

# Somatoform Disorders

## Module Overview

This module will introduce the most common clinical presentations of functional (non-organic) neurological symptoms, ranging from psychogenic movement disorders to non-epileptic attacks. The diagnosis of somatoform disorders will be explained with focus on the role of clinical examination and neuropsychiatric investigation in assisting the differential diagnosis between dissociation, factitious and malingering. Possible underlying mechanisms will be explained and available management options will be presented according to evidence levels.

## Learning Outcomes

By the end of the module you should be able to:

- Identify the different presentations of functional neurological symptoms, including psychogenic movement disorders and non-epileptic attack disorder
- Understand the differential diagnosis between somatoform disorders, dissociative disorders, factitious disorders and malingering
- Critically appraise the scientific literature on the clinical and research aspects of functional neurological symptoms
- Understand the methods of investigation and diagnosis of somatoform disorders and apply them to clinical practice
- Understand the management options available to patients with somatoform disorders and apply them to clinical practice

## Credits

10 credits

## Module Attendance Required

3 days - block teaching

## Module Dates

2013/14 dates:

3 DAYS (Mon – Weds)  
12th, 13th , 14th May 2014

2014/15 dates:

3 DAYS (Mon – Weds)  
11th, 12th , 13th May 2015

## Assessment

Presentation

## Academics involved in the delivery of this module

- Dr Hugh Rickards, Consultant in Neuropsychiatry and Programme Lead
- Dr Andrea Cavanna, Consultant in Behavioural Neurology and Deputy Programme Lead
- Most lectures are from visiting consultants, professionals and researchers in the field.

## Stand Alone Course

This module can also be taken as a stand-alone course if required. To apply, please contact Angela Oakley, Postgraduate Administrator, 0121 415 8118, [clinicalneuro@contacts.bham.ac.uk](mailto:clinicalneuro@contacts.bham.ac.uk) (<mailto:clinicalneuro@contacts.bham.ac.uk>) or Dr Andrea Cavanna - Consultant in Behavioural Neurology and Deputy Programme Lead - [Andrea.Cavanna@bsmhft.nhs.uk](mailto:Andrea.Cavanna@bsmhft.nhs.uk) (<mailto:Andrea.Cavanna@bsmhft.nhs.uk>)

## Fee if taken as a stand alone course

For information on fees please contact the Programme Administrator. Please note - no masters level credits are available for this module unless taken as part of the complete MSc Clinical Neuropsychiatry programme. If taken as an individual module you will receive a certificate of attendance for CPD purposes.

## Entry requirements if taken as a stand alone course

For information on requirements please contact the Programme Administrator.

**Study here and find out why the University of Birmingham was awarded The Times and The Sunday Times University of the Year 2013-14**  
(<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx>)

## Course fact file

**Type of Course:** Continuing professional development, module