



ITAKOM

IT TAKES ALL KINDS OF MINDS

13-14 MARCH 2023 | EICC – EDINBURGH

AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON THE
SCIENCE AND REALITY OF NEURODIVERSITY.

EVENT PROGRAMME

BROUGHT TO YOU BY



Salvesen Mindroom Centre

www.ITAKOM.org

ITAKOM

TAKING PLACE AT EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE CENTRE, EDINBURGH UK AND ONLINE.

ITAKOM's wide-ranging programme is built around outstanding plenary keynote lectures and parallel sessions on many subjects based around its four themes – **Healthcare, Education, Workplace and Community.**

This detailed programme is almost ready but we're still finalising the last few details so we will be updating it from time to time as the event approaches.

Note: during parallel sessions, four of five will be available to digital attendees, the exception being Workshops (shaded) which are for live attendees only due to their interactive nature.

Details about either in-person or digital attendance are on our website at www.itakom.org/register/registration-info

(select **Attending Online** for everything about digital attendance)

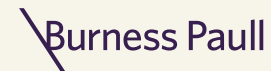
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MONDAY MORNING IN DETAIL

08:30 – 08:50	WELCOME! TO EVERYONE IN EDINBURGH AND AROUND THE WORLD!
Pentland	Official opening and premiere of the ITAKOM animation



08:50 – 09:30	KEYNOTE LECTURE: THE NEURODIVERGENT INDIVIDUAL IN THEIR UNIQUE WORLD	
Pentland	<p>Speaker – Professor Sven Bölte from the Karolinska Institute, Sweden Chair – Professor Sue Fletcher Watson</p> <p>A holistic biopsychosocial view for understanding individuals and promoting well-being</p>	 Supported by Sage Publications

09:40 – 10:30	ADHD AND ME	Big Talk	09:40 – 10:30	ROUTINES FOR HAPPINESS	Topic Session
Pentland	<p>Speaker – Rory Bremner Chair – Jennifer Mair, Martin Currie</p> <p>How having ADHD has shaped my life and work.</p>	 Supported by Martin Currie	Tinto	<p>Chair – Dr Felicity Sedgewick</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sleep in single gene syndromes & intellectual disability – Lindsay Mizen • A day in the life of an autistic parent and carer – Adam Murphy 	
09:40 – 10:30	AN INTRODUCTION TO NEURODIVERSITY	Neuro Thinkers Session	09:40 – 10:30	DELIVERING INCLUSIVE EDUCATION	Workshop
Fintry	<p>Chair – Dr Amy Pearson</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fundamentals of neurodiversity – Sue Fletcher-Watson • Neurodiversity and the concept of pathology – Robert Chapman 		Moorfoot	<p>Facilitated by – Prof Duncan Astle & Natalia Zdorovtsova</p> <p>Building on recent work developing a policy brief on inclusive education, hear about the brief and contribute to plans for its implementation</p> <p><i>This session is not being broadcast</i></p>	
09:40 – 10:30	PROCESSES IN DENIAL OF CARE	Big Talk			
Harris <i>Pre-recorded</i>	<p>Speaker – Bo Hejlskov Chair – Dr Dinah Aitken</p> <p>Why care services sometimes fail those who use them</p>				

10:30 – 11:00	COFFEE BREAK IN THE ITAKOM HUB – POSTER CHAT SESSION A (Cromdale Hall on level -2)
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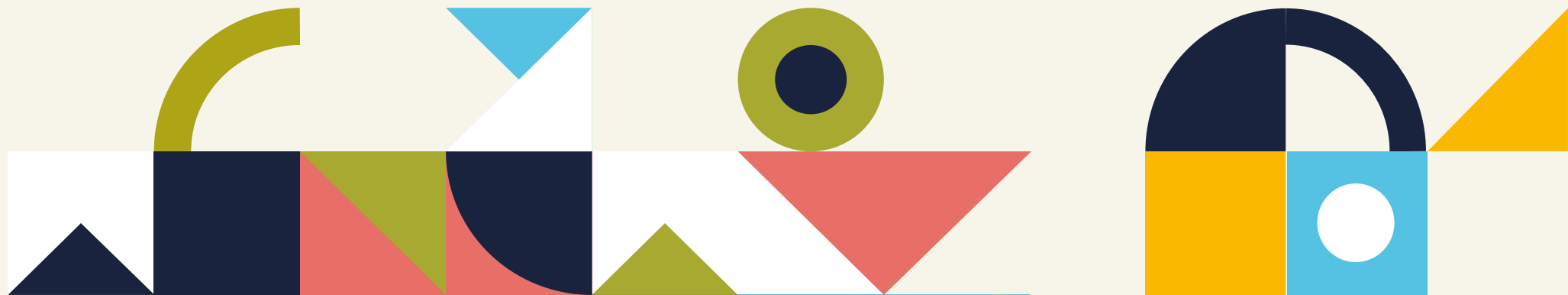
MONDAY MORNING IN DETAIL

11:00 – 11:50	NO MIND LEFT BEHIND... AT THE CLINIC	Expert Panel Session	11:00 – 11:50	ATTITUDES AND PRIORITIES FOR NEURODIVERSITY RESEARCH	Research Report Session
Pentland	<p>Chair – Dr Andy Stanfield, University of Edinburgh How the neurodiversity paradigm is shaping healthcare</p> <p>Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Craig McDonald, Parent to twin sons with Fragile X Syndrome • Dr Ewelina Rydzewska, University of Edinburgh • Prof Richard Chin, University of Edinburgh • Dr Mary Doherty, Autistic Doctors International 		Tinto	<p>Chair – Dr Alyssa M. Alcorn</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of a questionnaire to assess attitudes toward neurodiversity – Rachel Schuck • Identifying community priorities for dyslexia research – Holly Joseph • What do parents of non-verbal and minimally verbal autistic children think and feel about genomic studies of autism? – Kathryn Asbury • The Neurodiversity Movement and its implications for interventions: do community members' own words highlight tensions closed-ended scales miss? – Patrick Dwyer 	
11:00 – 11:50	CREATIVE CAREERS	Topic Session	11:00 – 11:50	SUPPORTING RARE CONDITION COMMUNITIES	Workshop
Fintry	<p>Chair – Dr Bérengère Digard</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ADHD in the workplace – Lotta Borg Skoglund • Handling it – Charlotte Garnett 		Moorfoot	<p>Facilitated by – Heather Love and Natalie Frankisch</p> <p>Join us and help identify the best ways to provide supportive communities for people with rare genetic syndromes like Fragile X, SYNGAP-1 or Smith-Magenis syndrome and their families.</p> <p><i>This session is not being broadcast</i></p> <p>Supported by The Patrick Wild Centre</p>	 <p>The Patrick Wild Centre for Research into Autism, Fragile X Syndrome & Intellectual Disabilities</p>
11:00 – 11:50	NEURODIVERGENT STORIES FROM REAL LIFE	Storytelling Session			
Harris	Filmed personal stories available on a video loop; drop in any time				
12:00 – 12:40	KEYNOTE LECTURE: THE MASKS WE WEAR				
Pentland	<p>Speaker – Holly Smale, award-winning author & late-diagnosed autistic woman</p> <p>Chair – Charlene Tait</p> <p>Supported by Scottish Autism</p>				
12:40 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK IN THE ITAKOM HUB – POSTER CHAT SESSIONS B & C (Cromdale Hall on level -2)				





MONDAY AFTERNOON IN DETAIL

14:00 – 14:50	NEURODIVERSITY AND EMPLOYMENT: WHERE WE'VE BEEN AND WHERE WE'RE GOING	Big Talk	14:00 – 14:50	QUALITY IN SERVICES: A CAREER PERSPECTIVE	Topic Session
Pentland	<p>Speaker – Dr Nancy Doyle Chair – Judy Wagner</p> <p>Examining reasonable adjustments towards a flourishing and productive neurodiverse workforce</p>		Tinto	<p>Chair – Sarah Eley</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> You'll never achieve anything – Ciara Lawrence Quality services: It takes all kinds of services – Andrew McKechanie 	
14:00 – 14:50	DIVERSITY IN NEURODIVERSITY	Neuro Thinkers Session	14:00 – 14:50	LEGAL FRAMEWORK FOR NEURO-INCLUSION AT WORK	Workshop
Fintry <i>Pre-recorded</i>	<p>Chair – Reesha Zahir</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expanding the creative potentials of human neurodiversity – Nick Walker Identity spirals: neurodivergent intersectionalities – Kassiane Asasumasu 		Moorfoot	<p>Facilitated by – Mandy Laurie</p> <p>This session will provide an overview of relevant UK employment law and will use legal case studies to explore some of the positive steps that employers can take to ensure an inclusive environment for neurodivergent people at work, whilst also highlighting the risks of not doing so</p> <p>Supported & delivered by Burness Paull <i>This session is not being broadcast</i></p>	
14:00 – 14:50	NEURODIVERSITY IN ASIA: EAST MEETS WEST OR EAST VERSUS WEST?	Big Talk			
Harris <i>Pre-recorded</i>	<p>Speaker – Yulin Cheng Chair – Dr Kathy Leadbitter</p> <p>Neurodiversity in the Far East</p>				

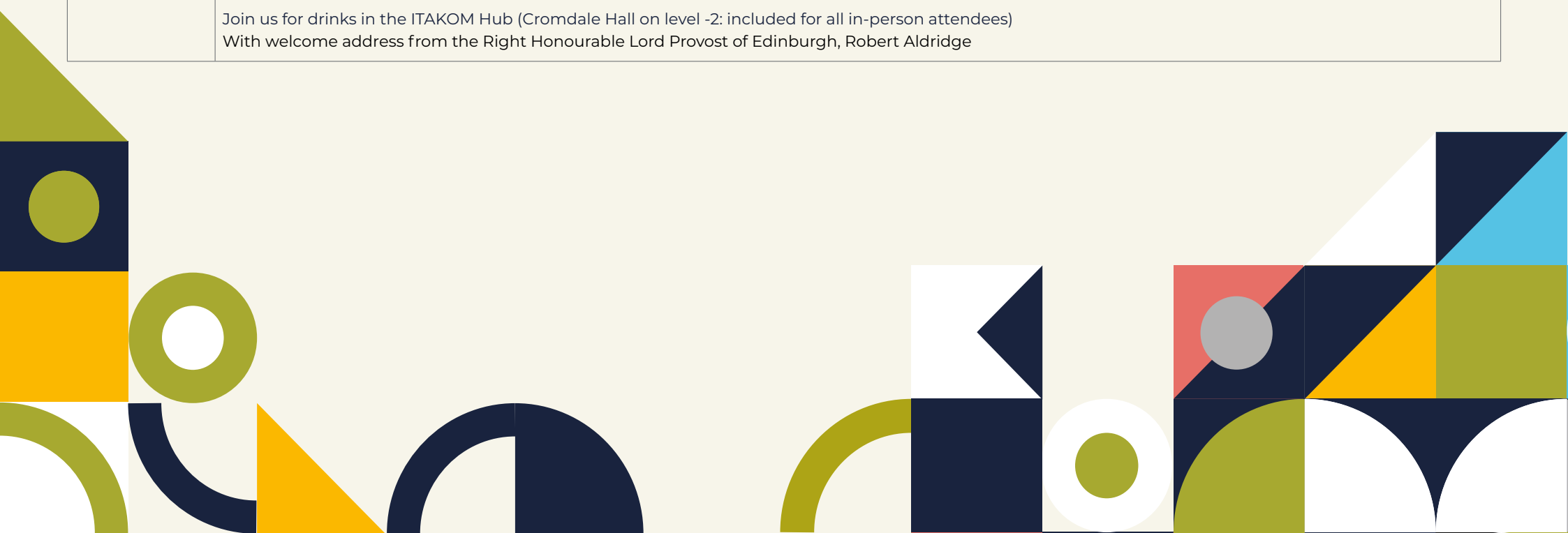


MONDAY AFTERNOON IN DETAIL


15:00 – 15:50	NO MIND LEFT BEHIND... AT WORK	Expert Panel Session	15:00 – 15:50	PERCEPTION AND ATTENTION	Research Report Session
Pentland	<p>Facilitators – Aileen Shrimpton & Rachel Mathesen, SMC What the neurodiversity paradigm means for employers and employees.</p> <p>Panel: From SSE: Rosie MacRae (Head of Inclusion and Diversity) and Andrew Lewin (Project Director) From Martin Currie: Jen Mair (Chief Operating Officer) From Burness Paull: Emma Smith (Inclusion & Wellbeing Manager) & Claire Macpherson (Partner)</p>   		Tinto	<p>Chair – Prof Holly Joseph</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How auditory processing contributes to the autistic profile – Bec Poulsen • Chasing the conversation: autistic experiences of speech perception – Alexandra Sturrock • Autistic and ADHD adults' experiences of attention, distraction and focus – Daniel Poole • Feasibility and acceptability of a new parent-toddler programme to support toddlers with a family history of autism/ADHD to develop Strong Attention, Regulation and Thinking skills (START) – Alexandra Hendry and Victoria Hulks 	
15:00 – 15:50	HEALTHY BRAINS	Topic Session	15:00 – 15:50	NEURODIVERSIFY YOUR MIND: NEUROPOINTERS FOR AN INCLUSIVE EXISTENCE	Workshop
Fintry	<p>Chair – Dr Silva Paracchini</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whose brain is it anyway? – Cos Michael • Smart food for ADHD and brain health – Rachel Gow 		Moorfoot	<p>Created by neuropoint - Salvesen Mindroom Centre's Young Person's Stakeholder Group</p> <p>This interactive workshop will include an experiential group work activity designed by neuropoint to support participants to develop an understanding of some of the challenges faced by neurodivergent young people, as well as strategies and supports that can make a difference. There will also be an opportunity to hear more about the personal experiences of neurodivergent young people</p> <p><i>This session is not being broadcast</i></p>	
15:00 – 15:50	NEURODIVERGENT STORIES FROM REAL LIFE				
Harris	Filmed personal stories available on a video loop; drop in any time				
15:50 – 16:20 AFTERNOON TEA BREAK IN THE ITAKOM HUB – POSTER CHAT SESSION F (Cromdale Hall on level -2)					

MONDAY AFTERNOON IN DETAIL

16:20 – 17:00	KEYNOTE LECTURE: A LIFE OF TWO HALVES: HOW FOOTBALL SAVED MY LIFE
Pentland	<p>Speaker – Paul McNeill, the Scottish Football Association, Head of Community Development & Ambassador for Dyslexia Scotland. Chair – Alan Thornburrow</p> <p>From being written off at 9 years old as a 'problem child', Paul left school at 15, later discovering he was Dyslexic. Navigating the death of his father to suicide, he talks of finding purpose and community in football, how he went on to achieve two university degrees, became an award-winning author and now works to help other help children and young people to thrive through the power of sport in his role as Head of Community Development for the Scottish Football Association.</p> <p>Supported by Dyslexia Scotland</p> 
17:05 – 17:45	KEYNOTE LECTURE: FOR THE SAKE OF UNUSUALNESS; MY LIFE WITH TOURETTE SYNDROME
Pentland	<p>Speaker – Pelle Sandstrak, A.K.A. "Mr Tourette" Chair – Sophie Dow</p>
17:45 – 19:00	ITAKOM GET-TOGETHER
	<p>Join us for drinks in the ITAKOM Hub (Cromdale Hall on level -2: included for all in-person attendees) With welcome address from the Right Honourable Lord Provost of Edinburgh, Robert Aldridge</p>



TUESDAY MORNING IN DETAIL


08:45	WELCOME BACK!				
Pentland					
08:50 – 09:30	KEYNOTE LECTURE: THE EVER-CHANGING BRAIN				
Pentland	Speaker – Professor Pierre Magistretti, Emeritus Professor at EPFL and University of Lausanne, Switzerland Chair – Dr Andy Stanfield Supported by The Patrick Wild Centre			 The Patrick Wild Centre for Research into Autism, Fragile X Syndrome & Intellectual Disabilities	
09:40 – 10:30	GIRLS AND WOMEN WITH ADHD AND AUTISM	Big Talk	09:40 – 10:30	INCLUSIVE LEARNING	Topic Session
Pentland	Speaker – Lotta Borg Skoglund Chair – Dr Charlotte Wilks Why have they so often been overlooked, and what can be done to correct that?		Tinto	Chair – Dr Katie Cebula <ul style="list-style-type: none"> LEANS project update: teaching primary school children about neurodiversity – Alyssa Alcorn Off to the beach: surf therapy – Jamie Marshall 	
09:40 – 10:30	APPLIED NEURODIVERSITY	Neuro Thinkers Session	09:40 – 10:30	TO TREAT OR NOT TO TREAT?	Workshop
Finty	Chair – Natalia Zdorovtsova <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supportive care to support neurodiverse children; barriers and successes – Max Davie Whose support is it anyway? A critical look at supportive environments – Holly Sutherland 		Moorfoot	University of Edinburgh, Wellcome Trust Translational Neuroscience PhD students, Cohort 7 Facilitated by – the Translational Neuroscience Cohort An exercise in setting priorities for drug discovery. What do we already have and what is missing to actually address the needs and wants of neurodiverse people? <i>This session is not being broadcast</i>	
09:40 – 10:30	COMMUNICATION AND STIGMA	Big Talk			
Harris <i>Pre-recorded</i>	Speaker – Hari Srinivasan Chair – Dr Lucy Livingston Tackling associated assistive communication devices stigma				
10:30 – 11:00	COFFEE BREAK IN THE ITAKOM HUB – POSTER CHAT SESSION E (Cromdale Hall on level -2)				

TUESDAY MORNING IN DETAIL

11:00 – 11:50	NO MIND LEFT BEHIND... IN EDUCATION	Expert Panel Session	11:00 – 11:50	HEALTH AND WELLBEING	Research Report Session
Pentland	<p>Chair – Dr Rachael Davis, Queen Margaret University How the neurodiversity paradigm is shaping education</p> <p>Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Pete Wharmby, Autistic author • Fergus Murray, AMASE • Laura McConnell, independent accessibility consultant, campaigner and neurodivergent teacher • Dr Elliott Spaeth, Advance HE 		Tinto	<p>Chair – Heather Love</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Investigating sleep problems and links to mental ill health in autistic children and adolescents – Reesha Zahir • Interviews with autistic adults about suicide risk and prevention – Anne Kirby • The feasibility of shared experience interviewing as an inclusive framework for mental health research in neurodivergent young people – Georgia Pavlopoulou and the RE-STAR team • Let’s talk about neurodivergent menopause: building bridges between disciplines to raise awareness of a critical life stage – Rachel Moseley 	
11:00 – 11:50	NEURODIVERGENT JOURNEYS	Topic Session	11:00 – 11:50	HOW DO WE EMBRACE COMPLEXITY IN NEURODIVERSITY RESEARCH?	Workshop
Fintry	<p>Chair – Dr Iona Beange</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transition into adulthood – Dr Kathleen Bechtold • My life with epilepsy – Holly Wagner 		Moorfoot	<p>Facilitated by – Agata Ostaszewska of the Embracing Complexity Coalition</p> <p>Most neurodivergent people have more than one condition, but most services, policies and studies are set up to look at one “box” at a time. In this community workshop, we will discuss how we can make it easier for research and wider society to include people with multiple neurodevelopmental conditions and recognise the range of strengths and needs that make us all unique</p> <p><i>This session is not being broadcast</i></p>	
11:00 – 11:50	NEURODIVERGENT STORIES FROM REAL LIFE	Storytelling Session			
Harris	Filmed personal stories available on a video loop; drop in any time				




TUESDAY MORNING IN DETAIL

12:00 - 12:10	MINISTERIAL ADDRESS BY MR RICHARD LOCHHEAD, THE MINISTER FOR JUST TRANSITION, EMPLOYMENT AND FAIR WORK	
Pentland	Introduced by Alan Thornburrow, CEO Salvesen Mindroom Centre	
12:10 - 12:45	KEYNOTE LECTURE: NEURODIVERSITY – INFORMED INTERVENTION	
Pentland	<p>Speaker – Dr Kathy Leadbitter, Senior Research Fellow at the University of Manchester</p> <p>Chair – Prof Liz Pellicano</p> <p>Moving towards neurodiversity-affirmative supports for autistic children and their families Supported by Salvesen Mindroom Research Centre</p>	 <p>Salvesen Mindroom Research Centre <i>research · learning · development</i></p>



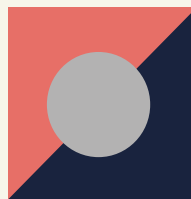
TUESDAY AFTERNOON IN DETAIL

12:45 – 14:00	LUNCH BREAK IN THE ITAKOM HUB – POSTER CHAT SESSIONS D & G (Cromdale Hall on level -2)		
13:10 – 13:55	NEUROINCLUSION AT WORK		Workshop
Ochil	An Employer Round Table Workshop facilitated by SSE		
14:00 – 14:50	UNMET NEEDS: SEXUALITY AND PEOPLE WITH INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY	Big Talk	14:00 – 14:50
Pentland	<p>Speaker – Lotta Löfgren-Mårtenson Chair – Anssi Bwalya</p> <p>Considering the rights of people with an intellectual disability to have a healthy sex life, examining the challenges inherent in making this a possibility</p>		<p>14:00 – 14:50</p> <p>PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIPS</p> <p>Topic Session</p>
14:00 – 14:50	(UN)SUPPORTIVE SYSTEMS	Neuro Thinkers Session	14:00 – 14:50
Fintry	<p>Chair – Dr Andrew McKeachie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Neurodiversity in the criminal justice system – Whitney Isles The U in Community: exploring making the most of community experience – Rene Brooks (pre-recorded) 		<p>14:00 – 14:50</p> <p>PUSHING FORWARD IN PARTICIPATORY RESEARCH</p> <p>Workshop</p>
14:00 – 14:50	NEURODIVERSITY IN EDUCATION	Big Talk	
Harris <i>Pre-recorded</i>	<p>Speaker – Loretta Giorcelli Chair – Roseanne Morris</p> <p>How neurodiversity manifests and can be embraced in schools</p>		



TUESDAY AFTERNOON IN DETAIL

15:00 – 15:50	NO MIND LEFT BEHIND... IN THE COMMUNITY	Expert Panel Session	15:00 – 15:50	INCLUSIVE LEARNING SESSION	Research Report
Pentland	<p>Chair – Dr Joe Long Exploring the neurodiversity paradigm in our wider society</p> <p>Panel:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venessa Bobb, content developer and trainer • Richard Baker, ENABLE Scotland • Dr Punit Shah, University of Bath/GW4 Neurodevelopmental Neurodiversity Network • Nanny Aut, Spectrum Gaming 		Tinto	<p>Chair – Ailbhe McKinney</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The everyday experiences of autistic children in mainstream primary schools; a qualitative investigation using photography and written accounts – Jo Billington • Creating supportive social groups for neurodivergent high school students – Charlotte Butter and Katie Baldwin • Designing sensory spaces to improve school access, participation, and achievement of neurodivergent students: an interdisciplinary approach – Alison Lane • Evaluating the use of flexible seating in a mainstream primary school for neurotypical and neurodivergent pupils – Heba Al-Jayoosi 	
15:00 – 15:50	HAPPY FAMILIES	Topic Session	15:00 – 15:50	ACHIEVING POSITIVE OUTCOMES FOR NEURODIVERGENT CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE	Workshop
Finty	<p>Chair – Dr David Simmons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding neurodiverse sibling relationships: where next? – Katie Cebula • Autistic relationships across the lifespan – Sarah Douglas & Felicity Sedgewick 		Moorfoot	<p>Facilitated by – the Salvesen Mindroom Centre Salvesen Mindroom Centre – Direct Help & Support Team</p> <p>SMC will overview how they support families to achieve positive outcomes for neurodivergent children and young people, with a particular focus on 'Involvement Plans'. An interactive session encouraging reflection and discussion around relationship building and person-centred approaches, with insights from parents, carers, children and young people who have accessed our support.</p> <p><i>This session is not being broadcast</i></p>	
15:00 – 15:50	NEURODIVERGENT STORIES FROM REAL LIFE	Storytelling Session			
Harris	Filmed personal stories available on a video loop; drop in any time				
15:50 – 16:20	AFTERNOON TEA BREAK IN THE ITAKOM HUB – POSTER CHAT SESSION H (Cromdale Hall on level -2)				



TUESDAY AFTERNOON IN DETAIL

16:20 – 17:00	KEYNOTE LECTURE: THE TRANSDIAGNOSTIC FUTURE OF NEURODIVERSITY RESEARCH	
Pentland	Speaker – Professor Sue Gathercole from the MRC Cognition and Brain Sciences Institute at Cambridge University, UK Chair – Prof Duncan Astle Supported by The University of Edinburgh College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine	 THE UNIVERSITY of EDINBURGH College of Medicine and Veterinary Medicine
17:05 – 17:30	CALL TO ACTION: THE FUTURE OF NEURODIVERSITY-AFFIRMATIVE SERVICES AND SOCIETY	
Pentland	Speakers – Alan Thornburrow and Professor Sue Fletcher-Watson Chair – Prof Duncan Astle CLOSE OF CONFERENCE	





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