



University College London Hospitals

NHS Foundation Trust

University College London Hospital, London, UK runs a national POEMS clinic for diagnosis, support and treatment of POEMS patients. A multi-specialist team of POEMS interested clinicians runs the clinic, with support from a specialist nurse, neurophysiology, ISO-accredited diagnostic laboratories and a neurorehabilitation service with physiotherapy, orthotics, occupational therapy and psychologists. We currently manage one of the largest reported cohorts of POEMS patients in Europe, with approximately 70 patients attending the clinic.

We are also conducting research into POEMS syndrome, to understand more about the UK POEMS cohort, and how we treat the disease compared to other countries. We have also recently recruited Dr Stephen Keddie, a neurology specialist registrar who has been awarded funding from the Association of British Neurologists to conduct 3 years of research into POEMS syndrome. He will be studying the pathogenesis of POEMS syndrome, looking specifically at the neuropathy it causes. This will involve taking blood and urine samples from patients, and testing cytokine production from patients with POEMS syndrome, compared to other causes of neuropathy. If you would like further details regarding this research project, see the research plan attached.

If you would like to be included in this service for clinical or research purposes, ask your clinician to refer to the team via Dr Keddie who will coordinate with the clinical leads either by email at Stephen.keddie@nhs.net or phone at 020 3448 3812.

Aviva our clinical nurse specialist can be contacted for clinical questions/ advice at via the Haematology Telephone Line on 020 3447 7359. For out of hours advice (emergency calls at evenings, weekends and Bank Holidays) call 0785 2220 900.

The UCLH POEMS Clinic team

Neurology



Dr Michael Lunn

Dr Lunn is a Consultant Neurologist and Clinical Lead in Neuroimmunology and Honorary Senior Lecturer at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery.

His specialist clinical and research interests are in the inflammatory neuropathies, particularly Guillain-Barré syndrome, CIDP and haematological neuropathy causing conditions such as paraproteinaemic neuropathies and POEMS syndrome.



Dr Stephen Keddie

Stephen is a neurology Specialist Registrar working in North London with an interest in peripheral nerve disorders. He received a 3-year research grant by the Association of British Neurologists to take time out of training to study POEMS syndrome pathogenesis, in particular the neuropathy it causes. His work will form the basis of a PhD.

Haematology



Dr Shirley D'Sa

Dr D'Sa is a haematologist with a specialist interest in Waldenström's macroglobulinaemia (WM) and associated disorders, POEMS syndrome and myeloma, working at University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust, London. She has weekly specialist clinics in WM, Myeloma, Lymphoma and POEMS. Her research is clinically orientated and comprises clinical trials in the field of WM, myeloma and other lymphomas, including Phase I, II and III trials of novel therapies, in addition to POEMS syndrome.



Dr David Foldes

David is a haematology specialist registrar with an interest in paraproteinaemias. During his previous training he worked at the NHNN and gained experience in the management of peripheral neuropathies, and POEMS unifies those broad interests. He helped to set up the POEMS database and is keen to apply its use for both patient care and research.

Endocrinology



Dr Stephanie Baldeweg

Dr Baldeweg is a Consultant Physician in Diabetes and Endocrinology at University College London Hospital and Honorary Senior Lecturer in the Department of Medicine at UCL. She graduated from Humboldt University, Berlin in 1990 and undertook her Specialist Training in London.

Dr Baldeweg is interested in all aspects of diabetes and endocrinology. She has a special clinical and research interest in pituitary disease, and is now looking to perform research in endocrine disorders secondary to POEMS syndrome.



Dr Francisca Caimari

Dr Caimari is a Clinical Fellow in Diabetes and Endocrinology at University College London Hospital. She finished her clinical training in Barcelona and moved to London in 2014 to undertake a PhD in the field of pituitary disease. After a 2-year fellowship in research, she is currently working as a clinical fellow, with a special interest in the impact of endocrine disorders caused by POEMS.

Specialist Nursing



Aviva Cerner

Aviva is a haematology Clinical Nurse Specialist focusing on myeloma and plasma cell disorders. She has worked as a haematology nurse at University College London Hospital for 15 years and before that in oncology and neurosurgery. During her time as a haematology nurse, she has developed a special interest in POEMS syndrome and the wide-ranging effects it has on the patient and their family and carers. She works with the team in the monthly POEMS clinic.