



EPUAP CURRICULUM VITAE

Name Ralph Gordon

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Year of joining EPUAP 2024

Relevant publications for the last two years (in English only):

Gordon, R. J. F. H., Stevens, C. E., Worsley, P. R., & Filingeri, D. (2026). Skin Epidermal and Microvascular Properties at the Sacrum and Heel Assessed with Optical Coherence Tomography. *Skin pharmacology and physiology*, 39(1), 25–34. <https://doi.org/10.1159/000550488>

Gordon, R. J., Stevens, C. E., Worsley, P. R., & Filingeri, D. (2025). Influence of temperature on vascular density at the sacrum and heel. *Journal of wound care*, 34(9), 686–687. <https://doi.org/10.12968/jowc.2025.0368>

Gordon R, Stevens C, Worsley P, Filingeri D. Repeated Pressure and Shear Stress at the Posterior Heel Following Localized Skin Cooling: Protocol for a Repeated Measures Cohort Study. *JMIR Res Protoc*. 2025;14:e73250. Published 2025 Jul 21. doi:10.2196/73250

Caggiari, S., Toms, M., Lucie, R., Evans, Z., **Gordon, R.**, Muckelt, P., Mbithi, F., Filingeri, D., & Worsley, P. R. (2025). A Randomised Cross-Over Study to Evaluate the Physiological Effects of Internal Air Pressure Changes in Advanced Support Surface Design. *International wound journal*, 22(6), e70703. <https://doi.org/10.1111/iwj.70703>

Hayes, J., Andrews, J., Abdelwahab, O., Andriuskevicius, T., Briggs, T., **Gordon, R.**, Worsley, P., Higgins, C. A., & Masen, M. (2025). Skin adaptation in lower limb amputees assessed through Raman spectroscopy and mechanical characterization. *Journal of the Royal Society, Interface*, 22(222), 20240475. <https://doi.org/10.1098/rsif.2024.0475>

Gordon, R. J. F. H., Worsley, P. R., & Filingeri, D. (2024). An evaluation of the effects of localised skin cooling on microvascular, inflammatory, structural, and perceptual responses to sustained mechanical loading of the sacrum: A study protocol. *PLoS one*, 19(5), e0303342. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0303342>

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Please comment on your involvement with pressure ulcers under the following headings:

Clinical

My primary roles are as a researcher and educator within the Skin Sensing Research group, at the University of Southampton (UK). Whilst I do not have direct clinical responsibilities, my work has clear translational relevance to clinical practice. By generating insight into the mechanistic physiology underpinning pressure ulcer development, my research supports the development of new technologies, informs clinical decision-making, and contributes to improved strategies for the prevention and treatment of pressure ulcers. This translational focus aligns closely with EPUAP's aim to strengthen evidence-based, patient-centred care across Europe.

Scientific research

I started pressure ulcer research in 2022, exploring the role of local skin cooling for pressure ulcer prevention (MRC funded project 'CoolSkin'). Subsequently, I have secured research funding from the Physiological Society (£~10,000) to investigate the interaction between temperature, moisture, and textile properties during repeated shearing at the heel. In addition, I have been awarded an EPUAP starter grant (€7,000) to develop novel devices for delivering localised cooling to spinal cord injury patients.

My research integrates thermomechanical physiology with emerging sensing and intervention approaches, with a strong emphasis on translational outcomes. Across these projects, I have worked with both healthy and clinical populations (including older adults and individuals with spinal cord injury), ensuring direct relevance to groups at high risk of pressure ulcer development. My research has explored the role of imaging, biomarkers and biophysical skin measurement to characterise tissue health under load (see publications above).

Organisational

I contribute to the organisation and delivery of multidisciplinary research projects, working collaboratively with academic, clinical, and industry partners. Through these activities, I support knowledge exchange and the development of interdisciplinary research approaches, aligning with EPUAP's role in fostering collaboration across Europe. I am keen to further contribute to the strategic development of international initiatives that strengthen research, education, and guideline implementation in pressure ulcer prevention.

Educational

In April 2025, I was invited to present at the Society of Tissue Viability Annual Conference on our Medical Research Council-funded research investigating the effects of cooling on tissue viability. This presentation was delivered to a predominantly clinical audience and highlighted the importance of microclimate in maintaining tissue integrity.

Improving understanding of microclimate as a modifiable factor is central to advancing prevention strategies, and this work aligns with EPUAP's commitment to education and dissemination of evidence-based practice. As a lecturer in health sciences, I use my research insight to support undergraduate and postgraduate teaching in Southampton.

Strengths not utilised



I bring a strong ability to bridge fundamental physiological research with clinically relevant applications, particularly in relation to microclimate, tissue viability, and thermomechanical skin interactions. My work combines experimental research with an interest in developing innovative, device-based solutions, supporting the translation of evidence into practice.

I am also motivated to contribute to interdisciplinary collaboration, guideline development, and the strengthening of research and education networks across Europe, in line with EPUAP's strategic priorities.

Membership of other organisations

The Physiological Society.

Motivation for becoming a trustee

I am applying to become a Trustee of the European Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel to contribute to its mission of advancing pressure ulcer prevention and treatment through research, education, and policy influence across Europe. As a Lecturer in Skin Sensing Research at the University of Southampton, my work focuses on the physiological interactions between temperature, mechanical loading, and tissue viability, with clear translational relevance to pressure ulcer prevention.

I am particularly motivated to support the strategic development of EPUAP through its research and education activities, and to contribute to interdisciplinary collaboration between clinicians, scientists, and industry partners. I would welcome the opportunity to apply my expertise in thermomechanical skin interactions and emerging sensing approaches to help strengthen evidence-based practice, guideline development, and innovation in this field.