Faculty of Addictions Psychiatry Annual Conference 2026

The Future of Addiction Psychiatry: Hype, Hope and Hard Evidence

When: Thursday 30 April – Friday 1 May 2026
Where: Royal College of Psychiatrists, 21 Prescot Street, London, E1 8BB (and livestreamed for online delegates via EventsAir)

Day one - Thursday 30 April	
8.30am - 9.05am	**Registration**
9.05am-10.30am	**Opening Addresses and Keynote Presentation | Room 1.7** Chair: Dr Emily Finch, Chair, Faculty of Addictions Psychiatry, Royal College of Psychiatrists
9.05am-9.20am	**Welcome and Introduction from the Faculty Chair** Dr Emily Finch, Chair, Faculty of Addictions Psychiatry, Royal College of Psychiatrists
9.20am-9.35am	**Presidential Address** Dr Lade Smith CBE, President Royal College of Psychiatrists
9.35am-9.50am	**Keynote Presentation: Reflections on the Delivery of the 2021 Drug Strategy** Professor Dame Carol Black, Independent Government Advisor on drugs
9.50am-10.10am	**Presentation title TBC** Mr Peter Burkinshaw, Government Official, Department of Health and Social Care
10.10am-10.30am	**Q&A and discussion**
10.30am-11.00am	**Morning refreshments and poster viewing**
11.00am - 12.15pm	**Plenary 1: Lived Experience as a Therapeutic Tool | Room 1.7** Chair: Dr Julia Lewis, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
11.00am-11.40am	**Peer Supported Open Dialogue (POD)**

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	Mrs Rachel Bannister, Peer Supported Open Dialogue (POD) Practitioner & Chair, Mental Health Time - for Action Foundation and Mrs Paula Taylor, Accredited member of British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP)
11.40am-12.00pm	**The role of the Lived Experience Recovery Organisation in the continuum of care** Professor Ed Day, Professor/Consultant in Addiction Psychiatry, Dr Laura Petchey, Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID), Dr Suzie Roscoe and Lanre Babalola
12.00pm-12.10pm	**Q&A and discussion**
12.10pm-12.15pm	**Movement break*** *Please note that this is not a catered break
12.15pm - 1.15pm	**Parallel sessions** *Please choose one of the below sessions to attend.*
	Parallel session A – Experiential Peer Supported Open Dialogue (POD) Workshop* | Room 1.5-1.6 Chair: Dr Julia Lewis, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board **Facilitators:** • Mrs Rachel Banister • Mrs Paula Taylor • Danielle Caperton • Francesca Varsani • Emma Clarke • Rebecca Pembridge *Please note that this workshop will not be livestreamed and/or recorded and is only available for in-person delegates to attend.
	Parallel session B – NHS Practitioner Health - the management of addiction in healthcare professionals | Room 1.1 Chair: Dr Deepak Sirur Richard Jones and Dr Jane Marshall, Consultant Psychiatrist, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust and NHS Practitioner Health
	Parallel session C – Prediction of individualised six-month mortality risk in opioid use disorder | Room 1.7 Chair: Dr Shivanthi Sathanadan, Executive Committee of Addictions Faculty, Consultant at Islington Drug service (NLFT) and Primary Care Gambling Service

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	Dr Emmert Roberts, Senior Clinical Lecturer in Addiction Psychiatry - King's College London (KCL) & Consultant Addiction Psychiatrist - South London and the Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM)
1.15pm - 2.15pm	**Lunch and poster viewing**
2.15pm - 3.30pm	**Plenary 2: A tribute to Professor Jan Melichar - Buvidal issues | Room 1.7** Chair: Dr Emily Finch, Chair, Faculty of Addictions Psychiatry, Royal College of Psychiatrists
2.15pm- 2.35pm	**Buvidal Psychological Support Service: Integrating Psychological Care within Buvidal Treatment** Dr Lucie James, Cardiff and Vale NHS
2.35pm- 2.55pm	**What is the future of Buvidal?** Dr Faye Graver, Consultant Addiction Psychiatrist/Clinical Director of Substance Misuse Services BCUHB and Clinical Lead for Addiction NHS Wales Performance and Improvement
2.55pm- 3.15pm	**Could Prolonged-release Buprenorphine injection be used as a form of treatment as prevention?** Dr John Dunn, North London NHS Foundation Trust
3.15pm - 3.30pm	**Q&A and discussion**
3.30pm - 4.00pm	**Afternoon refreshments and poster viewing**
4.00pm - 4.45pm	**Plenary 3: Alcohol Guidelines | Room 1.7** Chair: Dr Louise Sell
4.00pm- 4.10pm	**Introduction and Overview** Dr Louise Sell
4.10pm- 4.25pm	**Psychosocial interventions** Dr Luke Mitcheson, DClinPsy
4.25pm- 4.40pm	**Pharmacological interventions** Sarah Welch
4.40pm- 4.45pm	**Q+A and discussion**

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4.45pm – 5.30pm	**Faculty Lecture | Room 1.7** Chair: Dr Emily Finch, Chair, Faculty of Addictions Psychiatry, Royal College of Psychiatrists
4.45pm – 5.15pm	**50 Years in Addiction Research - From Molecular Pharmacology to Systems Neuroscience** Professor David Nutt
5.15pm – 5.30pm	**Q+A and discussion**
5.30pm	**End of day 1**
5.30pm- 6.30pm	**Delegate drinks reception | Members' Area, Ground Floor** All delegates are welcome to attend this reception; no ticket purchase necessary. Only non-alcoholic drink options will be available.

Day two - Friday 1 May	
8.45am - 9.15am	**Registration**
9.15am – 10.30am	**Conference welcome and the 2026 BAP guidelines on the pharmacological management of substance dependence | Room 1.7** Chair: Dr David Bremner, Vice-Chair, Faculty of Addictions Psychiatry, Royal College of Psychiatrists
9.15am- 9.20am	**Welcome and Introduction from the Faculty Vice Chair** Dr David Bremner, Vice Chair, Royal College of Psychiatrists Faculty of Addictions Psychiatry
9.20am- 9.40am	**Guideline Development and Principles** Professor Julia Sinclair, Professor of Addiction Psychiatry, University of Southampton
9.40am- 10.00am	**British Association of Psychopharmacology Guidelines - Opioids and Sedatives** Dr Nicky Kalk, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust; King's College London
10.00am- 10.20am	**BAP Substance Dependence Guidelines Update** Dr Stephen Kaar, Greater Manchester Mental Health Foundation Trust
10.20am- 10.30am	**Q+A and discussion**

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10.30am-11.40am	**Plenary 4: Alcohol Policy | Room 1.7** Chair: TBC
10.30am-11.00am	**What Policy Changes are Necessary to Reduce Alcohol Related Harm** Dr Richard Piper, Alcohol ChangeUK
11.00am-11.30am	**Barriers to Accessing Treatment for Alcohol Addiction** Dr James Morris, LSBU
11.30am-11.40am	**Q&A and discussion**
11.40am-12.10pm	**Morning refreshments and poster viewing**
12.10pm-1.10pm	**Parallel sessions** *Please choose one of the below sessions to attend.*
	Parallel session D – GLP-1 Receptor Agonists: A Whistlestop Tour | Room 1.7 Chair: Dr Shivanthi Sathanadan, Executive Committee of Addictions Faculty, Consultant at Islington Drug service (NLFT) and Primary Care Gambling Service Dr Georgia Templeton, Consultant General Adult Psychiatrist and Dr Tomos Williams, Consultant Psychiatrist, Cheshire and Wirral Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
	Parallel session E – Co-Sum Workshop | Room 1.1 Chair: Dr Emily Finch, Chair, Faculty of Addictions Psychiatry, Royal College of Psychiatrists
	Parallel session F – Insomnia Update | Room 1.5-1.6 Chair: Dr Hugh Selsick, University College London Hospitals
1.10pm-2.10pm	**Lunch and poster viewing**
2.10pm-3.10pm	**Plenary 5: Smart Phones as Therapists | Room 1.7** Chair: Dr Romayne Gadelrab, MBBS Bsc FRCPsych PGDip
2.10pm-2.20pm	**Digital addiction/AI Psychosis/AI Hallucinations** Dr Romayne Gadelrab, MBBS Bsc FRCPsych PGDip

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2.20pm-2.30pm	**Using LLM to deliver continuity of care and enhance human therapists** Charles Well, CEO, HelloSelf Alan Thomson, CTO Stephen Ireland, Head of AI & Machine Learning
2.30pm-2.40pm	**Digital biomarkers and prediction of relapse** Dr Faith Matcham
2.40pm-2.50pm	**Can AI be my therapist?** Dr Vikam Luthra, Consultant psychiatrist in medical psychotherapy (dual trained) Training programmes director (medical psychotherapy) for Yorkshire and Humber Clinical lead (Take Time) Psychoanalyst
2.50pm-3.10pm	**Q&A and discussion**
3.10pm-3.40pm	**Afternoon refreshments and poster viewing**
3.40pm-4.55pm	**Plenary 6: Faculty Lecture Prize and Looking to the Future | Room 1.7** Chair:
3.40pm-4.00pm	**Faculty Lecture Prize** Dr Stephen Naulls
4.00pm-4.20pm	**Prevention of opioid overdose deaths through the technologies of tomorrow: Innovations being explored currently and, in the future** Professor Sir. John Strang, National Addiction Centre, King's College London; and SLaM NHS Foundation Trust
4.20pm-4.40pm	**Global Psychiatry Perspective** Professor Mohammed Al-Uzri, Presidential Lead for Global Mental Health
4.40pm-4.55pm	**Q&A and discussion**
4.55pm - 5.00pm	**Closing remarks and poster prizes | Room 1.7** Chair: Dr Emily Finch, Chair, Royal College of Psychiatrists Faculty of Addictions Psychiatry
4.55pm - 5.00pm	**Closing comments from the Faculty Chair and the announcement of prize winners** Dr Emily Finch, Chair, Royal College of Psychiatrists Faculty of Addictions Psychiatry

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5.00pm	**Close of conference**

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