

Neurodiverse RCN – expert panel biographies

Meet our panel at the digital event on 12th October 2020, 6pm.

Chaired by Wendy Irwin, RCN Diversity & Equalities Co-ordinator

Visit www.rcn.org.uk/neurodiversity to book

Dr Rachael Major twitter: @RachaelMajor1

Rachael is a Senior Lecturer in Nursing and a member of the RCN Education Forum Steering Committee. She has been in nurse education for the past 19 years and has a passion for supporting students, especially neurodiverse students. Both her children are neurodiverse and this interest and passion led her to complete a Doctorate in Education entitled “Nurses’ personal and professional experiences of dyslexia in lifelong learning: a narrative approach” in 2017. Her current research builds on this, extending the work to include registered nurses, student nurses, nursing

before setting in Jersey in 1995. Here Moyra worked initially in the Main Theatre Department where she was Orthopaedic Sister. Following a post as Senior Sister for Practice Development in the Perioperative areas she joined the Higher Education Department as a lecturer in 2008 and a Senior Lecturer in 2014. Moyra completed an MSc in Advanced Surgical Practice followed by a Professional Doctorate in Education at Cardiff University. Moyra is Jersey programme leader for the MSc Professional Studies and the MSc Advanced Practice. She is a Fellow of the Higher Education Academy. Her interests are: research, ethics, social history, social policy, the history of nurse education, student identity, lecturer identity, disciplinary power, patient safety, infection prevention and control, and pain management. Prior to taking up a position on the RCN Education Forum Steering Committee Moyra was Chair of the RCN Perioperative Forum Steering Committee. Moyra has an interest in neurodiversity, having undertaken some training in the area. She has experience supporting family members and students with specific learning needs.

Amelia Hoggard- Leathers twitter: @TheADHDNurse

Amelia qualified as a mental health nurse in 2019 and works in a category B male prison. Aged 27, during her last year of university she was diagnosed with ADHD and dyspraxia via her University disability service. These diagnoses allowed Amelia to receive the appropriate treatment and support at University, work and in her personal life. As a newly qualified nurse with a new diagnosis, Amelia has been through the process of seeking and obtaining additional work support. A process which has been both challenging and rewarding.

Amelia has a passion for neurodiversity and the strengths and limitations it poses for patients and professionals. She is an aspiring ADHD specialist nurse, taking a lead on this in her current workplace. She is particularly passionate about exploring the atypical signs and symptoms of neurodevelopmental disorders and breaking down generalised perceptions and stigma.

Amelia has a keen interest to pursue further study and research, specifically in relation to those diagnosed with ADHD as adults in the prison population.