



Professor Ashley Blom
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Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery

Head of School

Area of research

Orthopaedic Surgery

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Summary

Biography

Professor Ashley Blom is the Head of the Department of Translational Health Sciences and is one of the University's 12 NIHR Senior Investigators.

He leads the analysis team of the National Joint Registry for England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man (NJR), which is the largest registry of joint replacements in the world. In addition to NJR research into the outcomes of arthroplasty, he leads major NIHR funded programmes into treating infection after arthroplasty; improving the patient experience of joint replacement; first-in-human studies of meniscal repair (including stem cell therapy) and biofunctionalisation of titanium. He leads the Orthopaedic workstreams into Surgical Innovation in the University of Bristol Biomedical Research Centre.

Professor Blom is currently the President of the European Orthopaedic Research Society and is member of both the Education and Specialist Societies Committees of the European Federation of National Associations of Orthopaedics and Traumatology.

Activities / Findings

Ashley and the team in the Musculoskeletal Research Unit have published seminal work on the safety and efficacy of Orthopaedic implants. This work includes papers published in the Lancet showing the catastrophically high failure rates of metal-on-metal and resurfacing hip replacements and showing which factors are associated with decreasing mortality after hip and knee replacement. The team are currently undertaking a large body of research into infection and have published work showing which factors are associated with an increased risk of infection after joint replacement. Ongoing work includes a multinational trial of one versus two stage revision for infected hip replacements and analysis of the NJR to determine the relative efficacy of different treatment strategies for infection after hip and knee replacement.

The team have recently completed a first-in-human study using stem cells to heal meniscal tears in the knee.

Keywords

- arthroplasty
- hip replacement
- knee replacement
- mortality
- metal-on-metal

Skills

- Osteoarthritis
- Rheumatoid arthritis

Methodologies

- trials
- Evidence Synthesis
- Qualitative data analysis
- statistical analysis

Expertise

I am an orthopaedic surgeon specialising in hip replacements. I lead large programmes of research into various aspects of arthroplasty including outcomes, adverse occurrence, development of novel treatments and provision of care. These programmes utilise a range of methodologies including evidence synthesis, bone biology, biomaterials, first-in-human trials, multicentre RCTs, analysis of routine datasets, qualitative research and health economics.

- outcomes of arthroplasty
- the safety of Orthopaedic implants
- restitution of bone stock loss

Memberships

Organisations

[Bristol Medical School](#)

[Bristol Medical School \(PHS\)](#)

[Bristol Medical School \(THS\)](#)

[Centre for Medical Education](#)

Other sites

- [Populationhealth](#)

Academic staff

- [School of Clinical Sciences Academic Staff](#)

Research groupings

- [Orthopaedic Surgery](#)
- [Musculoskeletal Research Unit](#)

Recent publications

- Bolink, SA, Lenguerrand, E, Brunton, LR, Hinds, N, Wylde, V, Heyligers, IC, Blom, AW, Whitehouse, MR & Grimm, B, 2019, '[The association of leg length and offset reconstruction after total hip arthroplasty with clinical outcomes](#)'. *Clinical Biomechanics*, vol 68., pp. 89-95
- Kunutsor, S, Wylde, V, Whitehouse, M, Beswick, A, Lenguerrand, E & Blom, A, 2019, '[Influence of Fixation Methods on Prosthetic Joint Infection Following Primary Total Knee Replacement: Meta-Analysis of Observational Cohort and Randomised Intervention Studies](#)'. *Journal of Clinical Medicine*, vol 8.
- Mangialardi, G, Ferland-McCollough, D, Maselli, D, Santopaolo, M, Cordaro, A, Spinetti, G, Sambataro, M, Sullivan, N, Blom, A & Madeddu, P, 2019, '[Bone marrow pericyte dysfunction in individuals with type 2 diabetes](#)'. *Diabetologia*.
- Knapper, TD, Dahill, M, Eastaugh-Waring, S, Baker, RP, Webb, JC, Blom, A & Whitehouse, M, 2019, '[Barbed sutures versus staples for closure in total hip arthroplasty using wound ooze as a primary outcome measure: A prospective study](#)'. *Journal of Orthopaedic Surgery*.
- Deere, K, Whitehouse, M, Porter, ML, Blom, A & Sayers, A, 2019, '[Assessing the non-inferiority of prosthesis constructs used in total and unicondylar knee replacements using data from the National Joint Registry of England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man: A benchmarking study](#)'. *BMJ Open*, vol 9., pp. e026736
- Deere, KC, Whitehouse, MR, Porter, M, Blom, AW & Sayers, A, 2019, '[Assessing the non-inferiority of prosthesis constructs used in hip replacement using data from the National Joint Registry of England, Wales, Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man: A benchmarking study](#)'. *BMJ Open*, vol 9.
- Burnand, H, McMahon, S, Sayers, A, Tshengu, T, Gibson, N, Blom, A, Whitehouse, M & Wylde, V, 2019, '[Comparing the measurement equivalence of paper and text message versions of the EQ-5D-3L in a rural South African setting](#)'. *Quality of Life Research*.
- Kunutsor, S, Beswick, A, Whitehouse, M, Blom, A & Lenguerrand, E, 2019, '[Implant Fixation and Risk of Prosthetic Joint Infection Following Primary Total Hip Replacement: Meta-analysis of Observational Cohort and Randomised Intervention Studies](#)'. *Journal of Clinical Medicine*.

- Barrett, M, Robertson-Waters, E, Whitehouse, M, Blom, A & Berstock, J, 2019, '[Trochanteric Spurs and Surface Irregularities on Plain Radiography Are Not Predictive of Greater Trochanteric Pain Syndrome](#)'. *Hip International*.
- Fletcher, D, Moore, AJ, Blom, AW & Wylde, V, 2019, '[An exploratory study of the long-term impact of difficulty kneeling after total knee replacement](#)'. *Disability and Rehabilitation*, vol 41., pp. 820-825

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