

Faculty of General Adult Psychiatry Annual Conference 2026

Transforming Adult Mental Health Care - Innovation, Inclusion and Impact

When: Wednesday 7 – Thursday 8 October 2026

Where: Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, 11 Queen Street, Edinburgh, EH2 1JQ (in-person only)

Wednesday 7 October	
8.45am - 9.15am	Conference registration
9.15am - 9.30am	Conference Welcome and Introductions Chair: Dr Jon Van Niekerk, Chair, RCPsych GAP Faculty
9.15am	Welcome and Introduction from the Faculty Chair Dr Jon Van Niekerk, Chair, RCPsych GAP Faculty
9.30am-11.00am	Plenary 1: Bringing Bipolar Care into Focus Chair: TBC
9.30am	The RCPsych position statement on Bipolar
9.50am	Bipolar – the pharmacology angle
10.10am	Where are the treatment gaps and what do people with bipolar need from services?
10.30am	Q&A
10.45am – 11.15am	Morning refreshments and poster viewing
11.15am – 12.30pm	Parallel sessions <i>Please choose one of the below two sessions to attend.</i>
	Parallel session A: How can we introduce a hormone-informed perspective to treating major mental health conditions? (The Conference Centre) Chair: TBC

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	<p>Parallel session B: How can the community care for people with a personality disorder diagnosis be improved? (The Great Hall) Chair: TBC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recent advances in designing services for people with a personality disorder diagnosis - What are the challenges in designing community pathways for complex emotional needs? - The development of a Community and Inpatient Maturity Index for Complex Emotional Needs to address this - Innovative crisis care pathways
12.30pm – 1.15pm	Lunch and poster viewing
1.15pm – 2.30pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Parallel sessions <i>Please choose one of the below two sessions to attend.</i></p>
	<p>Parallel session C: Practical management of ADHD in general adult settings (Conference Centre) Chair: TBC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A practical workshop on what can be done to address the needs of increasing numbers of people seen in adult mental health services
	<p>Parallel session D: What do LGBTQ+ people need from general adult mental health services and how can it be provided? (The Great Hall) Chair: TBC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - How can we meet the needs of LGBTQ+ people within NHS mental health services?
2.30pm – 2.50pm	Afternoon refreshments and poster viewing
2.50pm- 4.05pm	<p style="text-align: center;">Parallel sessions <i>Please choose one of the below two sessions to attend.</i></p>
	<p>Parallel Session E: Making neighbourhood mental health care a success (Conference Centre) Chair: TBC</p>
	<p>Parallel Session F: How can effective services be provided to remote and coastal communities? (The Great Hall) Chair: TBC</p>

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4.05pm – 4.15pm	Movement break
4.15pm - 5.00pm	Faculty Lecture Chair: TBC
4.15pm	Faculty Lecture
4.45pm	Q+A
5.00pm	End of day 1
5.15pm - 7.45pm	<p>Drinks reception and Conference Ceilidh (This is a ticketed event, please make sure you pre-book your ticket)</p> <p>Join us for drinks* and nibbles, networking, and a famous Scottish Ceilidh on the evening of Wednesday 7 October – no need to travel, just head upstairs to The Great Hall and New Library to enjoy an informal evening of networking and entertainment.</p> <p>Your £45 ticket will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a drink on arrival (non-alcoholic options will be available); • light bites; • private access to the New Library/Great Hall; • live music (and optional dancing) from a local Scottish ceilidh band. <p>*non-alcoholic alternatives/options will also be provided</p>

Thursday 8 October

9.00am - 9.30am	Conference registration
9.30am	Welcome and Oral Poster Presentations Chair: TBC
9.30am	Welcome and Introduction from the Faculty Vice Chair Dr Priya Natarajan, Vice Chair, General Adult Faculty, RCPsych
9.45am	<p>Oral poster presentations x3</p> <p><i>These three top scoring poster authors will have 5 minutes to speak about their findings, and 5 minutes to answer questions from the audience. We would like to encourage attendees to view all the accepted conference posters, these can be found online via the conference resources page.</i></p>

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10.15am	Keynote Address Chair: TBC
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10.45am	Q&A
11.00am-11.30am	Morning refreshments and poster viewing
11.30am-12.15pm	Parallel sessions <i>Please choose one of the below sessions to attend.</i>
	<p>Parallel session G: New directions for hard-to-treat psychosis (Conference Centre) Chair: TBC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Overcoming the barriers to prescribing clozapine - Exploring new technology for hard-to-treat psychosis (including AI/Avatar interventions) - Finding out more about new antipsychotics
	<p>Parallel session H: Why should psychiatrists be interested in loneliness and social connection? (The Great Hall)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - What is the evidence on rates and roots of loneliness among people with adult mental health conditions? - What could be done to improve social connection and thus mental health outcomes? (including results of a new trial on a loneliness-focused intervention in hard-to-treat depression) - What's the state of the art in social prescribing?
12.45pm-1.45pm	Lunch and poster viewing Please note that the Faculty of General Adult Psychiatry AGM will be taking place during the lunch break from 1.10pm-1.40pm (room TBC)
1.45pm-3.00pm	Parallel sessions <i>Please choose one of the below sessions to attend.</i>
	<p>Parallel session I: Get Britain working: Opportunities and challenges for Psychiatry and Occupational Medicine (Conference Centre) Chair: Dr Jeya Balakrishna</p>
	<p>Parallel session J: Managing risk in community mental health settings: a panel discussion (The Great Hall) Chair: TBC</p>

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3.00pm – 3.30pm	Afternoon refreshments and poster viewing
3.30pm	Plenary 4: The Last Human Skill: What Must Psychiatry Protect in the Age of AI? Chair: Dr Jon Van Niekerk, Chair, RCPsych GAP Faculty
3.30pm	The Last Human Skill: What Must Psychiatry Protect in the Age of AI? A discussion
4.45pm- 5.00pm	Closing remarks and prize giving
4.45pm	Closing remarks and prize giving; including the celebration of the GAP lifetime achievement award winner Dr Jon Van Niekerk, Chair of the General Adult Faculty
5.00pm	Close of conference

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