



NRS Mental Health Network ASM 2021

Speakers short talk abstracts

Prof David Porteous and Dr Chloe Fawns-Ritchie

Title: Generation Scotland's response to Covid-19: Understanding the mental health impact

Early in the Covid-19 pandemic, Generation Scotland carried out a series of studies (CovidLife, TeenCovidLife and RuralCovidLife) to better understand the impact the pandemic was having on mental health and well-being and how mental health and wellbeing changed over time. In this talk, we will describe the development of these studies and report some of the findings.

Prof Jill Stavert and Prof Colin McKay

Title: The Scottish Mental Health Law Review: rights and research

The main objective of the Scottish Mental Health Law Review chaired by John Scott QC (the Scott Review) is to improve the rights and protections of persons with a mental disorder and remove barriers to those caring for their health and welfare. In recent years international human rights standards in relation to persons with mental health conditions have developed so that the focus is not mainly on preventing unjustified interventions but instead to emphasise non-discrimination, participation and respect for the individual's will and preferences and economic, social and cultural rights. The Scott Review must therefore take these developments into account and will need to consider the existing and required evidence base for any recommendations it makes. This presentation will consider aspects of these human rights developments and areas where research is or may be required.

Dr Vaughan Bell and Dr Dorothy Wade

Title: Understanding the mental health impact of the pandemic on clinical staff: lessons from a living meta-analysis

The potential impact of the pandemic on the mental health on clinical staff has been widely discussed in the media. We have been completing a living meta-analysis of studies during this period. This talk will contrast media reporting, on-the-ground experience in intensive care, and the evolving evidence base. We will discuss what lessons have emerged in terms of staff mental health, and what lessons have emerged in terms of the research response to the covid pandemic

Prof Alan Carson

Title: Neuropsychiatry of Covid 19

This talk will describe the neuropsychiatric complications of COVID 19 both acute and post acute phase examining both direct effects on brain structural integrity and the psychological insults of infection and the pandemic.

Prof Rory O'Connor

Title: When It Is Darkest: Understanding Suicide Risk

In this talk, I will draw from my new book *When It Is Darkest: Why People Die by Suicide and What We Can Do To Prevent It* (Vermilion, 2021). My aim in the book is to get to the heart of this most tragic of human outcomes, challenging myths and misunderstandings as well as bringing together the personal and the professional. In this presentation, I will dispel some of the myths associated with suicide as well as describing the Integrated Motivational–Volitional (IMV) Model of Suicidal Behaviour (O'Connor & Kirtley, 2018) and some of our recent COVID-19 work.