHealth; MSc Podiatry; BSc (Hons); PGCert L&T; FHEA; FSSCh, Programme Lead and Senior Lecturer – BSc (Hons) Podiatry (The SMAE Institute)*

Beyond Type 1 and Type 2: Navigating Next-Generation Diabetes Classifications in Podiatric and Foot Health Practice

The traditional binary classification of diabetes into Type 1 and Type 2 is rapidly giving way to a more nuanced, data-driven reality. Emerging frameworks (including the 5 metabolic clusters and distinct phenotypes like Type 3c [pancreatogenic] diabetes) reveal that patients sharing the same generic "Type 2" label possess vastly different pathophysiologic profiles. This lecture explores the science behind these new classifications and unpacks their direct implications for podiatric medicine. Attendees will learn how specific clusters radically alter a patient's risk for peripheral neuropathy and arterial disease, and how understanding these metabolic sub-types can optimise your approach to lower extremity limb salvage and wound healing.

4.45pm – 5.15pm **Complimentary session with Tracey O'Keeffe**

MA, BSc, RN, MCFHP MAFHP, Coach Practitioner and Mindfulness Teacher

An invitation to mindfulness

The last two Conventions have seen a wonderful group of people gathering at the end of day one for a short mindfulness session. We will once again be offering this complimentary session. Whether a total beginner or seasoned meditator, come and experience a quick reset. Even if you are a little bit sceptical or unsure, you are very welcome to participate and see what mindfulness has to offer.

Just come ready with curiosity, an open mind and a body that needs restoring! It may just make your evening even better... No need to bring anything, just a willingness to participate.

7.15pm – Late

Gala dinner, music, and celebration of achievement (for those booked)

Saturday 3rd October

8.30am – 9.15am Registration, Trade Exhibition, and Arrival Refreshments

9.15am – 10.15am **Mr JWD Alvey** *FRCPodS, MSc, BSc (Hons)*
Consultant Podiatric Surgeon

Central Metatarsalgia: Diagnosing the Neuroma and its Mimics

This presentation will provide a practical guide to the diagnosis and differential diagnosis of central metatarsalgia, with a focus on Morton's neuroma. Mr Alvey will discuss key clinical features, examination manoeuvres, imaging modalities, and how to differentiate neuroma from common mimickers such as plantar plate pathology, synovitis, and stress fracture.

10.15am – 11.00am Refreshment Break and Trade Exhibition

11.00am – 12.00pm **Katie Reilly** *MSc, MRCPod, AFHEA*
Lecturer in Podiatry, Queen Margaret University

Shockwave Therapy for Achilles Tendinopathy: Does location matter?

This session will compare the assessment and management of insertional and mid-portion Achilles tendinopathy, highlighting why an accurate diagnosis is important. It will explore how rehabilitation and shockwave treatment may differ between the two presentations, compare radial and focused shockwave therapy, and consider which patients may benefit from treatment and when shockwave may or may not add value.

12.00pm – 1.20pm Hot/Cold Buffet Lunch and Trade Exhibition

12.30pm – 1.15pm **Breakout Session** (Optional – £15pp)

The Acoustic Foot: Perfecting Doppler Phases and Pressures in Practice with Dr Andrew Hill

In the race to prevent lower limb complications, the handheld Doppler is your earliest warning system. However, poor probe angle, misheard phases, and artefact pressures can easily lead to misdiagnosis. This clinical skills session offers a deep dive into the practical realities of Doppler usage. We will cover the "three Ps" of podiatric vascular exams: catching the Pulse, decoding the Phases, and accurately measuring the Pressures. Through live demonstration and hands-on practice, you will learn how to optimise your technique to ensure accurate triage, safe compression choices, and timely vascular referrals.

1.20pm – 2.20pm **Wajid Hussain** *BSc (Hons), JP*
Business Development Manager
HCPC registered Podiatrist

Beyond the Surface: Skin Tone and the Diagnosis of Dermatological Condition in Lower Limb and Foot

Skin conditions can present very differently depending on skin tone, making accurate assessment essential for early recognition and appropriate management. This practical and interactive session will equip Foot Health Practitioners with the knowledge and confidence to identify common dermatological conditions across a range of skin tones, recognise signs that may be less visible in darker skin, and avoid potential diagnostic bias. Through real-life case studies, clinical images and practical assessment strategies, delegates will leave with valuable tools to enhance diagnostic accuracy and improve patient outcomes in everyday practice.

2.20pm – 2.30pm Ten-minute recess

2.30pm – 3.30pm **Robert Isaacs** *BSc (Hons) MRCOP*

Fibromyalgia, A multi axial approach, update

Fibromyalgia is one of the most common, debilitating, and yet poorly understood conditions that we are faced with. In this lecture, we will attempt to demystify it and revisit the present best practice for management of patients with fibromyalgia in a foot health context.

3.30pm–3.35pm Closing Talk

MEET THE LECTURERS

Belinda Longhurst

BSc (Hons); PGCert; FHEA; FFPM RCPS (Glasg), Podiatry Lecturer

Belinda qualified as a podiatrist in 2003 and was awarded a First-Class Honours degree with Distinction by the University of Southampton. She is a Podiatry lecturer for the SMAE Institute's BSc (Hons) Podiatry degree programme (in collaboration with Queen Margaret University, Edinburgh) and is a Fellow of both the Higher Education Academy and the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow. Belinda has a special interest in Podiatric Dermatology and has frequently presented her published work at both national and international conferences. She is also joint course provider for the Royal College of Podiatry Skin Surgery Course (extended scope of practice) and is a Trustee and Volunteer Coordinator for the Registered charity Forgotten Feet, which offers free footcare to the homeless and socially isolated. Belinda is keen to promote the upskilling of Foot Health Practitioners and Podiatrists in lesion recognition skills to strengthen the profession and improve patient outcomes.

Dr Andrew Hill

DHealth; MSc Podiatry; BSc (Hons); PGCert L&T; FHEA; FSSCh, Programme Lead and Senior Lecturer – BSc (Hons) Podiatry (The SMAE Institute)

Dr Andrew Hill is an experienced podiatrist, academic leader, and researcher specialising in diabetes-related foot health, patient self-care behaviours, and health professional education. He is the programme lead and senior lecturer at The SMAE Institute in the UK and has over 20 years of clinical experience alongside more than 16 years in senior academic and strategic leadership roles. Andrew completed a Doctor of Health (DHealth) at the University of Bath in 2022, with research focusing on patient and healthcare professional perspectives on foot self-care behaviours in diabetes. His work explores the psychosocial and behavioural factors that influence engagement with preventive foot care, as well as the role of communication and education in reducing diabetes-related foot complications.

He is an Executive Committee Member of Foot in Diabetes UK and a member of the Editorial Board of The Diabetic Foot Journal. He is also an Education Visitor for the UK Health and Care Professions Council and is currently a chapter author for the forthcoming 10th edition of Neale's Disorders of the Foot (expected 2027). Andrew has published extensively in peer-reviewed journals and contributes to national professional standards development.

Robert Isaacs

BSc (Hons) MRCOP

Robert qualified in 2000 from the University of Brighton. He took a post in the NHS and remained there, taking on a specialist role in biomechanics in 2005. From 2005 until 2021 he worked as Lead Podiatrist in Biomechanical therapies, specialising in Paediatric Biomechanics and leading the Musculoskeletal Podiatry team for the West Kent locality.

Robert has been involved in the delivery of several podiatry degree programs, including the Podiatry degree from QMU. He has also lectured on the MSc Biomechanics module for the University of Ulster and CESPU (a Portuguese university offering Podiatry). He has been an invited lecturer at the Langer Biomechanics Summer School, the Royal College of Podiatry annual conference, the British Chiropody and Podiatry Association annual conference and the Institute of Chiropody and Podiatry annual conference. He has written for several professional journals and writes a regular column for "ComMent", the journal for CMT UK (a charity supporting people with Charcot Marie Tooth).

Dr Ron Daniels BEM

Founder and Chief Medical Officer: UK Sepsis Trust

Ron Daniels is an NHS Consultant in Intensive Care, based at University Hospitals Birmingham, U.K. He's also Founder and Chief Medical Officer of the UK Sepsis Trust and Vice-President of the Global Sepsis Alliance. In 2016 he was awarded the British Empire Medal for services to patients.

Ron's expertise lies in translational medicine and leadership. He leads the team driving dissemination of the Sepsis 6 treatment pathway – in use in more than 40 countries worldwide – and is part of the team responsible for much of the policy and media engagement around sepsis in the U.K. and globally, including as a core member of the team securing the adoption of the 2017 Resolution on Sepsis by the WHO. He's advised governments in the Middle East, Africa and in Western Australia on sepsis pathways.

At home, Ron's worked with the NHS over the last 15 years to ensure that by 2019, in England, more than 80% of patients presenting with suspected sepsis were receiving appropriate antimicrobials rapidly. He is now leading a team working with his Majesty's government to once again drive sepsis improvement work in the post pandemic era including through commissioning for excellence. He's ever mindful of the perceived conflict, and the synergies and need for collaboration, with the antimicrobial stewardship agenda.

Mr JWD Alvey

FRCPodS, MSc, BSc (Hons) Consultant Podiatric Surgeon

Mr James Alvey is a Fellow of the Royal College of Podiatry and a highly motivated, experienced clinician who serves as the Lead Consultant in Foot and Ankle Pathology and Consultant Podiatric Surgeon at Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust.

In his NHS role, he leads a large team of Advanced MSK Practitioners and MSK Podiatrists, overseeing the triage, conservative management and surgical management of complex foot and ankle cases. He personally performs over 300 surgical procedures annually and holds managerial responsibility for a surgical team. Committed to education and service development, he mentors the Advanced Practitioner team, leads regular discussion sessions, and has supported the training of a trainee podiatric surgeon.

He was a Visiting Senior Lecturer at the University of Brighton for over ten years, until 2020, teaching on the MSc in Podiatric Surgery across anatomy, pharmacology, radiology, and steroid injection therapy. He holds Tutor status within the Royal College Of Podiatry and still acts as a Clinical Educator for the University of Brighton. He completed his MSc in 2009, with a dissertation focused on the readability of surgical Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs). Alongside his NHS and academic roles, he runs a private practice at Spire Gatwick Park Hospital and trains podiatric surgeons in the use of specialist surgical products for Lavender Medical Ltd. This October, Mr Alvey is delighted to bring this breadth of clinical, educational, and leadership experience to the national stage at The SMAE Institute Annual Convention.

Rachel Thompson

Partner - DWF

Rachel is a Partner at DWF, a leading global provider of legal and business services. Rachel is experienced in all aspects of healthcare claims and litigation. She represents NHS Trust organisations, Insurers and Insureds, individual practitioners and private hospitals.

Rachel has particular expertise in claims which focus on issues of informed consent. She led the defence of a large group action concerning the use of pelvic mesh, which required consideration of material risks and alternative treatment options.

Rachel is recognised in the Legal 500 shortlist as a key lawyer and is described as "delivering sensible and to-the-point legal advice with a vibrancy and approachability that is unmatched".

Tracey O'Keeffe

MA, BSc, RN, PGCE, MCFHP MAFHP

SMAE Institute Programme Lead (Dip FH) / Part-time Lecturer for the SMAE Institute BSc (Hons) Podiatry Programme

Tracey has over 30 years' experience as a nurse working through acute and community care, as well as being a SMAE trained FHP for more than 15 years. Throughout her career and practice, she has always been involved in education, with a passion for understanding and translating to others how knowledge impacts patient care and experience. Aside from senior clinical roles, she has been a Senior Lecturer at higher and further education level, Education Lead for a London NHS community trust, and a Fellow at Health Education England.

As a part-time lecturer at the SMAE, Tracey is Programme Lead for the FHP Diploma and teaches on the BSc (Hons) Podiatry Degree Programme, Local Anaesthesia and Prescription Only Medicines programmes. As well as this, Tracey continues to teach on nursing programmes as well as being involved in patient-facing education. She is a Mindfulness Teacher, a qualified Coach and works 1-2-1 with people for personal and professional development.

Wajid Hussain

BSc (Hons), IP, Business Development Manager

Wajid is an experienced podiatrist with a strong interest in inclusive dermatological assessment and clinical education. Since graduating in 2015, Wajid has worked across the Midlands, where Birmingham's diverse population has given him valuable insight into how skin conditions can present differently across a range of skin tones. He spent eight years in the NHS, working as a Diabetes Specialist Podiatrist and later as a Domiciliary Lead Podiatrist across diabetic foot MDTs, community clinics and home visits, while working closely with Tissue Viability teams.

Wajid is now Business Development Manager at Bailey Instruments, supporting clinicians through education, customer engagement and the development of clinician-led instruments designed around the needs of foot health professionals.

Katie Reilly

MSc, MRCPod, AFHEA

Lecturer in Podiatry, Queen Margaret University

Katie is a specialist musculoskeletal podiatrist with undergraduate degrees in Podiatry and Sports Science, alongside an MSc in Podiatric Sports Medicine. Her primary role is as a Lecturer in Podiatry at Queen Margaret University. Alongside her academic work, she maintains clinical practice within the NHS Borders Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle service and in independent practice. Her clinical and academic interests include exercise-induced leg pain, sports injuries, gait analysis, rehabilitation and shockwave therapy.

Katie played professional football until retiring in 2022, having previously represented Scotland at Under-17 and Under-19 levels. During her career, she played for several Scottish Women's Premier League clubs, including captaining Spartans Women's First Team and later working as an assistant coach. Since retiring from football, she has continued to support the club as team podiatrist, contributing to player care and injury surveillance alongside the medical and sports science team.

LIMITED HOTEL ACCOMMODATION

Book early to avoid disappointment!



MAP

Oxford Belfry Hotel & Spa

Milton Common

Thames

Oxfordshire

OX9 2JW

Tel: 01844 279 381

GALA DINNER MENU



STARTER

- Mushroom Soup, Tarragon and Truffle Oil (VE) (GF)
- Mozzarella and Beetroot Salad, Sunflower Seeds, Herb Oil, Beetroot and Pomegranate Dressing (V) (GF)
- Pressed Ham Hock and Pea Terrine, Piccalilli and sourdough bread

MAIN

- Roast Salmon, Grilled Mediterranean Vegetables and Roasted New Potatoes (GF)
- Braised Pork Belly, Wholegrain mustard mash, roasted root vegetables, green beans, thyme sauce (GF)
- Pumpkin and Sage Tortellini, Toasted Pumpkin Seeds, Hard Cheese Shavings, Crispy Sage and Onion (VE)

DESSERT

- Apple and Raspberry Crumble, Raspberry Coulis and Vanilla Ice Cream (VE) (GF)
- Sticky Toffee Pudding, Caramel sauce and Vanilla Ice Cream (V) (GF)
- Tropical fruit salad and sorbet (VE)