



ANNUAL CONFERENCE



2026

10th October 2026

Best Western Hotel, Wilmslow
Road, Manchester

Where we can come together,
support each other and talk about
Anorectal Malformations

With thanks to:



BainCapital



Schedule

9:30	Registration and settling in		
10:00	Cheshire Suite - Welcome talk for all by Max's Trust Chair Lauren Stahly, children welcome.		
10.15	Cheshire Suite - Max's Trust talk with children's activities		
11.00	Break		
11.15	Cheshire Suite - EXPERTS PANEL Ask our medical professionals and our Max's Trust trustees questions On panel: Kat Ford, Susie Jacob, Shaun Shepherd, Kate M		
12:00	Lunch followed by talks in breakout rooms Children dropoff at childcare in the Tatton Suite between 13.00-13.15		
	Bramhall Suite	Alderley Suite	Lounge area
13:15	Early Years (0-5 years) Led by: Rachel Harwood – Paediatric Surgeon Sarah Almond – Consultant Paediatric and Neonatal Surgeon Claire Skerrit – Paediatric Surgeon Followed by Q&A	Primary School and the Transition to High School (6-12yrs) & Teenage years and Puberty Led by: Jonathan Sutcliffe – Former Consultant Paediatric Surgeon Susie Jacob – Consultant Gynaecologist Followed by Q&A	From 1pm: Adults with ARM - A safe space to chat (no medical professionals) We kindly ask for the partners of ARM adults to wait patiently elsewhere. From 1.45pm Adults with ARM - Chat supported by professionals Dermot Burke – Adult Colorectal Surgeon Kat Ford – Paediatric Surgeon Kat O'Shea – Consultant Paediatric Surgeon
14.15	AFTERNOON BREAK		
	Bramhall Suite	Alderley Suite	Lounge area
14.30	Girls with ARM Led by Susie Jacob – Consultant Gynaecologist Followed by Q&A	Boys with ARM Led by Claire Skerrit – Paediatric Surgeon Followed by Q&A	Adults with ARM - Lifelong care project Jonathan Sutcliffe – Former Consultant Paediatric Surgeon Dermot Burke – Adult Colorectal Surgeon
15.30	AFTERNOON BREAK		
	Bramhall Suite	Alderley Suite	Lounge area
15.45	Dad's session Led by Richard Harrison	Mum's session Led by Deepti Grover	Chat and chill, partners are welcome to join.
16.45	Closing remarks from Max's Trust Chair Lauren. Conference closes at 1700		

THE EXPERTS

Sarah Almond

Consultant Paediatric and Neonatal Surgeon, Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool

Dermot Burke

Adult Colorectal Surgeon, Leeds General Infirmary

Joe Curry

Senior Consultant Neonatal and Specialist Paediatric Colorectal Surgeon, Great Ormond Street Hospital

Kathryn Ford

Paediatric Surgeon, Great Ormond Street Hospital

Rachel Harwood

Paediatric Surgeon, Alder Hey Children's Hospital, Liverpool

Susie Jacob

Consultant Gynaecologist and Subspecialist Reproductive Medicine, Leeds Hospital

Kat O'Shea

Consultant Colorectal Paediatric Surgeon, Manchester Children's Hospital

Clare Skerritt

Paediatric Surgeon, Bristol Children's Hospital

Jonathan Sutcliffe

Former Consultant Paediatric Surgeon, Leeds Teaching Hospital, Max's Trust Trustee

OUR TRUSTEES



Lauren Stahly
Chairperson



Helen Millard
Secretary



Deepti Grover
Treasurer



Kate MacFarlane
Trustee



Kate Tyler
Partnership Co-ordinator



Andy Button
Governance Lead



Shaun Shepherd
Trustee



Jonathan Sutcliffe
Trustee

WHAT WE DO...

At Max's Trust, we aim to INSPIRE the ARM community in the UK in various ways. Our annual conferences are just a small part of what we do, and what we hope to do in the future. With your continued support, we hope to carry on raising awareness, and bringing hope to those affected by anorectal malformations.



MAX

As most of you are already aware, Max's Trust was set up following the sudden and unexpected death of Max Finnigan, a 17 month old boy who was born with anorectal malformation (ARM). Whilst his death was not related to his ARM, he inspired the creation of the UK's first ARM charity, which has already made a huge difference to lives of ARM patients and families.



PARTNERS AND FRIENDS

With thanks to Christine, Dan, David, Girish, Jenny, Mike, Priya and all the volunteers for everything they do to help us.



Charity supporting those affected by Oesophageal Atresia (OA) and Tracheo-Oesophageal Fistula (TOF)



Supporting children and young people with stomas by gifting teddy bears, books and non-medical items



From Rare to Recognised. From Isolated to Connected.



Our thanks to AG Hotels for their kind hospitality



Charity providing support to all those affected by bladder and bowel issues



Charity providing unique hospital gowns for children up to 16 years of age



One Network. Shared Expertise. Lifelong Care



BainCapital

Bain Capital's European Children's Fund: made a grant to Max's Trust to help run our conferences. Thank you to Bain Capital.

WE NEED YOU!

Max's Trust is a small charity, run by only eight trustees who themselves have families, full-time jobs, and many other commitments. We do our best with the limited time we have, but in order for us to give the ARM community the support that it needs, we need more help.

If you have time to spare and want to support the ARM community, please get in touch with us via the QR or link here and at the bottom of the programme to become a volunteer. The longevity and growth of the charity depends on this, so please do get in touch if you can give your time.



Volunteer form

FUNDRAISING

Max's Trust relies solely on fundraising and donations. We have been very fortunate to have had some incredible fundraising by our supporters over the last few years and we know there are more to come in the coming months.

Being able to run events like this and provide support for our community requires a considerable amount of funding. Please show your support for Max's Trust by:

- One off donations
- Holding your own fundraiser
- Regular donations
- Facebook birthday fundraisers
- Giving Lottery
- Easy Fundraising
- The Giving Machine.
- Max's Trust Merchandise



Giving fund, Paypal

We can't do this without you!

If you would like to get in touch about fundraising for Max's Trust, please contact us at

hello@maxtrust.org



See you next time!

Please scan or click the QR code below to give us your feedback, which will allow us to continue to keep improving the annual conference!

THANK YOU!



Feedback form



Volunteer form

See you next year!

Next year our conference will be held on
13th March 2027 at Engineers House, Bristol
& 9th October 2027 North of England

