



GNG-INA

Neuropsychiatry Journal Club



Thursday
10 Sept 2026

Warsaw : 6-7 pm

London: 5-6 pm

Featured Paper: Functional neurological disorder is a feminist issue

PubMed link: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/36977553/>

Abstract: Functional neurological disorder (FND) is a common and disabling disorder, often misunderstood by clinicians. Although viewed sceptically by some, FND is a diagnosis that can be made accurately, based on positive clinical signs, with clinical features that have remained stable for over 100 years. Despite some progress in the last decade, people with FND continue to suffer subtle and overt forms of discrimination by clinicians, researchers and the public. There is abundant evidence that disorders perceived as primarily affecting women are neglected in healthcare and medical research, and the course of FND mirrors this neglect. We outline the reasons why FND is a feminist issue, incorporating historical and contemporary clinical, research and social perspectives. We call for parity for FND in medical education, research and clinical service development so that people affected by FND can receive the care they need.

PRESENTER



DR NATALIA SZEJKO, MD, PHD

Warsaw, Poland Neurologist and child and adolescent psychiatry trainee

Dr Natalia Szejko, MD, PhD, is a neurologist and researcher whose work focuses on functional neurological disorder (FND), neuropsychiatry, Tourette syndrome and tic disorders. She has conducted clinical and research training at Yale University, Hannover Medical School and the University of Calgary.

SESSION CHAIR



PRIMAVERA "VERA" A SPAGNOLO, MD, PHD (she, her, hers)

Dr. Primavera "Vera" A. Spagnolo is the Executive Director of the Mary Horrigan Connors Center for Women's Health Research at Mass General Brigham. She is also the Director of the Laboratory of Sex-Informed Translational Neuroscience, a joint Connors Center-Department of Psychiatry laboratory, and an Assistant Professor of Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School. Her research focuses on sex-informed translational neuroscience, with particular emphasis on stress- and trauma-related disorders, including post-traumatic stress disorder, addiction, and functional neurological disorder, and on understanding the neural and molecular mechanisms that contribute to sex differences in their development and progression.

Panel Expert



Prof Mark Edwards, King's College London

Mark Edwards (MBBS, BSc (Hons), PhD, FRCP) is Professor of Neurology and Interface Disorders at King's College London and Honorary Consultant Neurologist at The Maudsley and King's College Hospitals.

Panel Expert



Prof Dr Med. Selma Aybek, University of Fribourg, Switzerland

Dr Selma Aybek is Full Professor of Neurology at Fribourg University, Switzerland and Consultant Neurologist at Fribourg Hospital. She leads a research program dedicated to the understanding of the pathophysiology of Functional Neurological disorder (FND) as well as a specialized multidisciplinary clinic to diagnose and treat patients suffering from FND.



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