

Personal details and date of CV

- Surname: Harvala (married name Simmonds)
- First names: Heli Johanna
- ORCID ID: 0000-0001-9154-4190
- Date of CV: 22nd September 2024

Degrees

- Fellowship in Public Health Microbiology, ECDC, Sweden, September 2016
- Certificate of Completion of Training (CCT) in Medical Microbiology, GMC, June 2015
- Title of Docent, Molecular Virology, University of Turku, May 2013
- PhD in Virology, Medical Faculty, University of Turku, Finland, October 2003
- MSc in Chemistry, Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of Turku, Finland, August 2003
- LicMed in Clinical Medicine, Medical Faculty, University of Turku, Finland, May 2002

Current employment

- Professor of Virology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Turku, September 2024 –
- Lead for Theme III, Blood and Transplant Research Unit (BTRU GEMS), University of Oxford, April 2022 – present
- Consultancy work for the Finnish Red Cross, May 2024 - present

Previous work experience

- Consultant Medical Virologist, NHS Blood and Transplant, England, 2018-2024
- Principal Investigator (50% of time), NHS Blood and Transplant, 2021-2024
- Consultant Medical Virologist, University College of London Hospital, London, 2016-2017
- Fellow in Public Health Microbiology, Stockholm, Public Health Sweden, 2014-2016
- Specialist Trainee in Medical Virology, Royal Infirmary, Edinburgh, 2007-2015
- Maternity Leave, 2006-2007 and 2008-2009
- Junior Doctor (PrHO and SHO), Western General Hospital, Edinburgh, 2004-2006
- Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, Division of Virology, University of Glasgow, 2003-2004
- Clinical Lecturer in Virology (part time), University of Oulu, Finland, 2002-2003
- General Practitioner (part time, Central Health Care Centre, Naantali, Finland, 2001-2003
- Clinical Lecturer in Virology (part time), University of Turku, Finland, 2000-2002

Research funding and grants

- National Institute for Health Research: Blood Transfusion Research Unit on Transfusion and Transplant Transmitted Infections – Genomics to Enhance Microbiological Screening (BTRU-GEMS), 1/4/2022-30/3/2027 (co-applicant) (NIHR203338, £3,869,914]
- NHS Blood and Transplant Research Fund: Virological safety of blood donations after the introduction of FAIR policy in the UK in 2021, 1/8/2021 – 31/12/2022 (PI) [£25,000]
- European Commission HORIZON2020 Grant: Supporting high quality evaluation of COVID-19 convalescent plasma in Europe. Co-chair for Work Package 4: Improving plasma potency assessment, 1/7/2020 – 30/6/2022 (£63,940 as co-investigator) [total funding 4,021,277€]
- NHS Blood and Transplant Research Fund: Blood donation screening for parvovirus B19 and HAV, 1/1/2021 – 30/6/2021 (PI) [£50,000]
- National Institute for Health Research: The use of convalescent plasma to treat critically ill patients with COVID-19, 01/05/2020-30/04/2023 (estimated £200,000 as co-investigator) [£2,918,220].
- European Society for Clinical Virology Research: SARS-CoV-2 seroprevalence across Europe, 1/8/2020 -31/7/2021 (co-applicant) [€25,000]

Research output

- Over **120** authored virology papers including over 100 original and 16 review articles listed on PubMed with 7,230 citations and author **H-index 48**. Appendix for further details.

Research supervision and leadership experience

- **Leading a research group at the University of Oxford**, UK: Second supervisor for a *DPhil* student (2019-2023), supported one *PhD* student (2019-2022), first supervisor for a *DPhil* student (from 2022), supervisor for a visiting *PhD* student (2022-2023) and first supervisor for three further *DPhil* students funded from my BTRU-GEMS grant (from September 2023), University of Oxford.
- **Undergraduate teaching experience** at the University College of London, University of Edinburgh, the University of Oulu and at the University of Turku.
- **Post-graduate teaching experience** in the London and South-East England, NHS Blood and Transplant, England and UCL Hospital NHS hospital, London, UK.
- **Further leadership experience** via chairing several committees within NHS Blood and Transplant and as a chair of Senior Clinical Virology Examiners for the Royal College of Pathologist.

Teaching merits

- PhD Supervisors on-line course, University of Oxford, UK, 2020 and 2023
- Trained RCPATH Examiner in Clinical Virology, 2017
- Completed an Educational Supervisor Training at the UCLH, 2016
- Completed course for PBL tutors at the University of Turku, Finland, 2000
- My MSc degree included basic pedagogical courses required for teacher training (20 OV)

Study materials

- Developed a new three-day module in Phylogenetics and Bioinformatics for European Centre for Disease Control (ECDC) Stockholm with the microbiological cases studies, 2016-2018. Subsequently, I led the developing and delivering this for the ECDC summer schools in Stockholm, 2016 and 2017, and for the ECDC EPIET/EUPHEM fellows in Berlin, 2017 and 2018.
- Clinical lead for the project developing three interactive on-line teaching lectures for Transfusion Microbiology teaching, 2019-2021

Awards and honours

- RCPATH Achievement Award, ([RCPATH Achievement Awards 2021](#)), 2021
- Abbott Young Researcher Investigator Award, European Society for Clinical Virology, 2012

Other key academic merits

Invited Main Opponent for PhD thesis

- University of Copenhagen, Denmark, 26th August 2024
- University of Oslo, Norway, 14th December 2023
- Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden, 10th November 2023

Invited Reviewer for PhD thesis

- University of Helsinki, Finland, 2022: Dr Maarit Ahava
- University of Helsinki, Finland, 2022: Dr Leonóra Szirovicza
- University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands, 2020: Dr Lieke Brouwer
- University of Tampere, Finland, 2019: Dr Laura Korhonen
- University of Turku, Finland, 2016: Dr Riitta Turunen

- University of Helsinki, Finland, 2016: Dr Niina Putkuri

Member of Organising and Scientific Committees for International meetings

- International HTLV meeting, London, UK, 2024
- European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Barcelona, Spain, 2024
- European Society for Clinical Virology, Milan, Italy, 2023
- European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Copenhagen, UK, 2023
- European Picornavirus Meeting, Harrogate, UK, 2022
- European Society for Clinical Virology, Manchester, UK, 2022
- European Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases, Lisbon, Portugal, 2022

Roles in International and National Professional Committees by Invitation

- WHO Regional Commission for the Certification of Poliovirus Eradication, 2024 – present
- Chair of WHO Blueprint R&D Evaluation Committee for Picornaviruses, 2022-2024
- Scientific Programme Committee Member for ECCMID, 2021 - present
- Meetings Secretary for the European Society for Clinical Virology (ESCV), 2016 - present
- Chair of Senior Clinical Virology Examiners for the Royal College of Pathologist, 2023 - present
- Associate Editor for Transfusion Medicine, 2021 - present
- Chair of Microbiology Specialist Interest group for British Blood Transfusion Society, 2020-2024
- Chair of Standing Advisory Committee of Transfusion Transmitted Infections, 2023 - present
- Member of Standing Advisory Committee of Blood, Tissues and Organs for several Committees
- Member of National UK Taskforce for SARS-CoV-2 Serological Standards, 2020-2021

Invited Presentations in Established International and/or UK Society meetings

- IFPA/PEI Workshop on Surveillance and Screening of Blood-Borne Pathogens. Denmark, 2023
- Scandinavian Virology Meeting. Norway, 2023
- IFPA/PEI Workshop on Surveillance and Screening of Blood-Borne Pathogens. Portugal, 2022.
- Congress of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases (ECCMID). Lisbon, Portugal, 2022.
- The European Society for Pediatric Infectious Diseases (ESPID). Rotterdam, NL. On-line, 2020
- The German Society for Transfusion Medicine and Immunohematology. Mannheim, 2019
- Nordic Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases. Trondheim, Norway, 2019
- European Picornavirus Meeting (EUROPIC), Egmond aan Zee, the Netherlands, 2018.
- Meeting of the European Society for Clinical Virology (ESCV). Lake Maggiore, Italy, 2017.
- Meeting of the European Society for Pediatric Infectious Diseases (ESPID). Madrid, Spain, 2017.
- Annual Meeting of the European Society for Clinical Virology (ESCV). Madrid, Spain, 2022.
- Institute of Biomedical Science Congress (IBMS). Birmingham, UK, 2022.
- Conference of the UK Microbiology Society. Belfast, Ireland, 2019
- Annual Infectious Diseases Diagnostics Conference. London, UK, 2019.
- Conference of Healthcare Infection Society (HIS). Liverpool, UK, 2018.
- Conference of British Blood Transfusion Society (BBTS). Brighton, UK, 2018.

Dissemination of scientific knowledge through other means

- Public Lecture on Occult HBV and blood safety, Oxford, June 2024
- Global Hepatitis E platform. Summary of research. 2022
- European Society of Clinical Microbiology and Infectious Diseases. A short video. 2022
- NHS Blood and Transplant. R&D blog. 2021
- Guest on This Week in Virology (TWiV) #576 Netcast by Prof Vincent Racaniello. 2019
- University College of London Hospital. Promotion video on influenza vaccine. 2017