



All Party Parliamentary Group for Prescribed Drug Dependence

Rising Prescriptions, Rising Mental Health Disability: Is There a Link?

Paul Flynn MP and Lord Patel of Bradford would like to invite you to attend an event hosted by the All Party Parliamentary Group for Prescribed Drug Dependence to be held at **Portcullis House, Westminster, from 11am-1pm on Wednesday 11th May 2016.**

There were over 1.1m disability claimants for mental disorders in the UK in 2014, a figure which has doubled over the past twenty years. A similar increase can be seen across the developed world, in countries such as Australia, Iceland, the United States, New Zealand and Sweden. Wherever disability rates are rising we have also seen large increases in psychiatric drug prescriptions. Over the past 25 years, prescriptions for antidepressants have risen by 500% to almost 60m in England alone, alongside a surge in prescriptions for other psychiatric drugs.

The fact that this is being observed in different countries (with dissimilar health systems, levels of inequality, welfare provision etc.) obliges us to consider what role the medications themselves – particularly antidepressants – could be playing in increasing mental illness disability. In particular, how should we respond to research linking long-term use of psychiatric drugs with worse outcomes? And what are the costs of this, both to public health and the public purse?

Robert Whitaker, health writer and Pulitzer finalist, will deliver the opening presentation, which will be followed by a short talk by **Paul Brett**, a patient affected by prescribed drug dependence.

Professor Peter Kinderman, President of the British Psychological Society, will then chair a panel discussion. The panel members are:

- **Dr Andrew Green** (Chair of the BMA GPs' Clinical and Prescribing Subcommittee)
- **Dr Joanna Moncrieff** (Senior Lecturer, University College London)
- **Baroness Stroud** (Executive Director of the Centre for Social Justice)
- **Prof Sami Timimi** (Head of Medical Education, Lincoln NHS Trust)
- **Prof Allan Young** (Chair of Psychopharmacology, Royal College of Psychiatrists)

Directions:

The meeting will take place in the Macmillan Room, Portcullis House, Westminster. For directions to Portcullis House please see this webpage which contains a map of Westminster: <http://www.parliament.uk/visiting/access/directions/>

The entrance to Portcullis House is number 4 on the map. Directions to the Macmillan Room will be provided at reception in Portcullis House.

Please note that there is a security procedure to go through when you enter Portcullis House. Information about the screening process, bag size and items which are not allowed is provided here: <http://www.parliament.uk/visiting/access/security/>

Please bring this invitation with you and please allow approximately 45 minutes to pass through security as there is sometimes a queue. This is important because Prime Minister's Questions begins at 12pm and can sometimes attract additional visitors to parliament.

Biographies:

Dr Andrew Green is a GP who has worked in the East Riding market town of Hedon for over 25 years. He represents GPs from East Yorkshire and Lincolnshire on the GPs' Committee of the BMA and chairs their Clinical and Prescribing Subcommittee, with a special interest in Primary Care Quality Indicators and Patient Safety.

Prof Peter Kinderman is President of the British Psychological Society and Professor of Clinical Psychology. He is head of the Institute of Psychology, Health and Society at the University of Liverpool, with over 200 academic staff (32 of them professors) comprising psychiatrists, general practitioners, clinical and other applied psychologists, sociologists, public health physicians, nurses and academics. Peter Kinderman's research activity and clinical work has involved studying serious and enduring mental health problems such as paranoid beliefs and hallucinations, psychological models of mental health and the effectiveness of psychosocial interventions, alternatives to traditional psychiatric and diagnostic approaches and how psychological science can assist public policy in health and social care. Peter Kinderman is currently a member of the UK Office for National Statistics' Technical Advisory Group for the Measuring National Well-being Programme, and served twice as Chair of the British Psychological Society's Division of Clinical Psychology.

Dr Joanna Moncrieff is a Senior Lecturer in psychiatry at University College London and a practising consultant psychiatrist. She has written articles critical of various psychiatric drug treatments, including lithium, antidepressants and neuroleptics. Joanna has also written about the adverse influence of the pharmaceutical industry on psychiatry. She is also one of the founders and the co-chair of the Critical Psychiatry Network. Joanna's research consists of an analysis of all aspects of psychiatric drug treatment. She is interested in the nature and function of diagnosis in modern psychiatric practice, and in the history, politics and philosophy of psychiatry more generally. She has also written three books: *The Bitterest Pills*, published by Palgrave Macmillan, *The Myth of the Chemical Cure*, published by Palgrave Macmillan, and *A Straight Talking Introduction to Psychiatric Drugs*, published by PCCs books.

Baroness Stroud is a co-founder and Executive Director of the think tank the Centre for Social Justice. She is a member of the Conservative Party and was created a life peer on 1 October 2015 taking the title Baroness Stroud of Fulham in the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham. She spent seventeen years in poverty-fighting projects and published a book on social injustice. In 1987-89 she worked in Hong Kong and Macau amongst the addict community. From 1989-96 she pioneered a four-stage residential support project in Bedford enabling homeless people to move off the streets and to become contributing members of the community. From 2001-2003 Stroud developed a project to care for addicts, the homeless and those in debt in Birmingham.

Prof Sami Timimi is a Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist and Director of Postgraduate Education in the National Health Service in Lincolnshire and a Visiting Professor of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry at the University of Lincoln, UK. He has published over a hundred articles and chapters on many subjects including childhood, psychotherapy, behavioural disorders and cross-cultural psychiatry. He has authored four books, co-edited three books and co-authored two others. He founded the International Critical Psychiatry Network, is cofounder of the group Culture and Equality in Mental Health, and is patron to the Carefree Kids charity and has led on many innovations including the Outcome Orientated Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (OO-CAMHS) project, and the Outcome Orientated Approaches to Mental Health Services (OO-AMHS) project.

Robert Whitaker is a Pulitzer Prize finalist and former fellow of the Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University. He is founder of the influential e-zine madinamerica.com and author of five books, including: *Mad in America* (Basic Books 2010), *Anatomy of an Epidemic* (Broadway Books 2011) and most recently *Psychiatry Under the Influence* (Palgrave 2015). His newspaper and magazine articles on the mentally ill and the pharmaceutical industry have garnered several national awards, including a George Polk Award for medical writing and a National Association of Science Writers Award for best magazine article. A series he co-wrote for the Boston Globe on the abuse of mental patients in research settings was named a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize in 1998.

Prof Allan Young is Chair of Mood Disorders, Director of the Centre for Mental Affective Disorders, King's College London, where he is also Director of the Centre for Affective Disorders within the Department of Psychological Medicine in the Institute of Psychiatry. He has held academic appointments at the Universities of Oxford, Newcastle upon Tyne, and UBC (Vancouver, Canada) where he held the Leading Edge Endowment Fund Endowed Chair in Research in the Department of Psychiatry. He was also the Director of the Institute of Mental Health and Imperial College London where he held the Chair of Psychiatry and was Director of the Centre for Mental Health. He is currently Chair of the Psychopharmacology Committee, Royal College of Psychiatrists.