***Christine Blanshard trained in medicine at Clare College Cambridge, and undertook postgraduate training in general medicine and gastroenterology in London. Her MD, on diarrhoea in late stage HIV infection, exposed her to a world dramatized in the TV drama  “It’s a Sin” and led to a keen appreciation of the wider determinants of health and the politics of healthcare.***

***Her first formal clinical leadership role was as Associate Clinical Director for urgent and emergency care at the Homerton Hospital as the ED 4 hour target was first implemented. The processes and pathways she introduced are still in place and the ED retains its CQC outstanding rating. She undertook a variety of Clinical Director roles before moving to Salisbury as Medical Director where she was instrumental in managing the Novichok poisonings to great national and international acclaim. She then worked as an NHSEI Medical Director in the South West Regional team before becoming the Chief Medical Officer at Worcestershire Acute, widely regarded as one of the toughest in the NHS. She is enjoying the challenge of developing the next generation of clinical leaders in the Trust and more widely, and hopes to become redundant fairly soon.***