

Forensic Psychiatry Conference

Date: Wednesday 4-Friday 6 March 2026

Venue: Europa hotel, Belfast

Wednesday

Time	Session
8.00am	Registration, refreshments and poster exhibition viewing
Session 1: Chair – Dr Sandeep Mathews	
9.00am	Welcome and introductions Dr Sandeep Mathews, Chair of the Forensic Faculty RCPsych Dr Mary Davoren, Academic Secretary of Forensic Faculty RCPsych
9.20am	SESSION: Forensic Psychiatry in Northern Ireland: Current services and future challenges Dr Richard Bunn, Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist, Belfast
9.40am	Questions
Session 2: Chair – Dr Mary Davoren	
9.45am	KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Pharmacological treatment and the risk of relapse and reoffending Professor Jari Tiihonen Professor of Forensic Psychiatry, Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden, Professor of Forensic Psychiatry, University of Eastern Finland
10.20am	Questions
10.30am	KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Is Forensic Psychiatry antisocial? Explorations of a relational perspective Dr Gwen Adshead, MBBS, FRCPsych, MA (Kings College London), Mst (Oxon) Qualified member of the Institute of Group Analysis
11.05am	Questions
11.15am	Break, refreshments and poster exhibition viewing

Session 3: Chair – Professor Pamela Taylor

11.45am	KEYNOTE SPEAKER: International Rights and Domestic Law Speaker: A confirmed Senior legal figure from Northern Ireland
12.20pm	Questions
12.30pm	Research oral presentations Six presentations of research in Forensic Psychiatry by Resident Doctors. The RCPsych Prize for the best research presentation by a resident doctor will be awarded by the Judging panel <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Intramuscular Clozapine use in a High Secure Hospital Setting Dr Rebecca Bennett Causal pathways and proportionality in minimising restrictive practices Dr Ayman Osman Capacity, rights or risk? A philosophical and legal comparison of Mental Health Legislation in the UK and Crown Dependencies Dr Joseph Kendall An evaluation of conscious capacity and functional ability of in-patients in a National Forensic Mental Health Service Dr Lauren Reilly Guilt and shame amongst mentally unwell offenders: Clinicians' perspectives on assessment and medico-legal practice Dr Piyush Pushkar Readiness to end seclusion: The importance of insight, rapport and hope Dr Carol Norton
1.30pm	Lunch and poster exhibition viewing

Session 4: Chair – TBC

2.30pm	KEY NOTE SPEAKER: Neurocognitive symptoms of Schizophrenia Professor Sukhi Shergill Professor of Psychiatry Systems and Neuroscience, Kings College London
3.10pm	Questions
3.20pm	Break, refreshments and poster exhibition viewing

Conference Programme

3.50pm	PLENARY SESSION Murder at the Dinner Table: Family narratives of Forensic Mental Health Professionals Professor Graham Glancy, Professor and Director, Division of Forensic Psychiatry, University of Toronto, Canada Professor Cheryl Regehr, Professor of Social Work
4.30pm	Questions
4.45pm	Welcome reception and books exhibition (contact michelle.braithwaite@rcpsych.ac.uk to request a book stand)

Thursday

Time	Session
8.30am	Registration, refreshments and poster exhibition viewing
Session 1: Chair – Dr Mayura Deshpande	
9.00am	Welcome and introductions
9.05am	PRESIDENT’S ADDRESS The new Mental Health Act for England and Wales: The good, the bad and the ugly (for the jobbing Forensic Psychiatrist) Dr Lade Smith, Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist and President of Royal College of Psychiatrists UK
9.35am	Questions
9.45am	PLENARY SESSION: A case of serial homicidal necrophilia: Experts and expert witnesses Professor Gary Chaimowitz, Head of Service Forensic Psychiatry Programme and Professor of Forensic Psychiatry, McMaster University, Canada
10.20am	Questions
10.30am	Break, refreshments, changeover to parallel workshops, poster exhibition viewing

Conference Programme

11.00am Six parallel workshops	
1	Use of GLP-1 receptor agonists for antipsychotic weight gain in forensic settings Dr John Crosby (Chair), Dr Celia Bell, Dr Simon Chu, Anastasia Kopanou
2	Improving management of Traumatic Brain Injury in Forensic settings Dr Raman Sakhuja, Consultant Psychiatrist (Lead Speaker), Dr Rebecca Nicholls, (Chair), Fiona Pearson and Rebecca Price
3	Future of research in Forensic Psychiatry Dr Daniel Whiting (Chair), Dr Howard Ryland, Prof Pamela Taylor, Dr Mayura Deshpande
4	Psychiatric Detention in Portugal: Evidence, International Comparison and the Impact of Legal Reform Fernando Vieira, Sofia Brissos, Filipa Viegas, Camila Pereira
5	Rights, Risk, and Restriction: Navigating the 'Coercion' Debate in Forensic Psychiatry Piyal Sen, Richard Latham, Harry Kennedy and Adam Flynn
6	Developments in forensic services for people with Intellectual Disability and Autism who offend Professor Regi Alexander (chair), Dr Rory Sheehan, Dr Jana de Villiers, Dr Iain McKinnon
12.15pm	Lunch, changeover to parallel workshops, poster viewing
1.15pm Six parallel workshops	
1	Medical Student Essays : Presentation of the winning medical student essays in Forensic Psychiatry How Should We as Forensic Psychiatrists balance Individual Rights and Public Safety when Managing Risk of Interpersonal Violence Chair : Dr Aldeen O'Halloran
2	Practice, Models of Care and Excellence in Forensic Psychiatry at National or State Wide Level. Experience from Ireland, Canada and Scotland Dr Mary Davoren (Chair), Prof Harry Kennedy, Dr Treena Wilkie, Prof Lindsay Thomson
3	Can secure services be trauma informed? Dr Matthew Penn, Sue Denison, Dr Mary Di Lustro
4	Do Forensic Psychiatrists continue to have a role in managing high risk patients with severe and complex Personality Disorder? Dr Alexandra Lewis and Dr Stephen Attard

Conference Programme

5	Who is a forensic psychiatric patient? Dr Sandeep Mathews (Chair), Dr Tom Hewson, Dr Danny Whiting, Dr Louise Robinson, Dr Mayura Deshpande
6	Prison Psychiatry in Northern Ireland- How does it compare? Dr Stuart Brown, Dr Matthew Tovey
2.30pm	Poster viewing and refreshments
3.00pm	6 Parallel workshops
1	Changes to Mental Health legislation in the UK: implications for policy and practice Dr Ken Courtenay (Chair), Dr Mayura Deshpande, Dr Jana de Villiers, Dr Boris Pinto
2	Assessing problematic sexual arousal and the role of medication in its management Dr Rebekah Bourne (Chair), Prof Don Grubin, Dr Adarsh Kaul, Dr Sodi Mann
3	Medical School Fitness to Practise, Forensic Psychiatry and the Law- when three worlds collide Professor Dominic Johnson, Dr Penny Brown
4	Working with MAPPA: Challenges and Opportunities for Forensic Psychiatrists Dr Victoria Burt, Dr Richard Latham
5	Dilemmas faced by Forensic Psychiatrists when making sentencing recommendations Dr Abdul Raoof, Dr Nick Hallett, Dr Sandeep Mathews
6	Moral injury in custodial and forensic mental health settings: what do we know and what can be done about it? Prof Neil Greenberg, Dr Victoria Williamson
4.15pm	Drinks reception

Friday

Time	Session
8.20am	Registration, refreshments and poster exhibition viewing
Session 1: Chair – Dr Aideen O’Halloran	
8.45am	Welcome and introductions
9.05am	PLENARY SESSION Mental Health and Parole hearings Dr Kevin Murray, Psychiatric Specialist Member, the Parole Board; Honorary Consultant and Researcher, Broadmoor Hospital and the West London NHS Mental Health Trust Dr Laura Janes, PhD KC (Hon), Consultant Solicitor and Chair of the Association of Prison Lawyers
9.40am	Questions
9.50am	PLENARY SESSION Obesity and GLP-1: Lessons patients have taught me Professor Dónal O’Shea Professor of Endocrinology, St Vincent’s University Hospital Dublin and National Clinical Lead for Obesity, Health Service Executive, Ireland
10.20am	Questions
10.30am	Break, refreshments and poster exhibition viewing
Session 2: Chair – Dr Cleo Van Velsen	
10.50am	PLENARY SESSION Relational Practice in Forensic Settings – Interventions, Evidence and Expectation Professor Mark Freestone, Dean of Education, the Tavistock and Portman NHS Trust
11.20am	Questions

Conference Programme

11.30am	PLENARY SESSION Inquest Support for Psychiatrists Dr Hannah Cappleman, Consultant Psychiatrist, Greater Manchester NHS Mental Health Trust
12.05pm	Questions
12.15pm	Closing remarks Dr Sandeep Mathews and Dr Mary Davoren
12.20pm	Lunch
1.00pm	Close

Please note this programme is subject to change

RCPsych is an inclusive organisation with over 21,000 members who have a diverse range of views, which we look to represent across the programme. To further open dialogue, scientific discovery and enrich learning, we provide our members with the opportunity to hear from a range of professionals. The speakers, panellists and participants views and comments are their own and not the established views of the College.

Thank you for attending the RCPsych Forensic Faculty Conference 2026. We hope you had an enjoyable and interesting learning experience and hope to see you all at the Forensic Faculty Conference 2027, in Amsterdam, The Netherlands.