

Academic Clinical Fellowship in the psychopharmacology of eating disorders:

Investigation of novel pharmacological treatments and predictors of response in Anorexia Nervosa

The prognosis for Anorexia Nervosa remains poor, with few evidence based treatments and no accepted drug therapies. In order to improve treatment a more innovative approach to drug discovery is required which makes use of repurposing of current therapies and pilot studies of efficacy in treatment-refractory patients. It will also be necessary to find neuropsychological and neurochemical predictors of those individuals who will respond to specific pharmacological approaches.

A range of potential therapies are available for novel investigation including cannabinoids, partial dopamine agonists, and anti-compulsive treatments such as memantine. Treatment predictors will employ neuropsychological testing as well as brain imaging to assess functional responses in emotional and reward circuitry and brain neurochemistry measured with magnetic resonance spectroscopy. The proposal will therefore allow experience in contemporary neuroscience, using experimental strategies and/or MRI . The project will be co-supervised by Dr Rebecca Park, Clinical Senior Lecturer in eating disorders whose expertise is in information processing in eating disorders and Professor Philip Cowen, Professor of Psychopharmacology who has expertise in translational neuroscience and drug development.

If you are interested in discussing the project please contact:

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