

## 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: 322 142 039 734 840**

**Passcode: b8Wk9iX9**

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 17th April 2026 and the Summer 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](mailto: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**

**ST6 in General Adult Psychiatry**, Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust

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## NCMD SEMINAR SERIES TIMETABLE: SUMMER TERM 2026

DATE	SPEAKER	TITLE
17 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Professor Roland Zahn</b> , Professor of Mood Disorders & Cognitive Neuroscience, Kings College, London	The cognitive neuroscience of mood disorders: implications for novel treatments and stratification
24 <sup>th</sup> April	<b>Prof Lyle Armstrong</b> , Professor of Cellular Reprogramming, Biosciences Institute, International Centre for Life, Newcastle University	Utility of retinal organoids for investigating neuropsychiatric disorders
1 <sup>st</sup> May	<b>Dr Furo Cookey</b> , Consultant Psychiatrist, Cumbria Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation Trust and <b>Rasoul Sabaei</b> , Research Assistant, Newcastle University; MSc Clinical Health Psychology	Understanding Social Connectedness in Severe Mental Illness: Insights from the Social Health Cohort Study and Applications of Social Network Mapping
8 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Dr Olga Burenkova</b> , Behavioural Epigenetics Researcher, School of Natural and Environmental Sciences, Newcastle University	Epigenetic Pathways of Adversity: Bridging Animal Models and Human Studies
15 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Dr Stephen McGough</b> , Reader in Machine Learning, Department of Computing, Newcastle University	AI in Academic and Clinical Research
22 <sup>nd</sup> May	<b>Dr Ahmed Alharoun</b> , PI for COMBINER Study, CNTW	The effectiveness of Lithium plus Quetiapine COMBination versus Lithium versus Quetiapine monotherapy in the maintenance treatment of bipolar disorder ( <b>COMBINER</b> trial)
	<b>Dr Apoorva Peddada</b> , Consultant Psychiatrist, CNTW	REinforcement Learning MEchanisms of Pharmacological Treatments for Depression ( <b>RELMED</b> study) <b>and</b> Home-based transcranial direct current stimulation in major depressive disorder ( <b>HOME</b> study)
29 <sup>th</sup> May	<b>Half Term Break</b>	
5 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Dr Paul Shotbolt</b> , Clinical Reader in Neuropsychiatry and Neurotechnology Director, <a href="#">Maudsley Neurotechnology</a> Integrated Academic Trainee Lead (General Adult); Programme Leader, MSc in Clinical Neuropsychiatry, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, KCL	Neurotechnology in psychiatry
12 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>HYBRID MDGR-NCMD Joint Research Seminar</b> <b>Professor Richard Porter</b> , University of Otago, Christchurch	Chronobiology in the aetiology and treatment of mood disorders
19 <sup>th</sup> June	<b>Dr Katie Marwick</b> , Senior Clinical Research Fellow, University of Edinburgh, Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist, NHS Lothian	Assessment and Management of Premenstrual Dysphoric Disorder and Premenstrual Exacerbation of Mood Disorders

<b>26<sup>th</sup> June</b>	<b>Dr Mohsen Naqvi</b> , Reader in Signal Processing and AI, Engineering Department, Newcastle University	AI-Powered Digital Detection of ADHD and Depression: A Community-Based Approach in Collaboration with CNTW-NHS
<b>3<sup>rd</sup> July</b>	<b>Dr Rebecca Strawbridge</b> , Senior Lecturer in Affective Disorders, Centre for Affective Disorders, Department of Psychological Medicine, King's College London	Enhancing the quality of systematic reviews and meta-analyses
<b>10<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Aasim Mazhar</b> , Final Year Medical Student, Newcastle University (supervisor Dr Victoria Wing)	A survey of lithium measurement and reporting in UK biochemistry laboratories
	<b>Neave Woollam</b> , Undergraduate Psychology Student, Newcastle University (supervisor Dr Laura Wright)	UG dissertation – Depressive symptoms in Lewy Body Diseases: The white matter integrity of dopaminergic and serotonergic pathways
<b>17<sup>th</sup> July</b>	<b>Megan James</b> , Undergraduate Psychology Student, Newcastle University (supervisors: Jessica Nicholls-Mindlin and Peter Gallagher)	UG Dissertation: The Association of the Implant Contraceptive and Sex Hormones with Sustained Attention and Mood
	<b>Imogen Tate</b> , Undergraduate Psychology Student, Newcastle University (supervisor, Susanna Carella and Peter Gallagher)	UG Dissertation: The Interaction Between Low Mood and Proneness to Hypomania on Reinforcement Learning
<b>Break for Summer</b>		