

The Royal College of Psychiatrists Faculty of Psychiatry of Intellectual Disability Spring Conference

Friday 25 April 2025, Royal College of Psychiatrists, 21 Prescot Street, London, E1 8BB

Conference Organizing Committee:

- Dr Indermeet Sawhney, Faculty Chair
- Prof. Rohit Shankar, Faculty Vice Chair
- Dr Samuel Tromans, Academic Secretary
- Dr Ezhil Anand, Academic Secretary
- Prof. Mahesh Odiyoor, Academic Secretary

Professor John Taylor



John L Taylor is a Professor in the Northumbria Law School and Emeritus Professor of Clinical Psychology in the Faculty of Health & Life Sciences at Northumbria University Newcastle. He is also a Consultant Clinical Psychologist and Approved Clinician with Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne & Wear NHS Foundation Trust. Dr Taylor is a British Psychological Society (BPS) chartered clinical and forensic psychologist and is Chair of the Society's Mental Health Act Advisory Group. He is a Past President of the British Association for Behavioural and Cognitive Psychotherapies (BABCP), and a former Chair of the BPS Faculty for Forensic Clinical Psychology. Dr Taylor was a member of the Advisory Group for the UK Government's Mental Health Act Independent (Wessely) Review.

Mr Tom Shillito



Tom Shillito is the health improvement and research manager at Epilepsy Action. He leads quality improvement projects to improve care for people affected by epilepsy and promotes the patient voice within epilepsy research and within health and social care. He is particularly interested in learning disabilities, pregnancy, and older people with epilepsy.

Dr Jane McCarthy



Dr Jane McCarthy is Medical Lead & Consultant Psychiatrist for the Intellectual Disability Service at Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Visiting Senior Lecturer at the Department of Forensic & Neurodevelopmental Sciences, King's College London, UK and Honorary Associate Professor in Psychological Medicine, University of Auckland, New Zealand.

Dr McCarthy has over 29 years of experience as a Consultant Psychiatrist working with people with intellectual disability and/or autism spectrum disorders presenting across inpatient services, forensic services, prisons, courts and community-based services. She has over 100 publications in peer-reviewed journals and books and has been an editor of six textbooks including the textbook titled '*Forensic Aspects of Neurodevelopmental Disorders: A Clinician's Guide*'

Professor Angela Hassiotis



Angela read Medicine at the University of Athens prior to immigrating to the UK. She trained in Psychiatry at the Royal Free Training Scheme and the North West Thames Higher Training Scheme in Learning Disabilities. Has worked as clinical academic at UCL and the Herts and Essex Mental Health Trust and since 2001 in the North London Foundation Trust and the Camden Learning Disability Service. Angela has authored/co-authored numerous papers on a variety of subjects and has carried out externally funded research. As an educator, she has supported many PhD students to completion. Her current leadership roles include: Joint Medical Advisor to the Baily Thomas Charitable Foundation, member of the Academic Psychiatry Faculty, Member of the NIHR HTA Prioritisation Committee and various editorship roles.

Lancet Psychiatry profile – [\[Link\]](#)

Awards

Psychiatric Intellectual Disabilities Team of the Year 2020 RCPsych

Stephen Reiss award for research excellence NADD 2020

IASSIDD Fellow 2021

Frank Menolascino award for contribution to clinical services NADD 2023

Professor Peter Langdon



Peter was awarded an undergraduate degree in psychology from Memorial University of Newfoundland. He was then awarded a Lord Rothermere Fellowship and studied clinical psychology at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology, and Neuroscience before completing a PhD at the Tizard Centre, University of Kent as a NIHR Research Fellow. He then went on to complete a NIHR funded postdoctoral fellowship. He is a Fellow of the British Psychological Society and the International Association for the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IASSIDD). He was awarded the IASSIDD Distinguished Achievement Award for Research in 2022. He is a non-medical approved clinician and is currently working in community forensic services for people with intellectual disabilities within Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust. He is a Professor of Clinical Psychology within the newly established Intellectual Disabilities Research Institute (IDRIS) at the University of Birmingham.

Dr Sion Scott



Sion is a hospital pharmacist researcher, and his methodological expertise is the application of behavioural science to develop and evaluate health interventions.

He completed his MPharm at the School of Pharmacy, University of East Anglia in 2015 and began his clinical career at Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. He returned to the University of East Anglia in 2016 to complete an NHS-funded PhD in behavioural science in which he developed a 'practitioner behaviour change intervention for deprescribing in the hospital setting'. His deprescribing intervention is being tested in an NIHR Programme Grant for Applied Research across 24 hospitals and 22,000 patients in England. After completing a series of postdoctoral positions and a Lectureship at the University of East Anglia, he joined the University of Leicester in 2021.

Shiva Fouladi-Nashta



Shiva Fouladi-Nashta is the Lead Learning Disabilities Pharmacist for East London Foundation Trust, leading on the Trust's STOMP medication review work. She is an accredited Advanced Practitioner, and Independent Prescriber, and has been working in a Psychiatric setting for 8 years. Shiva provides specialist Mental Health training for Primary Care pharmacy professionals under Centre for Post-Graduate Pharmacy Education (CPPE). She founded and leads the Learning Disability Practitioner's Network alongside other steering group members.

Dr Rory Sheehan



Dr Rory Sheehan is a senior clinical lecturer at King's College London. His work includes investigating and addressing health inequities experienced by people with neurodevelopmental conditions; as part of this, he has worked with the Learning from Lives and Deaths (LeDeR) mortality review academic collaboration since 2021. Dr Sheehan has a clinical role as a consultant psychiatrist in a community forensic learning disability and autism service in south London

Dr Daniel Acton



As a consultant nurse in intellectual disability, autism, and neurodevelopmental disorders, Dr Acton leads innovative research and clinical initiatives to elevate patient care and support professional development. Based at the Centre for Autism, Neurodevelopmental Disorders, and Intellectual Disability (CANDDID) within Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, his role combines clinical leadership, education, and research. This involves mentoring multi-professional teams and implementing evidence-based practices that drive quality improvements across services. His research centres on creating tailored interventions to address complex patient needs, including co-produced anxiety management programmes and advanced mental health care frameworks. He is committed to advancing clinical practice through impactful, collaborative studies, fostering continuous learning, and supporting the growth of emerging consultant practitioners. By integrating strategic mentorship and multi-disciplinary approaches, he aims to transform service delivery and embed innovation in healthcare practices for individuals with learning disabilities and autism.

Professor Sujeet Jaydeokar



Sujeet is a Consultant Psychiatrist with Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust and co-founder of the Centre for Autism, Neurodevelopmental Disorders, and Intellectual Disabilities (CANDDID), where he also serves as Research Director. With a deep commitment to advancing evidence-based practice, Prof Jaydeokar leads a postgraduate programme on Neurodevelopmental Conditions at the University of Chester and is a Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. His research and clinical focus are centred on health inequalities, service innovation, and understanding the unique presentations of neurodevelopmental disorders. Prof Jaydeokar's initiatives encompass developing new frameworks for patient care, implementing quality improvements, and exploring the phenomenology of neurodevelopmental conditions to enhance diagnosis and treatment approaches. His work is instrumental in shaping clinical practices and expanding access to high-quality, tailored care for individuals with neurodevelopmental disorders.

Ms Hafsha Ali



Hafsha Ali is a recognised leader with over 20 years' experience in public sector transformation, specialising in learning disability, autism, and mental health. She leads a specialist service driving system-wide change to improve outcomes and tackle health inequalities.

Hafsha has contributed to national programmes, including the Clive Treacey Independent Review, which has driven significant improvements in care for people with learning disabilities. Her expertise spans governance, stakeholder engagement, and service redesign, always ensuring that lived experience informs the development of services and systems.

Committed to creating fairer healthcare systems, Hafsha's work is guided by the voices and needs of

communities, delivering meaningful and lasting change.

Verity Chester



Verity is a Research Associate and the Network Manager for RADiANT, a clinical and research consortium focused on five developmental conditions; Intellectual Disability, Autism, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Epilepsy and Acquired Brain Injury. Verity is currently studying a PhD at the University of East Anglia, Norwich, and her research is investigating social information processing among autistic offenders. Prior to this, Verity obtained her BSc in Forensic Psychology from the University of Leeds in 2009, and a MSc in Forensic Psychology from London Metropolitan University in 2012. Verity has worked on a portfolio of projects relevant to her research interests on intellectual disability, autism, mental health and offending behaviour and has authored over 80 peer reviewed publications. She is also the Editor of Advances in Autism journal.