

## **Symposium 8: Treating anxiety – the role of benzodiazepines and beyond**

**Sponsored by Society for Neuroscience, London Chapter**

**Theme: Psychiatry and mental health**

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> April, 16:20 – 18:00**

The idea behind this symposium stems from the wide health and societal implications of anxiety disorders, with one in six adults and one in thirty children and young adults in the UK experiencing some form of anxiety disorder every year according to the Mental Health Foundation UK.

We will focus on four key aspects of anxiety treatments: molecular pathways for anxiolytic responses (Professor Esa R. Korpi, University of Helsinki, Finland), current and future anxiolytic drug development (Dr Gerry Dawson, P1Vital), cognitive therapies (Professor Nazanin Derakhshan, Birkbeck University of London) and molecular mechanisms of benzodiazepine tolerance (Dr Jasmina Jovanovic, UCL School of Pharmacy).

Our aims are to encourage collaborative research in the area of anxiety disorders and to communicate the need for developing new pharmacological and cognitive therapies for anxiety.

Chair: Dr Jasmina Jovanovic (University College London)

Speaker 1: Professor Esa Korpi (Department of Pharmacology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Helsinki)

'Molecular targets and pathways for anxiolytic responses'

Speaker 2: Dr Gerry Dawson (P1Vital, Oxford)

'Past, current and future drug treatments for anxiety'

Speaker 3: Professor Nazanin Derakhshan (Birkbeck, University of London)

'The other side of fear and the road to resilience'

Speaker 4: Dr Jasmina Jovanovic (UCL)

'Molecular basis of benzodiazepine tolerance'