



## 217th Lecture Series 7.30pm - 23 January 2019

**Professor Michael O'Donovan**

**Genes and mental illness: what are their properties and how might discovery enhance future care.**



### ABSTRACT

Strong evidence has existed for a heritable component to severe psychiatric disorders for more than 60 years but this hypothesis has had its highly vocal and prominent critics within and outwith psychiatry. Failures to identify gene variants related to these disorders in the first half of the molecular genetic era appeared to give support to the views of the critics that the pursuit of genetics in psychiatry was, at best, misguided. However, in the last 10 years, hundreds of gene variants have finally been linked to psychiatric disorders at robust levels of support. Making these discoveries has required collaboration on a scale rarely seen in biomedical science. This talk will consider the route to gene discovery in psychiatry, the surprising properties of the findings to date, and discuss some of the ways it is hoped those findings will lead to better treatments or prevention.

### BIOGRAPHY

*Michael O'Donovan is Professor of Psychiatric Genetics and Deputy Director of the Medical Research Council Centre for Neuropsychiatric Genetics and Genomics at Cardiff University. His research is focused on the genetic basis of severe psychiatric disorders and how identifying genetic risk factors might ultimately be exploited to help people with those disorders.*

### LINKS

<https://www.ncmh.info/investigators/professor-michael-odonovan/>  
<https://bmcmmedicine.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12916-015-0417-1>  
<https://www.cardiff.ac.uk/people/view/113462-odonovan-michael>

**All lectures take place in Lecture Theatre K3.25, John Anderson Building,  
University of Strathclyde, Rottenrow East, Glasgow G4 0NG.**

**Non-members welcome**

The John Anderson Building is in the pedestrianised area between Rottenrow and Rottenrow East. Free car parking is available behind the building. From High Street enter Rottenrow East at the Barony.  
*Refreshments will be served at 9.00pm.*