

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 (Conference Centre) 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-10.45am	Opening Plenary: Bringing Bipolar Care into Focus (Conference Centre) Chair: Professor Sonia Johnson
9.30am-9.50am	The RCPsych position statement on Bipolar Dr Sameer Jauhar, Imperial College London
9.50am-10.10am	Bipolar – the pharmacology angle Speaker TBC
10.10am-10.30am	Where are the treatment gaps and what do people with bipolar need from services? Mr Jeremy Clark, Bipolar UK
10.30am-10.45am	Discussion and Q&A
10.45am – 11.15am	Morning refreshments and poster viewing

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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? (Conference Centre) Chair: Dr Sherlie Arulanandam
11.15am-11.50am	Impact of reproductive transitions and women's mental health Dr Katie Marwick
11.50am-12.15pm	RCPsych Women's Mental Health Strategy Dr Catherine Durkin and Dr Philippa Greenfield, RCPsych Presidential Leads for Women and Mental Health
12.15pm-12.30pm	Discussion and Q+A
	Parallel session B: How can care for people with a personality disorder diagnosis be improved across the pathway? (The Great Hall) Chair: Dr Toby Greenall
11.15am – 11.35am	What works for people with a personality disorder diagnosis? Lessons from the Structured Psychological Support (SPS) study Dr Toby Greenall
11.35am – 11.55am	Innovative crisis care pathways for people with a personality disorder diagnosis: Improving support and preventing admission Dr Sorana Berry and Dr Chloe Forster, Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust
11.55am-12.15pm	Developing an Inpatient Maturity Index: Defining what good care looks like for people with complex emotional needs Dr Amanda Tetley, NHS Midlands
12.15pm-12.30pm	Discussion and Q+A

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12.30pm – 1.15pm	Lunch and poster viewing Please note that the RCPsych in Scotland General Adult Faculty Relaunch will be taking place during the lunch break from 12.45pm-1.10pm (The Great Hall). This meeting will be open to all Scottish GA psychiatrists attending the conference.
1.15pm – 2.30pm	Parallel sessions <i>Please choose one of the below two sessions to attend.</i>
1.15pm-1.40pm 1.40pm-2.15pm 2.15pm-2.30pm	Parallel session C: Practical management of ADHD in general adult settings (Conference Centre) Chair: Dr Premal Shah Psychiatric history taking as relevant to assessment of adult ADHD Dr Muhammad Arif Management of adult ADHD Dr Ulrich Muller-Sedgwick Discussion and Q+A
1.15pm-1.25pm 1.25pm-1.35pm 1.35pm-1.45pm 1.45pm-1.55pm	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 Research overview Professor Jamie Frankis, Glasgow Caledonian University Lived experience commentary Scott Thomson, Expert by Experience Experience of working Dr Jo Taylor, CPN and Academic Researcher, Implementation Research Lead, University of York Title TBC Speaker TBC

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1.55pm-2.30pm	Discussion and Q+A
2.30pm – 2.50pm	Afternoon refreshments and poster viewing
2.50pm-4.05pm	Parallel sessions <i>Please choose one of the below two sessions to attend.</i>
2.50pm-3.15pm	Parallel Session E: Achieving continuity for people with severe mental illnesses (Conference Centre) Chair: TBC Achieving continuity through the Personalised Care Framework Dr Mary Docherty, Consultant Liaison Psychiatrist, King's College Hospital and National Clinical Director, Adult Mental Health, NHS England
3.15pm – 3.40pm	Impacts of Open Dialogue Professor Steve Pilling
3.40pm-4.05pm	Discussion and Q+A
2.50pm-3.10pm	Parallel Session F: How can effective services be provided to rural and remote communities? (The Great Hall) Chair: Dr Linda Gask Critical mass or critical gaps? Dr Neil McNamara, NHS Highland
3.10pm-3.30pm	Mental health services in islands (Orkney): what's good, what's challenging and where do we go from here? Dr Ayesha Raja & Dr Ian Dewar, NHS Orkney
3.30pm-3.50pm	Training in Rural and Remote Areas Developments, Opportunities, and Challenges Leah Drever, Chiemeka Odoh and Folakemi Motayo, NHS Grampian
3.50pm-4.05pm	Discussion and Q+A

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4.05pm – 4.15pm	Movement break
4.15pm – 5.00pm	Faculty Lecture (Conference Centre) Chair: Dr Jon Van Niekerk, Chair, RCPsych GAP Faculty
4.15pm	Faculty Lecture: Psychiatry in Scotland, Wee country, Big challenges Dr Alastair Cook, NHS Lanarkshire
4.45pm	Discussion and Q+A
5.00pm	End of day 1
5.00pm – 8.00pm	Drinks reception and Conference Ceilidh (This is a ticketed event, please make sure you pre-book your ticket) 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. Your £45 ticket will include: • a drink on arrival (non-alcoholic options will be available); • light nibbles; • private access to the New Library/Great Hall; • live music (and optional dancing) from a local Scottish ceilidh band. *non-alcoholic alternatives/options will also be provided

Thursday 8 October

9.00am – 9.30am	Conference registration
9.30am	Welcome and Oral Poster Presentations (Conference Centre) Chair: Dr Priya Natarajan, Vice-Chair, General Adult Faculty, RCPsych
9.30am	Welcome and Introduction from the Faculty Vice Chair Dr Priya Natarajan, Vice-Chair, General Adult Faculty, RCPsych
9.45am	Oral poster presentations x3

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	<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> • Activity Participation Audit in a General Adult Acute Ward Dr Wendy Enamhe • Embedding Simulation-Based Suicide Prevention Training Across a Mental Health System: Improving Confidence, Capability and Patient Safety Dr Eliada Muntiu • "You Feel Like an Island" Exploring How Mental Health Professionals Learn and Grow Following Adverse Clinical Events Dr Jonas Muscat
10.15am	Keynote Address (Conference Centre) Chair: Dr Jane Morris, Chair, RCPsych in Scotland
10.15am	Keynote Address Dr Arun Chopra, Interim Chief Executive, CQC
10.45am	Q&A
11.00am-11.30am	Morning refreshments and poster viewing
11.30am-12.45pm	Parallel sessions <i>Please choose one of the below sessions to attend.</i>
	Parallel session G: New directions for hard-to-treat psychosis (Conference Centre) Chair: TBC
11.30am-11.50am	Overcoming Barriers to Clozapine: Lessons from Working with Young People Dr Graham Walker, University of Glasgow
11.50am-12.10pm	Genomic approaches to pharmacological treatment Dr Stephen Murtough
12.10pm-12.30pm	New drugs for psychosis Dr George Chapman, UCL

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12.30pm-12.45pm	Discussion and Q+A
11.30am-11.45am	Parallel session H: Why should psychiatrists be interested in loneliness and social connection? (The Great Hall) Chair: TBC What is the evidence on rates and roots of loneliness among people with adult mental health conditions? Professor Sonia Johnson
11.45am-12.00pm	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) Professor Brynmor Lloyd-Evans, University College London
12.00pm-12.15pm	Tackling Social Isolation with Lifestyle Medicine Approaches Dr Frances Elliot
12.15pm-12.25pm	Lived experience commentary Mr Hameed Khan, Expert by Experience
12.25pm-12.45pm	Discussion and Q+A
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 (The Great Hall)
1.45pm-3.00pm	Parallel sessions <i>Please choose one of the below sessions to attend.</i>
1.45pm-3.00pm	Parallel session I: Get Britain Working: Opportunities and challenges for General Practice, Occupational Medicine and Psychiatry (Conference Centre) Chair: Dr Jeya Balakrishna, Consultant Psychiatrist, Health Partners Group - Dr James Quigley, Consultant Occupational Physician & Director, Nation Occupational Health - Dr Muzaffer Kaser, Consultant Psychiatrist CPFT & Exec OPSIG

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	- Professor Tajvinder Kaur, Assistant Professor, Warwick Medical School & GP with Sandwell & Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust
1.45pm-3.00pm	Parallel session J: In conversation with Sir Norman Lamb on 'Being More Human' (The Great Hall) Chair: Mr Raf Hamaiza Sir Norman Lamb, Liberal Democrat MP from 2001-2019. Former Minister of State at the Department of Health. Honorary Fellow, RCPsych
3.00pm – 3.30pm	Afternoon refreshments and poster viewing
3.30pm	Plenary 4: Risk, Responsibility and Uncertainty: Lessons for Community Mental Health Care After Nottingham (Conference Centre) Chair: Dr Jon Van Niekerk, Chair, RCPsych GAP Faculty
3.30pm – 4.45pm	Panellists: • Dr Arun Chopra • Dr Mayura Deshpande • Dr Nuwan Dissanayaka • Mr Raf Hamaiza • Prof. Regi Alexander
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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