

Royal College of Psychiatrists Neurodevelopmental Psychiatry Special Interest Group Spring Conference

Friday 12th May 2023

Speaker Information

Dr Peter Carpenter, Chair of the Neurodevelopmental Psychiatry Special Interest Group



Peter Carpenter was one of the first medical students at Leicester University. He trained as a Mental Handicap Psychiatrist in Bristol and was consultant there until he retired in 2012 to work with the Public Guardian. He has been closely involved in Autism for many years and is now the chair of the NDPSIG.

Dr Sam Tromans, Academic Secretary, Neurodevelopmental Psychiatry Special Interest Group



Samuel Tromans is the Academic Secretary of the Neurodevelopmental Psychiatry Special Interest Group. He is also Associate Professor of Psychiatry in the Department of Population Health Sciences at the University of Leicester, as well as an Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist in the Adult Learning Disability Service at Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust. His research interests include Neurodevelopmental Conditions and Psychiatric Epidemiology, and he is currently working on the 2023 Adult Psychiatric Morbidity Survey, and the book 'The Psychiatry of Intellectual Disability Across Cultures' (Oxford University Press), scheduled for release in 2024, among other projects.

Dr Jeanne Wolstencroft, Research Psychologist, University College London



Dr Jeanne Wolstencroft is a research psychologist based at the UCL GOS Institute of Child Health, where she is a Research Fellow on the IMAGINE-2 Study (www.imagine-id.org). Her main research interests are understanding the impact of co-occurring mental health difficulties in children and young people with neurodevelopmental disorders and/or rare genetic disorders and digital approaches to psycho-social intervention for these children.

Dr Kobus Van Rensburg, Consultant Clinical Psychologist and President of UK Adult ADHD Network



Kobus van Rensburg is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist with more than 30 years' experience in the field of neurodevelopmental conditions. He is the Team Leader of the Adult ADHD, Autism and Tourette's Team in Northamptonshire which he established in 2003 as one of the first community teams of its kind in the UK.

He is President of UKAAN, the UK Adult ADHD Network where he delivers the diagnosis and assessment of adult ADHD training to delegates from across the world. He also designed and delivers the psychosocial support and skills training for Adult ADHD training through UKAAN since 2019. Kobus has presented at numerous national and international conferences across Europe on the diagnosis and treatment of developmental conditions, the Language of ADHD and establishing services for adults with ADHD and Asperger's Syndrome.

He was a member of the Department of Health's External Reference Group for the Adult Autism Strategy, and provides teaching for doctoral students of the Oxford Institute of Clinical Psychology Training and the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology at Leicester.

Dr Mary Doherty, Consultant Anaesthetist; Honorary Clinical Research Fellow at Brighton and Sussex Medical School



Dr Mary Doherty is an autistic consultant anaesthetist in Ireland, Honorary Clinical Research Fellow at Brighton & Sussex Medical School, and mother of 2 neurodivergent young people. She founded Autistic Doctors International (ADI) and Autistic Med Students (AMS) which are dedicated to peer support, advocacy, research, and training. Her research interests include healthcare for autistic adults and experiences of autistic medical students and doctors. Current research projects include autism training for healthcare providers, autism prevalence among doctors, and reasonable accommodations for autistic clinicians. She is a PhD candidate at London South Bank University, exploring the experiences of autistic psychiatrists. She was a member of the Royal College of Psychiatrists working group which produced CR228 “The psychiatric management of autism in adults” (2020). She has published multiple book chapters and peer reviewed publications on autism including “Autistic SPACE: a novel framework for meeting the needs of autistic people in healthcare settings”.

Dr Laura Hull, Elizabeth Blackwell Institute Early Career Fellow, University of Bristol



Laura Hull is an Elizabeth Blackwell Institute Early Career Fellow at the University of Bristol. Her research aims to identify ways to improve autistic people’s mental health and wellbeing across the lifespan, with a particular interest in camouflaging/masking of autistic traits.

She is also the co-author of *Autism and Masking: How and why people do it, and the impact it can have* (Jessica Kingsley Publishers).

Professor Rohit Shankar, Professor of Neuropsychiatry, University of Plymouth Peninsula School of Medicine; Consultant Neuropsychiatrist



Rohit is a professor in Neuropsychiatry with University of Plymouth Peninsula School of Medicine and director of its Cornwall Intellectual Disability Equitable Research (CIDER) unit <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/research/cider-cornwall-intellectual-disability-equitable-research>.

He is a consultant in developmental neuropsychiatry and clinical director for the Cornwall adult intellectual disability services.

Awarded an MBE (2018) for services to the learning disability community he has national/international awards including the Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCPsych) Intellectual disabilities team of the year (2021), British Medical Journal (BMJ) awards for mental health (2020), Education (2019) Neurology (2016), Innovation (highly commended-2017), ILAE Epileptic Disorders best paper (2017) and Epilepsy Foundation America SUDEP Challenge (2016). He is the chair of the RCPsych Southwest England division, the vice-chair of the Intellectual disability faculty of the RCPsych and lead of the Cochrane update for pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions in people with epilepsy and intellectual disabilities. He was on the NICE epilepsy panel, National confidential inquiry for deaths in epilepsy, and currently on the global International League Against Epilepsy (ILAE) commission for inclusion and diversity and the ILAE task force for neurodevelopmental disorders. His interests are in co-producing with patients' translational clinical research in neurodevelopmental/neuropsychiatric disorders, risk management, and health technology. In the last 3 years he has been involved in over 10 million pounds worth of grant funding either as principal investigator or co-applicant. He has over 200 index-linked publications/ book-chapters and led/contributed to various national reports with over 90% as first/last and/or corresponding author. Publications are on <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-1183-6933> & <https://www.plymouth.ac.uk/staff/rohit-shankar>

Ms Laura McConnell, Expert by Experience



Laura McConnell an expert by experience. Diagnosed as Autistic, Dyslexic, with ADHD and PTSD as an adult, Laura was finally able to make sense of a lot of her earlier struggles in school, in social dynamics and with eating disorders throughout her earlier life.

Now a proud Neurodiversity advocate, Laura is passionate about improving; access to healthcare, outcomes in education and experiences within the criminal justice service for Neurodivergent individuals.

Dr Janine Robinson, National Speciality Adviser for Autism, NHS England; Consultant Clinical Psychologist



Dr Janine Robinson is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist and specialist in the field of autism in adults. She completed her DClinPsy at the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College, London.

She is National Specialty Adviser for autism with NHS England supporting the NHS Long-term Plan and the priorities identified for autism. She leads on the development of guidance for commissioners, service providers and clinicians in the principles for planning and delivering their services to create improvements in assessment waiting times, access to, and quality of, services across England. In her clinical role Janine leads an NHS autism assessment service (MDT) for adults.

Janine worked in health education (Scotland) playing a lead role in developing a competency framework for autism to build capacity across mainstream services.

Janine contributes to clinical research, training and supervision with the goal of improving identification, assessment, diagnosis and autistic individuals' experiences of NHS and wider public services.

**Dr Meng-Chuan Lai, Associate Professor, Co-Chair; Staff Psychiatrist
University of Toronto**



Dr Meng-Chuan Lai (MD, PhD) is a staff psychiatrist and senior scientist at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, Toronto. He is an Associate Professor and Co-Chair, Advisory Council for Equity, Diversity, Inclusion, Indigeneity and Accessibility in Clinical Care in the Department of Psychiatry, and Graduate Faculty at the Institute of Medical Science and Department of Psychology, University of Toronto. He is an Honorary Visiting Fellow at the Department of Psychiatry, University of Cambridge, and an Adjunct

Associate Professor and Attending Psychiatrist at the National Taiwan University Hospital. He is an INSAR Fellow and an editor of the journals *Autism* and *Molecular Autism*. As a Canadian Institutes of Health Research Sex and Gender Science Chair, Dr Lai's work focuses on how sex- and gender-related factors serve as modulating mechanisms for the presentation, clinical recognition, neurobiology, and etiologies of neurodevelopmental and co-occurring mental health conditions.