

Imaging Facilities Open Day 2026

Explore imaging technologies, expertise and
collaboration opportunities

Monday 14 September 2026 | 9.00am – 2.00pm

Michael Smith Lecture Theatre and Lounge

The University of Manchester

Join colleagues from across the University to discover the latest imaging capabilities,
meet facility teams, and explore how advanced imaging approaches can support
research across disciplines.

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Agenda:

Session1: Opening		
9.30am – 10.00am	Registration and coffee	
10.00am – 10.10am	Opening Remarks	Stavros Stivaros
10.10am – 10.50am	New and Future Innovations on Philips MR	David Higgins
10.50am – 11.20am	Coffee and posters	

Session 2: Current and future projects		
11.20am – 11.40am	Imaging vascular dysfunction in the Manchester Brain Health Centre	Laura Parkes
11.40am – 12.00pm	Developing Sodium MRI for the Early Detection of Vascular Cognitive Impairment	Sasha Philbert
12.00pm – 12.20pm	Imaging inflammation in brain tumours: From microenvironment to the clinic	Daniel Lewis
12.20pm – 12.40pm	Structural and functional brain imaging to understand brain function in neurodevelopmental conditions	Shruti Garg & Caroline Lea-Carnall
12.40pm – 12.50pm	Closing remarks	
12.50pm – 2.00pm	Lunch and posters	

Speakers:

Professor Stavros Stivaros:



Stavros Stivaros is Director of Imaging at the University of Manchester and a Paediatric Neuroradiologist at the Royal Manchester Children's Hospital. He directs the North of England and Northern Ireland Children's Epilepsy Surgery Service. His work on artificial intelligence in specific disease groups, such as children's brain tumours and Neurofibromatosis, has won international recognition at the Children's Tumour Foundation and the International Society of Paediatric Neuro-oncology. He was joint senior author on the

global study that first described SARS-CoV-2 infection in children's brains and lead on a multi-centre UK study on rates of inflicted trauma in children during lockdown.

Dr David Higgins:



Dr David Higgins is Philips Clinical Science Lead for MR in northern Europe, leading a team of scientists supporting research collaborations between Universities and leading hospitals with Philips. He loves to enable people and projects with complex information, and he has personally supported research on Philips MR systems at the University of Manchester for more than 18 years.



Professor Laura Parkes:

Laura Parkes is Professor of Neuroimaging at the University of Manchester with over 20 years experience in the invention, validation and application of MRI measurements of the human brain. Her research interests focus on cerebral blood flow, blood-brain barrier breakdown and neurovascular coupling, how they are altered in stroke and dementia, and how they may be modified to improve health.



Dr Sasha Philbert:

Dr Sasha Philbert is an Alzheimer's Society Postdoctoral Fellow in the Division of Cardiovascular Sciences with a background in neuroscience. His research interests centre around sodium and energy metabolism in vascular cognitive impairment, with the aim of improving diagnosis. To achieve this, he employs MRI methods, particularly sodium MRI, and mass spectrometry-based methods to identify molecular biomarkers of disease.



Dr Daniel Lewis:

I completed my medical school training at the University of Cambridge and Bart's and the London School of Medicine and Dentistry, graduating with a distinction. I subsequently undertook a master's in neuroimaging at the University of Edinburgh, before successfully completing a PhD programme at the University of Manchester investigating novel imaging biomarkers of tumour microenvironment in vestibular schwannoma. Following this I was appointed as a NIHR funded academic clinical fellow in neurosurgery within the North-western deanery and am currently in my seventh year of neurosurgical training. In 2024 I was fortunate to be appointed as a NIHR clinical lecturer in neurosurgery at the University of Manchester and my principal research focus lies in using advanced imaging techniques to evaluate both

the tumour microenvironment in central nervous system tumours and the response of this tumour microenvironment to therapy.



Professor Shruti Garg:

Shruti Garg is Professor of Translational Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Manchester and Honorary Consultant at Royal Manchester Children's Hospital. Her research uses multimodal neuroimaging to understand brain function in NF1 and other neurodevelopmental conditions.



Dr Caroline Lea-Carnall:

Dr Caroline Lea-Carnall is a Lecturer in Biological Sciences in the Division of Psychology, Communication and Human Neuroscience at the University of Manchester. Her research combines computational modelling with MRI, MRS and EEG to understand mechanisms of cortical plasticity, neural entrainment, and glutamate/GABA synaptic dynamics. She and Garg collaborate closely and co-lead SpinLab.

Key contacts:

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