Chronic pelvic pain and menorrhagia: Assessing treatment effectiveness
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Those that know me will know that it has taken a long time and a roundabout route to get to the end of this thesis and the opportunity to defend it. This is the end of a journey started many years ago, with several detours and dead-ends, but that has ultimately brought me great satisfaction. I am privileged to have a career that can improve the lives of women worldwide, and that brings me such satisfaction. There are a number of people who have helped and supported me along the way, and I want to thank them all now, and hope I have not forgotten anyone.

First, my supervisor Professor Khalid Khan. I sincerely believe most of the best opportunities I have had in my career in clinical research have been due to Khalid. We both arrived in Birmingham at about the same time: he with a trial in need of trials unit support, me embarking on a change of direction from laboratory research. Together we learnt the art and science of clinical trial research from Professor Richard Gray (more of whom later) in the completion of the LUNA Trial. In the following years, Khalid has helped broaden my methodological repertoire, my network of collaborators and my way of thinking about science and society. I thank you for your patience, wisdom, generosity, general chilled-outness. More than anything else though, you gave me the belief that I could finally achieve this PhD and for that I am so grateful.

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I would like to remember the LUNA Trial team, including Khalid, Richard, Liz Adey, Pallavi Latthe, Tara Selman, Janesh Gupta, Robert Hills, Laura Buckley, Becky Gair, Becky Powell and Leanne Lynch amongst others. LUNA was a great trial run on a shoe-string, compared to more recent
projects, so it shows what great teamwork can do. LUNA also proves that surgeons can randomise and surgical trials can be blinded, and undoubtedly laid the foundations for other BCTU gynaecological studies. I thank the clinical investigators who recruited their patients and all the women, who in looking for a solution to their pain, agree to participate.

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