

DR SOHOM DAS
CONSULTANT FORENSIC PSYCHIATRIST
& EXPERT WITNESS

MBChB, MRCPsych BSc, MSc,

www.expertinmind.co.uk

CONTACT DETAILS

TEL: 01424 444130

FAX: 01424 234625

**EXPERT IN MIND LTD
ASTEC HOUSE
SEDLSCOMBE ROAD SOUTH
ST LEONARDS ON SEA
EAST SUSSEX
TN38 0TA**

office@expertinmind.co.uk

CREDENTIALS

APPROVED UNDER SECTION 12(2) OF THE MENTAL HEALTH ACT, 1983 / 2007;

(on behalf of the Secretary of State, as having special expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of mental disorders)

ON GMC SPECIALIST REGISTER FOR FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY

APPROVED CLINICIAN STATUS: VALID UNTIL APRIL 2019

FULL INDEMNITY INSURANCE (MDU)

FULL MEMBER OF EXPERT WITNESS INSTITUTE; EXPERT WITNESS ACCREDITATION AWARDED

QUALIFICATIONS

AWARD / SUBJECT	YEAR	ESTABLISHMENT
MSc – Psychiatric Research	2012	University College London
MRCPsych – Membership	2011	Royal College of Psychiatrists
MBChB – Medicine and Surgery	2003	University of Edinburgh
BSc – Pharmacology	2000	University of Edinburgh

MEDICO-LEGAL EXPERIENCE

Secondary Schooling / A-levels

1997

Poynton High School, Cheshire

I have extensive experience of carrying out a range of psychiatric assessments and writing independent reports at for a number of different courts (including civil and criminal court).

I run my own medico-legal practice;

I have authored over 350 criminal reports and over 150 civil reports in my career. My current turn-over is around 2 - 3 reports per week.

I work part-time in my current Forensic Psychiatrist role (in a prison). Therefore, I am able to dedicate a couple of days per week to carry out medico-legal work. I am generally able to see clients within 7 - 10 days of being instructed and submit the report within a further week.

I am able to turn around reports very quickly in urgent situations. The fastest that I have done this (seeing a client and writing up a full detailed medico-legal report) is within 24 hours.

CRIMINAL COURT WORK

My experience includes:

- Fitness to plead.
- Defendants' mental state at the time of offences.
- Mental health disposals (including Hospital Orders, Restriction Orders, and Community Orders).
- Mental health defences (including Not guilty by Reason of Insanity, Diminished Responsibility and automatism).
- Capacity to form intent / mens rea
- Risk Assessments, including violence, sexual offending, and risk of reoffending.

My assessments have been undertaken for clients in a variety of settings, including:

- Low, medium and high security secure psychiatric hospital (including Broadmoor)
- Male, female and adolescent defendants.
- Women's medium secure unit.
- Therapeutic Community
- Court assessments
- Prisons (men and women)
- Young Offenders' Institutes
- Immigration Centres
- Patients in the community (on bail)
- A wide range of alleged offences, including murder and terrorism

CIVIL COURT WORK

My experience includes the following areas:

- Personal injury cases (including complex and high value cases).
- Clinical Negligence; including:
 - Complex and high value cases
 - Breach of duty
 - Causation
 - Prognosis and Condition
- Historical sexual abuse.
- Psychiatric consequences of a wide range of incidents and accidents (e.g. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, issues at work, physical disability).
- Recommendations for psychiatric treatment.

As well as adults, I have carried out assessments of children and teenagers. I also run a regular medico-legal clinic based in association with a solicitor's office in Wales.

OTHER MEDICO-LEGAL AREAS OF EXPERIENCE

- Mental Health Review Tribunal reports (both as the Responsible Clinician, and as an independent psychiatrist).
- Parole board reports (including giving oral evidence).
- Immigration Tribunal reports.
- Family court reports.
- Employment Tribunal reports (including grievance investigation assessments).
- Formal capacity assessments.
- Care Programme Approach medical reports.
- Reports for the Ministry of Justice (such as Annual Statutory Reports and leave reports).
- Serious Untoward Incident reports.

I have experience of giving oral evidence as an expert witness in a variety of settings, including:

- Crown Court and Magistrate's Court
- Psychiatric defences (including Diminished Responsibility in a murder trial at the Old Bailey)
- Psychiatric disposals (including Restriction Orders and a Hybrid Order)
- I have also given evidence at Mental Health Review Tribunals and Managers' Hearings on numerous occasions.

CONTINUED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

As a higher trainee (Specialist Registrar) in Forensic Psychiatry in London (2011 – 2014), I have had the privilege of supervision from several different renowned Consultant Forensic Psychiatrists, for both independent and NHS medico-legal assessments. This helped me hone my report-writing skills.

Further specific training has included:

- Premex advanced clinical negligence medico-legal training, London (June 2016).
- Medico-legal lectures, tutorials and workshops at the International Forensic Psychiatry Conference (Royal College of Psychiatrists, Forensic Psychiatry Faculty) on numerous occasions (most recently, Madrid, March 2017).
- Premex clinical negligence medico-legal training, London (June 2015).
- Recent updates in Mental Health Law, St Andrew's Healthcare, Northampton. This included specific training related to DOLS, the Court of Protection, and Coroner's Court (May 2015).
- Expert Witness Institute Conference (2014, 2015 & 2016).
- Approved Clinician's Course, BEH NHS Trust (2014).
- Grey's Inn Expert Witness Training
 - Practice cross-examination by trainee and experienced barristers.
- Regular formal medico-legal teaching sessions within forensic psychiatry higher training, including:
 - Medico-legal report club, involving presenting and critically appraising my own and other people's reports.
 - Tutorials by experts in civil and family court assessments.
 - John Howard Centre teaching sessions and North London Forensic Service academic morning; discussions about complex medico-legal issues and presenting difficult cases myself at these sessions to several expert consultant colleagues.
- Numerous medico-legal workshops at National Higher Trainee Psychiatry conferences and International Forensic Psychiatry Conferences, by experienced clinicians, judges, barristers and solicitors.
- Regular medico-legal case presentations to peers, in a variety of settings.

Other relevant activities / experience has included:

- I have been awarded Expert Witness Accreditation from the Expert Witness Institute (in association with University College London Judicial Institute; 2016).
- I was invited to speak about Medical Negligence within mental health in a seminar hosted by Collingbourne Hennah Law LLP (2016)

I regularly participate in Continued Professional Development, for my medico-legal work, as well as my other work as a Forensic Psychiatrist. This includes:

- Regular specialised training (see above).
- Regular attendance to a number of conferences.
- Annual appraisal and regular GMC revalidation.
- Keeping up to date with medico-legal and psychiatric journals.
- Being signed up to a number of medico-legal websites, blogs and newsletters.
- Being a member of a Professional Development Plan group; regular meetings discussing a wide range of topics within forensic psychiatry, including medico-legal work.
- Regular presenting complex medico-legal cases with consultant colleagues.
- Obtaining feedback from clients (mostly solicitors and barristers) about the standard of my work; this includes formal feedback for my annual appraisal.

Evidence of all of the above can be provided upon request.

EMPLOYMENT

CURRENT POSITION – HMP BRONZEFIELD

LOCUM FORENSIC PSYCHIATRIST (PART-TIME)

FEBRUARY 2017 - PRESENT

CLINICAL DIRECTOR: DR SHAMIR PATEL

I run regular psychiatric clinics within the hospital, as well as overseeing the care of the psychiatric patients within the prison's Healthcare Unit.

My responsibilities include:

- Clinical Leadership to prison clinical mental health team.
- Initiating treatment for prisoners suffering from mental illness (including prescribing medication and referring to our team of psychologists).
- **Regular assessments / courts reports** for a number of courts and solicitors; regarding recommendations for disposal (including formal transfer to hospital under the Mental Health Act 1983/2007) for prisoners.
- Regularly submitting legal paperwork as the formal medical recommendations for Mental Health Act assessments.
- Regular liaison with a range of professionals (including community mental health teams, In-patient teams, housing officers, court staff, and solicitors) to facilitate the process of hospital transfer.
- Participation in daily clinical team hand-over meetings, including chairing. This includes assessing the appropriate level of treatment / involvement from our team for each individual patient discussed.
- Clinical lead for weekly multi-disciplinary planning meeting within Healthcare Unit
- Contributing to ACCT assessments.
- Mental health assessments within the Segregation and Care Unit.

PREVIOUS POSITION – CLINICAL DIRECTOR

CLINICAL DIRECTOR OF LONDON CYRENIANS HOUSING (PART-TIME)

APRIL 2016 – FEBRUARY 2017

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR: JAMES McNICHOLAS

Director of the AIR (Assessment, Independence & Recovery) Team, as well as being the Clinical Director of London Cyrenians Housing; a housing association (and charity) that specialised in housing clients with troubled backgrounds (Forensic Histories / Mental Illness / Dual Diagnosis / Learning Disability). I was the sole doctor / psychiatrist within the organisation.

My responsibilities included:

- Leadership and supervision of team (consisting of nurses and social workers). Line management of whole team.
- Examination and feedback regarding risk assessment documentation across the organisation.
- Overseeing and advising on the care of complex and challenging clients; liaison with community mental health teams and staff within the housing projects.
- Assistance and advice for complex referrals, related to higher risk clients.
- Delivery of organisation-wide teaching, in a wide range of topics

PREVIOUS POSITION – CONSULTANT FORENSIC PSYCHIATRIST

**RESPONSIBLE CLINICIAN FOR DANBURY WARD, LOW SECURE MENTAL ILLNESS REHABILITATION WARD,
ST ANDREW'S HEALTHCARE, ESSEX.**

MAY 2014 TO APRIL 2016 (PART-TIME)

LEAD PSYCHIATRIST: DR MUTHUSAMY NATARAJAN

Consultant responsible for the care of 14 psychiatric in-patients with significant forensic risk histories.

- Initiating and carrying out treatment plans for a range of patients on civil and criminal sections of the Mental Health Act.
- Providing leadership to an in-patient Multi-Disciplinary Team, including supervision and line management of a junior doctor.
- Chairing all Care Programme Approach meetings, and ward rounds.
- Writing a range of reports (including medico-legal, tribunal, CPA, leave reports) and supervising reports by junior staff.
- Frequent medico-legal report writing through the St. Andrew's consultancy service.
- Regularly providing evidence at all Mental Health Review Tribunals and Manager's Hearings.
- Regular attendance to Crown Court to give expert evidence on behalf of my patient group.
- Lead psychiatrist in Secure Training Centre (for adolescent offenders).

HIGHER TRAINING POSTS IN FORENSIC PSYCHIATRIST

(AS SPECIALIST REGISTRAR)

NORTH-EAST LONDON FORENSIC PSYCHIATRY SCHEME

JOHN HOWARD CENTRE, HACKNEY + CAMLET LODGE, NORTH LONDON FORENSIC SERVICE.

APRIL 2011 TO APRIL 2014

TRAINING PROGRAMME DIRECTOR: DR MARY WHITTLE

The positions I undertook within my higher training included:

- Locum Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist at the John Howard Centre (3 months)
- Medium-secure male rehabilitation ward, Camlet Lodge (3 months)
- Medium-secure female ward, Camlet Lodge (6 months)
- Low-secure male rehabilitation ward, Camlet Lodge (3 months)
- 2 x Medium-secure male in-patient unit posts, covering PICU, acute and rehabilitation wards, John Howard Centre (18 months)
- Millfield's Unit, John Howard Centre; a therapeutic community within the Personality Disorder Service (4 months)

Additional Specialist Forensic Higher Training included:

- Participation in four different Court Diversion schemes.
- Regular scheduled outpatient clinics at HMP Pentonville and HMYOI Feltham.
- Specialist assessment of young offenders (including developmental disorders such as ADHD and autism).
- Regular Mental Health Act assessment.
- Treatment of patients at Broadmoor Hospital (High Dependency Ward)
- Co-facilitation of a year-long Schema-therapy (psychological treatment) group for personality disordered offenders.
- Co-facilitator of formal risk assessment tool (HCR-20) and psychopathy screening tool (PCL-SV training).
- Member of the Faculty of Management and Leadership
- Authored material for the Royal College of Psychiatrists website (patient information leaflet about capacity and podcasts, about anti-depressants and psychosis).

OTHER PREVIOUS PSYCHIATRIC POSTS (AS A SENIOR HOUSE OFFICER, OR EQUIVALENT)

CAMDEN & ISLINGTON ROTATION – CORE TRAINING

FEBRUARY 2006 TO MARCH 2011

TRAINING PROGRAMME DIRECTOR: DR ANGELA HASSIOTIS

- Prison Substance Misuse, Detoxification Wing, HMP Pentonville (3 months)
- Learning Disabilities Psychiatry, Camden LD Service (5 months)
- Addictions Psychiatry, IDASS North, Islington (6 months)
- Forensic Psychiatry, Camlet Lodge, North London Forensic Services (6 months)
- Liaison Psychiatry, University College London Hospital (6 months)
- Child & Adolescent Psychiatry, University College London Hospital (6 months)
- General Adult Psychiatry, St. Pancras Hospital, London (6 months)
- Old-Age Psychiatry, Mascall's Park (6 months)
- Psychiatry Registrar, Sydney, Australia (12 months)

NON-PSYCHIATRIC MEDICAL POSTS

AUGUST 2003 TO FEBRUARY 2006

- Accident & Emergency Registrar, Sydney, Australia (6 months)
- Intensive Care doctor, Royal Victoria Infirmary, Newcastle (3 months)
- Ear, Nose & Throat doctor, Freeman Hospital, Newcastle (3 months)
- Urology doctor, Freeman Hospital, Newcastle (3 months)
- Orthopaedic doctor, Edinburgh Royal Infirmary (6 months)
- General Medical House Officer Edinburgh Royal Infirmary (6 months)

CASE TYPES	
ADHD	
ASD	
Clinical Negligence	
Criminal	
Employment Tribunal	
Family	
Fitness to Plead	
Forensic	
Historic Sexual Abuse	
Housing	
Immigration & Asylum	
Litigation Capacity	
Occupational Health	
Personal Injury	
Risk Assessments	
Road Traffic Accident	
Second Opinion	
Testamentary Capacity	
SPECIALISMS	
ADHD	Neglect
Anxiety	Paedophilia
Bereavement	Personality Disorders
Bipolar	Psychosis
Capacity	PTSD
Custody	Risk
Depression	Sexual Harrassment
Domestic Violence	Schizophrenia
Drug/Alcohol/Substance Misuse	Self Harm
Historic Sex Abuse	Sex Offenders
Learning Difficulties	Sexual Abuse Victims
Military	Mood Disorder

REFERENCES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

ANONYMISED COPIES OF ANY AFOREMENTIONED WORK ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST