

## Presenter Biographies

### **Professor Andrew Chanen**

Professor Andrew Chanen is Chief of Clinical Practice and Head of Personality Disorder Research at Orygen in Melbourne, Australia. He is also a Professorial Fellow at the Centre for Youth Mental Health, The University of Melbourne. Andrew established and directs an internationally recognised program of research, treatment innovation, and service development in youth mental health and early intervention for severe mental disorders in young people. Andrew established the field of early intervention for personality disorder and is a leading global advocate for effective, evidence-based policy. He has over produced over 220 scientific publications in high-impact international journals and has received over \$30 million in competitive grant funding. He serves on the Editorial Boards of several journals, and expert national and international groups. He is a Past President of the International Society for the Study of Personality Disorders. His work has been recognised with several awards for advancing healthcare, including the 2023 Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists' Ian Simpson Award and the 2017 Award for Distinguished Achievement in the Field of Severe Personality Disorders from the Borderline Personality Disorder Resource Centre and Personality Disorder Institute, New York.

### **Professor Sharon Lawn**

Sharon is Chair and Executive Director of Lived Experience Australia, a nationally awarded mental health consumer/carer advocacy organisation. Sharon brings her personal lived experience and 20+ years as a family carer to several national representative roles. Sharon was lead Mental Health Commissioner in SA in 2020-21. Sharon is also a Professor at Flinders University and undertakes a diverse range of lived experience mental health research. Prior to these roles, Sharon worked in mental health, aged care and disability services in SA for 23 years where she learned a great deal from people with a BPD diagnosis.

### **Associate Professor Jillian Broadbear**

A/Prof Jillian Broadbear is the Head of Research & Innovation at Spectrum Personality Disorder and Complex Trauma Service. She holds a PhD in Biopsychology from the University of Michigan and spent two decades working in the substance misuse and mental health fields conducting pre-clinical and clinical research. After returning to Australia, Jillian took up an academic role at Monash University, convening the Bachelor of Behavioural Neuroscience degree and continuing her psychopharmacology research. She was fortunate to learn about a research opening at Spectrum ten years ago and has never looked back! Jillian is passionate about leading research that can be applied through education and advocacy, thereby improving knowledge in the field, and growing services that assist everyone whose lives are affected by personality disorder and complex trauma.

### **Dr Hemalatha Jayaram**

Dr Hemalatha Jayaram is a Senior Clinician and Clinical Psychologist with appointments in Aged Persons Mental Health as well as Spectrum, both within Eastern Health. Hema has expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of personality disorder in older adults and runs a psychotherapy clinic in Normanby House at St George's Hospital in Melbourne. Hema has an adjunct appointment with Swinburne University of Technology and is a peer reviewer for the Australasian Journal of Psychiatry. She is an active researcher and engages in student clinical and research supervision.

### **Michael Bhagwandas**

Michael is a 4th year Psychology graduate and Research Assistant at Spectrum. Throughout his time at Spectrum he has primarily been working on a study exploring the experiences of men with BPD since the beginning of the year, with the aim of bringing greater attention to this underrepresented and understudied population.

### **Dr Rowan P. Ogeil**

Dr Rowan Ogeil is a Senior Research Fellow at Monash University, and Acting Strategic Lead of NAMHSU at Turning Point. He has more than 90 publications in the fields of addiction and sleep medicine, and his work has attracted more than \$10 million in competitive grant, tender & philanthropic funding. Rowan has previously held prestigious fellowships including a Peter Doherty fellowship from the NHMRC and a Harvard Club of Australia fellowship. In his role at NAMHSU he works closely with all levels of Government to build an evidence base to inform AOD policies.

### **Dr Julian Nesci**

Dr Julian Nesci is a senior clinical psychologist and accredited Mentalization-Based Treatment practitioner and supervisor. His work within Spectrum's Mentalization-Based Treatment clinic includes individual and group therapy, supervision, and training. Julian also works within the Complex Care Service, providing consultation and treatment for consumers, carers, clinicians and services. Julian also has a background in working with people with severe eating disorders, acute mental health issues, and the adolescent forensic field. Together with his colleagues he is advancing Spectrum's Mentalization-Based Treatment program accreditation with the Anna Freud Centre in London. He is eager to support the growth and delivery of psychotherapy for people with complex difficulties within Australia.

**Dr Lukas Cheney**

Dr Lukas Cheney is the Deputy Clinical Director at Spectrum. He has training in Dialectal Behaviour Therapy and Mentalization Based Therapy and has a keen interest in research to improve our understanding of personality and associated disorders. In his work at Spectrum, Dr Cheney is involved in the most complex cases of personality disorder from across Victoria and to mental health services seeking consultation around Australia. Dr Cheney is a strong believer in a stepped care model of treatment for personality disorder and the idea that, with the right knowledge, any mental health clinician can engage therapeutically with a person living with personality disorder.

**Sam Crowley**

Sam is a Research Assistant at Spectrum with an interest in clinical research and practice. After completing a Bachelor's degree in Business Management, Sam obtained a Graduate Diploma and Honours degree in Psychology from the University of Melbourne before completing a Graduate Diploma in Forensic Behavioural Science at Swinburne University. During his time at Spectrum, he has assisted across a variety of research projects including Spectrum's Service Evaluation Program. Sam hopes to pursue postgraduate studies in psychology and further research in the field of personality disorder.

**Dr Mithira Nithianandan**

Dr Mithira Nithianandan is a consultant psychiatrist at Spectrum Personality Disorder Service. She has had training in dialectical behaviour therapy and metallization based treatment. Dr Nithianandan believes that training and support for the mental health workforce are crucial for addressing the needs of people with personality disorder. She has a particular interest in supporting primary care providers in working therapeutically with clients living with BPD.

**Jason Webb**

Jason is a social worker with a MBA who has experience across different models of adult mental health in Victoria. With values of social justice and a client centred approach, he aims to deliver and create the best service for clients, carers and clinicians.

**Marianne Weddell**

Marianne Weddell is Clinical Manager & Clinical Specialist of Spectrum. She is a Clinical Psychologist with 20 years' experience in public and private setting treating a wide range of disorders, managing teams, training staff and supervising/mentoring clinicians. She has a special interest and significant experience with borderline personality disorder, in particular developing service and family systems to work effectively in this space. She believes in therapy as a tool to help people understand themselves, their passions and build a life worth living.

**Associate Professor Sathya Rao**

Associate Professor Sathya Rao is a psychiatrist and the Executive Clinical Director of Spectrum Personality Disorder Service. He is the Vice President of the Australian BPD Foundation. He is also an adjunct clinical associate professor at Monash University. Dr Rao is involved in clinical research and has published research papers, contributed chapters and co-authored books on borderline personality disorder. He was a member of the NHMRC Clinical Practice Guidelines development committee, 2012. He has taught clinicians across Australia and was the head of psychiatry training program of Victoria for the RANZCP previously. He is involved in treating complex personality disorder patients and provides second opinions and secondary consultations for complex clinical conditions associated with personality disorders. He was the recipient of the 2020 Meritorious Award of the Victorian Branch of RANZCP. In recognition of his contributions to psychiatry he received the award of the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) (General Division) in June 2022.

**Cathryn Pilcher**

Cathryn Pilcher is the Associate Director of Spectrum and an Occupational Therapist with more than 18 years' experience in Mental Health, specialising in working with people with personality disorder. She is comprehensively trained in Dialectical Behaviour Therapy (DBT) and was integrally involved in setting up the first regional DBT program in Western Australia. Along with clinical and strategic leadership, Cathryn provides consultation, supervision and training, translating her experience into skills for people working with those experiencing personality disorder and co-existing conditions. On a broader note, Cathryn has a keen interest in service development in public and private health systems developing models of care, team process, capacity building and workforce development. She is a passionate advocate for embedding access to appropriate and supportive treatment options for people with personality disorder and complex trauma within services.