Special Interest Groups
at the RCPsych

Our 15 Special Interest Groups (SIGs) lead on key issues within psychiatry and mental health, such as diversity, marginalised groups and sustainability. Each Special Interest Group has a Chair and an Executive Committee.

For further information, please contact RCPsych SIG administrator Catherine Langley at: catherine.langley@rcpsych.ac.uk or on 020 3701 2592.
Adolescent Forensic Psychiatry SIG

- The SIG represents psychiatrists working in the field of adolescent forensic mental health, whether in the community, secure hospitals or other secure units.
- As this is a small specialist area, the SIG works to enable its members to support each other and share knowledge.
- The SIG arranges a study day each year to interest those working in adolescent forensic mental health and CAMHS.
- The SIG has a large executive including representatives who sit on the Forensic Faculty and Child and Adolescent Faculty.

For further information please contact the Chair, Heidi Hales at: heidi.hales@nhs.net

Arts and Psychiatry SIG

- **ART IN TRAINING**: Interpreting artworks helps us to understand ourselves and our patients, providing insight and emotion that can expand and change our views and actions. This can improve workforce wellbeing, both in promotion of art for meaning and direction but also to help prevent distress and burnout. The SIG hopes to promote this amongst trainees and potential trainees as part of ‘Choose Psychiatry’ also and create enthusiasm for the use of art in enriching professional practice.

- **ART IN TREATMENT**: Treatment of mental disorders using the arts, including the formal arts therapies - art, music, dance/movement and drama therapies. The SIG hopes to promote an understanding of these where possible including with collaboration from the specific disciplines.

- **ART IN PUBLIC**: The SIG hopes to work with other organisations to combat stigma and discrimination through supporting the authentic portrayal of mental health experiences in the arts. The power of art lies with its creator and their lived experience. Many service users will make art without any need of support from psychiatrists, but for those who do want support and co-production, the SIG would like to provide the environment and conditions for people to feel and be creative.

For further information please contact the Chair, Hannah Ali at: h kali@doctors.org.uk

Evolutionary Psychiatry SIG

- Advocates for the inclusion of evolutionary biology (as a basic science of psychiatry) into the MRCPsych curriculum.
- Aims to disseminate knowledge of the relevance of evolutionary science to psychiatry among psychiatrists in the UK through holding conferences, workshops and issuing newsletters.
- Aims to encourage networking between evolutionary-minded academics of all disciplines (including psychologists, anthropologists, neuroscientists, geneticists) concerned with mental health and mental disorder through scientific events and joint research.

For further information please contact the Chair, Riadh Abed at: abedrt@btinternet.com

Forensic Psychotherapy SIG

- The SIG promotes and encourages the practice of forensic psychotherapy as an approach in the treatment and management of mentally disordered patients who carry out violent or destructive acts against others or themselves.

For further information please contact the Chair, Dan Beales at: daniel.beales@nhs.net

Picture overleaf

The SIG chairs at an event, in November 2018, at the College’s London headquarters.
**History of Psychiatry SIG**

- Raise awareness of the value of understanding the History of Psychiatry (HoP).
- Encourage research into the history of psychiatry, including the history of the RCPsych and facilitate networking with academic historians.
- Welcome non-College members who are interested in HoP, including people with medical and non-medical backgrounds.
- Keep people informed via the SIG webpage on the College website at: [rcpsych.ac.uk/history-of-psychiatry-SIG](http://rcpsych.ac.uk/history-of-psychiatry-SIG) and newsletter and organise workshops and conferences about the history of psychiatry.
- Organise history sessions at annual International Congress, and with Faculties and Divisions.

**Current Projects and Forthcoming events**

- Social History of Psychiatry 1960-2010 Project.
- “Mind State and Society 1960-2010: A Social History of Modern Psychiatry”, Joint Conference with RSM Psychiatry Section at RSM. (Date to be confirmed.)

For further information please contact the Chair, George Ikkos at: ikkos@doctors.org.uk

**Neurodevelopmental Psychiatry SIG**

- To encourage a neurodevelopmental approach across psychiatry.
- To facilitate a coordinated approach in the College in its policy and responses to government and other initiatives.
- To encourage links with other groups outside the College.

For further information please contact the Chair, Tom Berney at: t.p.berney@newcastle.ac.uk

**Occupational Psychiatry SIG**

- The SIG aims to raise awareness of the value of occupational psychiatry within, and outside of the College and to encourage appropriate research on the subject.
- It acts as a forum for psychiatrists interested in occupational psychiatry to share ideas, dilemmas and research ideas.
- The SIG maintains good working relationships with the Society of Occupational Medicine, the Faculty of Occupational Medicine and the occupational psychology section at the British Psychological Society.

For further information please contact the Chair, Neil Greenberg at: neil.greenberg@kcl.ac.uk

**Philosophy SIG**

- The Philosophy SIG was set up to develop dialogue between philosophers and psychiatrists in the belief that such dialogue would be mutually rewarding, both in conceptual and clinical terms.
- The main focus of those interested in the philosophy of psychiatry is the conceptual issues that lie at the heart of clinical practice such as the nature of mental disorders.
- It is an expanding discipline. The SIG has several conferences and resources. Visit the SIG on the RCPsych website at: [rcpsych.ac.uk/philosophy-SIG](http://rcpsych.ac.uk/philosophy-SIG).

For further information please contact the Chair, Abdi Sanati at: abstraxion@hotmail.com

**Private and Independent Practice SIG**

- Peer Group Support: Act as a resource for those struggling to make contact with peer groups.
- Provide a network for practical information: share connections and knowledge. Trying to set up a network of regional groups that already exist in Northern Ireland and the West Midlands.
- Assist each other with appraisal tasks: form small groups for case-based discussion; review serious untoward incidents or audits; feedback areas of difficulty for independent psychiatrists (e.g. 360-degree appraisal).

For further information please contact the Chair, Lesley Haines at: lesley.haines@shrinkwork.co.uk
Rainbow SIG

• To promote and research the mental health of LGBTQ+ people.
• To promote training for all mental health professionals regarding the mental health of LGBTQ+ people.
• To support and advocate for LGBTQ+ mental health professionals.
• To advise on mental health, social and other local and national policy relating to LGBTQ+ mental health.

For further information please contact the Chair, Maire Cooney at: Maire.Cooney@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

Spirituality SIG

• Learn more about spirituality and the research base for its impact on mental health and illness.
• Discuss challenging issues, seek solutions and find support.
• Meet interesting people with interesting ideas and be stretched and challenged.

For further information please contact the Chair, Alison Gray at: dr.a.j.gray@gmail.com

Sport and Exercise Psychiatry SIG

• Raise awareness of mental health problems in sport and promote best practice in addressing these.
• Promote physical activity and exercise interventions throughout mental health services.
• Establish links and collaborations with other organisations working towards these aims.

For further information please contact the Chair, Alan Currie at: alan.currie@ntw.nhs.uk

Transcultural Psychiatry SIG

• A branch of mental health concerned with the cultural context of mental disorders.
• Identifies challenges and attempts to address ethnic diversity in mental health services.
• Social and cultural factors that influence the origin, course and treatment of psychiatric disorders.

For further information please contact the Chair, Shahid Latif at: shahid.latif@nhft.nhs.uk

Volunteering and International Psychiatry SIG

• Aims to raise awareness and interest in international work and volunteering by providing training and information.
• VIPSIG will promote and support mental health accessibility to all regardless of location and means. It is primarily altruistic.
• It promotes appropriate training material, runs day conferences, produces a newsletter, explores webbed psychiatry training to assist training sites and overseas experience in psychiatry as a professional asset to the NHS as well as an individual development experience.

For further information please contact the Chair, Sophie Thomson at: sjmkthomson@icloud.com

Women and Mental Health SIG

• The Women and Mental Health SIG (WMHSIG) engages the public in dialogue, debate and discussion about social and cultural issues relevant to women's mental health through events like the Women in Mind series.
• Contributes to a public women's mental health agenda, raising awareness of women's mental health issues, reducing stigma, improving access to support and contributing to solutions and positive socio-cultural change in the UK and elsewhere through CPD events, conferences and contributing to College statements on important issues.
• Supports female psychiatrists' working lives, including career development within management and academia. WMHSIG is planning to develop electronic resources relevant to specific issues in women's careers in psychiatry for the benefit of College members.

For further information please contact the Chairs, Beena Rajkumar at: Beena.Rajkumar@LPFT.nhs.uk and Ruth Reed at: ruthvreed@gmail.com