

MQ Fellows 2022

Committee Members

Professor Marcus Munafò - Chair of Fellows Committee



Marcus Munafò is Professor of Biological Psychology in the School of Experimental Psychology at the University of Bristol, and Co-Director (with Angela Attwood and Olivia Maynard) of the Tobacco and Alcohol Research Group. He is also a Programme Lead within the Medical Research Council Integrative Epidemiology Unit at the University of Bristol. His research focuses on understanding pathways into, and the consequences of, health behaviours and mental health, with a particular focus on tobacco and alcohol use.

Professor Thalia Eley

- Deputy Chair



Thalia is Professor of Developmental Behavioural Genetics at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience, King's College London. She directs the Emotional Development, Intervention and Treatment lab, and her work focuses on the interplay between genetic and environmental factors in the development and treatment of anxiety and depression.

Her work is highly interdisciplinary using both the twin design and molecular genetic approaches, and drawing on cognitive, clinical and developmental psychology. She has written over 120 empirical papers and received numerous awards including the Spearman Medal from the British Psychological Society, the Lilly-Molecular Psychiatry Award, and most recently the James Shields Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Society for Twin Studies. She is one of

the Chairs of the Psychiatric Genomics Consortium Anxiety Group and Deputy Director and Incoming Director of the Twins Early Development Study.

Professor Meike Bartels

Meike Bartels is University Research Chair Professor in Genetics and Well-being at the Department of Biological Psychology, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, Netherlands. She published over 200 papers in peer-reviewed journal including the first molecular genetic evidence for well-being in the leading journal, PNAS, and the first genomic variant for well-being in Nature Genetics. She is the president of the Behaviour Genetics Association and the President-Elect of the International Positive Psychology Association. She combines research with teaching and is the Director of the Research Master Genes in Behaviour and Health, Vrije Universiteit. She was awarded a prestigious European Research Council Consolidator grant to build, expand and consolidate her line of research on Genetics and Well-being.



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Professor Simon Gilbody



Simon Gilbody is Professor of Psychological Medicine and Health Services Research at the University of York. He is Director of the Mental Health and Addictions Research Group and an honorary consultant psychiatrist at Tees and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust. Present during the formation of the Hull York Medical School, Simon has helped shape the medical curriculum and ensures that Doctors graduate with an appreciation of mental health and psychology.

The overarching aim of his research is to ensure that NHS mental health care is effective, efficient and equitable. Simon leads several of the largest publicly-funded mental health trials ever undertaken. In 2018 Simon established the UKRI-funded Network+ to reduce health inequalities for people with the most severe forms of mental ill health.

Dr Kaili Rimfeld



Kaili Rimfeld is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the MRC Centre for Social, Genetic and Developmental Psychiatry Centre, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, King's College London. She gained her BSc in Psychology and MSc in Developmental Psychology from Birkbeck College, University of London and her PhD in Behavioural Genetics at King's College London.

She studies causes of correlations between individual differences in academic achievement and combining genetics, psychometrics and innovative assessment methods to increase the understanding of individual differences in educational achievement. Her other interests are Gene and environment interplay; early predictors of educational achievement, as well as life outcomes associated with it, such as the quality of life and health outcomes and risk and protective factors of mental health problems throughout the lifespan.

Dr Manasi Kumar



Manasi Kumar is working as a Senior Implementation Scientist at the Brain and Mind Institute, Aga Khan University. As an affiliate senior lecturer at the Department of Psychiatry, University of Nairobi, she is involved in NIH funded research on peripartum adolescents living with depression.

She has wide experience mentoring lay, non-specialist and specialist health workers in WHO's mhGAP as well as low intensity mental health evidence-based interventions. For the last 10 years her focus has been on strengthening teaching of mental and behavioral sciences in undergraduate and postgraduate medical education programs in various East African and South Asian geographies.

She is an affiliate associate professor at Department of Global Health in University of Washington Seattle, US and University College London. She is supported by Fogarty International Centre, NIMH, UNICEF and UK's NIHR research grant mechanisms.

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Dr Stephen MacGillivray

Stephen is an experienced Health Services Researcher and Systematic Reviewer at the University of Dundee, Scotland. His background is in Psychology with a PhD in Health Services Research.

He is particularly interested in the treatment of depressive disorders and schizophrenia and is currently developing a programme of research in substance misuse with specific interest in Opioid Replacement Therapy and understanding ways to reduce drug deaths. His research interests also include a focus on reducing health inequalities, improving access to and engagement with health services, and digital technologies to support health and wellbeing.



Dr Ciara McCabe



Ciara McCabe is Associate Professor of Neuroscience and Psychopharmacology, University of Reading and runs their Neuroimaging of Reward Group. Dr McCabe examines how reward relates to the symptom of anhedonia in adults and adolescents with depression and how drug treatments interact with the reward response.

Dr McCabe did her PhD at the University of Ulster and her first post doc in primate models of drug addiction at Wake Forest, NC, USA. She then moved to the Psychology Department at Oxford University to study human reward function using neuroimaging, and then onto the Psychiatry Department to examine the human brain's reward response under psychoactive medications and in those at risk of psychiatric disorders.

Professor Frances Rice

Frances Rice is Professor of Developmental Psychopathology in the Division of Psychological Medicine and Clinical Neurosciences at Cardiff University and Co-Director of the Wolfson Centre for Young People's Mental Health.

Her research involves studying development across the lifespan and aims to identify causal risk and protective factors that can be targeted as part of psychological and public health interventions. It involves a range of approaches including longitudinal prospective studies and genetic epidemiology to test if environmental risk exposures have causal effects on mental health. She is also interested in the links between school and young people's mental health.



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Professor Jeremy Hall



Professor Hall is Director of the Division of Psychiatry and Clinical Neuroscience, Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist and Director of the Neurosciences & Mental Health Research Institute at Cardiff University. His overarching interest is in the role of genetic and environmental risk factors in the development of neurodevelopmental disorders such as schizophrenia and autism. He is particularly interested in how identified genetic risk factors affects learning processes in the brain, abnormalities in which underlie the key symptoms seen in a range of mental health problems.

In addition to pre-clinical work, he also conducts clinical work and research in the fields of adult neurodevelopmental disorders and early psychosis.

Professor René Kahn

René Kahn is Professor and Chair of the Department of Psychiatry at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, USA. He has worked in the field of neuroimaging and genetics of schizophrenia and bipolar illness and led the schizophrenia program at the University Medical Center, Utrecht, The Netherlands for 23 years. His current research interests include neuroimaging in schizophrenia and the genetic dissection of complex traits in specific psychiatric disorders.

He has brought together research groups across the world has been influential in large scientific organizations such as the European College for Neuropsychopharmacology and Schizophrenia International Research Society. He has published over 800 peer-reviewed papers.

