

Parkinson's Disease Public Forum

Speaker Bios and Abstracts



MACQUARIE
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Chair

Simon Lewis | Professor of Cognitive Neurology | Parkinson's Disease Research Clinic, Macquarie University



Professor Simon Lewis is a Consultant Neurologist and Professor of Cognitive Neurology at Macquarie University. He has published over 300 peer review papers, 2 books and 8 book chapters and has attracted over \$10 Million in funding from various sources including the NHMRC, ARC and Michael J Fox Foundation to support his research interests targeting Dementia and Parkinson's. He is the Clinical Lead for the Australian Parkinson's Mission.

In 2014, he was awarded the Leonard Cox Award by the Australia and New Zealand Association of Neurologists for achievements of an early career neurologist who has already made a significant contribution to neuroscience

Panel

Emily Henderson | Associate Professor of Ageing and Movement Disorders | University of Bristol, UK



Dr Emily Henderson is an Associate Professor of Ageing and Movement Disorders at the University of Bristol and Honorary Academic Consultant Geriatrician. She leads the Ageing and Movement Research Group (AMRG) in Population Health Sciences running a translational programme of research in neurodegenerative disease, falls and cognition. This spans basic science through to phase III, multi-centre clinical drug trials, healthcare service innovation and education. This >£20million collaborative portfolio improves quality of life for older people and those with neurodegenerative conditions through clinical trials, service innovation and pedagogical research.

Abstract: Tackling Gait Disorder in Parkinson's Disease

This talk aims to inform people with Parkinson's Disease (PD) about the challenges of falls, gait, and balance dysfunction. Emily will explore walking gait dysfunction, detailing the common issues that people experience. She will discuss the prevalence and consequences of falls among PD patients, including potential injuries and decreased independence. Strategies for managing gait and balance issues will be covered, including medical interventions, exercise and physical therapy, and new developments from recent research studies. She will provide some practical tips for fall prevention, home safety modifications, and daily strategies to improve mobility will be provided. The session will conclude with an opportunity to ask questions and discuss the topic further.

Daniel Weintraub | Professor of Psychiatry | University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine



Dr. Weintraub is Professor of Psychiatry at the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine and Psychiatrist at the Parkinson's Disease Center at the Philadelphia Veterans Affairs Medical Center. A board-certified geriatric psychiatrist, he conducts clinical research in the psychiatric and cognitive complications of Parkinson's disease and related disorders. He has been PI or Core Lead on grants from NIH, Department of Veterans Affairs, University of Pennsylvania, the Fox Foundation, the Movement Disorder Society, and industry-sponsored studies. He is on the Executive Steering Committee for the Fox Foundation-funded PPMI study; serves on the Steering Committee of the Movement Disorders Society Non-Motor PD Study Group; and is co-Chair of the Cognitive Subgroup for the NINDS Common Data Elements. He serves on the Scientific Advisory Council of the Lewy Body Dementia Association (LBDA) and is an Advisor to the Critical Path for Parkinson's Consortium (CPP) of the Critical Path Institute. Dr. Weintraub also is a long-time Associate Editor of Movement Disorders Journal.

Abstract: Memory and the Mind in Parkinson's Disease

Behavioural changes, and cognitive impairment are common in Parkinson's disease (PD). However, these symptoms remain under-recognized and under-treated, often leading to adverse outcomes. While psychological and psychosocial factors may contribute, evidence suggests that there is a neurobiological basis for many of these symptoms. A range of psychotropic medications, psychotherapeutic techniques, stimulation therapies, and other non-pharmacological treatments have been studied and are used clinically. Appropriate management of these symptoms is critical for comprehensive PD care, from recognizing their presentations and timing throughout the disease course, to the incorporation of different therapeutic strategies that utilize a multidisciplinary approach.