



# Eastern Division Spring Conference 2024

**26 April 2024**

9:00am – 4:00pm

Wellcome Genome Campus, Hinxton Hall  
Conference Centre, Hinxton, CB10 1RQ

## Information Booklet

## Contents

General information.....	3
Programme.....	4
Speaker biographies and extracts.....	5
Save the date.....	11
Eastern Division vacancies .....	11

## General information

### **Certificates**

Certificates of attendance will be emailed to delegates within two weeks after the event. Please ensure we have your preferred email address.

### **Presentations**

All slides that we have been given permission to share with delegates will be emailed in PDF format, following the event.

### **Accreditation**

1 CPD point per hour of content, subject to peer approval.

### **Feedback**

Please complete the feedback form. All comments received remain confidential and are viewed in an effort to improve future meetings.

# Programme

Time	Presentation
9.00 - 9.45am	<b>Registration</b>
9.45 - 10am	<b>Welcome</b> Dr Manal El-Maraghy, Academic Secretary for Eastern Division, Consultant Psychiatrist
<b>Morning Session: Global Mental Health</b>	
10 - 10:45am	<b>RCPsych International Strategy and what it means for psychiatrists in the Eastern Division</b> Professor Mohammad Al-Uzri
10:40 - 11:20am	<b>Mental illness in different cultures under different circumstances</b> Dr Peter Hughes
11:20 - 11.30am	<b>Poster Winner Presentation #1</b>
11.30 - 11.50am	<b>Comfort break with poster exhibition</b>
11:50 - 12.30pm	<b>Disease modifying therapies for dementia – are we finally there?</b> Professor John O'Brien
12.30 - 12.40pm	<b>Poster Winner Presentation #2</b>
12.40 - 1.40pm	<b>Lunch Break with poster exhibition</b>
<b>Afternoon Session: Neuro-inflammatory and neuropsychiatry</b>	
1.40-1.50pm	<b>Poster Winner Presentation #3</b>
1.50-2.30pm	<b>Functional Neurological Disorder</b> Dr Matt Butler
2.30-3.10pm	<b>Global impact of functional neurological disorders</b> Dr Mohamed Gheis
3.10-3.15pm	<b>Comfort break</b>
3.15-3.20pm	<b>Poster Winner Presentation #4</b>
3.20-4pm	<b>Cannabis and schizophrenia</b> Professor Sagnik Bhattacharyya
4pm	<b>Close</b>

*The events team reserves the right to change the programme without prior notice.*

## Speaker biographies and extracts

### RCPsych International Strategy and what it means for psychiatrists in the Eastern Division

**Professor Mohammed Al-Uzri**

*Presidential Lead for Global Mental Health, RCPsych*

#### **Biography**

Professor Al-Uzri is a consultant psychiatrist with the Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust. He held several leadership roles in the NHS, and currently he is Associate Medical Director.

Professor Al-Uzri was appointed as Presidential Lead for Global Mental Health in May 2023 to build on the successful implementation of the first international strategy of the College.



He was the Presidential Lead for International Affairs at the Royal College of Psychiatrists 2020-23 and leading the international team of the college on developing numerous collaborations with colleagues and organizations across the world.

He also led the establishment of the RCPsych Medical Training Initiative (MTI) scheme in 2013 and was the College Advisor for MTI 2014-2020.

He was awarded the RCPsych Presidential Medal in 2020 for his work to improve standards of mental health care in the UK and overseas. In 2023, received the Royal College of Psychiatrists highest honour, The Honorary Fellowship of the college, for his services to psychiatry.

Professor Al-Uzri holds the title of Honorary Chair at the University of Leicester.

#### **Overview**

Addressing Challenges in International Psychiatry

## Global mental health – why it is important

**Dr Peter Hughes**

*Consultant Psychiatrist (Syria)*

### **Biography**

Dr Peter Hughes is a Psychiatrist who has worked for over 15 years globally in humanitarian emergencies and other global settings. He has a particular interest in integrated mental health in primary care and human rights. He has worked in many organisations including WHO. He is founder of the Volunteering Special Interest group of the College of Psychiatrists. He has published recently a book on global mental health volunteering. He has been working most recently in the Nagorno Karabakh refugee response in Armenia. He is currently working in North east Syria.



### **Overview**

Review of background of global mental health including global principles. Role of UK psychiatrist in global volunteering.

## Disease modifying therapies for dementia – are we finally there?

**Professor John O'Brien**

*Professor of Old Age Psychiatry, University of Cambridge*

### **Biography**

John O'Brien is Professor of Old Age Psychiatry in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Cambridge and holds appointments as Honorary Consultant within Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Trust and Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Trust.

He has previously held posts in London, Melbourne and Newcastle-upon-Tyne. He is a National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Emeritus Senior Investigator and a Fellow of the UK Academy of Medical Sciences.



His main research interests are in the clinical and research application of imaging biomarkers in dementia. He has been a member of the National Institute for Health and Social Care Excellence (NICE), British Association of Psychopharmacology, European Federation of Neurological Sciences and European Stroke Association Dementia Guideline groups.

### **Overview**

Symptomatic treatments for Alzheimer's disease and Lewy body dementia have been available for almost 30 years, but progress towards developing effective disease modifying therapies has been slow.

However, recent positive results from anti-amyloid treatments for Alzheimer's disease have been announced and these therapies are currently being considered by MHRA and NICE for potential use in the UK and, if approved, will require major transformation of current care pathways. These treatments are a crucial but relatively small step towards more effective treatments for people with Alzheimer's disease and other causes of dementia.

## Functional Neurological Disorder

**Dr Matt Butler**

*Wellcome Doctoral Clinical Research Fellow, King's College London*

### **Biography**

Matt is a specialist registrar in psychiatry and a Wellcome Doctoral Clinical Research Fellow with an interest in neuropsychiatry, psychopharmacology, and non-pharmacological treatment effects.

He joined King's College London in 2019 as an Academic Clinical Fellow and has since published widely in peer-reviewed journals. He is currently undertaking a neuroimaging study into the effects of the psychedelic psilocybin in functional neurological disorder.



He holds MBChB (Hons) and MRes (Dist) from the University of Manchester and is a member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. He is the editor of the upcoming edition of Pocket Prescriber Psychiatry.

### **Overview**

Overview of functional neurological disorder with a focus on clinical presentation, pathophysiological mechanisms, and treatment principles.



## Global impact of functional neurological disorders

### **Dr Mohamed Gheis**

*Clinical Assistant Professor of Psychiatry-University of British Columbia  
Consultant Neuropsychiatrist – British Columbia, Canada*

#### **Biography**

Consultant Neuropsychiatrist and Founder of the Functional Neurological Disorder Program in Victoria, British Columbia, Canada. Completed postgraduate psychiatric training in Cardiff and London, subsequently certified in neuropsychiatry and behavioural neurology by the United Council of Neurologic Subspecialties of the United States of America. After a short period of practice in New Zealand, moved to Canada, practiced and published in neuropsychiatry for the last 20 years.



#### **Overview**

Functional Neurological Disorder (FND) represents a significant global health concern due to several factors, including its prevalence, impact on quality of life, and healthcare costs. The condition has far-reaching effects on healthcare, which will be examined in this presentation through the lenses of social effects, public policy and evolving legislations.

## Cannabis and schizophrenia

### **Professor Sagnik Bhattacharyya**

*Professor of Translational Neuroscience & Psychiatry*

*Deputy Head, Department of Psychosis Studies, King's College London*

#### **Biography**

Sagnik Bhattacharyya is a Professor of Translational Neuroscience & Psychiatry and Deputy Head of the Department of Psychosis Studies at King's College London, and is a Consultant Psychiatrist at the Maudsley Hospital. Sagnik is ranked number two worldwide (Expertscape) among biomedical scientists working on cannabis and has been employing experimental medicine approaches in conjunction with neuroimaging and pharmacological challenge to understand the neurophysiological and neurocognitive basis of the effects of cannabis and cannabinoids.



His work has provided the first human evidence of the distinct neurophysiological effects of the two major cannabinoids present in cannabis extract, delta-9-tetrahydrocannabinol and Cannabidiol and proof-of-concept evidence that Cannabidiol may have therapeutic potential as an antipsychotic. Sagnik's group is leading randomized clinical trials investigating the efficacy of cannabidiol in different stages of psychosis as well as in neurodegenerative disorders such as Parkinson's disease.

#### **Overview**

This presentation will focus on the association between cannabis use and outcomes in psychotic disorders such as schizophrenia and how they may be managed.

## Save the date

### Eastern Division Autumn Conference 2024



**Date**

25 October 2024

**Time**

9:00AM – 4:30PM

**Venue**

21 Prescott Street, London,  
E1 8BB

## Eastern Division vacancies

We are currently looking to recruit enthusiastic and experienced members in the Eastern Division.

- Forensic Regional Representative
- Liaison Regional Representative
- General Adult Regional Representative
- Old Age Regional Representative
- Neuropsychiatry Regional Representative
- Medical Psychotherapy Regional Representative
- Deputy Regional Advisor

If you are interested in taking up any of the above posts please email [moinul.mannan@rcpsych.ac.uk](mailto:moinul.mannan@rcpsych.ac.uk), including a copy of your CV.

- [Regional Specialty representative job description](#) (PDF)
- [College Officer role descriptions \(England Wales\)](#) (PDF)
- [Find out how to stand for elections for the elected positions](#)