



SOM Central Southern England Group Spring Meeting
Friday 24th April 2026
The Aviator Hotel Farnborough
PROGRAMME

08.30	Registration opens	
09.00	Welcome and opening address (Dr Susy Gillibrand/Dr Mita Patel)	
09.10-10.05	A Beginner's Guide to Offshore Oil & Gas	Dr Graham Furnace, Independent Consultant Occupational Physician
10.05-11.00	Epilepsy in Occupational Medicine Practice 'An empathic management guide'	Prof Ian Brown, Oxford University, Oxford University Hospitals and University of Reading
11.00-11.15	Break	
11.15-12.10	Negligence: Law and Ethics in Occupational Health Practice	Dr Chandrakant Mutalik, Consultant Occupational Physician
12.10-13.10	Lunch	
13.10-14.00	Doing the right thing: Supporting staff to access treatment, recover and return to safe effective practice	Lucy Warner, Chief Executive, NHS Practitioner Health Service
14.00-14.50	"It's the economy stupid! Exploring the social and economic causes of ill health"	Dr Charlie Vivian, Consultant Occupational Physician
14.50-15.05	Update on SOM activities	Prof Neil Greenberg, Professor of Defence Mental Health and SOM President
15.05-15.20	Break	
15.20-16.15	TBC	Dr. Ramya Giridhar, Consultant Perinatal Psychiatrist and Medical Educator
16.15-17.00	SOM Central Southern Group AGM	<i>Central Southern members only</i>

Programme may be subject to change.

CSEG Meeting, Friday 24th April – Presentation Titles and Bios

Dr Graham Furnace, Independent Consultant Occupational Physician

Title: TBC

Graham Furnace qualified from Glasgow University Medical School in 1985, and after working in anaesthetics and training in General Practice he worked as a civilian GP with the British Army in Germany. He first worked in occupational medicine in 1993 for OMS, Aberdeen, and joined RGIT Ltd in August of 1995, where he completed his UK specialty training in Occupational Medicine in 2001. Dr Furnace has worked in non-oil related occupational medicine (including the UK NHS and Grampian Police Force in north-east Scotland) but has principally practiced in the offshore oil and gas industry for most of his career. He was Medical Advisor to a North Sea offshore operator for 21 years from 1997 to 2018 and was Medical Advisor to OEUK (the UK offshore industry representative body) for 17 years from 2009 to 2025. He retired from OEUK when Issue 8, the most recent revision of the offshore worker medical guidelines, was finally completed. Dr Furnace continues some post-retirement work as Responsible Officer for a small, designated body in central Scotland, with six doctors for appraisal and revalidation.

Prof Ian Brown, Oxford University, Oxford University Hospitals and University of Reading

Title: Epilepsy in Occupational Medicine Practice ‘An empathic management guide’

Professor Brown is a medically qualified registered specialist and consultant in occupational health medicine, toxicology and the comorbidities of epilepsy. He is also a graduate in agricultural biochemistry and nutrition and has a wide range of knowledge and experience in occupational health medicine, rehabilitation back to work, toxicology, agriculture, and food safety. Professor Brown was the Director of Occupational Health Medicine and Head of Department at the University of Oxford until 2015 and remains an Honorary Consultant Physician at Oxford University Hospitals and a member of the Oxford Epilepsy Research Group at the Nuffield Department of Clinical Neurosciences and now Wolfson College, Oxford. Because of Professor Brown's interest in the comorbidities of neurological disorders his responsibilities include rehabilitation from chronic neurological disorders, especially epilepsy, chronic pain and multiple sclerosis. Professor Brown was formally the chair of the Pesticide Residues Committee of the Department of the Environment, Food & Rural Affairs, serving from 2000 until 2011 and was a member of the Advisory Committee on Toxic Substances of the Health and Safety Executive Board for 14 years. He was also Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Animal Feedingstuffs of the Food Standards Agency (FSA), and a member of their General Advisory Committee on Science. He remains as an expert advisor to the FSA. For the past 8 years Professor Brown has undertaken a regulatory role for NHS England and the General Medical Council as the Responsible Officer and clinical governance lead for the medical team of a large Ministry of Defence facility. He still finds time to occasionally teach medical students and postgraduate doctors in specialty training and has more than forty refereed publications, including the editing and chapter writing of three international academic textbooks. His extensive clinical work on the comorbidities of epilepsy has recently been published by Oxford University Press in a textbook with his colleague, Professor Arjune Sen and includes contributions from neuroscience experts throughout the globe. This book has just been translated into Mandarin for teaching purposes in China. Professor Brown was awarded the OBE in 2005 for services to medical science, especially the safety of the food chain and in 2022 he was appointed Visiting Professor to the University of Reading where his current interests are in relation to life style and diet in relation to cognitive decline.

Dr Chandrakant Mutalik, Consultant Occupational Physician

Title: Negligence: Law and Ethics in Occupational Health Practice

Chandra is a consultant occupational physician and has worked in diverse public and private sector settings over the last 25 years. He is a member of the Faculty's Ethics Committee and

Regional Speciality Advisor for Wessex. He has developed a strong interest in Medical Law and is now transitioning into a law career.

Professor Neil Greenberg, Professor of Defence Mental Health and President of the Society of Occupational Medicine

Title: Update on SOM activities

Professor Neil Greenberg is a consultant academic, occupational and forensic psychiatrist based at King's College London. He is the current President of the Society of Occupational Medicine. Neil served in the United Kingdom Armed Forces for more than 23 years and has deployed, as a psychiatrist and researcher, to a number of hostile environments including Afghanistan and Iraq. He is a past chair of the Royal College of Psychiatrists (RCP) Special Interest Group in Occupational Psychiatry and led the World Psychiatric Association position statement on mental health in the workplace. Neil has published more than 400 scientific papers and book chapters and has been the Secretary of the European Society for Traumatic Stress Studies, the President of the UK Psychological Trauma Society and Specialist Advisor to the House of Commons Defence Select Committee. During the COVID19 pandemic, Neil worked closely with various government organisations and published widely on psychological support for healthcare, and other key workers. As well as running March on Stress Ltd, a psychological health consultancy. In 2023 he was awarded a prestigious honorary Fellowship of the Royal College of Physicians of Ireland.

Lucy Warner, Chief Executive, NHS Practitioner Health Service

Title: Doing the right thing: Supporting staff to access treatment, recover and return to safe effective practice

NHS Practitioner Health is a confidential service dedicated to supporting the mental health and wellbeing of healthcare professionals. This session will focus on the Practitioner Health service offer and how it may help OH professionals to access the right treatment for the staff they support. It will also cover ideas for prioritising and safeguarding your own wellbeing, identifying the signs that you or those around you may be struggling and what you can do about it.

Dr Charlie Vivian, Consultant Occupational Physician

Title: "It's the economy stupid! Exploring the social and economic causes of ill health"

Dr Ramya Giridhar, Consultant Perinatal Psychiatrist and Medical Educator

Title: TBC

Dr Ramya Giridhar is a Consultant Perinatal Psychiatrist at Surrey and Borders Partnership NHS Trust with over 15 years of experience in the field. Uniquely qualified for her role, she holds memberships with both the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Royal College of Psychiatrists. Beyond her clinical practice, Dr. Giridhar is a leader in medical education, serving as a Locality Tutor and Foundation Training Lead for Mental Health. She has a proven track record of innovation, having developed a foundation-year teaching project successfully implemented across the Surrey and Sussex regions. Her commitment to workforce support is further evidenced by her development of a Standard Operating Procedure to assist Resident Doctors with disabilities. In addition to a Postgraduate Diploma in Medical Education, Dr. Giridhar holds a DOcc Med. She serves as the Medical Lead for her Trust's Health and Wellbeing Forum and is deeply interested in Occupational Psychiatry. Her current work focuses on neurodiversity and personality disorders, with a specific aim to help employers better understand and support these conditions in the workplace.