

bgs.org.uk/WFC26

3rd WORLD FALLS CONGRESS

24-26 June 2026

Manchester University, UK



British Geriatrics Society
Improving healthcare
for older people



World
Falls Prevention
Society



EUROPEAN
**FALLS
FESTIVAL**



PROGRAMME

overview and information

With grateful thanks to our sponsors

Our sponsors have provided a sponsorship grant towards this independent programme. They have had no editorial input into or control over the agenda, content development or choice of speakers, nor opportunity to influence. They have not had any input or influence as to the content of the programme.

Call for abstracts



Deadline for submissions:
1 January 2026

The 2026 World Falls Congress invites you to participate in this exciting conference by submitting an abstract of your research work. This unmissable three-day event expects to attract a global audience of over 800 participants across a broad range of multidisciplinary backgrounds, providing a fantastic platform to showcase your work in a rapidly-evolving field.

The programme will address key issues in successful falls prevention and treatment activities influenced by the 10 Year Health Plan in England. This has three shifts: **Hospital to community**, **Analogue to Digital** and **Treatment to Prevention**.

The programme will include community and acute hospital settings, looking at policy and planning through to implementation, as well as presenting the latest research and evidence relating to practice.

1. Prepare your submission

Abstracts will be accepted as platforms, for oral presentation, or posters for presentation on the BGS website and during breaks in the sessions during the day. The submission must be made online

2. Submit online

The submitter should ideally be the lead author and presenter of the work.

Submit by the deadline which closes 5pm GMT **1 January 2026**. Visit <https://www.bgs.org.uk/abstracts> to submit

The word count for abstracts is 370 words and abstracts need to be laid out under specific headings. These headings differ, depending on whether your study is categorised as scientific research or clinical quality

[Please also do review our language guide here.](#)

3. Results will be communicated in early March 2026

All accepted abstract presenters will need to register and pay the fees for the conference to present.

[Click here for more information or to submit](#)



Energetic, diverse, and individual, Manchester is a city with true character.

First finding global fame as the heart of the Industrial Revolution, Manchester has a proud history in science, politics, music, arts, and sport. This is the city where the atom was first split, where the world's first passenger railway was opened, and where the modern computer was invented. It's where bands like the Smiths, Oasis, Joy Division, and the Stone Roses were inspired to write music that moved the world. It's the birthplace of modern vegetarianism, atomic theory, women's suffrage, and thermodynamics. It's where Emmeline Pankhurst, Alan Turing, LS Lowry, and Anthony Burgess called home.

Exploring Manchester city centre you'll find it packed with remnants of this history but also unique and independent restaurants, bars, shops, museums, galleries, and hotels, all gathered in districts with their own distinct personalities.

Further out from the city, the surrounding boroughs of Greater Manchester offer some entirely different experiences including charming market towns, traditional country pubs and beautiful green spaces and waterways.

For those participants who wish to extend their stay, Manchester is perfectly placed to explore Great Britain and the delights of Northern England, including National Parks, stately homes, and stunning landscapes.

Marketing Manchester Convention Bureau is the official accommodation booking provider for the World Falls Congress 2026.

We are delighted to offer specially negotiated accommodation rates for delegates and visitors. This accommodation website will be open until 27th May 2026; however early booking is recommended to ensure you are able to book your preferred hotel.

Book directly with Visit Manchester

Invited Speaker

Professor Andy Clegg

Professor of Geriatric Medicine

University of Leeds, honorary consultant geriatrician at Bradford Royal Infirmary

Professor of Life Course Development and Ageing Trinity College Dublin
Andy is Professor of Geriatric Medicine at the University of Leeds, honorary consultant geriatrician at Bradford Royal Infirmary and Associate Director of Health Data Research UK North (HDRUK North). He leads a research theme focused on improving care for older people with frailty as part of the NIHR Applied Research Collaboration Yorkshire & Humber (NIHR ARC YH). Andy also leads a number of NIHR funded studies: a Programme Grant to optimise and evaluate personalised care planning for older people with frailty (PROSPER); the Home-based Extended Rehabilitation for Older People (HERO) trial, and the Community Ageing Research 75+ (CARE 75+) national cohort study.

Andy has considerable expertise in research using routine health data. He led the development, validation and national implementation of the award winning and NICE-recommended electronic frailty index (eFI), and is currently leading work to develop eFI2 as part of NIHR ARC YH. Andy is also leading the NIHR HTA-funded eFI+ project, building on the eFI to develop four integrated prognostic-decision models to better target interventions (community rehab, falls prevention, community CGA and advance care planning) for people with frailty.

In his role as Associate Director of HDRUK North, Andy is leading the development, validation and evaluation of an anticholinergic medication index using prognostic modelling methods. Epidemiology research group.



- eFalls predictions

- Falls prevention in LMIC



Invited Speaker

Professor Dr Devinder Kaur Ajit Singh

Professor of Geriatric Physiotherapy, Centre for Healthy Ageing & Wellness, Faculty of Health Sciences, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia

Professor Dr. Devinder Kaur Ajit Singh is a distinguished researcher at the Centre for Healthy Ageing and Wellness and a lecturer in the Physiotherapy Program, Faculty of Health Sciences, Universiti Kebangsaan Malaysia. Former Chair of the Centre, she has led interdisciplinary teams in advancing geriatric research across Malaysia. With 16 years in clinical practice under the Ministry of Health and over 20 years in academia, she brings a rare blend of practical and scholarly expertise. Earning her PhD from the University of Brighton in 2009, she has become a leading voice in geriatric physiotherapy in the Asian region. Her innovations in falls prevention include FallSA©, a mobile self-assessment falls risk tool, and community-based exercise programs such as WE-RISE™ and WE-SURF™. An active contributor to the World Guidelines for Falls Prevention for low- and middle-income countries, she currently serves on the executive boards of the World Falls Society and the ASEAN Falls Network.

Invited Speaker

Professor Manuel Montero-Odasso

Professor, Departments of Medicine (Geriatric Medicine) and Epidemiology and Biostatistics, University of Western Ontario, and Director of the Gait & Brain Lab at Parkwood Institute in London, Ontario

Manuel Montero-Odasso (MD, PhD, FRCPC, AGSF, FGSA, FCAHS) is an internist, geriatrician, and clinician-scientist. He is currently a Professor in the Departments of Medicine (Geriatric Medicine) and Epidemiology and Biostatistics at the University of Western Ontario, and the Director of the Gait & Brain Lab at Parkwood Institute in London, Ontario.

Dr. Montero-Odasso has extensive clinical, teaching, and research expertise in caring for older adults who are vulnerable to falls and cognitive impairment. His research focuses on the interaction between cognitive and motor decline with aging and neurodegeneration, particularly in predicting dementia, falls, and frailty. As the team leader of the Canadian Consortium on Neurodegeneration in Aging (CCNA), he leads clinical trials, including the SYNERGIC Trials (SYNERGIC Trials), which aim to delay dementia and falls in individuals with Mild Cognitive Impairment through personalized medicine and multidomain lifestyle interventions.

He is also the Chair of the World Fall Guidelines, an initiative that brought together 93 international experts from 40 countries to develop and validate clinical practice guidelines for fall prevention and management. Dr. Montero-Odasso has published over 250 articles in peer-reviewed journals, with his work being highly impactful—he was ranked among the World's Top 2% of scientists in 2023, according to a Stanford University report. He is also the editor and author of over 30 books and book chapters. His research program has secured over \$12 million in peer-reviewed funding from organizations such as CIHR, CCNA, and the Weston Brain Institute.

Dr. Montero-Odasso has received numerous national and international accolades, including the American Geriatrics Society New Investigator Award, the Schulich Clinician Scientist Award, the Premier of Ontario Excellence Research Award, and the CIHR New Investigator Award. He has delivered over 100 international keynote presentations. In 2019, he was recognized as one of the Top 10 Most Influential Hispanic Canadians for his contributions to medicine and science. Dr. Montero-Odasso currently is a past President of the Canadian Geriatrics Society.



- Low risk does not mean no risk

- Reactive Balance and Virtual Reality Training

Invited Speaker

Dr Yoshiro Okubo,
Research Fellow and Conjoint Senior Lecturer
School of Population Health, University of New South Wales



Dr Yoshiro Okubo is a Senior Research Fellow at the Falls, Balance and Injury Research Centre, NeuRA, and a Conjoint Senior Lecturer at the School of Population Health, UNSW Sydney. He received his PhD in Sports Medicine from the University of Tsukuba, Japan. Dr Okubo leads an innovative research program on reactive balance and falls prevention, specialising in task-specific interventions including perturbation-based training (PBT), reactive balance training (RBT), and virtual reality (VR). His translational work has led to the development of novel training and assessment tools, including the Trip and Slip Walkway, the HoloWalk VR obstacle avoidance training program, the ReacStep clinical RBT program, and the iLEAN reactive balance assessment tool. He is the senior author of the seminal paper, Perturbation-based balance training: Principles, mechanisms and implementation in clinical practice.

Invited Speaker

Professor Cathie Sherrington

Professor at Sydney School of Public Health, The University of Sydney

Prof Sherrington leads the 40-person Physical Activity, Ageing and Disability Research Stream within the Institute for Musculoskeletal Health (based at the Sydney Local Health District) and is Deputy Director of the Institute.

Prof Sherrington's research focuses on the promotion of physical activity and the prevention of falls in older people and people with chronic disabling conditions. Prof Sherrington has authored 385+ refereed journal articles including reports of 50 clinical trials (20 with NHMRC funding) and 32 systematic reviews.

Prof Sherrington has secured over \$34 million in research funding, including 14 NHMRC/MRFF grants as lead Chief Investigator. She currently leads several major projects, including PROMOTE-PA (a multi-partner health promotion trial), PROTECT (fall prevention implementation in hospitals), as well as the NHMRC Centre of Research Excellence in Prevention of Fall-related Injuries.

Her work has informed global and national policies, contributing to WHO physical activity guidelines, NHS toolkits in the UK, evaluations in Canada, and NSW Health strategies. She holds an NHMRC Investigator Grant (Leadership Level 3), is a Fellow of both the Australian Academy of Health and Medical Sciences and the Australian College of Physiotherapists, and received the 2023 NSW Premier's Prize for Science (Biomedical).



- Healthy Ageing e-Health interventions

- Falls prevention exercise as medicine: Fidelity and dose matter!

Invited Speaker

Professor Dawn Skelton,

Professor of Ageing and Health,
Glasgow Caledonian University



Dawn Skelton is Professor of Ageing and Health in the Research Centre for Health (ReaCH) in the School of Health and Life Sciences at Glasgow Caledonian University. She co-leads the Ageing Well Research Group. She is a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh and an Honorary Fellow of the Chartered Society of Physiotherapy. Dawn is also an Honorary Professor with NHS Lanarkshire, where she is a member of the Falls Prevention Strategy Group.

As an Exercise Physiologist, she has a keen interest in exercise rehabilitation within a falls prevention scope, from the hospital-based physiotherapy delivery to the community-based specialist exercise instructor provision. Her current research ranges from motivation and patient preference to engaging the very frail, increasing adherence to long-term exercise and working with the pre-frail to prevent poor outcomes later. Implementation, fidelity and quality of evidence-based interventions when delivered in different settings is also her passion. Whilst specialising in randomised controlled trials, she often leads mixed methods studies and is a lead and co-author on multiple Cochrane Systematic Reviews.

Recent research includes NIHR-funded programme grants in exercise as an intervention for frailty (HomeHealth), falls prevention (VIOLET/NIHR, PhISICAL/NIHR, MIRA/Innovate UK). Work on co-creation to improve acceptability has been funded by Wellcome (Strong and Balanced Offer) and EC Horizon 2020 ITN (HealthCascade). She works closely with colleagues in Norway and Ireland on exercise following discharge from hospital and those receiving care at home, and colleagues in Sweden on smartphone provision of falls prevention exercise. Current work includes spreading and implementing FaME in the UK (FLEXI/ARC) and Ireland (FaME Ireland/HRB), maintaining activity after FaME (KESS/Orthopaedic Research UK), effectiveness of KOKU (NHS England) and an aquatic falls prevention programme (AquaSteps/CSO). In 2017 she received the British Geriatrics Society Marjory Warren Lifetime Achievement Award for her work in translating falls prevention research into practice. She has also been honoured with an honorary medical doctorate (MD) from Umea University for her work in functional exercise with older people. Finally, Dawn is a Director of the not-for-profit training company Later Life Training, which provide training in FaME, Otago, REACT, Care to Move and the Functional Fitness MOT to health and fitness professionals across the UK and Ireland.

Invited Speaker

Dr Lara Mitchell

Consultant Physician Older People's services,
QEUH, NHSGGC

National Clinical Lead Frailty HIS

Scottish Quality & Safety Fellow c12

Dr Lara Mitchell is a Consultant Geriatrician at Queen Elizabeth University Hospital (QEUH), Glasgow. Her interests are frailty and cardiovascular health in the older adult. She set up a syncope service in 2005 and has grown the service with her colleague Dr Anderton they run a weekly Rapid Access Syncope Service (RASCL) and monthly MDT (cardiology, neurology and cardiac physiologists). She is a Scottish quality and safety fellow and is committed to improving systems of care for the older adult. She is previous chair of Cardiovascular BGS. She is National Clinical Lead for Acute at Healthcare Improvement Scotland

- Syncope and Cardiovascular disease and the link to falls



- Fear of falling



Invited Speaker

Dr Toby Ellmers

Wellcome Trust Sir Henry Wellcome Fellow, Imperial College London

Dr Toby Ellmers is currently a Wellcome Trust Sir Henry Wellcome Fellow at Imperial College London, where he is exploring the psychological factors contributing balance disorders in older adults. He has recently been awarded the "Promising Scientist Award" from the International Society of Posture and Gait Research (ISPGR) and the "Rising Star Award" from Vivensa Foundation (formerly Dunhill Medical Trust) for this work. He is the Co-Lead of the 'Concerns about Falling' Working Group within the World Falls Guidelines initiative, and regularly lectures and presents on these topics.

Invited Speaker

Dr Louise Tomkow

Consultant Geriatrician, Salford Royal

Louise spends 50% of her time working at Salford Royal at the Greater Manchester Major Trauma Hospital as a Geriatrician and 50% of her time undertaking research at the University of Manchester. Louise graduated from the University of Liverpool in 2008 and became a member of the Royal College of Physicians in 2012. Louise has spent time volunteering as a doctor in Malawi and India and has a MA with distinction in Humanitarianism and Conflict Response. In 2019 she was awarded a PhD at the Humanitarianism and Conflict Response Institute. Her ESRC-funded doctorate examined how forced migration impacts health in later life, and therefore integrated her interests of migration, ageing, health and inequalities. Louise was awarded an NIHR academic clinical lectureship in 2019, where she led research projects include the NIHR-funded projects 'Improving discussions about resuscitation for bereaved relatives in COVID-19'; 'Palliative and End of life Care experiences of people of African and Caribbean descent during COVID-19 (PEACE)'; Diverse experiences of end of life care with dementia; and work exploring the healthcare of asylum seekers in multiple occupancy accommodation during Covid-19. Louise has worked as a volunteer Medico-Legal Report writer for Freedom from Torture and an active is part of Medact Manchester, group of healthcare professionals who campaign on issues of social justice and health. She currently leads a programme of health seminars in Rochdale, aimed at reducing health inequalities.

- Falls presenting to A&E



Invited Speaker

Professor Celia Gregson

Professor of Clinical Epidemiology, NIHR Global Health Research Professor of Healthy Ageing, & Honorary Consultant Geriatrician Co-director, The Health Research Unit of Zimbabwe (THRU ZIM), The Biomedical Research and Training Institute, Harare, Zimbabwe

Celia Gregson is a Professor of Clinical Epidemiology, a consultant geriatrician and a NIHR Global Health Research Professor of Healthy Ageing in sub-Saharan Africa. She leads the Global Health and Ageing Research Unit at the University of Bristol, UK and co-directs The Health Research Unit Zimbabwe (THRU-Zim) within the Biomedical Research and Training Institute (BRTI) in Harare. She is a Consultant Orthogeriatrician and chairs the UK National Osteoporosis Guideline Group. Her research includes global musculoskeletal health and the implementation of ageing intervention in African contexts. She leads the KOSHESAI study that aims to implement community-based health checks for older people in Zimbabwe.



- Osteoporosis and fracture risk management

- Balance outcome measures



Dr Kathryn M. Sibley, PhD, Canada Research Chair in Integrated Knowledge Translation in Rehabilitation Sciences

Dr Kathryn (Kate) Sibley (she/her) is a settler Canadian and professor in Community and Global Health and Occupational Therapy at the University of Manitoba in Winnipeg. She holds degrees in kinesiology, rehabilitation and medical sciences and postdoctoral training in knowledge translation. Kate's research aims to optimize fall prevention and rehabilitation services for older adults and she works with organizations, clinicians, and community partners throughout her work.

Invited Speaker

Professor Kathryn Sibley

Invited Speaker

Professor Bo Abrahamsen

Consultant Endocrinologist, Professor, Holbæk Hospital

Bo Abrahamsen is an endocrinologist by training and primarily treats patients with osteoporosis, metabolic bone diseases and parathyroid disorders. He attended Medical School in Odense, Denmark and Experimental Pathology at St. Andrews, UK, and did part of his PhD lab work in Worcester, MA, USA.

Consultant Endocrinologist at Holbæk Hospital and Professor of Clinical Database Research at the University of Southern Denmark, and a Visiting Professor in Musculoskeletal Epidemiology at University of Oxford. President of the European Calcified Tissue Society 2020-2022. His research interests include fracture- and lifecourse epidemiology, and the safety and efficacy of anti-osteoporosis drugs and supplements. Professor Abrahamsen served on both ASBMR Task Forces on Atypical Femur Fractures, received the Golden Femur award in 2010, is a member of the CSA of the International Osteoporosis Foundation and has been a member of the Board of Directors of the American Society for Bone and Mineral Research.

- Vit D and Falls/fractures



Use the table below to help plan how you will spend your first day at the conference. More detailed information about the sessions in each stream can be found on the following pages.

	STREAM 1 Workshop	STREAM 2 Workshop	STREAM 3 Workshop	STREAM 4 Workshop
12.00	Registration			
13.00	Group Meetups Join colleagues over lunch to catch up Look out for the signs indicating where to meetup.			
14.00 - 15.00	Workshop 1	Workshop 2	Workshop 3	Workshop 4
15.00	Free time			
15.30-16.30	Workshop 5 Future	Workshop 6	Workshop 7	Workshop 8
16.30	Sponsored symposium			
17.30	Social programme: Networking with drinks and canapes Group meetups - SAS Grade, Trainees, Nurses and AHPs, Researchers, Workforce			

Use the table below to help plan how you will spend your second day at the conference.

	STREAM 1	STREAM 2	STREAM 3	STREAM 4
9.30 - 11.00	Invited speakers			
11.00	Free time			
11.30 - 13.00	FFN Invited Symposium	Analogue to digital	Hospital to community	LMIC
13.00	Lunch			
13.30	Sponsored symposia			
14.00 - 15.30	EuGMS Invited Symposium	Poster session	Poster session	Poster session
15.30	Free time			
15.45	Invited speakers			
17.30 - 18.00	Sponsored symposium			
19.00	Social programme: Dinner Meet and engage with colleagues over drinks and dinner All welcome: Tickets purchased during registration			

Use the table below to help plan how you will spend your second day at the conference. More detailed information about the sessions in each stream can be found on the following pages.

	STREAM 1	STREAM 2	STREAM 3	STREAM 4
9.30 - 11.00	Invited speakers			
11.00	Free time			
11.30 - 13.00	IOF + ESCEO Invited Symposium	Bone Health	Prevention	Research to Reality
13.00	Lunch			
13.30	Business Meeting of World Falls Group			
14.00 - 15.30	BGS Falls SIG Invited Symposium	Poster session	Poster session	Poster session
15.30	Free time			
15.45	Invited speakers			
17.30	Close of conference			