

An interview with Prof Anne Duffy, ISBD 2018 Keynote Speaker. Prof Duffy will present “Trajectories of emerging illness in the high-risk offspring of bipolar parents: What we have learned over two decades of research and future directions” on Thursday, March 8th at 11:15am in Mexico City.



Please introduce yourself and what are your current ongoing projects?

Prof Anne Duffy – I am a psychiatrist and clinician researcher who has focused my clinical practice and research on mapping the developmental trajectory of bipolar and related mood disorders in high-risk youth. I have just received a renewed 5-year grant from the Canadian Institutes of Health Research to continue a prospective study of biopsychosocial risk factors associated with mood disorder onset in children of bipolar parents. I am also delighted to have been appointed the Vice President of Research for the ISBD.

What is the greatest challenge at the moment in the field of bipolar disorders?

I think the challenges in bipolar disorder are faced by the field of psychiatry in general and include:

1. Mapping genetically sensitive psychopathological processes to different illnesses trajectories to inform diagnosis and treatment
2. Developing tested guidelines to inform individualized maintenance and prophylactic treatment going beyond generic untested guidelines

What will you speak about at the conference? And why is this controversial/important?

I will be summarizing key findings from high-risk offspring studies focusing on our own work in families which is ongoing for over 2 decades and comparing and contrasting with other high-risk research studies around the globe. I hope to give the audience a clear idea as to evidence supporting where we are now in characterizing the emergent course of bipolar illness with relevance for early identification and intervention and where we need to go.

What are you looking forward to at ISBD 2018?

I am looking forward to connecting and sharing with colleagues from around the world in the fantastic and historically rich setting of Mexico City.

Why should others attend ISBD 2018?

The ISBD meeting is the major scientific meeting for clinicians and researchers working the field of bipolar disorders. It is a unique opportunity to hear from and meet the leaders in bipolar research and treatment from around the world. The meeting is not too large or overly ambitious in the program so that participants can really focus on key areas of interest and gain an in-depth understanding of where the field is at and next directions. The experts are highly accessible and there is always time for discussion. The networking opportunities provide a fantastic backdrop to a high level scientific event.