

Inflamed minds, inflamed people

Cambridge, UK September 15th - 17th 2022



No more Zoom! Rescheduled from 2020 and extended by half a day by popular request, an unapologetically face to face event in beautiful surroundings, grappling with some of the challenges of child neurology in the 21st Century.

The EPNS Masterclass was instituted to address some of the practical dilemmas of clinical practice in the 21st Century. Building on the unique features of our first three Masterclasses, this is a small, interactive meeting with - where possible - delegates attending in pairs, a senior mentoring clinician and the leaders of tomorrow, to share and learn from each other in areas where often there are no easy answers.

As well as the world class clinical faculty you expect from the EPNS we have parents, ethicists, philosophers and researchers from disciplines you don't ordinarily meet.

Evidence and Emotion

The pandemic has confirmed that medical controversy is alive and well. Groups take extreme positions on uncertain issues, accusing the medical establishment of conflicts of interest and ulterior motives. And we have to acknowledge valid criticisms: science is marred by publication bias, perverse commercial and professional incentives, and occasional outright fraud. "Science advances one funeral at a time".

Neuroinflammation is arguably the area of paediatric neurology where such scientific uncertainty and controversy is currently greatest: PANS/PANDAS, chronic fatigue, Lyme, "long COVID" and adverse effects of immunisation are all fundamentally debates about what clinical pictures neuroinflammation can cause. We will review the science behind

neuroinflammation, neuropsychological and neuropsychiatric disease.

But the same dynamics build around all controversial paediatric neurology topics: cannabis, stem cells, dietary therapies and others. We will look more generally at how communities establish and grow, and most importantly, how to engage constructively with them. Faced with a parent convinced her child's problems are due to PANS, that seizures will be cured by cannabis, or a stroke by stem cells how do we respond?

Relationships can break down to the point that they end clinical careers, and above all there's a child at the centre of it all. How do we prevent "digging in" and tribalism? Just how useful is it to quote systematic reviews and *p* values?

Can we learn anything *more generally* about how to approach families passionately believing in what we think is mistaken pseudoscience? Speakers from the worlds of philosophy, journalism, cognitive science and behavioural psychology will contribute.

When:	15th-17th September 2022 (2½ days)
Where:	Corpus Christi College, Cambridge, UK
Other:	Accommodation is in en-suite single college rooms and the conference is limited to 38 participants to preserve its interactive nature. We prefer participants to register as a pair and complete a joint booking form but welcome enquiries from "unattached" individuals.
Cost:	The cost of the Master Class is €400 per person or €700 per couple. This includes:

- Accommodation on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday night with breakfast (note these are student rooms and **can be quite basic**)
- Access to the full Masterclass programme
- Lunches on Thursday, Friday and Saturday
- Conference dinner in College on Friday evening followed by an after-dinner discussion (note that we are unlikely to be able to accommodate accompanying partners)

An *optional* Thursday evening social event (punt tour of The Backs, music recital in a College chapel and dinner) is available *for an additional €50 each* (or have Thursday evening and dinner on your own)

The EPNS is able to offer **Bursaries** to two pairs of delegates from countries in World Bank income groups 1, 2 or 3 to cover the course fee (but not travel costs). Attendees are responsible for organising their own transport and any additional nights' accommodation. If advice regarding accommodation is required, please email info@epns.info. **All attendees must be fully paid up members of the EPNS** (if you would like to join the EPNS, please email info@epns.info for guidance). Bookings will be taken on a first come first served basis, *secured on receipt of full payment* (full details on the booking form) or by on-line payment via the EPNS website

PLEASE CONTACT [INFO@EPNS.INFO](mailto:info@epns.info) TO REGISTER YOUR INTEREST

"A rare treat. I really appreciated the quality of the task and the interaction between participants" (2018 delegate feedback)