

INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY, PSYCHOLOGY & NEUROSCIENCE
AWARDS CEREMONY PROGRAMME

KING'S
College
LONDON

IoPPN AWARDS 2025

Celebrating the talent, dedication and achievements that shape our community

Wednesday 9 July 2025 | 15.00-18.30 | Wolfson Lecture Theatre | IoPPN Main Building

Welcome

On behalf of the Senior Leadership Team, I extend a warm welcome to our first IoPPN Awards ceremony.

This event is a celebration of the immense talent, commitment, and drive to make a difference we have in our community. The IoPPN Awards will feature 15 award presentations across four categories, each highlighting the outstanding contributions of our staff.

We received over 450 well-deserved nominations for these awards, highlighting the breadth of innovation and excellence at the IoPPN. Shortlisting was an almost impossible task, and our finalists today come from all corners of our Faculty, ranging from unique individual achievements to extraordinary collaborative successes.

To our shortlisted finalists: congratulations. Thank you for your hard work, creativity and boundless energy. Whether you've been shortlisted for research, professional and technical services, education or for a Dean's Special Award, your work has made a meaningful impact not just to the Faculty, but to the people around you.

To those here to applaud the outstanding contributions of our colleagues: cheer loudly. Celebration of success reminds us that behind these achievements are colleagues you work alongside every day, who demonstrate the values of inclusion, integrity, passion and dedication.

Thank you for joining us, and good luck to all our finalists.



Professor Matthew Hotopf

Executive Dean
Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience

Order of events

Welcome Professor Matthew Hotopf

Education Professor Cathy Fernandes

Innovations in Undergraduate Education Award

Innovations in Postgraduate Education Award

Outstanding contribution to student experience (professional services staff) Award

Outstanding contribution to student experience (academic staff) Award

Professional & Technical Services Richard Barnard

Professional Services Education Administration or Research Administration Award

Outstanding Professional Services Award

Outstanding Technical Services Award

Research Professor Sandrine Thuret

Collaborative Research Excellence Award

Research Guidance and Mentorship Award

Research Impact Award

Research Innovation Award

Early Career Researcher Achievement Award

Executive Dean's Special Awards Professor Matthew Hotopf

Outreach and Public Engagement Award

Championing an Inclusive, Fair, Equal & Diverse Faculty Award

Outstanding Citizenship Award

Closing remarks Professor Rachel A Mills and Professor Matthew Hotopf

Group Picture

Reception IoPPN Canteen

Innovations in Undergraduate Education Award

This award recognises the contribution of an individual who has taken on new, innovative approaches to designing effective learning environments, delivering creative and inspirational teaching on an undergraduate programme.



Professor Michael Aitken-Deakin

Professor of Experimental Psychology | Department of Psychology

As programme director, Mike has led the BSc Psychology from its set up in 2014. The BSc has been an immense success, and Mike has been nominated in recognition of genuine love for education and his drive to create an innovative, engaging and intellectually rigorous programme. From the initial cohort of undergraduate students all the way through the COVID-19 period and beyond, Mike led with distinction, care and intelligence.



Dr Rebecca Upsher

Lecturer in Psychology (Education) | Department of Psychology

In her work on generative artificial intelligence (AI), Rebecca has been integral in leading on authentic integration of AI into IoPPN's undergraduate Psychology degree, helping students understand how to use AI as a learning tool. Outside of the programme she has contributed to the King's produced Massive Open Online Course on AI and is working with the colleagues in Centre for Technology Enhanced Learning and King's Academy to develop Staff Continuing Professional Development courses in this area.



Professor Richard Wingate

Professor of Developmental Neurobiology | Centre for Developmental Neurobiology

Richard consistently reimagines traditional teaching by prioritising workshops, experiential learning, and interdisciplinary input from artists, scientists, and external experts. His teaching spaces create vibrant environments where students from different year groups and disciplines explore, collaborate and learn from one another. Richard has co-developed four innovative undergraduate modules that have had a lasting impact on students: Making of a Brain, Communicating Science and the Communicating Science Project; Synthetic Anatomy, a 3D printing course that has gained recognition through National awards.

Innovations in Postgraduate Education Award

This award recognises the contribution of an individual who has taken on new, innovative approaches to designing effective learning environments, delivering creative and inspirational teaching on a postgraduate taught programme.



Dr Alessandra Borsini

Lecturer | Department of Psychological Medicine

Alessandra led on creating the new Psychology and Neuroscience of Mind-Body Interface MSc, putting together a multidisciplinary programme of teaching spanning from basic neuroscience to clinical psychology and psychiatry, and innovative working-experience placements from laboratory to clinics to science dissemination. She has shown incredible personal commitment to this endeavour, attending most lectures, meeting frequently with all students in a mentoring and pastoral capacity, and supporting all speakers and module leaders.



Dr Uditia Iyengar, David Lewis, and The Lived Experience Perspective Module Co-Production Team

Lived Experience Perspective MSc module | Department of Psychosis Studies

Uditia and David co-lead the Lived Experience Perspective MSc module. The module is entirely co-produced and delivered by a team of lived experience experts and carers (the Lived Experience Perspective Module Co-Production Team), and it aims to increase understanding and empathy at the level of the individual person, develop an appreciation of the value of patient/carers perspectives, and acknowledgement of the roles that factors such as race, class and gender may have in seeking help, treatment outcomes and understanding.



Dr Gemma Knowles

Lecturer in Epidemiology and Youth Mental Health | Department of Health Service and Population Research

Gemma independently redeveloped an existing module on statistics in on the Mental Health Studies MSc course, modernising its content, integrating diverse perspectives and datasets, and embedding additional social justice concepts, creating opportunities for students to apply their knowledge effectively. Students frequently credit Gemma as the reason they overcame anxieties about statistics, often progressing from her introductory module to the advanced module she designed in response to their requests – achieving higher grades than anticipated and pursuing careers in research.

Outstanding contribution to student experience (professional services staff) Award

This award recognises a professional services individual or team who significantly improved the academic, social, or extracurricular environment, creating a more inclusive and supportive campus culture, or offering innovative programs or services that positively impact students' lives, making a lasting, positive difference in the student community.



Paige Lewis

Student Support Manager | Education Support Team

Paige's exceptional dedication and expertise is shown in the support she shows students and academic staff. Her positive impact includes making the Student of Concern and Support for Study processes clearer to follow, and she has encouraged and instilled confidence in colleagues in supporting students, especially when we are faced with uncertainty in how to proceed. She is noted for her ability to connect with students on a personal level while also acting as an impartial, balancing voice.



Jonathan Nassar

Student Experience Manager | Education Support Team

Jonathan is passionate about supporting students in a myriad of ways and is always open to new ideas for doing this, combined with a genuine desire to include everyone. He is knowledgeable about how the systems and structures of the Faculty work and how to leverage this to better foster a sense of belonging and community at the IoPPN. Jonathan is consistently calm and helpful with students, and a creative colleague who is passionate about student experience at King's.



Charlotte Wilson

Senior Programme Officer | Department of Psychology

Teaching herself to code using online tutorials, Charlotte created an app for students on the Postgraduate Diploma in Cognitive Behavioural Therapies initially to log attendance. She has since evolved the app into an outstanding resource for students which includes locations of lectures, handouts, and the ability to give feedback. Student response to the app has been positive, and some students with declared disabilities have also shared how much of a difference this has made to them.

Outstanding contribution to student experience (academic staff) Award

This award recognises an academic individual or team who significantly improved the academic, social, or extracurricular environment, creating a more inclusive and supportive campus culture, or offering innovative programs or services that positively impact students' lives, making a lasting, positive difference in the student community.



Professor Alice Egerton

Professor of
Neuropsychopharmacology |
Department of Psychosis Studies

Alice has been a creative and outstanding leader for the MSc in Psychiatric Research, reconfiguring and streamlining the MSc, aligning the curriculum with the current research and career environment. Enrolments for the MSc have increased year on year, with overall satisfaction on PTES steadily at 100% since 2017. She works collaboratively with her module leads, making sure everyone feels valued, engaged and supported, and always thinking of ways to keep improving to deliver an excellent student experience.



Dr Vincent Giampetro

Reader in Neuroscience Education |
Department of Neuroimaging

Vincent has helped shape a more inclusive, student-centred campus culture – one that celebrates curiosity, diversity, and care. He is especially known for his innovative approach to student engagement, and goes well beyond traditional professional services roles, designing initiatives that foster belonging, promote interdisciplinary collaboration, and encourage personal development. Whether supporting student-led research, mentoring academic projects, or creating platforms for student voices, his contributions have had a profound effect on morale and confidence.



Dr Radhika Kandaswamy

Lecturer in Psychiatric Genetics and
Neuroscience (Education) | Social,
Genetic & Developmental Psychiatry
Centre

Radhika's far-reaching impact includes her work on Time to Thrive and decolonising the student wellbeing programme, Inclusive Education workshops for SGDP, inclusive communications, and fostering cross-cultural competence and AI literacy. She has created a comprehensive suite of Teaching Fellow training across a variety of core education skills for the online programmes which has had a positive impact on student lives, improving marking and feedback practices and making them more consistent across the large teaching teams in the online programmes.



Dr Brenda Williams

Reader in Experimental
Neuropathology (Education) |
Department of Basic & Clinical
Neuroscience

Brenda has led initiatives that directly enhance student transition, engagement, and success. These include an in-session academic skills programme for postgraduate students, sessions on transitioning to PGT study and alumni-led reflections on postgraduate life. As Associate Dean for Assessment and Feedback, Brenda has championed inclusive and transparent assessment. This commitment is further evidenced by her mentorship of staff and students, her leadership on key committees, and her efforts to embed equity and excellence across teaching and learning.

Professional Services Education Administration or Research Administration Award

This award recognises exceptional contributions to education or research support from a IoPPN team or individual professional services staff member (including technical professional services staff).



**School of Mental Health & Psychological Sciences
Research Cluster: Hannah Collier, Olivier Delacroix,
Ruth Fernandes, Vanessa Frederick, Nawaf Ibrahim
(lead), Chuotong (Joyce) Huang, Damian Kippins,
Ramsha Malik, Audrey Morgan, Natalia Okele
(lead), Louise Webster**

School of Mental Health & Psychological Sciences

The MHaPS Research Cluster have been providing a truly outstanding level of service to the academics in their school. They have streamlined processes across the School, minimising bureaucracy while maintaining robust audit trails and accountability. Each member goes above and beyond, and their care, support and attention to detail at both pre- and post-award stages is invaluable. The team is highly responsive and supportive to staff at all levels, providing an exceptional level of care.



Molly Payne

Senior Programme Officer | Education Support Team

Molly brings invaluable insight and guidance to the MSc Clinical Neurodevelopmental Sciences programme. She is highly responsive and knowledgeable, with a remarkable ability to anticipate needs. She is incredibly supportive to students and earlier this year, she put herself forward to personally do all of the DBS clearances for all 30+ of our students (in addition to her usual workload) to ensure that their experience in the placement module went smoothly.



Sam Stewart

Research Support Manager | School of Neuroscience

Sam is widely respected and appreciated for the pivotal role he plays in delivering comprehensive, end-to-end research support – from pre-award to post-award. This extends beyond responsive and effective operational management, as he actively monitors, interprets, and presents research metrics data to inform strategy; and leads on initiatives and training to enhance research outcomes. He is extremely knowledgeable, informed and a particularly strong communicator, skilled at disseminating complex concepts, instructions and policy.



Naomi Strauss

Programme Officer | Education Support Team

Naomi provides fantastic support for MSc Affective Disorders students, and her empathetic, consistent and reliable guidance is constantly highlighted in student feedback. She creates a positive and supportive atmosphere when working with MSc students, handling difficult situations in a respectful and inclusive way. She has also been key to the programme, including highlighting areas of potential course development, and working with the programme and module leaders to constantly improve the MSc.



Caroline Wooldridge

Research Study Operations Manager | Department of Neuroimaging

Caroline's institutional knowledge, efficiency, and proactive problem-solving make her an invaluable colleague to academic and professional staff alike. Her impact is especially visible in the smooth coordination of grant submissions, ethics applications, project tracking, and financial reporting, where she demonstrates meticulous attention to detail and a strong sense of accountability. Caroline fosters a positive and inclusive research culture, taking the time to understand the pressures researchers face and provides support that is both effective and empathetic.

Outstanding Professional Services Award

This award recognises a professional services individual or teams who have gone above and beyond to provide responsive, innovative support to colleagues. This award also recognises contributions to developing others by outstanding line management, mentorship or support for training and development of colleagues; or leading on innovations that have positively impacted or improved the support for a local or wider area of activity / bring a positive change to working practices.



**Doctorate in Clinical Psychology
Administration Team: Rebecca
Alonso, Mark Ballham (lead), Ravi
Jollyman, Heather Newbold, Kayleigh
Rawlings**

Doctorate in Clinical Psychology |
Department of Psychology

Supporting over 140 NHS-employed trainees and over 30 staff, the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology Administration Team plays a vital role in seamlessly integrating research, teaching, selection, and clinical placements. Their unwavering commitment and seamless coordination make an immense contribution to the success of the programme, ensuring that future generations of clinical psychologists are equipped with the knowledge, experience, and confidence to make a difference in the NHS, and underpin IoPPN's reputation as a centre of excellence in clinical psychology.



Lauren Moulton

R&D Funding and Contracts Manager
| Research and Development Office

Lauren's expertise in grant applications for applied health research, developing and evaluating clinical interventions, is invaluable. Her remarkable patience ensures colleagues are equipped with the information and confidence they need to submit strong, well costed proposals. Lauren's support continues into post award, where she leads on the provision and management of research contracts on behalf of SLaM. Her contributions have a lasting impact on the success of research funding within the organisation.



**School Communications Managers:
Milly Remington, Annora Thoeng,
Emily Webb**

School of Mental Health &
Psychological Sciences | School of
Neuroscience | School of Academic
Psychiatry

As the first in their roles, Milly, Annora and Emily have gained the trust of staff within their schools and created meaningful and effective communication channels. Each played an integral role in facilitating significant organisational change within their respective Schools. Their work spans internal and external communications and they manage to tread the fine line of looking out for the interests of their school while working as high functioning and highly skilled ambassadors for the IoPPN.



Hannah Warren

Senior Events Officer | Department
of Psychosis Studies

Hannah's professionalism, guidance and experience has been absolutely invaluable in delivering high-quality academic events, international workshops, and public engagement activities across the whole of the IoPPN for many years. Her organisational and communication skills are key to every stage of the process, and always remains calm under stress. She is generous and considerate with her advice and support, and her collaborative approach brings out the best in colleagues at all levels.

Outstanding Technical Services Award

This award recognises a member or team of technical services staff who has made a significant ‘above and beyond’ contribution to research, education or sustainability within IoPPN, and / or brought about a substantial positive change to the technical working practices within their area.



MRI Support Team: Kailash Ganesh, Nauman Hafeez, Simon Hill, Nigel Jones, Maryla Kaminska, Rodney Lewis, Stephanie Stephenson, Chris Webb
Centre for Neuroimaging Sciences

The MRI Support Team provide critical support across engineering, radiography, administration, and data analysis, enabling high-quality neuroimaging research at the IoPPN. The team embody a collaborative approach ensuring tailored solutions for researchers, smooth scanning experiences for participants, and efficient project coordination. They have demystified complex tools and fostered independence via hands-on workshops, one-to-one sessions, and bespoke guidance. Their mentorship has enabled many postdocs, research assistants, and PhD students to gain critical skills in MRI data handling, processing, and interpretation.



Carlos Roncancio-Garcia
Deputy Resource Manager | Centre for Developmental Neurobiology

Carlos' expertise, reliability, and kindness have made him an indispensable part of the Centre for Developmental Neurobiology. He is the go-to person for all technical and logistical challenges, and played a crucial role in setting up the new organoid facility, overseeing every technical detail – from equipment installation to troubleshooting and maintenance. He consistently goes above and beyond to ensure the smooth running of research operations, supporting teams across the department with patience, skill, and professionalism.



Wohl Technical team: David Dempster, Kate Grant (lead), Krzysztof Falkowski, Arnold (Carl) Leckstrom

Department of Basic and Clinical Neuroscience

The exceptional dedication of the Wohl Technical Team has enhanced research operations, sustainability, and space efficiency at the Maurice Wohl Clinical Neuroscience Institute. They have played a key role in supporting operational changes, facilitating smooth transitions and ensuring continued productivity across teams. Their successful bid to the King's Research Infrastructure Fund secured two vital shared instruments, benefitting multiple research groups. Day-to-day, the team's presence ensures safe, efficient research, and their foresight continues to improve technical support across Wohl.

Collaborative Research Excellence Award

This award recognises individuals or teams that engaged in outstanding collaborative research and/or where successful collaboration has been critical to the research success.



Professor Ammar Al-Chalabi and King's MND Care and Research Centre

Department of Basic & Clinical Neuroscience

Ammar and King's MND Care and Research Centre were nominated in recognition of their exceptional teamwork and a groundbreaking discovery identifying new genetic risk factors for ALS that is changing our understanding of motor neuron disease. The team exemplifies a collaborative model rooted in inclusivity, mentorship and translation. They foster large-scale, cross-disciplinary collaboration – uniting clinicians, geneticists, bioinformaticians, and people living with MND. The team's collaborative spirit, scientific excellence, and commitment to impact are setting new standards in neuroscience research.



Professor Jayati Das-Munshi and Dr Josephine Ocloo

Professor of Social & Psychiatric Epidemiology / Senior Research Fellow | Department of Health Service & Population Research / Department of Psychological Medicine

Combining quantitative research led by Professor Jayati Das-Munshi and qualitative research led by Dr Josephine Ocloo, King's and peer researchers, the 'COVID-19 Ethnic Inequalities in Mental health and Multimorbidities' explored whether COVID-19 exacerbated ethnic health inequalities for Black and Asian adults with serious mental and physical health conditions. In addition to two published research papers, a film 'A life less safe' was made with filmmaker Andy Mundy-Castle and screened at the Brixton Ritzy cinema on World Mental Health Day 2024.



STAR (Study of Trauma And Recovery) Trial Team: Professor Sarah Byford, Professor Richard Emsley, Dr Amy Hardy, Professor Emmanuelle Peters (PI)

The STAR Trial Team have engaged in outstanding collaborative research to deliver a complex psychological therapies RCT, two qualitative studies with trial participants and therapists, and associated mechanism studies using Experience Sampling Methodology (ESM) and neuroimaging to further assess psychological and neural outcomes. Recruitment of highly distressed participants across five UK sites demanded close collaborations between universities and their NHS partners at each site; particularly with an added layer of complexity during COVID lockdown.

Research Guidance and Mentorship Award

This award recognises individuals who have provided excellent support, guidance, management or mentorship to early career research staff.



Professor Gareth Barker

Professor of Magnetic Resonance Physics |
Department of Neuroimaging

Gareth's commitment to nurturing the careers of emerging scholars and supporting a diverse community of academics is widely recognised. He has provided invaluable resources and guidance to postgraduate researchers, and he is consistently available to advise on methods, review proposals, troubleshoot challenging analyses, and provide constructive feedback on manuscripts and grant. Notably, his support has been instrumental in facilitating complex studies, as evidenced by acknowledgments from doctoral candidates and members of academic staff who have benefited from his mentorship.



Professor Alice Egerton

Professor of Neuropsychopharmacology |
Department of Psychosis Studies

Alice provides first-class mentorship, research guidance and unwavering support, not only for her group members but all early career researchers and in her orbit and beyond. She is open and generous with sharing her scientific expertise, experience and advice with all those around her. Alice's is deeply aware of the unique challenges women often face in academia and actively works to address these, offering encouragement, advocacy, and tangible opportunities for career progression.



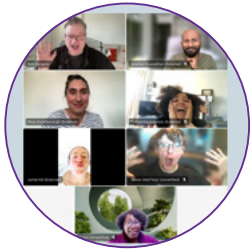
Professor Gemma Modinos

Professor of Neuroscience & Mental Health |
Department of Psychological Medicine

Gemma's support and guidance consistently exceeds expectations as a PhD supervisor, a line manager and as a mentor. She cultivates a supportive, happy and productive lab which allows ECRs to grow, and her thoughtful, inclusive, and forward-thinking approach makes her an exceptional role model. Outside of King's she has led ECR Workshops with expert panels, as well as organising symposiums at international conferences specifically aimed at creating opportunities and visibility for early career researchers.

Research Impact Award

This award recognises individuals or teams who have made a major impact externally through their research. It can recognise a broad spectrum of research impact, including impact on healthcare, influence on national/international guidelines or policy, commercialisation or economic impact, or societal impacts or on a local community.



Lived Experience Advisory Board (LEAB): Rick Burgess, Raza Griffiths, Rachel Hill, James Lane, Cassandra Lovelock, Professor Craig Morgan (lead), Bwalya Mulenga, Janahan Sivanathan, Dr Rhea Sookdeosingh, Dr Angie Sweeney, Sonia Thompson

Centre for Society and Mental Health

LEAB's contributions – both independently and in collaboration with researchers – have made a significant impact to the Centre for Society and Mental Health. Members raised the visibility of lived experience involvement through conferences, teaching, events and blog writing. LEAB submitted evidence to the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Draft Mental Health Bill, which was cited five times in the Committee's Report. LEAB members co-created an open-access Research Methods toolkit to empower others with lived experience to conduct their own research.



English national Learning Disability Mortality Review Programme (LeDeR)

Department of Forensic and Neurodevelopmental Science

LeDeR investigates persistent health inequities experienced by people with a learning disability and provide actionable insights to improve care. Findings have informed the Lord's Review of the Autism Act, and the team have successfully leveraged contacts within NHS England to ensure the needs of people with learning disability are considered across NHSE programmes. Working closely with experts-by-experience, the team have undertaken more than 20 invited national and international presentations to disseminate the work to diverse groups of stakeholders.



Professor Ulrike Schmidt

Professor of Eating Disorders | Department of Psychological Medicine

Ulrike led the development and implementation of the FREED (First Episode Rapid Early Intervention for Eating Disorders) programme. FREED has had an enormous impact and influence on healthcare, on guidelines, and policy. The programme is designed to give young people rapid access to specialised evidence-based treatment and support tailored to their needs. It has been rolled out across England and Wales, adopted in Australia and is in the process of being adopted in parts of Canada.

Research Innovation Award

This award recognises individuals or teams who have achieved outstanding innovations in research. This may encompass new discoveries or research methodologies (and can include collaborations or external partnerships).



**AVATAR Team: Emeritus Professor Tom Craig (PI),
Dr Clementine Edwards, Emeritus Professor
Philippa Garety (PI), Dr Thomas Ward**

AVATAR's innovative work – using a digital 'avatar' to embody psychosis patients' auditory hallucinations, with the therapeutic aim of reducing the distress associated with hearing voices – resulted from an interdisciplinary collaboration with speech and computer scientists, software developers, clinical psychologists and psychiatrists. The therapy and research trials have been co-produced with experts-by-experience. The therapy is now one of three digital therapies for psychosis adopted by NICE-EVA (Early Value Assessment), and the team is in the process of evaluating its real-world implementation.

Early Career Researcher Achievement Award

This award recognises the achievements of an early career researcher who has made a major contribution to research within IoPPN.



Dr Cathy Davies

Postdoctoral Research Associate | Department of Psychosis Studies

Cathy completed her PhD in 2019 and has now authored over 40 publications, including as first author in amongst our most highly regarded journals – World Psychiatry, Lancet Psychiatry and Molecular Psychiatry. She has amassed over 3,500 citations and a H-index of 23. Cathy was also noted for her day-to-day approach to research and team culture first hand, and is a mentor and role model to research assistants and PhD students across IoPPN.



Dr Amy Hardy

Senior Lecturer | Department of Psychology

Amy has delivered world-class translational research in the field of digital therapeutics and trauma-informed care. She is currently involved in seven projects, four of them psychological therapies RCTs. She led the SloMo submission to NICE Early Value Assessment (EVA) for Digital Technologies for Psychosis, resulting in SloMo being recommended for use in the NHS. Her digital therapeutics work has been recognised as exceptional in its focus on human centred design and been widely disseminated through extensive media engagement.



Dr Johanna Keeler

Postdoctoral Research Associate | Department of Psychological Medicine

Joanna completed her PhD in 2024 and received the prestigious King's Outstanding PhD Thesis Prize. She has published 30 articles in peer-reviewed journals, and established interdisciplinary collaborations with researchers across the UK, and internationally. She has worked to contextualize the brain changes in eating disorders within the lived experience by integrating qualitative methodology. Johanna successfully led ~£1.5m grant from the Medical Research Council for the first randomised controlled trial (RCT) testing ketamine for people with anorexia nervosa and treatment-resistant depression.



Dr Bethany Oakley

Postdoctoral Research Associate | Department of Forensic and Neurodevelopmental Science

Beth has established herself as an emerging leader in neurodevelopmental research, with a particular focus on identifying and treating co-occurring mental health problems in neurodivergent individuals. Her work has led to the identification of cognitive and neurobiological processes underlying anxiety and depression in autism as well as the development of a new App-based intervention. She has published over 32 papers and trailblazed Participatory Research approaches with autistic representatives that have been adopted across the EU.



Dr Toby Pillinger

Academic Clinical Lecturer | Department of Psychosis Studies

Toby has published over 70 peer-reviewed articles, has an h-index of 27, and was identified as one of the top five most cited authors on antipsychotics. His work is at the cutting edge of advancing understanding of mental and physical health comorbidity. He has contributed to symposia at international conferences in the UK, Italy, Canada, and USA. Toby has successfully received eight grants as project or co-lead (>£5.5M), and he was recently awarded a Wellcome Trust Intermediate Fellowship.



Dr Gavin Stewart

British Academy Postdoctoral Research Fellow | Social, Genetic & Developmental Psychiatry Centre

Gavin is a world-leading expert in the important but under-researched topic of ageing on the autism spectrum. He has given keynote talks at international conferences and been featured by major news outlets and professional societies. He has delivered training to clinical staff for NHS England, NHS Scotland and NHS Wales. Gavin makes voluntary contributions to King's through teaching (as Module Coordinator for MSc DEVPP), as a personal tutor, dissertation project supervision, and mentoring students to publish their dissertation research.

Executive Dean's Special Awards

Outreach and Public Engagement Award

This award recognises individuals or teams with a significant piece of work or positive impact and contribution to outreach and engagement (including patient, public involvement, and engagement, widening participation, local or global engagement, external engagement on sustainability issues or mental health and/or neuroscience).



Celestine Lockhart and Dr Yasmin Ahmadzadeh

Research Assistant / Research Fellow | Social, Genetic & Developmental Psychiatry Centre

Celestine and Yasmin have managed and grown the IoPPN Youth Awards for the last five years. Hundreds of London teenagers, including those from under-represented backgrounds, receive work experience across departments, insight into university, contacts while they navigate UCAS and careers choices, and recognition within their schools and communities for being successful in the awards. Yasmin and Celestine also run the SGDP Centre award, personally hosting dozens of students each Summer, having equipped other departments to do the same.



Dr Leigh Wilson

Public Engagement Manager | Centre for Developmental Neurobiology

Leigh is an exceptional public engagement lead, dedicated to making neuroscience accessible, inclusive, and engaging, particularly to young people. A standout achievement has been the success of Dev Neuro Academy, an outreach programme designed to inspire and support sixth-form students from underrepresented backgrounds to explore neuroscience and consider careers in science, which has grown into a flagship widening participation initiative. Leigh contributes to Foundry10, a global educational research organisation fostering creativity and real-world science learning among young people.

Executive Dean's Special Awards Championing an Inclusive, Fair, Equal & Diverse Faculty Award

This award recognises individuals or teams who made significant contributions in developing, promoting and embedding equality, diversity and an inclusive culture within the IoPPN.



Zoe Kennedy

Senior Culture, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion
Manager | Dean's Office

Widely respected across the Faculty, Zoe's thoughtful leadership over many years on Culture, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, and initiatives like Athena Swan, ensures every voice is heard and valued. She is recognised for her generosity with her knowledge, her reflective approach, and her own personal commitment to continuous learning and growth. She consistently goes above and beyond her role in CEDI, achieving the seemingly impossible and demonstrating professionalism alongside genuine warmth and care.



Dr Darren Williams and Sashagale Henry

Reader in Developmental Neurobiology / Centre
Technician | Centre for Developmental Neurobiology

Since Sasha and Darren's have assumed the roles as CEDI reps for the CDN they have had huge impact on the community in promoting acceptance, knowledge and interest in other cultures, people and approaches to working. Their work is rooted in the belief that inclusion must be felt and experienced, and they consistently create spaces and events where all feel valued and inspired. Both engage with thoughtfulness, vision, sensitivity and an admirable commitment to an inclusive CDN and IoPPN.

Executive Dean's Special Awards Outstanding Citizenship Award

This award recognises an individual with sustained excellence in the delivery or support of academic activities including research or teaching over a prolonged career / years (and contributes significantly to careers planning, academic support, ethics).



Professor Gareth Barker

Professor of Magnetic Resonance Physics/
Associate Dean for Doctoral Studies | Department of
Neuroimaging

Gareth has shown decades of exceptional service in research, teaching, mentorship, and institutional leadership. His career is marked by sustained excellence – not only as a pioneering figure in MRI methodology and neuropsychiatric research – but in supporting colleagues and students. His contribution to career development and academic mentoring has shaped countless careers, and he has a commitment to a culture of collaboration and integrity. Gareth embodies the values of collegiality, humility, and intellectual curiosity that define outstanding academic citizenship.



Professor Sarah Byford

Professor of Health Economics | Health Service &
Population Research

Sarah has a long history of leadership in research groups, departments and the IoPPN Doctoral programme; and her leadership has always been deeply personal, combining strategic awareness with a genuine desire to create a nurturing and respectful workplace. She has demonstrated a commitment to developing policies and mechanisms to support those who are subject to bullying and harassment from others, and has played a pivotal role in developing and implementing policies and mechanisms that provide crucial support to those affected.



Professor Juliet Foster

Dean of Education

Juliet has been a remarkable leader in education throughout some of the most challenging years we have had in Higher Education, guiding both students and colleagues with wisdom and integrity. Highly respected, she leads by example, creating a supportive and nurturing environment that encourages students to thrive. Many of her achievements in education take place behind the scenes and she is a cornerstone of academic support, offering mentorship and assistance to students and colleagues alike.

Thank you and acknowledgements

We would like to warmly thank all the nominees for their outstanding achievements and dedication. These contributions enrich our community, and we are proud to celebrate the successes of both the shortlisted candidates and all those nominated.

Thank you and acknowledgements

Education

Isabelle Austin-Zimmerman, Gareth Barker, Katja Brodmann, Leonie Brose, Ashley Brown, Cathy Fernandes, Emma Facer-Irwin, Samuel Evans, Amelie Gourdon-Kanhukamwe, Fursham Hamid, Yi-Jhong Han (Denny), Salim Hashmi, Margaret Heslin, Angela Hodges, Lyndsay Hughes, Edgar Jones, Mark Kennedy, Vanessa Lawrence, David Lewis, Grainne McLoughlin, Ilaria Monfroni, Gabrielle Nieuwoudt, Julia Ouzia, Marija-Magdalena Petrinovic, Timothy Powell, Nicolaas Puts, Tim Rakow, Jon Robin, Oliver Runswick, Roxanna Short, Edina Silajdzic, Tracy Skinner, Vaheshta Sethna, Thomas Spencer, Naomi Strauss, Frantisek Vasa, Eamonn Walsh, Darren Williams, Charlotte Wilson, Chloe Wong, Yannis Paloyelis, Sian Oram, Matthew Russell, MSc DEV leadership team, MSc Developmental Psychology and Psychopathology Programme Team, MSc in Psychiatric Research Team, Online Learning AppNeuro & PNoMH team, Patricia Zunsain.

Professional and Technical Services

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Research

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Executive Dean's Special Awards

Zahra Abdulla, Kathryn Bates, Geraldine Davis, Franziska Denk, Amy Allard-Dunbar, Amelie Gourdon-Kanhukamwe, Mariana Gonzalez Utrilla, SGDP Centre Anti-Racism Working Group, Salim Hashimi, Stephani Hatch, APPIE Network Hub, Uditia Iyengar, Zoe Kennedy, The PPI team at King's, Fursham Hamid Lab, Robin Maginn, Ann McNeill, Daniella Mousicos, Joanne Neale, Gabrielle (Gabi) Nieuwoudt, Sara Pisani, Jackie Sansom, CAN-PDP team, Stepping Stones team, U-Belong team, Anna Verey, Leigh Wilson, Chloe Wong.

And finally

We are also very grateful to the four evaluation panels for their time, care, and thoughtful efforts throughout the shortlisting process. While the process is not without challenges, your balanced and considerate approach helped ensure decisions were made as fairly as possible.

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