

# Alexia Farrugia—Clinical Fellow in Specialist Surgery



I graduated as a doctor in 2013 from the University of Malta, and started my working career there. I became a surgical trainee and despite an interest in research the opportunities were few and far between, both due to clinical commitments and lack of knowledge on how to start. I decided to apply for a more research focused job and to prepare for this I read for a Masters in Advanced Surgical practice at Cardiff University. I started working here as a Clinical Research fellow in General surgery and am attached to the Hepatobiliary team within the department since November 2017.

My research focuses on the effects of bile acid diarrhoea after cholecystectomy (BADCaP study). We are currently recruiting for the study. As part of this we are also setting up a multicentre retrospective audit to look at how such patients are investigated, for which we already have about 5 other centres interested. This project is undertaken as part of an MD degree with the University of Warwick. During my fellowship I have also had the opportunity to become involved in bigger projects, as well as assist fellow researchers with their work.

I have also become involved with the RICOCHET steering committee which is a national audit looking at pancreatic cancer care pathways. I became involved in this after meeting the chair of the steering committee through work and conferences, and was invited to join the committee which is currently working on data analysis and write up. Though data is not fully analysed we are already seeing some interesting patterns in patient care which we hope to publish soon.

As an HPB team we have also recently collaborated with other centres in collecting some data regarding patients over 80 years old operated for pancreatic cancer, looking at outcome compared with younger patients, which we hope to take forward in expanding out service. Besides this I am also involved in local audits.

