ON-DEMAND CONFERENCE GUIDE

Medically Unexplained Symptoms

A multidisciplinary conference addressing the challenges of persistent symptoms



Original conference poster
Artwork: Tony Pickering

WEDNESDAY 1 MAY 2024

Breaking the cycle of tests, referrals and unsuccessful treatments

Held at the Royal Foundation of St Katharine, London, this one-day meeting brought together patients and professionals to explore diagnosis, consultation, research and supportive care. Organised by Forgotten Patients, Overlooked Diseases. Find out more at www.forgottenpatients.org.

WHAT THE PROGRAMME EXPLORED

Patient experience
Repeated tests, referrals and uncertainty for patients and families.

The consultation
Communication, labels and expectations when diagnosis is unclear.

Diagnostic doubt
Acknowledging uncertainty while continuing investigation and support.

Different explanations
Perspectives across psychiatry, genetics, emergency medicine and research.

Technology and innovation
The potential role and limitations of AI and other new approaches.

Supportive care
Helping patients while diagnostic questions remain unresolved.

Conference report
Full discussions, insights and recommendations.

View full report

Further reading
BMJ: Not "all in the mind".
Tessa Richards, 7 June 2024.

Read BMJ article

PART 01 / ON DEMAND

The problem with MUS

Chaired by Jeshni Amblum-Almer

01

PATIENT VOICE

The patient's experiences

Christianne Forrest & Katia Chrysostomou

Patient representatives, FPOD

Watch recording

02

The doctors' experiences of MUS

Dr Jay Verma

General Practice and Primary Care Section, Royal Society of Medicine

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03

MUS in A&E - is the picture different from primary care?

Dr Jon Matthews

A&E Consultant, St Mary's Hospital, London

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04

KEYNOTE

Where does the consultation go wrong?

Prof Graham Easton

Professor of Clinical Communication, Academic GP and Broadcaster, Queen Mary University of London

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PART 02 / ON DEMAND

Exploring solutions

Chaired by Dr Jay Verma

05 Ethical considerations in MUS and equity of access: what needs to change?

Chantal Patel & Dr Kiran Jani

Interprofessional studies / UK Clinical Ethics Network

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06 The importance of clinicians exploring doubt with MUS

Dr Adrian Tookman

Chair, Forgotten Patients, Overlooked Diseases

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07 'But, is it all in the mind?' - views of a specialist psychiatrist

Dr Muj Husain

Consultant Liaison Psychiatrist, Persistent Physical Symptom Unit, South London and Maudsley Hospital

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08 Is genetic testing the answer? Should everyone with MUS undergo genetic testing?

Prof Julian Barwell

Clinical Geneticist and Honorary Professor, University of Leicester

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09 AI and MUS - Dr GPT will see you now

Dr Keith Grimes

GP and AI in healthcare expert

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PART 03 / ON DEMAND

Learning from others

Chaired by Dr Adrian Tookman

10 **Good medicine has much to offer - practical tips for individuals, families and HCPs**

Dr Jay Verma

Royal Society of Medicine and invited contributors

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11 **Current support and research in the UK and EU**

Prof Chris Burton

Professor of Primary Medical Care, University of Sheffield

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12 **Supportive therapies, innovative approaches and thinking out of the box**

Dr Minha Rajput-Ray

Integrated medicine physician, Cùraidh Clinic, Dundee

Watch recording

13 **Supportive therapies, innovative approaches and thinking out of the box**

Dr Francis Kynaston-Pearson

Consultant rheumatologist, Nottingham and Derby

Watch recording

14 **Supportive therapies, innovative approaches and thinking out of the box**

Dr Sanjay Gupta

Consultant cardiologist, York Teaching Hospitals

Watch recording