



## Elected governors 2020

### Candidates' election statements

Each candidate was asked to answer the following questions:

1. Tell members how you will make an effective contribution as a governor of Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust.
2. Tell members about yourself, your background and any personal, work or voluntary interests
3. Tell members why you decided to stand for election as a governor? What was your motivation? Why should members vote for you?

The views expressed in the election statements are those of the candidates only. Statements of fact, assertions and claims are made solely by the candidates and have not been validated by the trust.

**Patient constituency**  
**Public constituency (Camden, Barnet, Enfield and Hertfordshire)**  
**Public constituency (Rest of England)**  
**Staff constituency**

Patient constituency

Linda Bogod



**Tell members how you will make an effective contribution as a governor of Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust.**

I will bring passion, enthusiasm and energy to this important role. I am not afraid to speak out and challenge and I will work hard to ensure I make a difference. My experience will help me strive to ensure the best quality care for patients, working within budgetary constraints.

**Tell members about yourself, your background and any personal, work or voluntary interests.**

I was educated locally, have lived locally all my married life and brought up my children here. For the past fourteen years I have been doing voluntary work, giving back to the community after working for twenty years in the financial services sector. For the past nine years I have been a Board member and Trustee of a large health and social care organisation. I have significant experience dealing with the elderly and care homes and have also been involved with service delivery for the elderly and with governance. I also volunteer as a local Magistrate.

**Tell members why you decided to stand for election as a governor? What was your motivation? Why should members vote for you?**

My family and I have been treated at the Royal Free hospitals over many years. It was when I spent sixteen weeks in the Royal Free with my elderly father that I saw the brilliance and kindness of the staff and also the many problems they encountered. I decided then that I wanted to get involved. My professional background together with my experience in social care puts me in a strong position to listen and help promote staff, patient reforms, staff wellbeing, to ensure everyone is treated with dignity and respect and that there is a positive patient experience.

**Declaration of Interests**

Political party: None

Financial or other interest: None

Patient constituency

Oswald Fernando



**Tell members how you will make an effective contribution as a governor of Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust.**

I have been a Consultant Surgeon at the Royal Free Hospital for over 30 years. My involvement in patient care and management has shown me the needs of the not only the patient but the entire family.

**Tell members about yourself, your background and any personal, work or voluntary interests.**

I joined the Royal Free Hospital in 1968 and held posts as Research Fellow, Lecturer in Surgery and Consultant Transplant Surgeon till 1999. My work included the early development of the Renal Transplant Program at The Royal Free and the Children's Transplant program at Great Ormond Street. The Transplant Program is one of the leading Units in the UK.

I am still involved with the kidney Patients Association and also do the Independent Assessments for the Living Donor Transplants.

I have also trained many Transplant Surgeons for the UK and Sri Lanka, India and Pakistan.

**Tell members why you decided to stand for election as a governor? What was your motivation? Why should members vote for you?**

My Clinical experience with patients and their families has highlighted their special needs which are often not looked after by regular NHS care. I feel I can help introduce real practical solutions to many ongoing problems and shortfalls of the NHS and the Royal Free Group in particular. Retirement has allowed me more spare time to dedicate myself to other projects and duties.

**Declaration of Interests**

Political party: None

Financial or other interest: None

Patient constituency

Julian Goodkin



**Tell members how you will make an effective contribution as a governor of Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust.**

The experience I have gained through my business career, my people skills and ability to understand the challenges faced by large, complex organisations, my resilience and determination, mean that I will be resolute in ensuring the patient's perspective is given due importance by the directors of the Royal Free.

**Tell members about yourself, your background and any personal, work or voluntary interests.**

I have had a successful career in the Computer industry, working for IBM for 23 years across sales, marketing and large-scale computer projects. This has given me a deep insight into the challenges involved in data delivery and privacy protection, both issues of paramount importance to Royal Free patients. Running my own business for the last decade has further honed my problem solving; financial and interpersonal skills.

Additionally I have found time to volunteer with helping children read in school; have been a leader of my local synagogue and helped fund raise for various charities.

**Tell members why you decided to stand for election as a governor? What was your motivation? Why should members vote for you?**

I have many friends and acquaintances who owe their life to the care they have received in the trust's hospitals during the present crisis.

Now more than ever the patient governor's role in holding the Trust governors to account is vital. Their hospitals have proved to be our most precious and vital communal resource, but in providing such complex overall services, patients needs and opinions can sometimes be overlooked. I will do my utmost to use my expertise, knowledge, skills and commitment to represent patient concerns to ensure a similar standard of excellent care is maintained for the future.

**Declaration of Interests**

Political party: Labour Party

Financial or other interest: None

Public constituency  
(Camden, Barnet, Enfield  
and Hertfordshire)



## Hadiza Adeyemi

**Tell members how you will make an effective contribution as a governor of Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust.**

With my parents being current service users & myself being a volunteer worker of the Trust, I've had a vast experience at all levels. I'm passionate about continuous service improvement. My professional day job as an IT consultant will be useful in advocating for more technologically-innovative approaches in move to co-production.

**Tell members about yourself, your background and any personal, work or voluntary interests.**

I have been a co-opted school governor in an Ofsted-rated outstanding primary school, holding the position of 'Safeguarding/Special educational needs' LEAD during my tenure.

I successfully initiated a patient participation group in my local medical centre.

I have held the position of volunteer Diabetes UK Champion and awareness speaker for which I've given awareness talks to my local police unit, HMRC staff, various community centres, large family fun fairs, etc.

I chair a local Diabetes support group which meets weekly in Barnet. I was recently awarded a recognition of volunteer achievement from Diabetes UK for my work with them.

**Tell members why you decided to stand for election as a governor? What was your motivation? Why should members vote for you?**

I want to focus my work as a governor at the Royal Free NHS Trust on the needs of people who use the Trust's services, especially during tough economic times - ensuring that all users' and carers' voices are heard loud and clear.

I want to ensure that Royal Free NHS Trust provides the highest quality of care and that it always strives for excellence in all areas of its work whilst it continues to maintain consistent high standards even in times of economic downturns and health pandemics.

I'll be a vigorous, engaged, approachable and visible governor.

**Declaration of Interests**

Political party: None

Financial or other interest: None

Public constituency  
(Camden, Barnet, Enfield  
and Hertfordshire)



## Martin Connolly

**Tell members how you will make an effective contribution as a governor of Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust.**

Though young, I will represent minority voices to challenge and support the board and improve life for all patients - a critical friend to all, engaging to raise views that might otherwise go unheard, dedicating my time and energy to making the public better informed and their lives and care improved.

**Tell members about yourself, your background and any personal, work or voluntary interests.**

I am Irish, living with a Filipino nurse so I see first hand the hard work and dedication that goes into providing world class service and I want to represent these voices and other voices of a minority and all immigrants. A founding member of the Hampstead Volunteer Corps, I reacted quickly before lockdown to reach our neighbours and provide countless hours of critical support to the vulnerable and elderly in isolation. I work in consulting with an MBA background, and devote my time to dog walking, caring for the Heath and also volunteer at the Keats Community Library.

**Tell members why you decided to stand for election as a governor? What was your motivation? Why should members vote for you?**

I decided to stand because we have a world class health system but people must be held to account and the public must be informed, engaged and have a say in decisions that affect them and their loved ones. As an Irish person sharing a home with a Filipino nurse, I am determined minority and ethnic voices will be heard, and I will be a critical friend to neighbours as I have proved in my volunteer work already. I will use my time and energy to improve care for the public interest and ensure the board are supported and challenged.

**Declaration of Interests**

Political party: None

Financial or other interest: None

Public constituency  
(Camden, Barnet, Enfield  
and Hertfordshire)



## Vishaal Virani

**Tell members how you will make an effective contribution as a governor of Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust.**

I will fight relentlessly and tenaciously for the rights of the local community. I will take the time to not only understand but also to empathise with individuals' concerns. I will then collaborate with fellow governors to present compelling and community-led arguments to the Trust board to address these concerns.

**Tell members about yourself, your background and any personal, work or voluntary interests.**

I am a doctor by background but I now dedicate my life to creating innovations which improve patient care. I do this through my day job developing a symptom assessment technology that empowers patients to better understand and address their health concerns. I also do this through my voluntary work as co-founder of the Doctorpreneurs community, which inspires doctors and patients to generate entrepreneurial ideas that transform healthcare.

I have also been a trustee for a large member-led charity, and a school governor. These responsibilities required me to advocate for the local community and membership, thereby holding boards to account.

**Tell members why you decided to stand for election as a governor? What was your motivation? Why should members vote for you?**

I owe the Royal Free Trust so much; I spent my formative years through medical school in the Royal Free squash courts, the wards and the library. More recently, Barnet Hospital's NICU helped my premature son to survive and thrive. It is now time to give back.

Through my deeply personal relationship with the Trust, my previous work holding boards to account on behalf of members, and my understanding of how new ideas and innovations can improve patient care I think I would bring a unique perspective that will help the Trust to better serve the local community.

**Declaration of Interests**

Political party: None

Financial or other interest: None

Public constituency  
(Rest of England)



Amy  
Adesara

**Tell members how you will make an effective contribution as a governor of Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust.**

With over five years of experience as a front line doctor, working in various different health care settings across London, I believe I have gained unique insight on how the quality of governance impacts the workplace culture, and how this then directly impacts the quality of care patients receives.

**Tell members about yourself, your background and any personal, work or voluntary interests.**

I am a GP trainee based in London. I have worked in various healthcare settings across London and in the midlands.

Over the past few years, I have been struck by how inefficient many of the processes and systems are within the NHS, how often the system feels disjointed and fragmented, and how backward many of our IT systems are.

I have an interest in trying to make health care systems more efficient. I have seen first hand how digitalizing can improve efficiency and thus patients care. I have also worked in refugee camps as a doctor.

**Tell members why you decided to stand for election as a governor? What was your motivation? Why should members vote for you?**

I feel I have unique insight and first-line experience to contribute to the team. I have a lot of energy and motivation to improve the work environment for staff and patient care. I am also keen to learn from others, I feel I am a good team player, and I believe this is a good opportunity to give back to the local community.

#### Declaration of Interests

Political party: None

Financial or other interest: None

Staff constituency



Annette  
Heslop

**Tell members how you will make an effective contribution as a governor of Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust.**

As a governor I will be a voice for all staff no matter what jobs you do in the Trust. I will speak on your behalf and raise your concerns. I want to be able to use the knowledge that I have to make a difference for us all.

**Tell members about yourself, your background and any personal, work or voluntary interests.**

I am a Junior sister working at the Barnet site and have a passionate interest in helping and supporting others. At work I am also a Mental health first aider and love to support staff with their well-being. I am also the Unison Branch Secretary, BME Co Chair and Staff side secretary and all these roles interlink with helping and supporting colleagues.

I am very social and love meeting people, always connecting with a smile. You will catch me on the dance floor at any function and I love my soul stepping and I love to travel.

**Tell members why you decided to stand for election as a governor? What was your motivation? Why should members vote for you?**

I am passionate about equality and inclusion and know the importance of having people in positions that represent the diversity of the Trust. As a BME staff member, I want to make a difference and the role of governor appeals to me as I have witnessed inequality when representing members.

I have a strong belief that everybody should be treated the same and not to be discriminated against. We are a Trust with different cultures and all voices need to be heard. This role will enable me to be change agent and a voice for staff and patients.

#### Declaration of Interests

Political party: Labour Party

Financial or other interest: None

Staff constituency



Susan  
Tierney

**Tell members how you will make an effective contribution as a governor of Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust.**

As a senior nurse who has worked in the organisation for many years, I am a visible leader who understands importance of feedback and I regularly visit clinical areas to see and check on staff. I will represent the best interests of the staff in a constructive, positive way.

**Tell members about yourself, your background and any personal, work or voluntary interests.**

I am honoured to say I have worked at Barnet and within the organisation for over 20 years and have worked with many colleagues across all sites. I am extremely proud of our staff and the daily contributions they make to the lives of our patients. I lead with compassion and kindness and strive to ensure as an organisation we deliver world class care to our patients. I promote a fair, consistent culture with equality and diversity at the forefront of everything. I am married with 2 teenage daughters and part of a weekly 5k parkrun community for 4 years.

**Tell members why you decided to stand for election as a governor? What was your motivation? Why should members vote for you?**

I want to see the trust be an outstanding organisation, delivering high quality patient care to all. Staff are our greatest asset and must be valued, fully supported and engaged with, to achieve this objective. I am committed to understand staff issues and successes. I have experience in coaching, leading and implementing change and facilitating staff groups and board meetings so I can effectively represent staff fairly and equitably. I am passionate about engaging and supporting staff development and wellbeing. This position will enable me to articulate the contributions and concerns of those I represent to effect meaningful change.

#### Declaration of Interests

Political party: None

Financial or other interest: None

Staff constituency

## Hemant Vakharia



**Tell members how you will make an effective contribution as a governor of Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust.**

As a Trust governor I will endeavour to make an effective contribution by demonstrating my enthusiasm and commitment to the trust's development for the good of the community we serve. Further, I will use my experiences gained during my clinical career to represent the voice of both staff and patients.

**Tell members about yourself, your background and any personal, work or voluntary interests.**

I am a consultant obstetrician and gynaecologist with a special interest in minimal access surgery. My medical education began at the Royal Free Hospital and after qualifying as a doctor, I trained in the region as an obstetrician and gynaecologist before joining the trust as a consultant at Barnet hospital.

I am passionate about improving women's health services at the Trust and I especially enjoy teaching, training and medical innovation. I currently hold the post of clinical director of women's services on the Barnet site and in my role I work closely with stakeholders to deliver women's health services.

**Tell members why you decided to stand for election as a governor? What was your motivation? Why should members vote for you?**

My motivation to stand for election as a Trust governor stems from my long standing affiliation with the trust and desire to safeguard its ability to provide world class services to its patients. In addition to being a member of staff, I am a resident within the London borough of Barnet and regard the trust's three sites as my local hospitals.

With the changing landscape of healthcare services in the sector, I am very keen to represent the staff body by providing a clinical voice whilst simultaneously championing the needs of the local community in developing the trust's strategic vision.

### Declaration of Interests

Political party: None

Financial or other interest: None

Staff constituency

## George Verghese



**Tell members how you will make an effective contribution as a governor of Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust.**

Understanding a patients' needs is central to delivering effective healthcare. As a clinician I am aware that this relationship could sometimes be overlooked in the running of the Trust as a Business.

As a Governor I will refocus attention where it is needed.

I will attend the necessary meetings.

**Tell members about yourself, your background and any personal, work or voluntary interests.**

I am currently a Staff Governor and Orthopaedic Consultant at our Trust.

Outside my immediate clinical responsibilities, I am also involved with:

- Teaching, Training and Examining
- National Faculties (Courses and Examinations)
- Clinical Lead for Governance and Audit for my department.
- External duties with other NHS Organizations (NIHR, Health Education England, Research Ethics Committee, Royal College, etc)
- Conducting appraisals for the Trust

I am married and I have two sons. My interests are music (blues and rock) and cycling.

**Tell members why you decided to stand for election as a governor? What was your motivation? Why should members vote for you?**

- Because I believe in the Patient being at the heart of the Trusts' business, and our Staff our ultimate resource.
- These are difficult times, with difficult decisions being made. As a Governor, I have already gained the skills and experience to advise the Board regarding these decisions. I will continue providing a strong and well-informed clinical voice, and to hold the relevant officials to account.
- My clinical background as an Orthopaedic Surgeon, and the close working relationships I have developed with colleagues, have helped me understand their challenges to and to raise their concerns to the Board.

### Declaration of Interests

Political party: None

Financial or other interest: None

Staff constituency

## Tony Wolff



**Tell members how you will make an effective contribution as a governor of Royal Free London NHS Foundation Trust.**

I am committed to provision of the very best service for our patients whilst caring for each and every one of our staff. Every member of staff whatever their role and wherever they work needs to be valued.

As a staff governor I would keep these ideals to the forefront.

**Tell members about yourself, your background and any personal, work or voluntary interests.**

I have worked in the NHS for over 40 years and at Barnet Hospital for over 25 years. I am a consultant working in Intensive Care and also one of the Chief Medical Information Officers. My long service and disparate roles ensure that I engage with and learn from a vast variety of the staff. My mother-in-law is a resident in a local retirement home and so I frequently hear tales of the good and not so good service that we provide. This gives me a real insight into the service that we provide.

**Tell members why you decided to stand for election as a governor? What was your motivation? Why should members vote for you?**

I have been a governor for the past six years and this is my last chance to continue to serve. I believe that one needs a range of experience among the governors, it takes time to settle into the role and I believe it is valuable to have a few governors with a degree of past experience. The role is extremely satisfying and it gives me great pleasure when I can raise issues that staff or patients feel are importance. As a member of staff nearing the end of my career I am less anxious about raising sensitive issues.

### Declaration of Interests

Political party: None

Financial or other interest: None