

The NCMD Research Seminar Series

Date: Fridays, weekly in term-time; Time: 12:00-13:00

Location: via TEAMS (click here to [Join the meeting now](#))

Meeting ID: 365 357 088 726 14

Passcode: mT7rb6ov

Dear Colleagues,

The Northern Centre for Mood Disorders (NCMD) was launched in 2015 with a remit to increase research into mood disorders, foster best clinical practice and support related educational activities for health care professionals and the general public.

The NCMD seminar programme provides an opportunity to hear from internal and external speakers working in the fields of psychiatry, psychology, and neuroscience research. It is open to all University and NHS based clinicians and academics interested in research and the treatment of mood disorders and related conditions.

We re-start on 9th January 2026 and the Spring Term program can be found below.

As usual a recurring calendar invite will be sent to those on the NCMD mailing list, as well as a weekly reminder email with the upcoming agenda. If you have any colleagues or trainees who would like to be added to the mailing list, please contact elaine.ord@newcastle.ac.uk.

Updates on the talks will be posted on the NCMD website: <https://mood-disorders.co.uk/news>.

We look forward to seeing you back this term,

Yours,

Vicky, Tiago, Susanna and Jess

Dr Victoria Wing, BSc, PhD, MBBS, MRCPsych

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Dr Tiago Costa, MBBS, MRCPsych

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NCMD SEMINAR SERIES TIMETABLE: SPRING TERM 2026

DATE	SPEAKER	TITLE
9 th Jan	NCMD/DeManDS Data Science Speakers: Soraia Sousa, Hamish McAllister-Williams, Victoria Wing, Niraj Ahuja, Lauren Wall Discussant: Judith Harrison, NIHR Clinical Lecturer & Akrvia Health Consultant	Clinical Records Interactive Search (CRIS): Case studies from CNTW NHS Trust
16 th Jan	Dr Victoria Wing , NIHR Clinical Fellow and Speciality Trainee in Psychiatry and Dr Becky Bates , Academic Clinical Fellow and Core Trainee in Psychiatry	An update on current lithium studies in CNTW: Lithium point of care testing (LiPOC) and Lithium Imaging in Alzheimers Dementia (ILiAD)
23 rd Jan	Cissie Tsang , Training, Education, EDI Manager and Judith McGuinness , BRC PPIE Manager	Evolution from EDI to RI (Research Inclusion) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to NIHR Research Inclusion agenda • EDI priorities at NIHR Newcastle Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) • Research Inclusion as a condition of funding
30 th Jan	Dr Jennifer Burgess , ST5 Psychiatry and PhD Student, Newcastle University	Sleep and cognition in Major Depressive Disorder
6 th Feb	Dr Niraj Ahuja and Harry Hackett , Consultant Psychiatrist, Regional Affective Disorders (RADS), CNTW	Zolpidem: another instrument in the armamentarium for catatonia?
13 th Feb	Dr Tibor Kovacs , Consultant Psychiatrist in Early Intervention in Psychosis, CNTW	Metaphor and psychosis – a qualitative evaluation of metaphor use in psychosis and exploring the impact of trauma
20 th Feb	No session	
27 th Feb	Sorcha Alford , NIHR Maudsley BRC PhD Student, BSc, MSc (King's College, London) and Julia Siodmiak , MSc, PhD Student, University Hospital Tubingen, German Center for Mental Health (DZPG)	The impact of lifetime and antenatal psychopathology on the quality of mother-infant interaction Transcutaneous Vagus Nerve Stimulation for Postpartum Mental Health: An Integrative Randomized Controlled Trial
6 th Mar	Harry Hackett , Higher Research Assistant, CAPE Clinic (CNTW) and Lauren Wall , Research Assistant (Newcastle University) Dr Matt Pitson , Trust Grade Doctor, Care Pathway Enhancement Clinic (CNTW) and Dr Jaume Clemente-Calvo , Honorary Trust Grade Doctor (CNTW)	Analysing the representation of underserved groups in the CaPE clinic: a CNTW research service Small Effects, Big Impact? Comparing and Rethinking Outcomes in Vagus Nerve Stimulation for Depression and Epilepsy
13 th Mar	Dr Laura Wright , Lecturer, School of Psychology, Newcastle University	Mechanisms of affective symptoms in Lewy body disease
20 th Mar	Dr Emily Chruscikowski , PhD Student, Newcastle University	Movement based-biomarkers in bipolar disorder: PhD plans
27 th Mar	John Gibson , Senior Service User Researcher and Vanessa Pinfold , Research Director at the McPin Foundation	The ASCeND trial for bipolar depression narrated from a lived experience perspective – purpose and practices
SPRING BREAK		