

Charlotte Kemp

I am a Consultant Clinical Scientist, Head of the Clinical Measurement Section of the Medical Physics Department at the James Cook University Hospital (JCUH), Middlesbrough. My section is responsible for delivering and developing safe and effective specialist services (e.g. sleep, critical care, intraoperative monitoring) in line with clinical need and the strategic requirements of South Tees Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. In addition to routine clinical work, I carry out clinically driven research and innovation projects with the aim of improving patient care. These projects often involve modifying equipment specific software, streamlining services, optimizing data analysis techniques or the design and construction of a brand new medical device or system.

After completing a BSc in Physics with Medical Physics at UCL in 2001, I enrolled on the Institute of Physics and Engineering in Medicine (IPEM) Medical Physics training scheme, spending the next three years undertaking three placements in different areas within Medical Physics (Radiotherapy, Physiological Measurement and Radiation Protection) and completing a MSc in Radiation Physics. I then specialised in Radiation Protection, however, my passion and interest were really in the area of physiological measurement. So, in June 2005, I stepped out of the NHS and in to academia, to study for a PhD in sleep studies at the Sleep Research Centre at Loughborough University.

I returned to the NHS as a clinical measurement medical physicist at the JCUH in November 2008, where I registered with the HCPC and was promoted to Principal Clinical Scientist in November 2010. After taking maternity leave for the majority of 2015, I gained Chartered Engineer status in October 2015 and became the Head of Clinical Measurement in January 2016.

I am delighted to be one of only four applications successful in being awarded a CSO WISE Fellowship. As I feel passionately about implementing the latest scientific and engineering techniques in to the healthcare setting, I am really looking forward to the opportunity for combined mentoring from leaders in industry, healthcare and academia, and using the knowledge that I gain from their wisdom to make a difference.

I am looking forward to reflecting on my career so far, networking with other women in STEM careers, and to utilizing the communication, personal development and leadership training that I will receive as part of the Fellowship to become a more succinct, engaging speaker and a more proficient leader.

I am excited about the opportunity to raise the profile of my profession and to reach out to young women as a role model and ambassador, with a particular aim to show how exciting, diverse and worthwhile a career in Medical Physics and Engineering can be and that it is possible to be driven, have a successful career and to be a mum as well!

If I can inspire one young woman to believe in themselves and see that they can pursue their goals in a STEM career when they may otherwise have shied away from reaching their potential, then I will consider my Fellowship to have been a success.