

DR SOHOM DAS

**CONSULTANT FORENSIC PSYCHIATRIST
& EXPERT WITNESS**

MBChB, MRCPsych BSc, MSc,

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CONTACT DETAILS

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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
Secondary Schooling / A-levels	1997	Poynton High School, Cheshire

MEDICO-LEGAL EXPERIENCE

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; Sigma Delta Psychiatry Expertise; professional website: www.sigmadeltapsych.co.uk

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 rae.
- 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 solicitors 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.

SPECIFIC MEDICO-LEGAL AND EXPERT WITNESS TRAINING

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 have 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)

CONTINUED PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

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 AND HENDON MAGISTRATES' COURT LIAISON & DIVERSION SERVICE

LOCUM FORENSIC PSYCHIATRIST (PART-TIME), FOR CNWL NHS FOUNDATION TRUST

FEBRUARY 2017 - PRESENT

CLINICAL DIRECTOR: DR SHAMIR PATEL

My responsibilities within the prison role include:

- Overseeing the care of the psychiatric patients within the prison's Healthcare Unit.
- 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.

My responsibilities within the Court Diversion role include

- Assessing defendants with the more complex psychiatric (escalated via the team).
- Writing brief court reports within a very short turn-over.
- Formally advising the court about major psychiatric issues (which may include fitness to plead).
- Initiating and undertaking Mental Health Act assessments, where necessary.
- Contributing to formal business meetings between various teams and organisations within the court.

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, Mascal'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)

REFERENCES ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST

ANONYMISED COPIES OF ANY AFOREMENTIONED WORK ARE AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST