

# BIOLOGICAL PSYCHIATRY CONGRESS

# INVITED

# SPEAKERS



**Professor Ole Andreassen  
(Norway) in-person**

Ole is Professor in psychiatry at University of Oslo, and Director of Norwegian Centre for Mental Disorders Research (NORMENT). Andreassen did his PhD in psychopharmacology at University of Bergen and his post doc training in molecular neuroscience at Massachusetts General Hospital. He did his psychiatry residency at Oslo University Hospital, and is now attending psychiatrist at the Bipolar Disorder Clinic.

He applies clinical, neurocognitive, and brain imaging phenotypes and molecular genetics tools to identify causes and underlying pathophysiology of severe mental disorder, and develop multimodal stratification tools for precision psychiatry. Andreassen builds his research on the Nordic advantages, such as public health care system, large biobanks, health registries and longitudinal cohorts. He chairs international consortia in psychiatric genetics (PGC) and brain imaging (ENIGMA), and coordinates European Research Network (ECNP) and Horizon2020 projects.



**Dr Alison Bentley  
(South Africa) in-person**

Alison (MBBCh, PhD) has been involved with sleep medicine and sleep research for 30 Years. She completed an MBBCh at Wits followed by a PhD on Restless legs Syndrome also at Wits in 2007. She developed the Dial-a-Bed Sleep

laboratory) in the school of Physiology at Wits into one of the leading sleep research entities in South Africa. She is still active in research having supervised over 30 Masters students and 5 Phd students in multiple topics and co-authored 35 journal articles. She left Wits to open a private practice dedicated to sleep disorders and managed a sleep laboratory including all sleep study scoring and reporting of sleep studies at

Morningside Hospital from inception in 1991 to 2002. She was the founding chairperson of the South African Sleep Society in the late 1990s and is the current chairperson of the South African Society for Sleep and Health (SASSH). She has also represented Africa on the governing body of the World Association of Sleep Medicine.

Dr Bentley is nationally recognised as an expert on various sleep disorders, including adult and child insomnia and obstructive sleep apnea. Currently she has a private practice devoted to sleep disorders as well as a company which performs home-based apnea screening studies as well as CPAP titrations.



**Professor Michael Berk  
(Australia) in-person**

Michael is an NHMRC Senior Principal Research Fellow at Deakin University, where he heads the IMPACT institute. He is listed by Clarivate Web of Science as highly cited (2015-2021) and was awarded the Brain & Behaviour (NARSAD) Colvin Award for Mood Disorders in 2015, the Victoria Prize for life sciences in 2019, the International Society for Bipolar Disorders Bob Post award for mentorship in 2020 and the RANZCP Senior Research Award in 2021. On the bibliometric website Expertscape, he is ranked #1 in depression and mental disorders. He is past president of the International Society for Bipolar Disorders and current vice president of the World Federation of Societies of Biological Psychiatry. His major interests are in the discovery and implementation of novel therapies.



**Dr Craig Bracken  
(South Africa) in-person**

Craig, MBBCh(WITS) FCPSYCH(SA) PGDip(Health Sciences Education) (WITS), is a joint staff member at WITS University. Has worked as clinical head in a general hospital psychiatry unit 1997-2015. Interest

in ECT, medical education and neuropsychiatry (subspecialist neuropsychiatry registration 2016). Since 2016 has been the psychiatry consultant in a dedicated personality disorders psychotherapy treatment program (ward 4&5, Tara Hospital, Johannesburg). He teaches and does DBT groups in a program integrating evidence-based treatments of personality disorders across the severity spectrum.



**Professor Kristen Brennand (USA) - virtual (SANS Symposium)**

Kristen, PhD is a Professor of Psychiatry and Genetics at Yale University School of Medicine, formerly the Director of the Alper Neural Stem Cell Center and an Associate Professor in the Pamela Sklar Division of Psychiatric

Genomics at Mount Sinai. Her research combines expertise in genetics, neuroscience and stem cells, in order to identify the mechanisms that underlie brain disease. Her focus lies in resolving the convergence of, and complex interplay between, the many risk variants linked to disease, towards the goal of facilitating the clinical translation of genetic findings. Dr. Brennand's work is funded by the National Institutes of Health, the New York Stem Cell Foundation, the Brain Research Foundation, and the Brain and Behavior Research Foundation.



**Professor Eric Bui (France) in-person**

Eric, MD, PhD, is Professor of Psychiatry at the *University of Caen Normandy* (France), and adjunct investigator at the *Massachusetts General Hospital* (Boston, MA) where he served in different leadership capacities as a *Harvard*

*Medical School* faculty, for nearly a decade. His research focuses specifically on understanding the mechanisms and improving the treatment of anxiety and stress-related conditions, including PTSD and Complicated Grief.

To date, he has published over 150 scientific articles and book chapters, and edited two textbooks in the field of anxiety, posttraumatic stress disorder, and prolonged grief disorder. He currently serves as the immediate past president of the *International Society for Traumatic Stress Studies*, as Associate Editor of the *European Journal of Psychotraumatology*, and as Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Mental Health*.



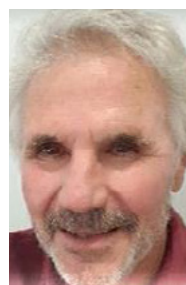
**Dr Santuccion Chadha (Switzerland) - virtual**

Antonella is a medical doctor with expertise in clinical pathology, neuroscience and psychiatric disorders. She is Chief medical officer at Altoida inc. In 2016 she co-founded and

pro bono CEO of the non-profit organization "Women's Brain Project" which is addressing the influence of sex and gender on mental and brain diseases. Since then, she acts the pro bono CEO of the organization. Antonella has decades of experience in preclinical research, patient treatment, clinical development, medical affairs and international regulatory framework for therapeutics. Always focused on solving the puzzles related to Alzheimer's and other psychiatric diseases, she studied possible immunotherapies for AD in the laboratory of Roger Nitsch and Christoph Hock at the university of Zurich where aducanumab, the first amyloid treatment for Alzheimer's disease was discovered. She also worked with Swissmedic, Roche diagnostic and Roche Pharma, Biogen, several European Universities, the EU Commission Directorate for Health and Food Safety, the OECD, the CEOi and several Alzheimer's' disease organizations.

Since 2018 she has been listed among the top 100 Women in Business in Switzerland and in 2019, she was elected Woman of the Year in Switzerland by the Magazine "Women in Business". In 2020, she received the World Sustainability Award for her involvement in advancing Precision Medicine. She also received the award "Premio Medicina Italia" for her contribution to the management of the pandemic. In 2021 she was acknowledged among the "Women for Innovation" in Switzerland from the University of Basel and received the N.1 award from the Italian Embassy for her contribution to the cooperation between Switzerland and Italy.

She is the Vice-president of Euresearch and acts as scientific advisor for several start-up and scientific institutions. Dr. Santuccion Chadha is keenly interested in removing bias when developing solutions for mental and neurological diseases to achieve precision medicines and she is advocating for the first worldwide sex and gender precision medicine research institute based in Switzerland. She is the author of several scientific publication, TEDx and books, among them "Sex and Gender Differences in Alzheimer's disease" and "Una Bambina Senza Testa" which will become a TV series.



**Professor Robin Emsley (South Africa) in-person**

Robin is a Professor in Psychiatry in the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University of Stellenbosch, Cape Town, South Africa. He holds the Sarah Turoff Endowed Chair in Schizophrenia Research.

Previously, he was Executive Head of the Department of Psychiatry for 23 years. He obtained his medical degree (MBChB) at the University of Cape Town in 1974 and his psychiatry degree (MMed) at the University of Stellenbosch in 1981. He received a Doctorate in Medicine in 1987 and a Doctor of Science degree in 2007 for studies in the psychopathology, neurobiology and psychopharmacology of schizophrenia.

His main areas of interest are in the clinical, neurobiological and pharmacological aspects of schizophrenia. Our group has published widely in this field.



**Professor Felice Jacka (Australia) - virtual**

Felice is Professor of Nutritional Psychiatry and Director of the Food & Mood Centre at Deakin University and founder and president of the International Society for Nutritional Psychiatry Research. Professor Jacka has been responsible for the development of a highly innovative

field of research establishing diet and nutrition as of importance to common mental disorders. These include the first studies to document a role for diet quality in both adult and adolescent depression, the first study to identify both maternal and early life nutrition as important predictors of children's mental health, and the first trial to show that dietary improvement can address clinical depression.

The results of the studies she has conducted have been highly influential, and she is widely recognized as international leader in the field of Nutritional Psychiatry research.

Her current work focuses closely on the links between diet, gut health and mental and brain health. Professor Jacka is an ISI Highly-Cited Researcher (2020 and 2021). She has published 'Brain Changer' through Pan Macmillan Australia and Yellow Kite in the UK and EU. Her children's book, 'There's a Zoo in my Poo', was published in July 2020. In 2021 she was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for her services to Nutritional Psychiatry.



**Professor John Joska (South Africa) in-person**

John is a Professor of Psychiatry, Head of the Division of Neuropsychiatry and Director of the HIV Mental Health Research Unit. He has more than 15 years of experience in research in neuroHIV.

Interests include clinical training in neuropsychiatry, mental health services and adherence, as well as behavioural and biological interventions to improve cognitive and mental outcomes in PWH. He is an amateur squash player and has now more or less given up on crayfishing.



**Professor Eugene Kinyanda (Uganda) in-person**

Eugene, MBChB, M.Med (Psy), PhD, is a Professor Mental Health and Head of the Mental Health Section of the MRC/UVRI & LSHTM Uganda Research Unit. He is a Senior Wellcome Trust Fellow (2017-2023)

and has previously held a Senior EDCTP Fellowship (2011-2013) and an MRC/DFID African Leadership Award (2014-2016). Over the last 15 years at the MRC/UVRI & LSHTM, Eugene has undertaken research into the psychiatric disorders (PD) associated with HIV/AIDS among adults, children and adolescents and older persons looking specifically at the epidemiology of psychiatric disorders (PD) in HIV/AIDS, risk/predictor factors and its impact on clinical, behavioural and social outcomes.

He has explored the biological correlates of PD doing studies into the genetics and immunological risk factors of major depressive disorder and suicidality. He has also undertaken studies into the HIV risk among war affected populations and more recently among persons living with severe mental illness. Through the Wellcome Trust Fellowship, Eugene is developing and evaluating a model for the integration of depression management into adult HIV care in Uganda (HIV+D Trial).

His other research interests include the epidemiology of psychiatric disorders in both war affected and non-war affected communities in Africa and suicidology. He has 110 peer reviewed publications to his name.



**Dr Tennyson Lee (UK) in person**

Tennyson, FRCPsych FFCH(SA), is a Consultant in General Adult Psychiatry and Medical Psychotherapy based at DeanCross Personality Disorder Service in the East London NHS Foundation Trust. He is an honorary

senior lecturer at Barts Hospital, and co-director of the Centre for Understanding of Personality (CUSP). Dr Lee is a supervisor in Transference Focused Psychotherapy (TFP), and is a member of the International Society of TFP certification board. Dr Lee leads a training programme in TFP in Chengdu, China and teaches TFP in a range of countries.

He is an accredited practitioner of Mentalization Based Treatment (MBT) and a candidate at the Institute of Psychoanalysis. Dr Lee trained at Groote Schuur Hospital and was a senior lecturer in the Dept of Community Health at the University at Witwatersrand, based in the Mental Health Programme of the Centre for Health Policy, before training at the Maudsley Hospital in London.



**Professor Christine Lochner (South Africa) in-person**

Christine is a Professor in the Department of Psychiatry at Stellenbosch University, and Co-Director of the SA MRC Unit on Risk and Resilience in Mental Disorders. She has obtained a PhD in Psychiatry and has more than

20 years of clinical, epidemiological and basic

neuroscience research experience as a clinical psychologist working in the field of obsessive-compulsive and related disorders and anxiety disorders and has existing collaborative research projects with colleagues in Europe, the United States and in the United Kingdom.

She is principal investigator of a number of research programs in the above-mentioned unit and mentors masters, doctoral and postdoctoral students.

Her Google h-index is 63, and she has published over 155+ peer-reviewed journal manuscripts and co-written 20+ book chapters to date.



**Professor Suresh Muthukumaraswamy (New Zealand) - virtual**

Suresh completed his PhD in Psychology at the University of Auckland in 2005 after which he joined the newly established Cardiff University Brain Research Imaging Centre as a post-doctoral fellow. While at Cardiff he started research work with the psychedelics in 2011 in collaboration with Professor David Nutt and Dr Robin Carhart-Harris investigating the neuroimaging correlates of the psychedelic drugs psilocybin and LSD. In 2014 Suresh received a prestigious Rutherford Discovery Fellowship and returned to the University of Auckland where he works in The School of Pharmacy at The Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences.

Suresh's main research interests are in understanding how therapies alter brain function and behaviour and in testing methodologies to measure these changes in both healthy individuals and patient groups - particularly in depressed patients. At The University of Auckland he has conducted clinical trials in depressed patients involving ketamine, scopolamine and transcranial magnetic stimulation.

He has received several Health Research Council of New Zealand research grants to support this work including a grant to investigate the effects of microdoses of LSD on brain and cognitive function. Suresh has published 117 papers, with his work receiving >8000 citations and has an H-Index of 42 (Google Scholar).



**Dr Sihle Nhlabathi (South Africa) in-person**

Sihle obtained her medical degree at the University of KwaZulu-Natal in 2006 and obtained her psychiatric qualification at Stellenbosch University (SU) in 2015. Dr Nhlabathi is a Discovery Foundation Grant holder and is currently pursuing her sub-specialty degree in Geriatric Psychiatry at SU.



**Professor Dana Niehaus (South Africa) in-person**

Dana Niehaus completed his undergraduate studies at the University of the Free State. After an additional two-year research stint focused on Fabry disease genetics at Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York, he commenced his

training as registrar in the Department of Psychiatry at Stellenbosch University. He has spent the last 23 years in the dual role of academic and psychiatrist at Stikland Hospital, first in Acute Female Services and later as subspecialist in Psychogeriatric Services. During this period, he completed his doctoral degrees in Psychiatry (focusing on endophenotypes in schizophrenia) and a MPhil in Geriatric Psychiatry. In collaboration with the University of Tampere (Finland), he is involved in a research study focusing on health parameters in mothers with severe mental illness and their babies.



**Professor Felix Potocnik (South Africa) in-person**

Prof Felix Potocnik is a subspecialist in geriatric psychiatry and an extra-ordinary lecturer in the Department of Psychiatry, University of Stellenbosch. A former Wits graduate, he studied psychiatry at UCT becoming head of their Psychogeriatric Unit in 1984; a position he maintained on joining Stellenbosch in 1994. He is involved with individual and pharmaceutical research in Alcohol in the Elderly, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Zinc and Vitamins A&D, Alzheimer's disease and Vascular Dementia since 1985. As National Principal Investigator he has helped in the research of more than 80 compounds, as well as the launch of the four cognitive enhancers available globally to date. He has lectured and published widely.



**Professor Christian Schmahl (Germany) - virtual**

Prof Felix Potocnik is a subspecialist in geriatric psychiatry and an extra-ordinary lecturer in the Department of Psychiatry, University of Stellenbosch. A former Wits graduate, he studied psychiatry at UCT becoming head of their Psychogeriatric Unit in 1984; a position he maintained on joining Stellenbosch in 1994. He is involved with individual and pharmaceutical research in Alcohol in the Elderly, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome, Zinc and Vitamins A&D, Alzheimer's disease and Vascular Dementia since 1985. As National Principal Investigator he has helped in the research of more than 80 compounds, as well as the launch of the four cognitive enhancers available globally to date. He has lectured and published widely.



**Professor Soraya Seedat  
(South Africa) in-person**

Soraya is a Distinguished Professor of Psychiatry and Executive Head of the Department of Psychiatry at Stellenbosch University. She holds the South African Research Chair in Posttraumatic Stress Disorder and directs the South African Medical

Research Council Unit on the Genomics of Brain Disorders. She has more than 20 years of clinical, epidemiological and basic neuroscience research experience as a psychiatrist working in the field of traumatic stress and anxiety and has published over 500 peer-reviewed journal manuscripts and co-edited four books.

She has served 2 terms as the President of the College of Psychiatrists of South Africa and 3 terms as Secretary, and is currently a member of the Board of Directors and an Honorary Registrar of the Colleges of Medicine of South Africa.

in the treatment of personality disorders with complex comorbidity using psychodynamic and mentalization-based approaches.



**Dr Lindokuhle Thela  
(South Africa) in-person**

Lindokuhle is a neuropsychiatrist based in Durban. He obtained his undergraduate and postgraduate medical degrees from the University of KwaZulu Natal (MBCbB, FCPsych and MMed Psychiatry) and Neuropsychiatry Subspecialty (2019) at the University of Cape Town. He is currently the head of Psychiatry at King Edward VIII Hospital in Durban. His research interest includes the biological markers of neuropsychiatric disorders such as dementia and psychosis.



**Professor Henning Tiemeier  
(USA) in-person**

Henning, MA, MD, PhD, is Professor of Social and Behavioral Science and the Sumner and Esther Feldberg Chair of Maternal and Child Health at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Dr. Tiemeier received both his medical

and sociological degree from the University of Bonn, Germany, and his PhD from the Erasmus University in Rotterdam, Netherlands. Since 2018, he leads the Maternal and Child Center of Excellence at Harvard Chan.

As one of just 13 HRSA-funded Centers of Excellence in Maternal and Child Health in the United States, the center trains future leaders in the field. Dr. Tiemeier have worked broadly in pediatric epidemiology for more than 20 years with an emphasis on child developmental research.

At Harvard his research focusses on high-risk children, such as preterm children and homeless families. Together with colleagues and non-governmental agencies he has begun a cohort of women in Boston shelters and their children. Dr. Tiemeier has published extensively on the etiology of child developmental problems with a particular focus on prenatal exposures. His other research interests include social and family environmental determinants of brain development, parental feeding and child eating behavior, and psychometric studies of child development, among others.

He is a principal investigator of the Generation R Study, a large pre-birth cohort in Rotterdam, that enrolled nearly 10,000 mothers and their children. Ongoing research projects and interests focus on genetic and early life exposures; as his previous work showed that this shapes the vulnerability to neurodevelopmental problems.

His ongoing studies include investigate how parenting and other environmental risk factors



**Dr Maxine Taquet  
(UK) - virtual**

Max is a senior research fellow at the University of Oxford with background in both clinical psychiatry and engineering. He shares his time between seeing patients with severe mental illness and doing research.

His research focusses on the use of large multimodal dataset (including electronic health records, mobile phone data, and brain imaging) to try and better characterise and treat mental illness and to better understand the interface between psychiatric illness and the rest of medicine. Prior to studying medicine at the University of Oxford, he was a research fellow in engineering at Harvard Medical School where he developed novel brain imaging technologies to map the brain microstructure.



**Associate Professor Henk  
Temmingh  
(South Africa) in-person**

Henk, FCPsych (SA), MPH, PhD, is an associate professor at the University of Cape Town and consultant psychiatrist at Valkenberg psychiatric hospital.

He leads the specialized therapeutic unit and inpatient psychotherapy service, providing treatment to patients with complex needs including personality, trauma-related, mood, anxiety and co-occurring substance use disorders (dual diagnosis). He is also consultant to the assertive community treatment team (ACTT) and the intermediate stay unit for patients with treatment resistant psychotic disorders. He has training in group analytical therapy, mentalization-based treatment, and transference focused psychotherapy. He has a special interest

relate to brain development as assessed by brain imaging. Dr. Tiemeier has advised numerous masters, doctoral and postdoctoral students as a mentor, academic advisor and dissertation committee member. He is also a Professor of Psychiatric Epidemiology at the Erasmus University Medical Center in Rotterdam, Netherlands. Dr. Tiemeier is an ISI Highly Cited Researcher (General Social Science).



**Dr Lize Weich  
(South Africa) in-person**

Lize is an addiction psychiatrist at Stikland Hospital and a senior lecturer in the Department of Psychiatry, Stellenbosch University. She is responsible for coordinating addiction services for the psychiatric hospitals in

the Western Province. She also coordinates pre- and postgraduate training in addiction care at Stellenbosch University, including the Postgraduate diploma in Addiction Care, Masters in Addiction Care and MPhil in Addiction Psychiatry programs.



**Professor Lakshmi N. Yatham  
(Canada) in-person**

Lakshmi is a Professor and Head of the Department of Psychiatry and Director of the Institute of Mental Health at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada. He is also the Regional Head of Psychiatry and Regional Program

Medical Director for Mental Health and Addictions at Vancouver Coastal Health and Providence Healthcare. He has an executive MBA in health care from the Sauder School of Business.

Dr. Yatham has held leadership positions for national and international professional organizations including the President of the International Society for Bipolar Disorders, the Secretary for the World Federation of Societies of Biological Psychiatry (WFSBP), and he is now the President of the WFSBP and the Editor in Chief for the Canadian Journal of Psychiatry. Dr. Yatham was listed in the Clarivate Analytics 2017 to 2021 reports and Thomson Reuters' reports on "World's Most Influential Scientific Minds -2014 and 2015" as one of the most highly cited researchers (publications with top 1% of citations) in psychiatry/psychology in the world based on research published since 2002.

He has won numerous prestigious national and international awards for his contributions including Mogen Schou Award for international education and advocacy on bipolar disorder from the International Society for Bipolar Disorders (ISBD), Heinz Lehman Award as well as the Canadian College of Neuropsychopharmacology Medal for his contributions to psychopharmacology, John M Cleghorn Award for excellence in research and leadership from the Canadian Psychiatric Association, Frank and Kupfer Award from the ISBD

for distinctive and sustained contributions to the field of bipolar disorder, Robert Post Mentorship Award from the ISBD for mentoring and facilitating careers of junior researchers and clinicians, Gerald L Klerman Award from Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance in the USA for significant contribution towards advancing causes, diagnosis and treatment of mood disorders and the Colvin Research Prize in Mood Disorders from the Brain and Behaviour Foundation in the USA for his outstanding contributions to research in mood disorders.

Dr. Yatham's areas of interest include neurobiology and treatment of bipolar disorder. He has a google scholar h-index of 86, and he has published over 380 papers in peer-reviewed international journals including many in high impact journals.



**Professor Alan Young  
(UK) in-person**

Allan is Chair of Mood Disorders and Director of the Centre for Affective Disorders in the Department of Psychological Medicine in the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience at King's College London, where he is also

Head of School and Vice-Dean for Academic Psychiatry.

Professor Young is the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Mental Health Biomedical Research Centre (BRC) Cluster and Theme Lead in the Translational Therapeutics Cluster. He is the clinical academic lead in the Psychological Medicine and Integrated Care Clinical Academic Group in the South London and Maudsley NHS Trust, where he is also Consultant Psychiatrist and Head of the Affective Disorders Service. Professor

Young's research interests focus on the cause and treatments for severe psychiatric illnesses, particularly mood disorders.

He has received research grants from several funding agencies and has over 600 peer-reviewed publications, including several books about psychopharmacology and affective disorders. He is past President of the International Society for Affective Disorders, past President of the British Association of Psychopharmacology and past Chair of the Special Committee for Psychopharmacology of the Royal College of Psychiatrists. He is also a trustee of the patient and family charity Bipolar UK, and of the Drug Safety Research Unit (DSRU), internationally respected for its work in Pharmacovigilance, Pharmacoepidemiology, Risk Management and Training Services for over 30 years. Professor Young is a Clarivate Highly Cited Researcher. The highly anticipated annual list identifies researchers who demonstrated significant influence in their chosen field or fields through the publication of multiple highly cited papers during the last decade. Their names are drawn from the publications that rank in the top 1% by citations for field and publication year in the Web of Science™ citation index ■