



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**

Taking us back to why we are all here with Kate Boddy, Research Fellow, Patient and Public Involvement Team, NIHR ARC South West.

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

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

Research Symposium, Thursday 8th October 2026

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**