

Department of Clinical Neuroscience
Division of Insurance Medicine

Curriculum Vitae – Alexis E. Cullen

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Profile: https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Alexis_Cullen

Education

- **PhD in Developmental Psychopathology** (10/2009 – 05/2014) 0.6 FTE
Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience, King's College London, UK
Thesis: Increased stress susceptibility and hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal (HPA) axis dysfunction: Early markers of psychosis vulnerability?
- **MSc in Forensic Mental Health Research** (09/2006 – 09/2008) 0.5 FTE
Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience, King's College London, UK
- **BSc Joint Honours in Psychology and Biology** (10/2003 – 07/2006)
University of Reading, UK

Current position

- **Researcher** (12/2020 – present) 0.5 FTE, Division of Insurance Medicine, Department of Clinical Neuroscience, Karolinska Institutet. Role: Researcher within the MENTE group examining mental health and work disability in refugees and migrants.
- **Research Fellow** (11/2019 – present) 0.5 FTE, Department of Psychosis Studies, Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience (IoPPN), King's College London (KCL). Role: independent research (funded by NARSAD Young Investigator Award) and Scientific Coordinator for the international PSYSCAN consortium.
- **Honorary Lecturer** (08/2016 – present), Department of Psychosis Studies, IoPPN, KCL. Role: Module Leader, programme development, teaching, supervision, personal tutor.

Earlier positions

- **Sir Henry Wellcome Postdoctoral Fellow** (11/2015–10/2019), Department of Psychosis Studies, IoPPN, KCL. Role: PI for the Stress, Inflammation & Psychosis (SIP) Study.
- **Post-doctoral Researcher** (03/2014–10/2015), Health Service and Population Research Department, IoPPN, KCL. Role: Protocol development, data extraction/coding, and analysis for the electronic health record (EHR) stream of the Seclusion & Psychiatric Intensive Care Evaluation Study.
- **Research Worker** (10/2007–02/2014) 0.4 FTE, Department of Forensic and Neurodevelopmental Sciences, IoPPN, KCL. Role: developing and conducting EHR study of forensic inpatients; trial coordinator for RCT in forensic psychiatric settings; recruitment and assessment for the Child Health & Development Study.

Research funding

- *Developing mobile digital technologies to measure stress-biomarker signatures across psychotic illness stages.* NARSAD Young Investigator Grant, Brain & Behavior Research Foundation; **Cullen AE (PI)** (01/2020 – 12/2021: £50,176).
- *Stress-biomarker signatures across psychotic illness stages.* Early Career Bridging Grant, NIHR Maudsley Biomedical Research Centre (BRC); **Cullen AE (PI)** (11/2019 – 12/2019: £22,063).
- *Biological markers of stress and inflammation across clinical stages of schizophrenia.* Sir Henry Wellcome Postdoctoral Fellowship, Wellcome Trust; **Cullen AE (PI)** McGuire P, Mondelli, V, Murray, RM (11/2015 – 10/2019: £250,000).
- *Does elevated C-reactive protein predict future psychopathology amongst children exposed to trauma?* Project Grant, Waterloo Foundation; Laurens KRL, Fisher HL, **Cullen AE (Co-I)** (03/2013 – 02/2014: £15,652).

Awards, recognitions and other funding

- **Research prizes:** Finalist for Ziskind-Somerfield Research Award (2020), New Research Prize Royal College of Psychiatrists Forensic Faculty Meeting (2014), Best Presentation Award Institute of Psychiatry PhD Student Showcase (2011).
- **Young investigator awards:** International Congress on Schizophrenia Research (2017), International Society of Psychoneuroendocrinology (2014), Schizophrenia International Research Society (2013).
- **Recognitions:** Brain & Behavior Research Foundation Research Partners Program (2020), Early Career Academic KCL Health Faculties (2018), Parade of Stars Event IoPPN (2018), Rising Star Nomination IoPPN (2013).
- **Teaching awards:** King's Education Award (2020), Best Lecturer for Research Methods, Ethics & Statistics (2017).
- **Other funding:** Travel Grant, Guarantors of Brain (2016), Staff Development Fund, King's Health Partners (2014), Travel Grant, Guarantors of Brain (2010).

Publications (selected)

Google Scholar metrics: Articles: 40; Total citations: 1179; h-index: 18; i10-index: 25

Cullen AE, Palmer-Cooper E, Pollak TA et al (in press) Influence of methodological and patient factors on serum NMDAR IgG antibody detection in psychotic disorders: a meta-analysis of cross-sectional and case-control studies. *The Lancet Psychiatry*.

Cullen AE, Addington J, Bearden CE et al (2020). Concordance between stress exposure and salivary cortisol among individuals at clinical high-risk for psychosis: Findings from the NAPLS cohort. *Psychoneuroendocrinology*, 115, 104649.

Cullen AE, Holmes S, Pollak TA et al (2019) Associations between non-neurological autoimmune disorders and psychosis: a meta-analytic review of the evidence to date. *Biological Psychiatry*, 85(1), 35-48.

Pruessner M, Cullen AE, Aas M, Walker EF (2017) The neural diathesis-stress model of schizophrenia revisited: An update on recent findings considering illness stage and neurobiological and methodological complexities. *Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews*, 73, 191-218.

Cullen AE, De Brito S, Gregory S, et al (2013) Temporal lobe volume abnormalities precede the prodrome: a study of children presenting antecedents of schizophrenia. *Schizophrenia Bulletin*, 39, 1318-1327.

Invited talks and oral conference presentations (selected)

Oral presentations: 31 (Invited talks: 18); Session chair: 3; Poster presentations: 6

- 04/2019: *50 years of Stress and Psychosis: How far are we from translating fundamental science to intervention?* Early Psychosis: Latest Developments in Prevention, Prediction and Treatment Masterclass. London, UK (Invited talk)
- 10/2018: *Early Intervention and the Psychosis Spectrum*. West China Hospital, Sichuan University, Chengdu, China (Invited talk)
- 04/2018: *Stress and Cognitive Function among Individuals at Clinical High-risk for Psychosis: Findings from the NAPLS Cohort*. 6th Biennial Schizophrenia International Research Society Conference, Florence, Italy. (Oral presentation, Invited session chair)

Teaching and supervision

- **Teaching** (2012 – present) extensive involvement in developing module content and delivering teaching in psychiatric research methods across several courses (MSc Forensic Mental Health Research; MSc Psychiatric Research; MSc Early Intervention in Psychosis) at the IoPPN, KCL.
- **Module leader** (2015 – 2020) organised, developed, and delivered teaching for the Research Project module, MSc Early Intervention in Psychosis, IoPPN, KCL.
- **Student supervision** (2011– present) primary supervisor for 26 MSc students and 6 BSc students; co-supervisor for 1 PhD student and 13 MSc students at the IoPPN, KCL.

Science communication and academic citizenship

- **Science communication:** press releases ([CTO study](#)), media articles ([The Conversation](#), [The Independent Online](#)), institutional publications ([available online](#)), and research society newsletters.
- **Academic citizenship:** Invited talks and seminars delivered at funding body events (Wellcome Trust, First Year PhD Student's meeting 2019; Wellcome Trust, Postdoctoral Fellowships Induction 2018), early career workshops (IoPPN Research & Innovation Committee Fellowship Mock Interview Panel 2017), and community events (Ashwell House Cultural Event 2018, Health Inequalities Research Network Conference 2014) .
- **Peer reviewer:** Editorial board member for *Brain, Behavior & Immunity* and *Brain, Behavior & Immunity – Health*; Review editor for *Frontiers in Psychiatry: Schizophrenia*; Regular reviewer for *Schizophrenia Research; Psychological Medicine; Psychoneuroendocrinology*. Ad-hoc reviewer for over 25 journals.