Dear members,

**Occupational Psychiatry Special Interest Group Newsletter: November 2022**

As we head towards winter it is timely that I write to you all with this update on our work and the broader field occupational psychiatry; a lot has happened during the last year and there is much to highlight. First though, I must thank our past Chair Professor Neil Greenberg for his time, hard work and dedication in forwarding our interests at national and international levels. You can find more information about the current [Executive Committee](https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/members/special-interest-groups/occupational-psychiatry/about-the-occupational-psychiatry-special-interest-group/executive-committee) on the Royal College website as well as links to helpful resources and our events.

There you will find the new [RCPsych Position Statement: Occupational mental health](https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/docs/default-source/improving-care/better-mh-policy/position-statements/ps01_22.pdf?sfvrsn=dad49604_8), which is an essential document for us and I urge you to use it. The central theme is the crucial role good work can have on an individual’s mental health, and that appropriate work should be seen as a treatment outcome. We need to routinely consider a patient’s employment history to understand the role it has on their health and wellbeing. You may have also seen the recent BJPsych editorial which emphasises this: [Lessons from the pandemic: why having a good understanding of occupational psychiatry is more important now than ever before](https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/the-british-journal-of-psychiatry/article/lessons-from-the-pandemic-why-having-a-good-understanding-of-occupational-psychiatry-is-more-important-now-than-ever-before/2EAD3E2078E58C585D07CAB917C54A2B).

The key relationship between work and mental health is also recognised internationally. The World Health Organisation have very recently published [WHO guidelines on mental health at work](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240053052) as well as the [Mental health at work: Policy brief](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240057944) in conjunction with the International Labour Organization. These documents are excellent resources which can support stakeholders to take action in improving mental health at work.

**Events**

It was fantastic to see some of you at the Royal College in Prescot Street for our in-person evening talk on organisation justice and chronic embitterment earlier this summer. The event was a real success are we will continue to develop our programme for you all.

On Thursday 26th January 2023 we are holding our winter webinar which is now available for booking: [How might doctors' health affect their ability to safety deliver high quality, effective, care?](https://www.rcpsych.ac.uk/events/conferences/detail/2023/01/26/default-calendar/opsig-webinar-how-might-doctors-health-affect-their-ability-to-safely-deliver-high-quality-effective-care) Dame Clare Gerada, President of the Royal College of General Practitioners and former head of NHS Practitioner Health, is confirmed to speak for us. We are also joined by Dr Gabrielle Pendlebury, Clinical Director of Onebright Psychiatry and an ex-medicolegal advisor, as well as Drs Elliot Carthy and Bradley Hillier who have expertise in psychoactive substance use and addiction. It promises to be a fantastic event and I look forward to seeing you online at 3pm.

Looking forward, we already are planning our summer evening meeting to focus on aviation psychiatry and flight safety, so please save the date: Wednesday 5th July 2023. This event will be in-person with the opportunity for social networking afterwards. Details and booking are to follow the Webinar early next year. I hope to see you there.

Dr Darren Minshall – Chair and on behalf of the Occupational Psychiatry SIG Executive Committee