



## International Network for Psychiatric Nursing Research (NPNR) Conference

### *Invitation for an organising and scientific committee member with experience of using mental health services*

The Network for Psychiatric Nursing Research (NPNR) conference takes place in Autumn every year, and is the UK's leading event of its kind. The conference is friendly, and each year attracts nurses, service users, carers and others. The 22<sup>nd</sup> conference takes place at the Nottingham Conference Centre on September 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> 2016. More information can be found here: <https://www.rcn.org.uk/news-and-events/events/psychiatric-nursing-research-conference>

Two groups work together to make the NPNR conference happen: Mental Health Nurse Academics UK (<http://mhnauk.swan.ac.uk/main.htm>) and the Royal College of Nursing (<https://www.rcn.org.uk>). The conference is planned by an organising and scientific committee of seven people, with representation from both groups. This committee is now looking for a new member: someone with lived experience of using mental health services and with some knowledge of the research process.

Expressions of interest are invited for this position. The person joining the committee will be a member until the end of September 2017 in the first instance. She or he will be supported to play a full and equal part in the work of the committee. Specifically, this means:

- Reading, and judging, abstracts written by people wishing to present their research at the conference. Each abstract will be no more than 500 words long, and all abstracts will be sent to committee members by email attachment. Judging will be done using electronic forms, which will need to be emailed back to the RCN. Last year the conference received over 130 abstracts, and this year members of the NPNR committee can expect to receive abstracts on or around April 29<sup>th</sup> 2016.
- Taking part in a scientific meeting to be held at the Royal College of Nursing headquarters in Cavendish Square, London. This will take place in spring 2016, on a date to be decided. Abstract judgments will be discussed, and decisions made on which presentations will be made at the conference.
- Attending and taking part in the conference. Committee members are invited to a final planning meeting which will take place in Nottingham on the evening of September 14<sup>th</sup>. The main conference will run from the morning of September 15<sup>th</sup> to late afternoon on September 16<sup>th</sup> 2016.
- taking part in a committee meeting to be held at the Royal College of Nursing headquarters in January 2017. At this meeting plans for the Autumn 2017 NPNR conference will be discussed, including the choice of a theme and main speakers.

- reading, and judging, abstracts and taking part in a scientific meeting as part of preparing for the 23<sup>rd</sup> NPNR conference in 2017. Dates for this work will be decided nearer the time.
- taking part in other conference-related planning discussions throughout the coming months, which may take place using email, telephone and/or teleconference.

All expenses associated with travel to meetings, and all costs associated with taking part in the actual conference, will be met by the Royal College of Nursing. The RCN is able to book and pay for train tickets in advance meaning that committee members are not left out-of-pocket. However, there is no RCN budget available to pay committee members for their time spent on conference work.

People interested in this position are warmly invited to email the NPNR conference committee chair, Dr Russell Ashmore. Russell's email address is <[r.j.ashmore@shu.ac.uk](mailto:r.j.ashmore@shu.ac.uk)>, and all expressions of interest should be received by the end of **January 2016**. In their expressions of interest people should include:

- their contact details
- a personal statement of no more than 300 words. This should indicate how they would use their experiences to contribute to, and develop, the conference.

Russell is also happy to speak informally with people interested in this position who may want to find out more before applying. In addition to his email address (above) he can be contacted on (0114) 225 5489.

If more than one expression of interest is received a shortlisting and telephone interviewing process will follow.