The Royal College of Psychiatrists in Scotland is pleased to announce the programme for the Winter Meeting, which will be held at the Royal College of Surgeons in Edinburgh on Friday, 31 January 2020. In response to requests from those attending previous meetings, our focus on this occasion is drugs. Our membership has been keen to hear more about novel psychoactive substances and to consider the development of therapeutic derivatives of cannabis, and the relationship between cannabis use and the clinical conditions we see in practice. We are delighted to have so many leading experts in these fields coming to speak about these issues. We believe our programme will be informative and thought provoking, and hope that it will appeal to psychiatrists, those training in psychiatry, and other colleagues working within mental health.

**Morning Session**

The theme for the morning is cannabis, both its potential therapeutic uses and its harmful effects. We hope this session will be of interest to psychiatrists working in various specialities due to the potential opportunities for development of new treatments derived from cannabinoids, as well as recent discussions about changes in the laws relating to cannabis use. We will hear from Professor Roger Pertwee about the development of cannabis, derived and synthetic cannabis products, and then from Professor Michael Barnes about the application of these products in clinical practice. Later in the morning Dr. Tom Freeman will discuss the role of cannabinoids in the psychiatric conditions we see in our clinical practice, then Dr. Anna Fryer and Dr. Imran Malik will present the findings of the Royal College of Psychiatrists Expert Review Group which has been looking at the issue of medicinal cannabis.

**President’s Lecture**

Our afternoon begins with the President’s Lecture, introduced by Professor Wendy Burn. We are delighted to have Dr. Catherine Calderwood, Chief Medical Officer with the Scottish Government talking to us about Realistic Psychiatry. Given the current increasing demand for, and expectations of, mental health services, this would seem to be very timely and appropriate. As our ability to provide good quality mental health care continues to be challenged by resource limitations and difficulties with recruitment and retention, this promises to be a most interesting discussion.

**Afternoon Session**

We then turn our attention to novel psychoactive substances and will hear from Dr. Derek Tracy about how we might better understand the different classes of these drugs and their neuropsychiatric effects. We end our meeting by hearing from Dr. Richard Stevenson who will be discussing the acute behavioural disturbances related to use of these substances.

Please note that this meeting qualifies for 5 hours of CPD points subject to approval by the individual member’s Peer Group.