



Research Symposium, Thursday 8th October 2026

Morning Agenda

09.00 - 09.20 Registration with coffee and pastries

09.20 - 09.25 Welcome

Welcome, housekeeping and objectives

Andy Koss, Chair of Trustees

09.25 - 10.00 Introductions

Introductions: name, institution, summary of research interests
(maximum 1 minute per person)

Vicky Burford, CEO

10.00 - 10.30 Experts by experience

What happens when patients and communities become partners in research? Through perspectives from both researchers and community members, this talk explores the mutual benefits of patient involvement and demonstrates how partnership can lead to more relevant, inclusive, and impactful research.

Kate Boddy

10.30 - 11.00 Mapping the research landscape

An overview of the NIHR funded evidence synthesis - PANS PANDAS unveiled with Dr Michael Nunns and Sam Febrey from the Isca Evidence Synthesis team, University of Exeter.

**Dr Michael Nunns
Sam Febrey**

11.00 - 11.30 Coffee break and time to connect

11.30 - 12.00 The UK Research Landscape

An overview from Dr Ashley Liew and Professor Ming Lim on the James Lind Alliance priority setting, current UK research landscape and UK Surveillance Study

**Dr Ashley Liew
Professor Ming Lim**

12.00 - 13.00 Steven Malcherczyk Rising Researchers

Poster Presentations from early career researchers:

- Riann Alexander, Anglia Ruskin University
- Archana Bhattacharyya, London School of Economics
- Tia Chahal, University of Leeds
- Hayley Gilfillan, University of Dundee
- Maisy Higgs, University of Oxford
- Megan Parks, University of Bristol
- Eleanor Tobelem, University of Dundee

[Meet the researchers](#)



This session is kindly supported in memory of Steven Malcherczyk, with sincere thanks to his family

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Afternoon Agenda

13.00 - 14.00 Lunch

14.00 - 15.30 **Workshop 1** Clinical Research

This workshop focuses on research that directly involves patients and aims to improve care, outcomes, and treatment pathways. It includes discussing clinical trials of new or existing treatments, as well as observational studies that explore how diseases develop and respond to interventions in real-world settings. Participants will have the opportunity to share brief details of their own research projects with other researchers and clinicians in the same field.

All attendees
Based on
speciality
/ area of
interest

Workshop 2 Laboratory Research

This workshop will bring together those studying or interested in exploring the underlying biology and mechanisms of the conditions, with a focus on sharing knowledge and findings from their own research, as well as providing ideas which may support future research. Topics may include developing better understanding of the biological process, discovering novel treatments, or identifying biomarkers that can inform diagnosis. Participants will have the opportunity to share brief details of their own current research with other scientists across the globe.

Workshop 3 Mental Health Research

This workshop will provide an opportunity for those interested in the psychiatric, psychological and behavioural aspects of the conditions, with an emphasis on improving patient wellbeing and support. It includes research into supportive care approaches, quality of life, and the effectiveness of psychotherapeutic interventions. Participants will have the opportunity to share brief details of their own research projects with other experts in the same field.

A representative from each group will feed this information back to the wider group.

15.30 - 16.00 Coffee break

16.00 - 17.00 **Panel Discussion**

A facilitated panel discussion on collaborative working. Drawing on insights from our breakout workshops, this panel discussion will help shape a clear plan for future collaboration and research. We will explore how to work effectively together across borders and specialties, ensuring that our efforts deliver the greatest possible impact for those affected by PANS and PANDAS.

**Facilitated by
Susan Manfull**

17.00 - 17.15 Close

**Andy Koss
Chair of Trustees**