Convention 2023 programme
Welcome to the 2023 Convention!

Our staff and trustees team are so pleased to welcome you to this year’s convention!

The Child Growth Foundation (CGF) team will be in our blue CGF tops if you have any queries during the event.

Condition groups can be identified by the colour of their lanyard and attendees who have not attended a convention before can be recognised by an asterisk* on their name badge.

About the venue

Bar

Delta Hotels Warwick are kindly providing a 20% discount for the weekend on beer, wine and soft drinks. This 20% discount should automatically come off your bill however, if you are unsure please check with the bar staff.

Car Park

There is no charge for parking for CGF attendees, whether you are staying in the hotel or just coming for the day. The venue has advised us the barrier will be up over the weekend for attendees to drive straight in.

Wi-Fi

The Marriott Bonvoy Wi-Fi is available, and is a free network open to all event attendees and hotel guests.

Friday evening

For those of you joining on the Friday evening, the venue has advised they’ll have buffet and carvery food available for those wishing to have a meal. You can contact the hotel to book a table in advance.

Please make your way to the Avon Suite for 7.30pm where our staff and trustees will be there to greet you. We will have a magician to entertain the children along with a fun, family friendly quiz.

Saturday daytime

In this programme you will see our Saturday daytime agenda for sessions, organised by condition streams. The agenda has details of talk topics, speakers and timings.

Please come to Avon Suite from 8.30am, for a prompt 9am start of the day’s talks.

Condition Groups

Although each condition group has sessions appropriate to the condition, if another session
interests you and you would like to join one of the other groups, please feel free to do so.

In the hotel lobby

Paediatric Endocrine Nurse Specialist stand

Lisa Hill, CGF’s Paediatric Endocrine Nurse Specialist, will be hosting a stand with CGF booklets along with growth hormone and injection aid materials and information.

CGF merchandise and t-shirt

Please pop along to the merchandise stand where various items of CGF merchandise will be available to purchase, with monies raised going towards our charity's work.

Over The Wall

The charity Over The Wall are joining the event with a stand. The charity support children with serious illnesses and disabilities, and their families, to discover a world of mischief and magic.

Food and entertainment

Saturday lunch

Lunch will be held from 12.30pm to 2.30pm. The SRS/IUGR/SGA groups will have lunch between 12.30-1.30pm and the Sotos/GHD/MPHD groups will have lunch between 1.30pm-2.30pm. Please vacate your table as soon as you have finished your meal, to enable other attendees to be seated.

Children will have lunch with you, so please collect your child promptly from the creche or youth group.

Saturday evening dinner and entertainment

The evening will commence at 7pm in the Avon Suite and dinner will be served at 7.30pm. We welcome back Tom Wyllie who will be entertaining us throughout the evening, along with fun party games and Magic Mirror Photo Booth joining the event.

Raffle and tombola

Raffle tickets will be available throughout the day and evening various prizes. The raffle will be drawn Saturday evening, but don’t worry, if you win a prize and you are not there to collect it, we will post it on to you. Please make sure we have your name and a contact name/email for us to contact you about your prize.

During lunch, we will be running a tombola stall, so come along and try your luck!

Many thanks to our members, attendees, supporters and businesses for their kind prize donations, we’re very grateful for any prizes donated and brought along!

Monies raised will go towards our charity’s work.
Children and young people

As advised during the booking process, the daytime sessions are not suitable for children and young people and so please ensure you have childcare arrangements in place, such as pre-booked places in our creche or youth group.

Creche and youth group

Those booked in to the creche will be looked after by Jayne and her fabulous team from Dainty Little Hands, who will also be facilitating our youth group activities.

The creche is situated in Warwick rooms 1 and 2, and the youth group is situated in room 2, 3 and 4. These are open from 8.15am.

We know from previous experience that the registration process is important to ensure the handover of a happy child. To assist in making this process run smoothly, please do not leave registration to the last minute.

We hope that registration runs very smoothly but if it is apparent that the process is becoming overwhelmed at any time, you may be asked to return a few minutes later, once the 'queue' has subsided. Parents will not be allowed to stay in the creche or youth group.

Please collect your child promptly for lunch. The creche and youth group will close at 5.30pm promptly. Please do not be late collecting your child(ren).

We are delighted to have Rocksteady Music School joining the youth group in the morning followed by Pop Up Arcade in the afternoon.

Sunday morning

If you'd like to ask any questions or have a chat with our team before you leave, we'll be in Warwickshire Suite on the Sunday morning.

Our nursing team, Sally Majid and Lisa Hill, are running bookable support sessions on the Sunday morning held in separate rooms, with slots available 9am, 9.30am, 10am, 10.30am and 11am. Please visit the welcome desk and ask for the booking form to reserve your slot. There are ten slots available in total and once these are booked the sessions will be full and the booking form unable to take more bookings.

Thank you!

Thank YOU so much to everyone involved in this special event, including speakers, volunteers, trustees, staff, entertainment providers, childcare providers and attendees. We couldn’t do this event without you all, and are so grateful for your support, involvement and engagement!
Our speakers

- Martine Monksfield
- Dr Hayley Trower
- Stephanie Yin
- Professor Justin Davies
- Dr Alison Foster
- Dr Sumana Chatterjee
- Professor Stephen Shalet
- Jeff Bolton
- Professor Helen L Storr
- Dr Emma Wakeling
- Professor John W Gregory
- Jessica Watts
- Rob George
- Emily Pidcock
- Clare Wood
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<tr>
<th>Times</th>
<th>Overarching sessions Room: Avon</th>
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<th>SRS Room: Avon</th>
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<th>SGA IUGR Room: Board Room 1</th>
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<tr>
<td>09.00-09.45</td>
<td>Opening plenary, Chair of Trustees Jeff Bolton <em>(Avon room)</em></td>
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<td>09.30-09.45</td>
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<td>Silver-Russell syndrome – why genetic diagnosis matters, Professor Justin Davies and Emma Wakeling</td>
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<td>Meet the expert SGA IUGR, Dr Sumana Chatterjee</td>
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<td>11.15-11.45</td>
<td>Morning tea &amp; coffee</td>
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<td>Patient Emily Pidcock, facilitated by Ruth Wylie</td>
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<td>Transition planning &amp; advice in adulthood for SRS, Professor Justin Davies and Dr Emma Wakeling</td>
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<td>Afternoon Tea &amp; networking</td>
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<td>16.00-17.00</td>
<td>Closing Plenary, The Missing Piece: mental health and rare disease, Stephanie Yin at Rarеminds <em>(Avon room)</em></td>
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<td>17.00-17.30</td>
<td>Makaton v British Sign Language (BSL) and its uses in language development with children with additional needs, Martine Monksfield <em>(Avon room)</em> OR Late afternoon tea &amp; networking</td>
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*Child Growth Foundation Convention 2023*
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<td>Recognition and management of growth hormone deficiency, Professor Helen L Storr <em>(Hatton room)</em></td>
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<td>Patient Rob George, facilitated by Sally Majid</td>
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<td>Parent Jess Watts, facilitated by Jeff Bolton</td>
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<td>Behavioural issues and support for related growth conditions, Hayley Trower at Cerebra Network</td>
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Trustees

Jeff Bolton, Chair

I was born and grew up in Pontypridd, in Wales and studied at Cardiff University, with BSc (Hons) and MBA degrees, I joined the pharmaceutical industry in 1990.

I performed a range of roles in the industry, including sales representative, sales manager, commercial manager, and marketing manager and from 2002, I worked in growth hormone marketing and, as a European marketing director at Pfizer.

I am passionate about growth disorders and have worked with a range of organisations to develop literature and support materials for the children and their families and have won UK and European awards for several of my growth hormone marketing campaigns.

I am so pleased and excited to be part of the CGF and am greatly looking forward to supporting us in any way I can. I became trustee of the CGF for over two years and became Chair in 2022.

Jessica Watts, Vice Chair

I am married with four children.

Our daughter Skye has evolving Panhypopituitarism. She was diagnosed at two with GHD, lost cortisol at the age of seven; and recently lost her thyroid.

We have found her condition very hard at times but discovered so much support through the CGF. In my spare time I like to make chocolate and bake and I have recently started knitting.

Steve George, Treasurer

I have GHD as did my father before me.

I had treatment as a child in the 1970’s but had a break for a number of years until I found out that treatment had been approved for adults and I was subsequently accepted for treatment, which I still receive.

I joined the CGF a number of years ago because of this and then I found out that my son Robert also inherited the condition.

I have worked all over Europe and am a qualified accountant and a chartered secretary. Having recently taken early retirement I felt it a good time to use my experience in business and try to give something back.
Laura Cadd

Our son James was first diagnosed with RSS MuPD7 when he was 18 months old - he’s now 15 years old and about to start his final year at secondary school! James was IUGR and born at 32 weeks weighing 2lb 6oz. James had severe reflux, delayed gastric emptying and global development delay. He was diagnosed with a speech disorder in 2021 and with ASD in December 2022.

We reached out to the CGF in the early years when we were searching for information and support, and it provided that in bucket loads, so I’m pleased to now be giving a little back as a trustee.

I have over 20 years' experience in marketing communications and PR in the public and third sectors. I live in Winchester with my husband Rob, James, our daughter Olivia.

Nick Child

My involvement with the Foundation began in 1999 following my daughter's diagnosis with a growth condition.

The support, information, networking and exchange of experiences and knowledge was really valuable to us as a family then, and is equally important today. I quickly became more involved with the CGF and took on the role of Group Leader then trustee and was very proud to have been the Chair of Trustees for the Child Growth Foundation, stepping down in 2022.

My work responsibilities are based on Marketing & Technology for an industrial company. The main skills that I perceive are of most benefit to the CGF include business management, marketing, leadership and team working.

Anthony Leyton-Thomas

I am a freelance writer and editor primarily specialising in design, travel and the creative sector. I live on the Hertfordshire/Essex border with my wife Jacqueline, our four children, and way too many pets.

My family have been members of the CGF since very soon after our second son, Ivo, was diagnosed with Sotos at the age of five. The CGF helped us navigate those confusing early days, equipping us with the practical information we needed to make sense of things and get the support we needed, while also making us realise we were not alone.

I am proud to have been previously involved in fundraising for the CGF – including running the London Marathon in 2021 and 2023 – and honoured to be on the board of trustees.
**Rachel Pidcock**

I’ve been a long-term trustee of the CGF since 2003 when our daughter, Emily, was diagnosed with RSS (11p15) and we attended our first convention.

Along with my husband Dan and other daughter Fran, we’ve enjoyed many happy get-togethers at the convention each year since.

I have over 20 years’ experience in children’s publishing, working as a translation rights specialist and running my own rights agency along with two other colleagues. Communication and negotiation are key skills needed, as well as a love of books, languages and travel.

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**Linda Washington**

I am the mother of an adult daughter, Helen, who has RSS Mupd7.

I became a trustee over 15 years ago to give something back to the Foundation after receiving a lot of practical and emotional support during Helen’s first years.

After a long career working as a Financial Controller I have recently retired and am enjoying spending lots of time with my two young grandchildren.

I also enjoy gardening, singing in a choir (any other 'Rockies' out there?!), playing the ukulele in a local group and playing table tennis.

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**Clare Wood**

I have been a member of the CGF for over 19 years since my daughter, Katie, was diagnosed with Sotos Syndrome.

I wanted to become more involved with the charity this year to help raise awareness of this overgrowth syndrome and to support parents and families.

I have a great deal of experience and knowledge of Sotos Syndrome and of parenting a child with the condition and am looking forward to helping the CGF develop more services and support for families affected by that condition.

I work at a local primary school with children with learning difficulties and I’m also a governor within the school.
Staff team

Lisa Hill, Paediatric Endocrine Nurse Specialist

I started working with the CGF in May 2023 as a Paediatric Endocrine Nurse Specialist (PENS). I feel very lucky to have been given the opportunity to undertake this new and exciting role for the CGF.

I have always worked with children, young people and their families starting with supporting children with autism and moderate to severe learning difficulties in a residential school setting. I moved into nursing in 2009 and I knew immediately that it was the career for me.

I will be working part time with the CGF but will also continue my role as a PENS at a local hospital. I live in Nottinghamshire with my husband and two children. When I’m not working, I enjoy crafts, going on family walks or to the agility field with our dog and ice skating with my daughters.

Sally Majid, Growth Nurse Specialist

I joined the CGF in June 2021. I’m a paediatric nurse with over 20 years’ experience in various hospital and community settings. Alongside this role, I continue to work part time on the general paediatric ward at my local hospital.

I am passionate about improving the healthcare journey for both the child and family through education and joint working, particularly those with rare conditions.

I am married to Jamee, we have two children – Otto (12) and Frieda (9). I love to cook, exercise and escape to the allotment!

Laura Roy, Finance and Admin Manager

I started working for the CGF in May 2016.

I first contacted the CGF regarding my son. Samuel was born prematurely, and was IUGR/SGA. At four years old he was diagnosed with Growth Hormone Deficiency.

I have two boys, Samuel and Sebastian, and am married to Suman.

Catriona Taylor, Charity Manager

I joined the CGF in October 2022 and I’m delighted to be part of the Foundation’s fantastic work.

My background is in the charity sector, working in fundraising, communications and operations for cancer research, children’s and befriending organisations. My role here at the CGF includes working with our staff team, trustees, supporters and volunteers to coordinate our marketing and communications, to raise funds, to increase awareness and to manage day to day operations.

I live in the North East of England with my husband Frank and our two children, Finn and Erin.