



Conference & Family Gathering 2026

Saturday 16th May 2026
(Events 15th - 17th May)
Radisson Blu Hotel
Manchester Airport, England

FOP Friends is delighted to invite you to our 6th Conference and Family Gathering.

The event is designed with our families at the heart of everything we do. The Gathering provides a dedicated space to have your questions answered and your concerns heard, but most importantly, it is a space for friendship and support.

We are excited to welcome the FOP clinical team from the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital, led by Professor Richard Keen. The event will also feature presentations from the FOP medical experts from around the world.

We look forward to welcoming you back to Manchester!





Conference & Family Gathering 2026

Presentations

There will be presentations from FOP medical experts from around the world.

Professor Richard Keen and FOP clinical team will give an update on the support and care available at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital.

We are delighted to confirm the following keynote speakers:

- Dr Judith Bubbear
- Professor Alex Bullock
- Patricia Delai, MD
- Professor Marelise Eekhoff
- Nadine Grossman MSc.
- Professor Fred Kaplan
- Professor Richard Keen
- Professor Robert Pignolo

And more...



Event schedule... (subject to change)

Friday 15th May 2026

- 13:00 - 18:00: Clinical sessions (pre-booked)
- 19:00 - 22:00: Meet & Greet, Dublin Suite, Level 1

Saturday 16th May 2026

- 8:45: Registration
- 9:00 - 12:00: Main Conference
- 12:00 - 13:00: Group photo and buffet lunch

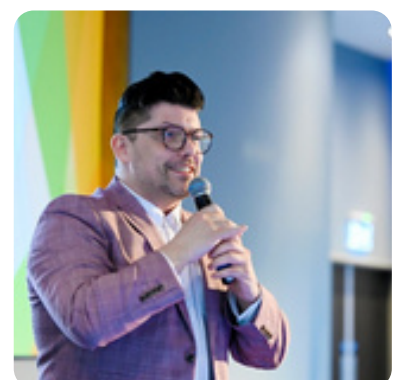
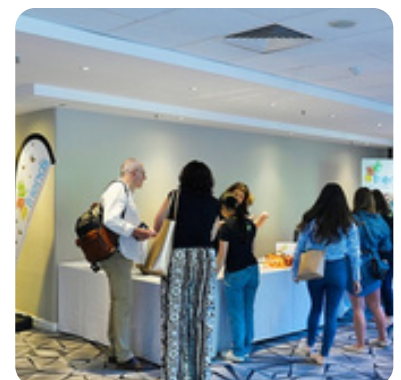
- 13:00 - 18:00: Clinical sessions (pre-booked)
- 13:00 - 15:00: Presentations continue
- 15:00 - 16:30: Afternoon Cake & Connections

- 16:30: Conference close

- 19:00 - 23:00: Family dinner and entertainment

Sunday 17th May 2026

- 9:00 - 14:00: Clinical sessions (pre-booked)
- 10:00 - 11:30: Kintsugi Wellbeing Craft Workshop (pre-booked)





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FriendZone

Our ever-popular FriendZone is back!

The FriendZone is a space for children and young people can hang out and have fun, while the adults attend the presentations! This is provided free of charge.

It's hosted by Fiona White, trustee, and Janet Plumb, along with a team of volunteers. All creche staff are experienced childcare professionals and have a knowledge of FOP/POH. A wide range of activities are provided, from crafts and Lego to gaming and workshops.

Young adults can take advantage of a quiet space in the room where they can do their own thing. They are not required, but are welcome, to join in with activities.

Snacks and drinks are provided throughout the day.

By popular demand, we are delighted to be welcoming back the team from Noah's A.R.T who will be bringing with the their many furry and not-so-furry friends!

Guests are permitted to bring their own toys or devices to the FriendZone but FOP Friends cannot take any responsibility in the event of loss and/or damage to personal belongings.

As a courtesy to both the speakers and delegates, we respectfully request that any children/young people who stay in the conference room with their parents do not distract other delegates who are trying to listen.

Electronic devices can be a distraction to others. We do not allow children/young people to play on devices in the presentation room. Thank you for your understanding.

If you have any questions about the FriendZone, please get in touch.





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Clinical Appointments

Patients and their families are invited to book up to three clinical appointments. All appointments are free of charge.

Clinical appointments provide our families with time to speak privately with the FOP/POH specialists.

Appointments will last no longer than 30 minutes. We thank you in advance for your support in keeping the appointments running to time.

Appointments must be booked in advance through the online booking process.

General Appointments:

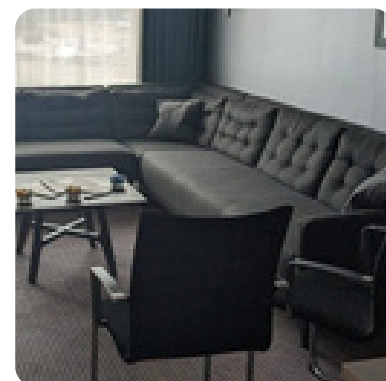
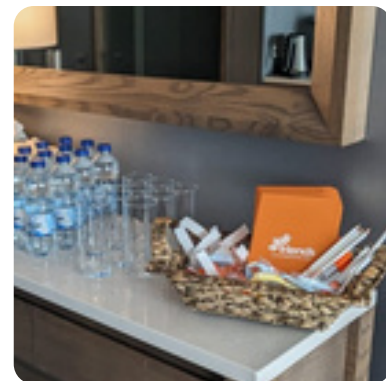
These sessions will be led by Professor Richard Keen, Dr Judith Bubbear, and Dr Alex Chesover from the RNOH. They will be joined by the Clinical Nurse Specialists from the RNOH FOP team, and other FOP physicians will attend as appropriate. While we aim to provide comprehensive access to the specialists, we cannot guarantee the availability of a specific doctor.

Dermatology Appointments:

These sessions will be led by Dr. Patricia Delai, International FOP specialist and dermatologist, and member of the International Clinical Council for FOP.

Dental Appointments:

We are hoping to be able to offer our families a dental consultation with an FOP specialist.





Conference & Family Gathering 2026

Getting here...

Radisson Hotel is well connected to all all transport networks.

Guests, families and attendees are responsible for their own travel to and from the event. As the price for attending the conference has been heavily discounted, we regret that FOP Friends is unable to offer any travel subsidies to families.



By car from South M56 J6, from North J5, follow signs for Airport Terminal 2. **Postal code: M90 3RA.**

The hotel has 220 parking spaces. Parking is a flat rate of £10 per day/ £19 overnight. Blue badge holders must also pay for parking.

This is not included in your booking. Please register your vehicle on arrival and pay at Reception. FOP Friends is not liable for any parking fines incurred.



Flying into **Manchester Airport**, the hotel is directly connected to the airport terminals via a covered walkway.



Arrive at **Manchester Piccadilly Train Station** where a train direct to Manchester Airport is available.



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Time to connect

The most important part of any family gathering is the space created for those living with a condition to talk to others who truly understand. We know first-hand how impactful these friendships are, and our gathering is designed to help families connect.

Friday Evening: Meet & Greet

This is an informal event with a cash bar. Everyone is welcome! Come along after you have checked in, or pop in on your way to your room. There will be plenty of love and laughter to start the weekend.

Saturday Afternoon: Afternoon Coffee and Connections

We will enjoy drinks and delicious homemade cakes in the main room. Pull up a chair and chat with the person next to you. There will be small "make and take" craft activities on the tables, so you can have a natter while creating something to take home.

If you are new to the FOP community, there are many others here who have been where you are and share your worries. For those with lived experience, your stories matter. They make a massive difference to those who may feel overwhelmed with questions and unsure where to start.

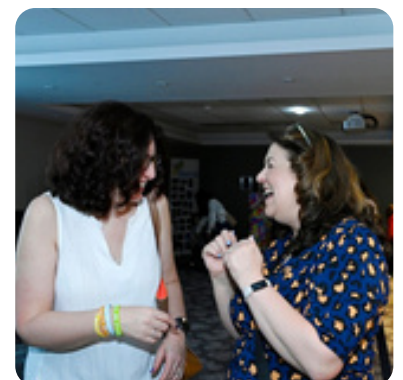
Saturday Evening: Family Dinner

This event is always incredibly popular and everyone is welcome. Our picture quiz will be waiting for you, so you will need the wits of everyone at your table to find the answers! After dinner, we are delighted to welcome Zack back as our MC. Expect plenty of northern humour (warm Prosecco, anyone?). There will be more quiz rounds and time to socialise before heading to bed.

Sunday Morning: Kintsugi Pottery Workshop

New for 2026 we are offering a mindful craft workshop for adults. This is a chance to reflect and unwind with others who understand.

We hope you will all travel home with a few more friends, hearts full, and several more questions answered. Remember, you are never alone.



Kintsugi

The Art of Kintsugi: Beauty in the Broken

Kintsugi ("golden joinery") is a 15th-century Japanese tradition of repairing broken pottery with lacquer mixed with powdered gold. Rather than hiding the cracks, Kintsugi highlights them, transforming a damaged object into a masterpiece that is stronger and more beautiful than the original.

This practice teaches us a powerful lesson: our imperfections aren't flaws to be hidden, but stories to be celebrated. Just as the golden seams give a tea bowl its unique character, our own "cracks", the challenges and bumps in our journeys, are what make our lives truly one-of-a-kind.

Join Us: A Mindful Workshop

We invite you to join us for a hands-on Kintsugi workshop, led by artist Amelia Gilding. This session is for adults only.

Together, we will step away from the pressure of "perfect" and embrace the beauty of our real, lived experiences.

- Reflect: Consider the stories and strengths your family has gained through life's twists and turns.
- Create: Learn the technique of golden repair to create a physical reminder of your resilience.
- Connect: Build deeper bonds with your loved ones as we celebrate the "golden seams" that hold us together.

Your journey is unique, and your scars are part of your beauty. We can't wait to see the masterpieces you create!

Places are limited. Please book when you make your main conference reservation, to confirm your attendance.

There is no cost for this class. However, as we anticipate high demand, we politely request that you only register if you intend to attend.





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Booking

We are pleased to be able to subsidise attendance for persons with FOP/POH and their immediate family, with up to 50% discount on the hotel rates.

We are able to discount the cost thanks to grant and sponsor support. As this support is limited, the discounted fee is only available to patients, their main carer, spouse/partner, or their parents and siblings (immediate family members). All other attendees must pay the full fee.

For detailed pricing, please visit our booking website or see next page.

All bookings must be made online.

If you have any queries or problems with the booking system, please contact us on: +44 (0)161 282 0441 or email us at events@fopfriends.com.

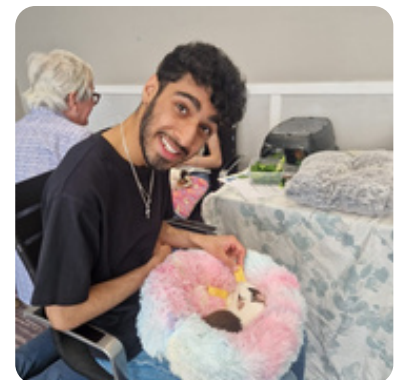
Online booking closes **Friday 17th April 2026**. Should you wish to book after this date, please contact us.

Gym, swimming and spa facilities are available at the hotel. It is fully accessible.

Attendees are responsible for arranging additional rooms/nights not included in their package.

To book, visit: <https://www.eventsforce.net/fopfriends/6/register>

Or scan the QR-code:





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Prices

Full prices (for those not covered by the discount)

Friday 15th May (costs are per room)

- Bed & Breakfast single occupancy: £160
- Bed & Breakfast double occupancy: £170
- Bed & Breakfast small family room (2 adults & 1 child up to 12 years): £175

Saturday 16th May (costs are per person unless stated otherwise)

- Conference plus dinner, bed and breakfast
 - Single occupancy room: £260
 - Double occupancy room: £370 per room
 - Small family room: £375 per room
- Conference only (daytime): £60 (per adult)
- Conference dinner only: £40

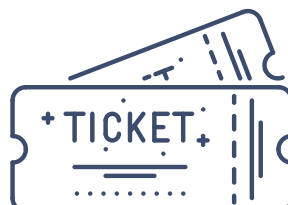
Discounted prices (for FOP patients, main carers and immediate family)

Friday 15th May (costs are per room)

- Bed & Breakfast single occupancy: £80
- Bed & Breakfast double occupancy: £85
- Bed & Breakfast small family room (2 adults and 1 child up to 12 years): £90

Saturday 16th May (costs are per person unless stated otherwise)

- Conference plus dinner, bed and breakfast (price depends on room type)
 - Single occupancy room: £130
 - Double occupancy room: £185 per room
 - Small family room: £188 per room
- Conference only (daytime): £30 (per adult)
- Conference dinner only: £20





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Terms and Conditions

Online registration constitutes a legally binding agreement.

If you have not received confirmation and/or final information 7 days prior to the conference, please contact the FOP Friends office on 0161 282 0441. **We cannot be held responsible for the non-arrival of information.**

Cancellations: We will do our best to ensure that the conference goes ahead, but we reserve the right to cancel at any time. If we do so, we will refund your conference fee in full but will have no further liabilities to you. In particular, we will not meet the costs of any pre-booked accommodation or travel. However, where we are forced to cancel the conference as a result of events arising which are outside of our control, we will have no obligation to offer a refund of your conference fee.

If you wish to cancel your attendance at the conference you must do so online via the registration website.

If you cancel your booking, FOP Friends shall refund to you a percentage of the conference fee paid, as an administration charge, on the following basis:

- If the notice of cancellation is received on or before **Friday 17th April 2026** no fee shall be charged (i.e. 100% refund made)
- If the notice of cancellation is received on or after **Saturday 18th April 2026**, no refund is made (i.e. 100% cancellation charge).

Payment: All bookings must be paid online at the time of booking. The payment is made online and all debit and credit cards are accepted.

Changes to conference programme: Although we will do our best to follow the published programme, we reserve the right to change it (including the guest speakers and the times of their presentations). In the unlikely event that we need to change the venue, we will give you as much notice as is practicable. In the event that any such changes are made, no refund of the conference fee shall be made.

Speakers: The views expressed by guest speakers are theirs alone and do not necessarily represent ours. We can take no responsibility for the content or the accuracy of the speakers' presentations. This includes any discussions surrounding clinical trials. FOP Friends does not endorse any clinical trial or pharmaceutical company.

Marketing, filming and social media: There will be a professional photographer and/or video production taking place during the conference which may be used for future marketing and promotional purposes. By attending the event you are accepting that if a photograph or video footage is taken of you at the event, FOP Friends owns the right to use the photo for any purpose they see fit. If you do not wish to be photographed/videoed at the event, please inform FOP Friends prior to the event or on the day.

It is not permitted for any conference attendee to film or record any session at the event either for their own purposes or to stream online without express permission from FOP Friends prior to the conference. Anyone seen to be doing this may be asked to leave the event with no refund available.

As this is a rare patient group event, the highest level of confidentiality and privacy is expected and required from all attendees. Any social media posts must be carried out with this in mind and we ask that you do not post images/videos containing other delegates without their express permission.

Data Protection: We would like to include your email in the conference delegate list (hard copy and electronically). This will only be made available to attendees of the conference (this may include sponsors and exhibitors). Please click the box on the registration page if you are happy for us to include your email address.

Liability: We will accept liability to you for any death or personal injury caused by our negligence, any fraudulent misrepresentation by us, and any liability which cannot be excluded by law. In no other circumstances will we have any liability to you except as set out in these Terms and Conditions. In particular, we accept no liability for the loss or damage of your personal property at the conference.

Governing law: These Terms and Conditions shall be governed by and construed in accordance with English law and the parties irrevocably agree to submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts of England over any claim or matter arising under or in connection with these Terms and Conditions. Delegates will be expected to comply with these Terms and Conditions, the rules of the venue and the reasonable requests of the organisers. Failure of delegates to do so will entitle us to cancel or terminate your attendance at the conference.

Conference organisers: This event has been brought to you by FOP Friends. FOP Friends is a Registered Charity in England and Wales #1147704 and Scotland #SC046950, whose registered office is at The Cabin, 1 Cumberland Road, Sale, Cheshire, M33 3FR.

