

Occupational Psychiatry SIG newsletter – November 2023

Dear members,

Event review. It has been a fantastic year for the Occupational Psychiatry SIG. Our January webinar on doctors' mental health received fantastic reviews with presenters including Dame Clare Gerada and a very powerful talk from our colleague Brad Hillier. In July it was great to see you for our summer face-to-face event and discuss aviation psychiatry, with another range of great speakers including Asha Pook from our own OPSIG executive. Alongside these brilliant meetings our membership has grown 13% in the last year. Read more [About Us](#) here.

Occupational Psychiatry Poster Prize. Our trainee prize launched this year and ran at the summer meeting. We had strong submissions from Maya Huby and Demilade Agbeleye and the judging was very close, Maya won and you can read her poster here: [Impact of severe mental illness on education and future career prospects](#). Our 2024 trainee competition will run at our spring event and follow the same format of clinical scenario, based on an appropriately anonymised case or fictional presentation, with associated literature review and relevance for occupational impact and practice.

Spring in-person meeting – Occupational Psychiatry in practice: fitness for work, from the Armed Forces to Formula 1, and what you need to know. [Bookings are now open](#) for our spring meeting with a fantastic afternoon programme shaping up. We aim to explore the practice and reality of occupational psychiatry for the generalist and specialist alike, maximising our opportunity to meet in-person and build professional networks. A range of presentations will span sectors including the corporate environment, how to work with occupational medicine physicians, developing careers in occupational psychiatry alongside NHS work and the progression to international expert. Speakers include Phil Hopley, a founder of the Sports & Exercise SIG, Anne Fieldhouse the medical lead for recruitment and training in the Army, and both Alex Langford and Neil Greenberg from our OPSIG executive (and Neil was our previous Chair, of course). Book early to avoid disappointment!

OPSIG Finance Officer. Alongside the Chair, SIGs have an elected Finance Officer, and this position is due to election in the coming months. Mark Tarn has served a full term and been invaluable in the growth of the SIG, our success in recent years and the quality of our in-person receptions. We all owe him our thanks. If anyone would like to discuss the role please get in touch and I look forward to working alongside his successor when they take up office next summer. More information about College elections can be found [here](#), as well as details of how to stand once nominations open in December.

Chancellor's Autumn Statement. We know that good work is beneficial for our mental health, and that meaningful employment should be a treatment outcome in itself, a fundamental position of occupational psychiatry. The [Back to Work Plan](#) announces an expansion in the NHS Individual Placement and Support scheme as well as other measures, and you can read the [RCPsych response](#) here.

I look forward to speaking and seeing you all again soon. In the meantime you can read the global scope of occupational psychiatry in the new [World Psychiatric Position Statement: Mental Health in the Workplace](#).

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