

# Kurt Taylor

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## Profile

A motivated, adaptable individual with well-honed communication skills from a diversified set of experiences. Strong track record in science education with an in-depth understanding of epidemiology. A love for writing and exceptional organisation and management capabilities. An intense curiosity and thirst for intellectual stimulation. Experience in leading large international scientific collaborations. I am in the final year of a 4-year PhD studentship seeking opportunities and experiences that could lead to a successful career in scientific research.

## Education

- **2017-2021 – Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Integrative Cardiovascular Science (Epidemiology); University of Bristol, UK**
  - Thesis title: The epidemiology of congenital heart disease: identifying causal maternal risk factors.
  - Fully funded studentship via the British Heart Foundation.
  - Year 1 is an interdisciplinary training year with years 2-4 focusing on my main PhD research.
  - I have gained experience in bioinformatic analysis, publishing in high-impact scientific journals, laboratory work, teaching, public speaking and presenting to a wide-range of audiences.
- **2014-2017 – Bachelor of Science (BSc Hons), Sport and Exercise Science, First; University of Surrey, UK**
  - Deep understanding of human biology, psychology and biomechanics developed through rigorous academic units as well as varied laboratory sessions

## Employment and Experience

My employment to date has taught me how to work effectively on my own and also as part of a team; having been employed from a young age, my work ethic has excelled, learning to use my initiative to complete tasks required of me.

- **January 2019 – Visiting researcher, University of Copenhagen, Section of Epidemiology, Denmark**
  - Visiting researcher for 2 weeks undertaking analyses as part of a wider project.
- **2019/ongoing – Teaching, University of Bristol, UK**
  - After completing the 'starting to teach' training course, I was enrolled as a teacher on the Bristol Medical School short course: *Introduction to epidemiology*.
- **2019/ongoing – Freelance medical writer, Aspire Scientific, UK**
  - As a freelance medical writer, I help produce a diverse range of high-quality scientific materials predominantly in the form of scientific manuscripts. This role often has strict deadlines.
- **2018/ongoing – Club captain, Bristol and West AC, UK**
  - Being the men's club captain for my running club is a rewarding task and helps me make use of my exceptional organisational skills.
- **2019 – Events organisation, MRC Integrative Epidemiology Unit, UK**
  - I was part of the organisation committee for the 2019 International Mendelian Randomization conference.
- **May 2016-August 2016 – Summer internship as a clinical exercise scientist, Surrey Human Performance Institute, UK**
  - A patient-facing position located within a lab at Surrey Sports Park, as well as carrying out Cardiopulmonary Exercise Testing at Ashford and St Peter's Hospital.
- **August 2013-January 2015 – Sales advisor, Vodafone UK**
- **December 2010 – August 2013 – Fire protection engineer, Pipetek services Ltd and Bryland Fire Ltd.**

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## Publications and research

I am an advocate of open science and the publication of pre-specified analysis plans to improve reproducibility and prevent publication bias. A list of my active and ongoing projects can be found here: <https://osf.io/82vq6/>.

### **Published research**

1. **Taylor K**, McBride N, J Goulding N *et al*. Metabolomics datasets in the Born in Bradford cohort [version 1; peer review: awaiting peer review]. *Wellcome Open Res* 2020, **5**:264 (<https://doi.org/10.12688/wellcomeopenres.16341.1>)
2. **Taylor K**, Thomas R, Mumme M *et al*. Ascertaining and classifying cases of congenital anomalies in the ALSPAC birth cohort [version 1; peer review: awaiting peer review]. *Wellcome Open Res* 2020, **5**:231 (<https://doi.org/10.12688/wellcomeopenres.16339.1>)
3. **Taylor, K.**; L. Santos Ferreira, D.; West, J.; Yang, T.; Caputo, M.; A. Lawlor, D. Differences in Pregnancy Metabolic Profiles and Their Determinants between White European and South Asian Women: Findings from the Born in Bradford Cohort. *Metabolites* **9**, 190 (2019). <http://dx.doi.org/10.3390/metabo9090190>
4. **Taylor, K.**, Davey Smith, G., Relton, C.L. *et al*. Prioritizing putative influential genes in cardiovascular disease susceptibility by applying tissue-specific Mendelian randomization. *Genome Med* **11**, 6 (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13073-019-0613-2>

### **Pre-prints**

1. **Taylor K**, Elhakeem A, Nader JLT, Yang T, Isaevska E, Richiardi L, et al. The effect of maternal pre-/early-pregnancy BMI and pregnancy smoking and alcohol on congenital heart diseases: a parental negative control study. *medRxiv*; 2020 Sep. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.09.29.20203786>
2. Richardson TG, Mykkanen J, Pakkala K, Ala-Korpela M, Bell JA, **Taylor K**, et al. Evaluating the direct effects of childhood adiposity on adult systemic metabolism: A multivariable Mendelian randomization analysis. *medRxiv*; 2020 Aug. <https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.08.25.20181412>

## Presentations, talks and public speaking

### **Oral presentations**

- **June 2020 – Society for Epidemiologic Research 2020, Boston, USA**
  - Invited for oral presentation (meeting cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic) - *Using an untargeted metabolomics platform to explore associations between maternal metabolites and congenital heart disease in the offspring.*
- **4<sup>th</sup> October 2019 – University of Surrey, Surrey, UK**
  - I was invited to give a one hour talk about my time at the University of Surrey and how I progressed to a successful PhD student. Audience consisted of ~50 new undergraduate students.
- **27<sup>th</sup> September 2019 – Born in Bradford Science Festival, Bradford, UK**
  - Sofa session lasting 1 hour 10 mins talking to a mixed audience including members of the public, researchers and policy makers about my research and what we use blood samples for in the Born in Bradford cohort.

### **Poster presentations**

- **22<sup>nd</sup> October 2019 – DOHaD 2019, Melbourne, Australia**
  - Poster presentation - Differences in Pregnancy Metabolic Profiles and Their Determinants between White European and South Asian Women: Findings from the Born in Bradford Cohort.

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## Applied Qualifications, Training and Key Skills

Where possible, I attend educational courses which could benefit my research and personal development. I am always keen on learning and have previously studied free online courses. Some examples of the training and qualifications I have received to date are listed below.

- **Bristol Medical School short training courses**
  - Introduction to epidemiology (5 days)
  - Introduction to statistics (5 days)
  - Mendelian randomisation (3 days)
  - Systematic reviews and meta-analysis (4 days)
  - Causal inference in epidemiology (3 days)
  - Genetic epidemiology (5 days)
- **Register of exercise professionals' level 3 personal trainer**
- **Biostatistical analysis of genotype data**
- **Data Skills Workshop, November 2019**
  - Funded by Cancer Research UK. Involved an application process to be accepted onto the course. Main focus on reproducible research.
- **Statistical packages**
  - R (proficient)
  - Stata (basic use)
  - Microsoft Office (proficient)
- **Public engagement of science**
  - Public speaking at Born in Bradford Science Festival, September 2019
  - Cancer Research UK public engagement training workshop
  - Communicating my research through social media. Example:  
<https://twitter.com/KurtSci1994/status/1174329499313475585?s=20>

## Interests

I have a real passion for endurance-based sports, adventure and understanding how the body physiologically reacts to these types of activity. Since the age of eleven, I have raised thousands of pounds for various charities; my proudest achievement was successfully climbing Mount Kilimanjaro for my local hospice; a truly amazing and challenging experience. I am a competitive distance runner, training 6 or 7 days a week and competing on a national level. My running has taken me to places such as the high Atlas Mountains in Morocco and quiet suburban villages in The Gambia.