

# MENTAL HEALTH RESEARCH IN THE UK

## THE LONDON DECLARATION 2009

Declaration made on 14th October 2009 by the undersigned:

“Mental ill health is a leading cause of suffering, economic loss, social problems and death in the UK. Our understanding of mental illness has not improved as fast as that of cancer or heart disease.

“Only proper investment in mental health research will bring the major breakthroughs that are possible in the next 20 years. These could dramatically change our understanding of mental illness and our ability to prevent and treat it.

They could also change our understanding of how mental health affects physical health enabling us to improve both. The breakthroughs we seek can occur across biological, psychological and social science but may also arise from integrating findings across disciplines.

“We commend the Government's strategy *Best Research for Best Health* and commitment to develop healthcare solutions based on solid research evidence. This must continue. But such research on mental illness is still massively under-resourced compared with research for major physical illnesses, despite causing a comparable or larger disease burden.

“We call upon the Government, the NHS, research funding bodies, research institutions, the pharmaceutical industry and the third sector to commit to a joint strategy to rectify this. This means taking the following steps in the next three years:

1. Government should continue to increase the proportion of research money that is spent on mental health research as well as encouraging other funders to do so. It should bring together the key players to develop a joint strategy, with a timescale, for investment.
2. The major research funders need to re-balance their existing portfolios to ensure mental health gets the priority it deserves.
3. Although currently only a minor contributor, leading mental health charities need to focus more effort on supporting, publicizing and resourcing mental health research.
4. Research institutions should continue to invest in the skills and understanding necessary to develop strong research proposals.

“The long term aim must be to put mental health research on the same footing as that for physical illness and to ensure that it reflects the enormous health, social and economic burden imposed by mental illness.”

## **Research Mental Health Declaration signatories**

- Jo Brand
- Stephen Fry
- Ruby Wax
- Mel C
- Speech Debelle
- Nell McAndrew
- Alastair Campbell
- Tracey Emin
- Harriet Walter
- Professor Bill Deakin – Professor of Psychiatry and Director NPU, University of Manchester
- Professor Steven Rose – Department of Life Sciences, The Open University
- Professor Trevor Robbins – Professor of Cognitive Neuroscience, University of Cambridge
- Professor Eileen Joyce – Professor of Neuropsychiatry and Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist, UCL
- Professor Sir Iain Chalmers – Head of Cochrane Library
- Professor Steven Victor Ley CBE, FRS – University of Cambridge
- Professor Peter Mansfield – Nobel Prize Winner, University of Nottingham
- Professor J M Bland – Professor of Health Statistics, University of York

- Professor Stephen Bloom – Professor of Investigative Medicine, Imperial College
- Professor Rory Collins – Head of UK Biobank, Oxford University
- Professor Graham Hughes – London Lupus Centre, St Thomas’ Hospital
- Professor Peter Jones – Professor of Psychiatry, University of Cambridge
- Professor Martin Knapp – Professor of Social Policy, LSE
- Professor Shon Lewis – Professor of Adult Psychiatry, University of Manchester
- Professor Simon Lovestone – Professor of Old Age Psychiatry, KCL
- Professor Peter McGuffin – Professor of Psychiatric Genetics, KCL
- Professor Sir Anthony J. Leggett – Nobel Laureate, Professor of Physics, University of Illinois
- Professor Michael Owen – Director of the MRC Centre for Neuropsychiatric Genetics and Genomics, Cardiff
- Professor Shitij Kapur - Vice Dean and Professor, KCL
- Professor Christine Barrowclough - Professor of Clinical Psychology, University of Manchester
- Professor Nicholas Tarrier - Head of Clinical Psychology, University of Manchester
- Professor Elizabeth Kuipers – Professor of Clinical Psychology, KCL
- Professor Glyn Lewis – Professor of Psychiatry, Bristol University
- Professor Robin Murray – Kings College London
- Professor Dinesh Bhugra – President Royal College of Psychiatrists
- Professor Janet Treasure

- Professor John Geddes – Professor of Epidemiological Psychiatry, University of Oxford
- Professor Alan North FRS – University of Manchester
- Professor Dame Nancy Rothwell FRS – University of Manchester
- Diana Rose – KCL
- Angela Sweeney – KCL
- Felicity Callard – KCL
- Dr Debbie Mayes – Lancashire University
- Ms Liz Pitt – Greater Manchester West Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust
- Karen Clarke – Service User
- Jenny Trite – Service User
- Fenella Lemosky – Service User
- Marshall Whiting - Carer
- Dr Thomas Kabir – Institute of Psychiatry, KCL
- Caroline Laker – Institute of Psychiatry, KCL
- Joanne Evans – Institute of Psychiatry, KCL
- Professor Edward Bullmore, Professor of Psychiatry and GSK
- Dr Peter Barnes, Medical Director, Janssen-Cilag Ltd
- Nicholas Deaney – Research Director, Merck & Co
- Professor Douglas Altman, Director of CSM and Cancer Research UK, Medical Statistics Group

## **NHS Trusts**

- John Brouder – Chief Executive, North East London NHS Foundation Trust
- Dr Matthew Patrick – Chief Executive, Tavistock and Portman NHS Foundation Trust
- Iain Tulley – Chief Executive, Devon Partnership NHS Trust
- Hadrian Ball – Medical Director, Norfolk and Waveney NHS Trust
- Russ Pearce - Chief Executive, Calderstones Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- Stuart Bell - Chief Executive, South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust
- Chris Butler – Chief Executive, Leeds Partnerships NHS Foundation Trust
- Fiona Meyers – Chief Executive, North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust
- Steven Michael – Chief Executive, South west Yorkshire Partnership Foundation NHS Trust
- Maria Kane - Chief Executive, Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust
- Peter Cubbon – Chief Executive, West London Mental Health NHS Trust
- Erville Millar – Chief Executive, Kent and Medway NHS and Social Care Partnership Trust
- Martin Barkley - Chief Executive, Tees, Esk and Wear Valleys NHS Foundation Trust
- Tom Cahill – Chief Executive, Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- Philippa Slinger - Chief Executive, Berkshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust

- Karen Bell - Chief Executive, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough NHS Trust
- Dr Anita McBride - Research and Development Senior Manager, Hampshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust
- Claire Murdoch – Chief Executive, Central and North West London NHS Foundation Trust
- Professor Heather Tierney-Moore - Chief Executive, Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust
- Alan Yates - Chief Executive, Mersey Care NHS Trust
- Stephen Firn – Chief Executive, Oxleas NHS Foundation Trust
- Judy Wilson – Chief Executive, South West London and St George’s Mental Health NHS Trust
- Sandy Taylor OBE – Chief Executive, Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust
- Neil Carr - Chief Executive, South Staffordshire & Shropshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust