

CURRICULUM VITAE

Dr. Rajeev Dhar
MBBS MRCPsych Barrister at Law
Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist

Contact: Expert In Mind
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EDUCATION

MBBS - St George's Hospital Medical School, University of London, 1994

MRCPsych - London, 1999

CPE in Law - London, 2005

Bar Vocational Course - BPP Law School, London, 2008

Called to Bar - Lincoln's Inn, 2008

PRIVATE PRACTICE

Practice Privileges at the BUPA Cromwell Hospital

Admitting rights to Capio Nightingale Hospital, London

Consulting rooms -

- 10 Harley street, London
- Keats House, London
- Edwards House, London

BUPA and AXA accredited

Member of UK register of expert witnesses (vetted 2012)

Areas of practice and interest:

- Assessment and treatment of mental health problems including neurosis; depression; psychosis and schizophrenia; occupational mental health

including work related stress and burnout in the corporate, legal and public sector; stress connected to litigation, trauma and PTSD; personality disorder; substance misuse; risk assessment and management;; rehabilitation psychiatry and offending behaviour work.

- Mental capacity and consent
- Legal tests relevant to psychiatry

EXPERT WITNESS WORK

Preparation of Court Reports and oral evidence

Negligence and civil cases:

PTSD and Trauma
Medical /clinical negligence in psychiatric practice
Deaths in custody and suicide cases
Dismissal and disability cases
Psychiatric malpractice
Nervous shock cases
Mental capacity

Criminal cases:

Independent fitness to plead and stand trial assessments
Defences – automatism; insanity; diminished responsibility and provocation in homicide cases
Pre-Sentence reports for Probation and disposal
Reports for the purpose of Mitigation

I have provided evidence at all levels of Hearing including at the

- Crown Court
- County Court
- Central Criminal Court
- High Court
- Defence and Prosecution Officers, Guernsey.

Inquiry experience:

Consultant expert Panel Inquiring into deaths into custody HMP Belmarsh
Consultant expert Panel Inquiring into a death Mental Health Trust
Expert for the Parole board

I have provided expert evidence in the UK, Channel Islands and Ireland
I have been instructed as an expert for Government Bodies including PCTs, NHS Trusts and Law Offices and insurance companies including BUPA

CONSULTANT EMPLOYMENT

- 1) Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist, Acute admission unit, Oxleas Trust (2004 - 2009)
- 2) Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist, Community Team (2004-2009)
- 3) Consultant Psychiatrist Challenging Behaviour (2007- 2009)
- 4) Consultant Psychiatrist, Psychiatric Intensive Care Unit (2009 –2011)
- 5) Consultant Forensic Psychiatrist, Challenging Behaviour and Locked Rehabilitation (2011-)
- 6) As Clinical Director for Greenwich Mental Health Services clinical leader for :
 - Acute service
 - Early Intervention in Psychosis
 - Assessment and Shared Care
 - Liaison Psychiatry
 - Recovery Community service (CMHTs)
 - Primary Care psychological services (IAPT)
 - Assertive Outreach Team
 - Dept of Old Age Psychiatry

I have had the good fortune to have worked many areas of psychiatric care dealing with a range of disorders across acute, rehabilitation, challenging behaviour and community services. I have been in a leadership role within these settings and have developed systems and practices that have been adopted elsewhere in the organisation. Alongside my inpatient work I have held a community case load and provided risk assessments and advice to colleagues in general services, the prisons and Courts. I have specific expertise in risk assessment and management and have worked with teams utilising root cause analysis.

I have had commendations from the CQC for elements of my practice and have been invited to present to them at the CQC HQ.

I had received three clinical excellence awards in three years running for my contribution to innovation and good practice and was the only consultant in the Trust to receive this.

OTHER CLINICAL EMPLOYMENT

Prison psychiatric clinic ; HMP Highdown, HMP Wandsworth
Psychotherapy, Broadmoor Hospital
Female Medium Secure Unit
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder Clinic, St George's Hospital, London

RESEARCH POSTS

Research Fellow in Forensic Psychiatry – St George’s Hospital Medical School, University of London 1998 -2000.

Research on the mental capacity

MANAGEMENT EMPLOYMENT

Clinical Director, Oxleas Foundation Trust (2009 – 2011)

The Trust at that time comprised of 3 Adult Directorates covering Bexley, Bromley and Greenwich. Whilst I was one of four medical clinical directors the Trust was awarded *psychiatric service provider of the year* by the Royal College of Psychiatrists and is rated amongst the highest achievers in user and staff surveys. The service I ran also received AIMS accreditation and in the past had been *‘National psychiatric intensive care unit of the year’*

The Directorate I led as clinical director was in a large morbid area with a complex managerial structure. My roles were:

- Responsible for clinical leadership and expertise in the delivery of effective and high quality services in the Directorate.
- Chair the local Quality board and reporting to the Trust Board on patient experience, patient safety and clinical effectiveness.
- Directorate lead for Audit
- Head of the medical profession in the Directorate – including all job plans and annual appraisal
- Lead role in the Quality and safety improvement plan, complaints and incident reviews (& learning), service development and evaluation.
- Interface work between primary and secondary care in light of the White Paper
- Provide supervision, support and expert advice to senior clinical and management colleagues on clinico-legal matters pertaining to our work. I have expertise in criminal and civil litigation including negligence and employment matters.
- Educational supervisor for 3 junior doctors
- Development of risk registers and PCAs in line with the CQC regulatory process

Also have been lead clinician for legal areas : MHA 1983/2007, MCA and S12 training for Clinicians in my NHS Trust

ACADEMIC ROLES:

Honorary Director of Clinico-legal studies within Dept Forensic Sciences, Institute of Psychiatry, Kings College, London

- Honorary academic at King College; academic supervisor to MSc Students
- Lead on expert evidence and expert witness training (MSc module leader)
- Organise and deliver an *expert witness training course* as a partnership between the Institute of Psychiatry and City Law School
- Clinico-legal research - Mental capacity, liability in psychiatric practice, MHRT process, assessing fitness to plead
- Recognised as a leading teacher of expert witness skills

Lecturing

- Lecturer on MSc in Mental Health Law – Criminal Law Concepts and Defences; Consent law at the Institute of Psychiatry, Kings College
- Lecturer on the MRCPsych Course Maudsley Hospital
- Lecture and teach on expert witness course which has been developed

TEACHING / PRESENTATION EXPERIENCE

Invited External lectures 2009-

- *Mad Bad and Sad - the relationship between personality disorder and mood disorder* – Eli Lilly conference GP delegation, Madrid
- *Changes to the Mental Health Act – Surrey and Borders Partnership Trust Patient Choice and the legal framework* - Surrey and Borders Partnership Trust
- *Capacity, MHA and Dols – bringing it all together* - South Tyneside acad programme
- *Deprivation of liberty safeguards* - Surrey and Borders Partnership Trust
- *Effecting change in mental health services – applying legal regulations to clinical practice* – Invited to address the MHAC at their annual CQC meeting
- *The role of Consultant Psychiatrists – now and in the future* - Leicestershire NHS Trust
- *Directorate and Quality Structures – developing services for the future;*- Singapore Department of Health and Probation Delegation
- *Quality Report for the Board: the Greenwich Directorate – processes and structure*
- *The Health Service White Paper – implications for clinicians and directorates*
- *Legal risk in psychiatric practice – how to avoid the pitfalls;* St George's Acad prog; Sri Lankan Psychiatric Association
- *Legal risk in psychiatric practice – how to avoid the pitfalls;* Sussex Partnership NHS Trust
- *Legal risk in psychiatric practice – how to avoid the pitfalls;* CNWL NHS Trust
- *Legal risk in psychiatric practice – how to avoid the pitfalls :* Institute of Psychiatry
- *Criminal or patient? – Forensic psychiatry in Practice;* Capio Nightingale GP lecture (March 2012) ; Martin Scurr Portobello Rd Practice (April 2012)
- *Mad Bad and Sad - the relationship between personality disorder and mood*

- *disorder* – invited to speak at a number of GP practices across London (2012)
- *Clinical negligence and Liability - a workshop for GPs*; Cromwell hospital (June 2012)

Teaching lecturers in 2009- 10

- *Criminal Law Concepts* – MSc Course, Kings College (2007-2010)
- *Capacity and mental health law*– MSc Course, Institute of Psychiatry (2007-2010)
- *Court Report Writing; Conference with Counsel; oral evidence skills* Expert witness course trainer, Institute of Psychiatry, Kings College London. twice yearly)
- *The psychiatrist in Court* – Calman training day, IOP
- *Implications of recent case law to Dols*- training event Oxleas Trust
- *Mental Health Law* – Maudsley Training Scheme MRCPsych course
- *Medicolegal workshop* – Forensic SpR Training programme
- *CSIP Mental Health Act Trainer*

MANAGEMENT EXPERIENCE/RESPONSIBILITIES

Committee experience :

External :

- Royal College of Psychiatrists, Consultant member accreditation panel
- External interviewer Consultant appointments panel
- Expert member panel investigating deaths in custody , HMP Belmarsh
- Expert member independent panel examining the death of a patient in secure care

Trust level:

- Member Mental Health Legislation Scrutinee Committee
- Directorate Board, Forensic and Prison Directorate
- Marketing Group, Lean Thinking Group
- Medical Advisory Committee
- Chair Greenwich Quality Board
- Chair Consultants Meeting
- Chair Clinical Effectiveness Group
- Chair employment and disciplinary hearing

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES / ORGANISATIONS

- Royal College of Psychiatrists
- General Medical Council
- Medical Defence Union
- Lincoln's Inn (Bar)
- Bar Council
- UK Register expert witnesses
- BMA

FURTHER INTERESTS

- Employment related stress; stress connected to involvement in litigation.
- Decision making capacity in medical and surgical patients
- Acquired Brain Injury and psychiatric rehabilitation across various settings
- Quality structures and processes that are outcome based
- The relationship between personality disorder and the development of psychosis
- The relationship between the legal and clinical processes in terms of negligence, evidence and expert opinion and the coroners court

PAPERS

Eastman N.L.G., Dhar R. (2000) *The role and assessment of mental capacity : A review*, Current Opinion in Psychiatry.

Dhar R., O'Brien A. (2000) *The Critical Review Paper and evidence based journal clubs : A candidate's perspective*. Psychiatric Bulletin

Hale R, Dhar R (2008) *Flying a Kite ; Observations on Dual (and Triple) Diagnosis (Editorial)* Criminal Behaviour and Mental Health.

Hale R, Dhar R (2010) *Flying a Kite Psychopathy as a defence against psychosis. Observations on dual (and Triple) Diagnosis*; Psychoanalytic Bulletin.

'*The MHA, Common Law, Capacity in a prison setting*' Wilson and Dhar in 'Psychiatry in Prisons: A Comprehensive Handbook' 2010

'*Legislation*' in 'Seminars in Forensic Psychiatry', Royal College of Psychiatrists Textbook.