

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	<p>Opening Addresses and Keynote Presentations Room 1.7 Chair: Dr Emily Finch, Chair, Faculty of Addictions Psychiatry, Royal College of Psychiatrists and Clinical Director Addictions, South and London and Maudsley NHS Trust</p>
9.05am-9.20am	<p>Welcome and Introduction from the Faculty Chair Dr Emily Finch, Chair, Faculty of Addictions Psychiatry, RCPsych and Clinical Director Addictions, South and London and Maudsley NHS Trust</p>
9.20am-9.35am	<p>Presidential Address Dr Lade Smith CBE, President Royal College of Psychiatrists</p>
9.35am-9.50am	<p>Keynote Presentation: Reflections on the Delivery of the 2021 Drug Strategy Professor Dame Carol Black, Independent Government Advisor on drugs</p>
9.50am-10.10am	<p>Drug and alcohol treatment and recovery workforce development: progress and where we need to go further Mr Peter Burkinshaw, Department of Health and Social Care</p>
10.10am-10.30am	Q&A and discussion
10.30am-11.00am	Morning refreshments and poster viewing
11.00am - 12.10pm	<p>Plenary 1: Lived Experience as a Therapeutic Tool Room 1.7 Chair: Dr Julia Lewis, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board</p>

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<p>11.00am-11.40am</p>	<p>Peer Supported Open Dialogue (POD)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Paula Taylor, Accredited member of British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) • Mrs Francesca Varsani • Ms Benna Waites, Clinical Psychologist • Mr Leo Anderson, Expert by Experience (pre-recorded presentation)
<p>11.40am-12.00pm</p>	<p>The role of the Lived Experience Recovery Organisation in the continuum of care</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professor Ed Day, Professor/Consultant in Addiction Psychiatry • Dr Laura Pechey, Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) • Dr Suzie Roscoe, Office for Health Improvement and Disparities • Mr Lanre Babalola, Chief Executive, Bringing Unity Back into the Community (BUBIC)
<p>12.00pm-12.10pm</p>	<p>Q&A and discussion</p>
<p>12.10pm-12.15pm</p>	<p>Movement break* *Please note that this is not a catered break</p>
<p>12.15pm - 1.15pm</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Parallel sessions <i>Please choose one of the below sessions to attend.</i></p>
	<p>Parallel session A – Experiential Peer Supported Open Dialogue (POD) Workshop* Room 1.6 Chair: Dr Julia Lewis, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board</p> <p>Facilitators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mrs Rachel Banister, Peer Supported Open Dialogue (POD) Practitioner & Chair, Mental Health Time - for Action Foundation • Mrs Paula Taylor, Accredited member of British Association of Counselling and Psychotherapy (BACP) • Mrs Danielle Caperton, Registered Mental Health Nurse, NMC • Mrs Francesca Varsani • Miss Emma Clarke, NMC • Mrs Rebecca Pembridge <p>*Please note that this workshop will not be livestreamed and/or recorded and is only available for in-person delegates to attend.</p>
	<p>Parallel session B – NHS Practitioner Health - the management of addiction in healthcare professionals Room 1.1 Chair: Dr Deep Sirur, Derbyshire Recovery Partnership- Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust</p> <p>Dr Jane Marshall, Consultant Psychiatrist, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust and NHS Practitioner Health</p>

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	<p>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</p> <p>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)</p>
1.15pm - 2.00pm	Lunch and poster viewing
2.00pm - 3.30pm	<p>Plenary 2: A tribute to Professor Jan Melichar - Buprenorphine issues Room 1.7 Chair: Dr Emily Finch, Chair, Faculty of Addictions Psychiatry, RCPsych and Clinical Director Addictions, South and London and Maudsley NHS Trust</p>
2.00pm- 2.20pm	<p>Is this what success looks like? Professor Rosemary Greenwood, University of Leicester</p>
2.20pm- 2.40pm	<p>Buprenorphine Psychological Support Service: Integrating Psychological Care within Buprenorphine Treatment Dr Lucie James, Cardiff and Vale NHS</p>
2.40pm- 2.55pm	<p>What is the future of Long Acting Injectable Buprenorphine? Dr Faye Graver, Consultant Addiction Psychiatrist/Clinical Director of Substance Misuse Services BCUHB and Clinical Lead for Addiction NHS Wales Performance and Improvement</p>
2.55pm- 3.15pm	<p>Could Prolonged-release Buprenorphine injection be used as a form of treatment as prevention? Dr John Dunn, North London NHS Foundation Trust</p>
3.15pm - 3.30pm	Q&A and discussion
3.30pm - 4.00pm	Afternoon refreshments and poster viewing
4.00pm - 4.45pm	<p>Plenary 3: Alcohol Guidelines Room 1.7 Chair: Dr Louise Sell, FRCPSych</p>
4.00pm- 4.10pm	<p>Introduction and Overview Dr Louise Sell, FRCPSych</p>

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4.10pm- 4.25pm	Psychosocial interventions Dr Luke Mitcheson, DCLinPsy
4.25pm- 4.40pm	Pharmacological interventions Dr Sarah Welch, Retired Addiction Psychiatrist
4.40pm- 4.45pm	Q+A and discussion The Q+A will also feature Ms Hazel Jordan, Alcohol Programme Manager, DHSC.
4.45pm – 5.15pm	Faculty Lecture Room 1.7 Chair: Dr Abhishek Goli, Deputy Chief Medical Officer Greater Manchester Mental health NHS Trust, Finance officer and Executive member of Addictions Faculty
4.45pm – 5.05pm	The Long Road to Effective Interventions for Stimulant Use Disorder Professor John Marsden, Practitioner Psychologist (BPS, BABCP)
5.05pm – 5.15pm	Q+A and discussion
5.15pm	End of day 1
5.15pm- 6.00pm	Delegate drinks reception Members' Area, Ground Floor All in-person 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	British Association for Psychopharmacology (BAP) Substance Dependence Guidelines: Development, Principles and Alcohol Treatment Professor Julia Sinclair, Professor of Addiction Psychiatry, University of Southampton

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9.40am-10.00am	BAP Substance Dependence 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: Nicotine, Cannabis, Stimulants and Dissociatives Dr Stephen Kaar, Greater Manchester Mental Health Foundation Trust
10.20am-10.30am	Q+A and discussion
10.30am-11.40am	Plenary 4: Alcohol Policy Room 1.7 Chair: Dr David McLaughlan, Academic Secretary, Royal College of Psychiatrists Faculty of Addictions Psychiatry and Clean Slate Clinic, UK Clinical Director
10.30am-11.00am	What Policy Changes are Necessary to Reduce Alcohol Related Harm Dr Richard Piper, CEO, Alcohol Change UK
11.00am-11.30am	Barriers to help-seeking and change amongst people with alcohol problems Dr James Morris, London South Bank University
11.30am-11.40am	Q&A and discussion
11.40am-12.10pm	Morning refreshments and poster viewing
12.10pm-1.10pm	Parallel sessions <i>Please choose one of the below sessions to attend.</i>
	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 Dr Emily Finch, Chair, Faculty of Addictions Psychiatry, Royal College of Psychiatrists
	Parallel session F – Insomnia Update Room 1.5-1.6 Chair: 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) Dr Hugh Selsick, University College London Hospitals

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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
2.20pm-2.30pm	Using LLM to deliver continuity of care and enhance human therapists <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Charlie Wells, Co-founder and CEO of HelloSelf • Alan Thomson, CTO • Stephen Ireland, Head of AI & Machine Learning
2.30pm-2.40pm	Digital Biomarkers and Predicting Relapse in Alcohol Use Disorders Dr David McLaughlan, Academic Secretary, Royal College of Psychiatrists Faculty of Addictions Psychiatry and Clean Slate Clinic, UK Clinical Director
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: Dr Julia Lewis, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board
3.40pm-4.00pm	Faculty Lecture Prize: Chemsex and the Brain Dr Stephen Naulls, Brighton & Sussex Medical School, Sussex Partnership NHS Trust
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

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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, Faculty of Addictions Psychiatry, RCPsych and Clinical Director Addictions, South and London and Maudsley NHS Trust
4.55pm - 5.00pm	Closing comments from the Faculty Chair and the announcement of prize winners Dr Emily Finch, Chair, Faculty of Addictions Psychiatry, RCPsych and Clinical Director Addictions, South and London and Maudsley NHS Trust
5.00pm	Close of conference

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