Event Booklet

RCPsych in Scotland
Liaison Faculty Conference 2026

@RCPsychScot
#RCPsychScotLiaison26

6 November 2026

at the
Sir Jim McDonald
Technology & Innovation Centre
99 George Street, Glasgow, G1 1RD
(Level 9, Executive Rooms A&B)
Registration from 9.10am

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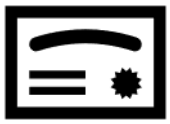
A register will be taken to confirm attendance upon arrival.



Please turn your phone/devices to silent and your email notifications off for the duration of the event.



Feedback Forms will be circulated for you to complete in the afternoon.



Certificates of attendance will be emailed to you within 10 days of the event.

RCPsych in Scotland

RCPsychiS Liaison Faculty Conference

Friday 6 November 2026

Strathclyde Technology & Innovation Centre, Glasgow
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Morning Programme Chaired by: Dr Murray Smith	
09:10 – 09:25	Registration
09:30 – 09:35	**Welcome and introduction to the morning from the Chair** Dr Murray Smith, Chair Liaison Faculty in Scotland
09:35 – 10:15	**Movement: The Bridge Between Neurology and Psychiatry** Dr Dave Anderson, Consultant Neurologist (Movement Disorders), NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde
10:15 – 10:55	**Forensic Psychiatry: The Basics** Dr Gillian Howieson, Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist, Ayrshire and Arran
10:55 – 11:15	**Comfort Break**
11:15 – 11:55	**Virtual Wards and Remote Monitoring in psychiatry** Dr Rajeev Krishnadas, University of Cambridge
11:55 – 12:35	**Eating Disorders in the General Hospital** Dr Caroline Leeming, Consultant Psychiatrist in Eating Disorders, Priory Hospital Glasgow and Penny Vlachou, Advanced Eating Disorders Dietician, Priory Hospital Glasgow
12:35 – 13:30	**Lunch**
13:30 – 13:55	**Trainee Poster Presentations**
Afternoon Programme Chaired by: Dr Ben Chetcuti	
14:00 – 14:40	**Anorexia in the Acute Ward: The Low-Weight Pathway** Dr Martynas Malkov (Paediatric Liaison Consultant Psychiatrist) and Martin Donnelly (Clinical Nurse Specialist) Paediatric Liaison Team, Royal Hospital for Children, Glasgow
14:40 – 15:20	**Psychiatry liaison as core ED business: joint working as standard** Dr Rajendra Raman, Consultant in Emergency Medicine, NHS Fife
15:20 – 15:40	**Comfort Break**
15:40 – 16:20	**What does Public Service Reform mean for Mental Health?** Dr Robby Steel, Principal Medical Officer, Scottish Government
16:20	**Meeting Closes**

The RCPsychiS reserves the right to change the programme without prior notice.
1 point per hour of educational activity can be allocated, pending peer group review.



Event Chairs

Dr Murray Smith

Murray has been a Consultant Liaison Psychiatrist at Aberdeen Royal Infirmary since 2019 and is Clinical Director for Adult Mental Health services in NHS Grampian. His clinical and leadership interests include liaison psychiatry, unscheduled care, psychiatric emergencies and improving the interface between mental and physical healthcare. He is actively involved with RCPsych, as current chair of the RCPsych in Scotland Liaison Psychiatry Faculty, Suicide Prevention spokesperson for RCPsychiS and was also previously an elected member of the UK Liaison Psychiatry Faculty.

Dr Ben Chetcuti

Ben is a Consultant Psychiatrist working in NHS Ayrshire and Arran, with a clinical interest spanning liaison psychiatry, neuropsychiatry, alcohol related brain damage and neurodevelopmental disorders.

Alongside his clinical practice, Ben has been involved in service development, clinical leadership and medical workforce planning. His interests include improving pathways for people with complex needs, strengthening multidisciplinary working and developing sustainable services that support both patients and clinicians. He has also contributed to work exploring consultant retention, professional wellbeing and the organisational conditions that enable psychiatrists to deliver care.

Ben is a cofounder of Southside Psychiatry, an independent adult psychiatry service in Scotland. His wider professional interests include the application of digital technology to clinical monitoring, communication and care coordination.

Speaker Biographies & Presentation Abstracts (in programme order)

Dr Dave Anderson

Dave is a Consultant Neurologist specialising in Movement Disorders at NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde and an Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer at the University of Glasgow.

Originally trained in South Africa, he has extensive clinical experience in movement disorders, neurogenetics and deep brain stimulation. His particular interests include Huntington's disease and other inherited movement disorders, particularly those associated with complex behavioural, cognitive and psychiatric manifestations. His PhD focused on the neurogenetics of Huntington's disease-like disorders.

He currently leads the Huntington's disease neurology service in Glasgow and is actively involved in clinical research and therapeutic trials in Huntington's and Parkinson's disease.

Throughout his career, he has been keen to develop multidisciplinary teams and clinical networks that bring together neurologists, neuropsychiatrists, psychologists and other healthcare professionals. He believes that this collaborative approach is particularly valuable in managing complex neurological conditions where movement disorders, cognitive changes and psychiatric symptoms frequently overlap.

Presentation overview: *"Movement: The Bridge Between Neurology and Psychiatry"*

Dr Gillian Howieson

Gillian graduated from Glasgow University and completed foundation and core training in the West of Scotland. After completing specialist training in forensic psychiatry, she worked initially in low secure forensic services in Glasgow before moving to her current post in Ayrshire. Currently she works a consultant in the forensic community mental health team and is visiting psychiatrist to HMP Kilmarnock.

Presentation overview: ***"Forensic Psychiatry; The basics"***
A brief overview of forensic psychiatry and where we work.
Overlap with liaison psychiatry.
The legislation we use and how it may be relevant to liaison.

Dr Rajeev Krishnadas

Rajeev is an academic consultant psychiatrist at the University of Cambridge. He previously worked in Glasgow's Early Intervention in Psychosis service. He runs the Peterborough Clozapine Clinic. He developed and leads the community clozapine initiation team using remote physical health monitoring. The team won the RCPsych Digital Mental Health Team of the Year award. His research interests include developing and using Causal and Actionable Predictive models to predict individual-level outcomes and developing tailored treatments for people with schizophrenia.

Presentation overview: *"Virtual Wards and Remote Monitoring in psychiatry"*
Rajeev will present the rationale for clozapine initiation in the community, using remote monitoring and virtual ward technology. He will give a brief account of the practical aspects of this, including a brief case scenario on how we managed some complications in the community within the setting. He will also talk about future directions in this space.

Dr Caroline Leeming

Caroline is a Consultant Psychiatrist with a longstanding clinical and academic interest in eating disorders and the interface between physical and mental health.

She studied medicine at the Universities of St Andrews and Manchester before undertaking psychiatry training in the North-East of Glasgow. She worked in Liaison Psychiatry as a both a Core and Higher Trainee and following completion of her training, she worked as a General Adult Psychiatrist for many years, before joining the Eating Disorder Service at Glasgow Priory Hospital.

Her interest in eating disorders first developed during her training in Liaison Psychiatry, where she became particularly interested in the manifestation of psychological distress through physical illness. This interest has continued throughout her career and has become a central focus of her clinical work.

Dr Leeming was elected to the Royal College of Psychiatry Faculty of Eating Disorders in 2023 and has served as a faculty member for over three years. She is currently involved in the development of a postgraduate diploma in eating disorders to help raise awareness of Eating Disorders.

Penny Vlachou

Penny is a Dietitian with over 14 years of NHS and private practice experience. She specialises in eating disorders and disordered eating, supporting individuals to develop a healthier relationship with food through evidence-based nutrition interventions integrated with behavioural psychology and counselling approaches.

Alongside her extensive experience within multidisciplinary eating disorder services, Penny has expertise in weight management, emotional eating, cardiometabolic health, type 2 diabetes, and women's health. She is passionate about translating complex nutrition science into practical strategies that support both physical and psychological wellbeing.

Presentation overview: *"Eating Disorders in the general hospital"*
Eating Disorders are highly prevalent mental disorders and carry a high rate of mortality and morbidity. Patients will often present to the General Hospital and are increasingly being managed in general acute beds rather than Specialist Eating Disorder Units. It is important that their illnesses are recognised promptly and treated appropriately.

Dr Martynas Malkov

Martynas is a dedicated Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist specialising in paediatric liaison psychiatry, a field in which they have practiced for the past six years.

They completed their specialist higher training in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the prestigious Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust, developing a deep expertise in understanding the complex intersection between physical illness and mental health in young people.

Having worked within busy acute paediatric hospital settings in London and Glasgow, they have a varied clinical experience of assessing and managing common and rare paediatric liaison clinical presentations.

Martin Donnelly

Martin is a prominent clinical nurse specialist nurse who began his career in Glasgow's Children's national inpatient unit. Martin has dedicated his career to child and adolescent mental health, specifically within the fields of paediatric liaison psychiatry and neurodevelopmental conditions. He operates out of the Royal Hospital for Children in Glasgow, playing a primary role in developing and expanding the service. His core clinical work focuses heavily on supporting children and young people with acute and chronic physical health difficulties and moderate to severe mental health problems. Martin has a specialist interest in Functional Neurological disorders and neurodiversity, especially tics and Tourette's syndrome He frequently collaborates with national organizations like Tourette's Action and Tourette's Scotland to train other CAMHS professionals, outline diagnosis pathways, evaluate comorbidities, and implement behavioural therapies for children and young people.

For his work with Tourette's, Martin won mental health nurse of the year award and his paediatric liaison psychiatry team won team of the year in 2017. Martin was one of the primary figures in the development of the low weight pathway in Greater Glasgow and Clyde based on the MARSIPAN and subsequently MEED guidelines.

Presentation overview: *"Anorexia in the Acute Ward: The Low-Weight Pathway"*
An overview of the low-weight pathway within the Greater Glasgow and Clyde Health Board that supports young people physically compromised due to an anorexia nervosa illness.

Dr Rajendra Raman

Raju is a Consultant in Emergency Medicine at NHS Fife and an NRS Research Fellow. His programme of work is focused on improving care for people presenting to the Emergency Department with mental health issues, including substance use.

Presentation overview: *"Psychiatry liaison as core ED business: joint working as standard"*
Large numbers of people present to UK Emergency Departments (EDs) with issues of mental health, substance use or psychological distress. The great majority have concurrent physical and mental health needs. Very small numbers require inpatient admission under psychiatry. True side-by-side working between liaison psychiatry and emergency medicine remains aspirational. Investing in allied services such as ED-based peer support teams may be of great value to both specialties.

Dr Robby Steel

Robby completed his core training in South Glasgow and his specialty training as a lecturer in Edinburgh. He has worked as a consultant in general adult psychiatry but most of his clinical career has been as a liaison psychiatrist at the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh including serving the maternity unit. Since April 2025 he has been the psychiatrist tasked with advising the Scottish Government - the Principal Medical Officer

Presentation overview: *"What does Public Service Reform mean for Mental Health?"*

The Scottish Government has made numerous statements and announced ambitious proposals around what it sees as an urgent need to deliver public services in a different way. One of the most conspicuous examples is the proposal to rationalise the number of mainland territorial Health Boards from 11 to 2 but they have also raised the possibility of restructuring Local Authorities. These changes will inevitably impact upon the way that Mental Health services are delivered. Dr Steel will share the insights he has gleaned from being close to government.

POSTERS

The entries are listed in alphabetical order of submitting author, indicated in bold type.

1. **Dr Ivana Grech**
   – Paternal Age and Socioeconomic Status as Modifiable Risk Factors of Autism Spectrum Disorder

2. **Dr Laura Havens**
   – Management of ARBD under the mental health act - are patient rights being protected?

3. **Dr Atia Mahmood**
   – Improving adherence to mental health assessment standards in the Emergency Department: a quality improvement project