



Virtual Conference

What do we inherit from our parents? What about heritable problems, like Autism or ADHD? Can our family and school environment help? What about childhood trauma and abuse?

Our keynote speaker, Thomas Bourgeron, is one of world's most prominent geneticists, talented at explaining genetics to non-geneticists. Helen Minnis and Chris Gillberg will talk about their latest research at the interface of genetics and environment. Clare Allely will talk about her fascinating work on the way Autism can create challenges in the criminal justice system. After lunch, a panel of young people trained in debating will discuss the thorny topic of nature versus nurture. To finish off the day, Helen Rodwell and Katie Hunt, authors of "An Introduction to Autism for Adoptive Families", will talk about how neurodevelopmental problems and early trauma can interact in clinical work and family life - and discuss examples of how nature and nurture interact in the real world.

- 9 – 9.10am Welcome – Dr Ruchika Gajwani
- 9.10-10.10am **KEYNOTE - Professor Thomas Bourgeron**, Centre for Translational Science, Human Genetics and Cognitive Functions, Institut Pasteur, France.
The Genetics of Autism and ESSENCE from Risk to Resilience
- 10.10-11.10am **Professor Christopher Gillberg**, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist University of Glasgow/Gothenburg, and **Professor Helen Minnis**, Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist, University of Glasgow
Interview – Nature and Nurture in Child Mental Health
- 11.10–11.40am Break
- 11.40-12.40pm **Dr Clare Allely**, Reader in Forensic Psychology, University of Salford, Manchester
Autism and the Criminal Justice System
- 12.40-1.40pm Break
- 1.40-2.40pm **YOUNG PEOPLE'S DEBATE**. This will highlight the stresses of parenting a neurodiverse child in a unique and provocative manner.
Lead by **Laura Wallis** from Debating Mental Health - <https://www.debating-mh.co.uk/>
- 2.40-4.15pm **Dr Helen Rodwell and Dr Katie Hunt**, Consultant Clinical Psychologists, Jigsaw Psychology Ltd, Derby
Neurodevelopment and Trauma with Practical Tips for Parents and Clinicians



Delegate fee = £60

Student = £40



To secure a place complete the attached booking form and return to
Irene O'Neill, Academic Secretary, Level 4, Academic CAMHS,
West Glasgow Ambulatory Care Hospital, Yorkhill, Glasgow, G3 8SJ



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BIOGRAPHIES



Professor Thomas Bourgeron, Centre for Translational Science, Human Genetics and Cognitive Functions, Institut Pasteur, France. The genetic architecture of autism is complex made of a combination of common and rare variants. Our previous studies pointed at one biological pathway associated with autism related to the synapse. Among the causative genes, synaptic cell adhesion molecules (neuroligins and neuroligins) and scaffolding proteins (SHANK) are crucial for synapse formation/maintenance as well as correct balance between inhibitory and excitatory synaptic currents. These findings significantly advanced our knowledge on the possible causes of autism. However, they also contributed to the emergence of a simplistic conception of autism as a binary trait: mutated vs. non-mutated or affected vs. non-affected. This simplification neglects the large phenotypic heterogeneity of autism, whose genetic architecture – like most complex diseases – cannot be reduced to a single gene. In this presentation, I will discuss the importance to adopt the concept of ESSENCE (Early Symptomatic Syndromes Eliciting Neurodevelopmental Clinical Examinations) if we want to understand how genetic variations contribute to specific phenotypes. I will present our recent results coming from human studies in large populations and genetic isolates as well as mouse studies that shed new light on the inheritance of autism and some of the underlying mechanisms. Finally, I will illustrate how we are currently studying Resilience to understand why some carriers of deleterious mutations seem to be protected (The Resilients) while others are severely affected.



Professor Christopher Gillberg, Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden, since the mid-1980s. Since 2010 he has been Head of the Gillberg Neuropsychiatry Centre. He is also a Chief Physician at the Sahlgrenska University Hospital and one of the world's most experienced, clinically active, child and adolescent psychiatrists, with 45 years of extensive clinical work in treatment of patients and families with complex psychiatric/neurodevelopmental problems.



Professor Helen Minnis, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (Mental Health and Wellbeing), University of Glasgow. Helen's research focus has been on the mental health problems associated with child abuse and neglect including Attachment Disorder: clinical aspects, assessment tools and behavioural genetics. She is now conducting intervention research for maltreated children, including a randomised controlled trial of an infant mental health service for young children in foster care. In 2020, she is launching the first randomised controlled trial of DDP.

Together, Helen and Chris will discuss how ESSENCE and trauma interact.



Dr Clare Allely, Reader in Forensic Psychology at the University of Salford in Manchester, England and is an affiliate member of the Gillberg Neuropsychiatry Centre at Gothenburg University, Sweden. Clare is an Honorary Research Fellow in the College of Medical, Veterinary and Life Sciences affiliated to the Institute of Health and Wellbeing at the University of Glasgow. She is also an Associate of the Centre for Youth and Criminal Justice (CYCJ) at the University of Strathclyde. Clare also works as an expert witness on criminal cases involving defendants with autism spectrum disorder and she is co-Founder of the 'Autism and the Criminal

Justice System' (ACJS) centre for excellent at the University of Salford.



Laura Wallis, Founding Director, Debating Mental Health. Laura has been working with children and young people since she was a young person herself. She has held positions in teaching, the charity sector and the NHS. With an academic background in human rights, she is a strong advocate for the rights of the children and young people she works with, particularly to mental health care and to be heard and included in decisions that affect them. She first tested the idea for Debating Mental Health in 2016 and since then has been using debate training to support young people with mental health needs to reach and fulfil their potential. Learning to debate enables young

people to grow in confidence and to formulate and articulate their thoughts on a range of difficult topics - a skill they can carry forward in life as they move on to their next steps.



Dr Helen Rodwell, Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Certified Theraplay Practitioner, Trainer & Supervisor and Certified DDP Practitioner who works in independent practice in Derby, England. Previously worked within secure settings, Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) and a specialist multidisciplinary NHS mental health service for looked after and adopted children.

Co-author of Parenting with Theraplay (2017, Jessica Kingsley Publishers), An Introduction to Autism for Adoptive and Foster Families (2019, Jessica Kingsley Publishers) and Supporting the Mental Health of Looked After and Adopted Children (2018, CoramBAAF).



Dr Katie Hunt, Clinical Psychologist and Paediatric Clinical Neuropsychologist working in private practice, specialising in work with children with special needs and neurodevelopmental difficulties. Currently chair of the Division of Clinical Psychology's Faculty for Children, Young people and their Families (British Psychological Society).

Co-author (with Helen Rodwell) of An Introduction to Autism for Adoptive and Foster Families; and co-author with Julia Faulconbridge and Amanda Laffan of Improving the Psychological Wellbeing of Children and Young People: Effective prevention and early intervention across health, education and social care. Both published by JKP.