

Occupational Psychiatry Special Interest Group newsletter – April 2024

Dear members,

Spring meeting. It was brilliant to see such a strong turnout for our recent face-to-face event at the College: [Occupational Psychiatry in practice: fitness for work, from the Armed Forces to Formula 1, and what you need to know](#). We had a fantastic range of speakers and many highlights including an insight into work with a high performance sports team, what the corporate sector needs from the occupational psychiatrist, how to work with occupational physicians and developing and sustaining careers in occupational psychiatry. The event sold out! We are sorry that not everyone could join us due to capacity. We will respond to this by expanding the scale and scope of our 2025 in-person event, and plan for a larger conference at the College to accommodate you all.

Recent literature. Alongside our events we are publishing articles about occupational psychiatry and our area of expertise. In BJPsych we have an editorial on mental health at work, which reflects the current climate, focus on sickness absence and approaches for us all in our work: [Mental health at work: societal, economic and health imperatives align; it's time to act](#). Another editorial aimed at the occupational physician reflects the overlap between our collaborative specialisms: [Shaping the stress consultation in Occupational Health](#). Lastly attention has been focused on the World Psychiatric Association's work and mental health position statement: [The world's psychiatrists update their position on workforce mental health](#). Our own RCPsych position is here: [Occupational mental health: addressing patients' occupational, educational and psychosocial needs as an essential aspect of mental healthcare](#).

OPSIG Finance Officer. This position on our Executive was recently included in the RCPsych round of elections. Mark Tarn has served us outstandingly for the last 4 years, his diligent stewardship with our accounts has both ensured our OPSIG events are high quality and that we have the reserves to flourish. We owe him our recent success and I am very grateful for all his support. Peter McAllister is now joining us in this role. I have no doubt his experience and expertise will help guide us through the next few years, as we expand our range and scope to meet your needs from the OPSIG. You can read more about our us here: [Executive Committee](#).

Thank you. Due your enthusiasm and engagement as a membership the OPSIG is thriving. Together we represent the voice of occupational psychiatry during a time when our work has never been more important for patients, organisations and wider society. We are planning a webinar in the autumn and next year's larger and more comprehensive 2025 conference will celebrate our progress. I hope to see you there.

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