

Greater Manchester Universities Student Mental Health Partnership Conference 2025

Tuesday 20 May 2025 – 08.45 – 16.00 - RNCM

08.45 – 09.20	Registration and Refreshments
09.25 – 09.45	Welcome & Introduction with Professor Jennie Henley , Director of Programmes, RNCM, Dr Sara Ascenso , Lecturer in Musicians' Health and Wellbeing, Dr Tim Alnuamaani , Consultant Psychiatrist, Dr Rosey Tattersall , Consultant Psychologist Lead
09.50 – 10.30	First session: Art of Being Brilliant plus Q&A- Oliver Cope - public speaker and PhD researcher Ollie Cope - Art of Brilliance
10.35 – 11.15	Second session: What is the Positive Psychology approach? - Miriam Akhtar MAPP - Miriam Akhtar with Dr Sara Ascenso , RNCM
11.15 – 11.35	Refreshment Break
11.35 – 12.05	Third session: Skills for Living Programme - Prof Sandeep Ranote , Clinical Director Mental Health NHS GM Integrated Care & Dr Simon Merrywest , Director for the Student Experience, University of Manchester. Sandeep and Simon will be joined in a panel session by Kelly-Ann Mallon, Head of Access, Student Employability, Success & Development along with student learners who have taken part in the Skills for Living Programme.
12.05 – 12.35	Fourth session: Social Prescribing- Paula Monaghan , Social prescribing link worker, University of Manchester Counselling & Mental Health Service & Mollie Foster , Head of Advice & Wellbeing University of Salford
12.35 – 13.05	Community singing led by Stuart Overington , Director of Choirs, RNCM
13.05 – 13.55	Lunch Break
14.00 – 14.40	Fifth session: The Poetry Pharmacy - William Sieghart , Entrepreneur, publisher and philanthropist- tells the story of the Poetry Pharmacy. How it began and developed into a popular source of help for mental health across the English-speaking world. William will read a number of his most popular poetic prescriptions to cope in this challenging world About – The Poetry Pharmacy
14.40 – 15.30	Sixth session: Local initiatives with Q&A Respect for all - Neuro-Inclusive Group Practices: What We Do and How We Do It - Rob Wardle , COO & Paula Doran , Training Coordinator - Respect for All Exercise referral scheme- Daley O'Neal ; Physical Activity and Wellbeing Operations Manager & Heather Millington ; Wellbeing Fitness Instructor, University of Salford Inclusive Learning Communities Project - Yolande Sumbele ; Senior Student Welfare and Communities Advisor, Manchester Metropolitan University
15.30 – 15.50	"Always Look for the Flowers" an exploration of using music composition to navigate Parkinson's disease with Dr Simon Knighton , Chris Jones & Yuanfan Yang (piano)
15.50 – 16.00	Closing remarks - Dr Simon Merrywest & Professor Sandeep Ranote