

Dr. Kanu Achinivu MBBS MSc MRCPsych

Consultant Neuropsychiatrist

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Profile

I am an astute and competent clinician working in the area of Clinical Neuropsychiatry. I am one of very few psychiatrists in the United Kingdom who is accredited in both General Adult Psychiatry and Psychiatry of Learning Disability which puts me in a unique position to see every adult irrespective of level of IQ with a good understanding of developmental disorders in adulthood. I specialize in the neuropsychiatric assessment and treatment of patients with an acquired brain injury as well as adults with neurodevelopmental disorders. My clinical interests include neurocognitive and neuro-behavioral disorders due to a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), Trauma and Stressor-related Disorders, Sleep-wake disorders, Non-Epileptic Attack Disorders (NEAD), Somatic Symptom and related Disorders (Somatoform Disorders), Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD) and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD).

Experience

Consultant Neuropsychiatrist & Clinical Director

Simply Neuro Ltd

January 2015 to date

- I work as a consultant neuropsychiatrist in fulltime private practice. In 2015, I founded Simply Neuro Ltd, which is a healthcare service that provides specialist neuropsychiatric services to a range of clients including the legal profession, private healthcare organizations, Case Managers, Commissioners, social service organizations, NHS bodies and private patients.
- The aim is to provide excellent and timely care and treatment to our clients with the goal of improving their overall physical and mental wellbeing. Our clinical practice is characterized by innovative and evidence-based interventions with a strong patient-centered therapeutic approach, which aims to empower patients and promotes independence, recovery and wellbeing.

Consultant Neuropsychiatrist

Olive Carter Unit, Hunters Moor, Birmingham

August 2010 to April 2020

- The Olive Carter Unit is a 10-bed neurobehavioral unit in the private sector under the Christchurch Group for adults with an acquired brain injury and neuropsychiatric/neurobehavioral complications. It admits the most challenging patients with an acquired brain injury and neurobehavioral problems, some of who are detained under the Mental Health Act 1983.

I provided neuropsychiatry services as Lead Consultant Neuropsychiatrist to Christchurch Hunters Moor and work with a Multidisciplinary Team encompassing neurology, neuropsychology, occupational therapy, physiotherapy, speech and language therapy and behavioral nursing.

Consultant Neuropsychiatrist

Birmingham & Solihull Mental Health NHS Foundation Trust

June 2009 to September 2018

- I worked as a Consultant Neuropsychiatrist in the NHS at The Barberry, National Centre for Mental Health in Edgbaston, Birmingham where I ran weekly clinics seeing patients with general neuropsychiatric disorders including acquired brain injury, non-epileptic attack disorders, somatoform disorders, epilepsy, traumatic brain injury, multiple sclerosis, brain tumors, sleep disorders, Chronic Fatigue Clinic including fatigue due to a neurological cause (organic fatigue)
- I set up and ran a weekly specialist Adult Neurodevelopmental Clinic that specializes in the assessment and treatment of adults with a neurodevelopmental disorder such as Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), Autism Spectrum Disorders (ASD), traumatic brain injury in childhood, Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders (FASD)

- Until December 2014, I provided consultant input to the National Deaf Mental Health Service, Jasmine Suite where I was inpatient consultant for Deaf patients presenting with a variety of complex psychiatric problems

Consultant Neuropsychiatrist

Nua Healthcare, Naas, Co Kildare, Ireland

August 2011 to August 2017

- I provided clinical neuropsychiatry consultancy services to Nua Healthcare, which is a specialist healthcare service, based in the Republic of Ireland for 6 years.

Education & Training

Postgraduate Qualifications

- British Association for Psychopharmacology Certificate in Clinical Psychopharmacology 1 **December 2014**
- Expert Witness Certificate (Cardiff University) **June 2014**
- MSc in Clinical Neuropsychiatry, The University of Birmingham **December 2009**

Postgraduate Medical Training

February 2002 to May 2009

- Specialist Registrar in General Adult Psychiatry & Psychiatry of Learning Disability, Eastern Deanery Higher Specialist Registrar Training Scheme in Psychiatry in Learning Disabilities & General Adult Psychiatry leading to a CCT in General Adult Psychiatry and a CCT in Psychiatry of Learning Disability (June 2005 - May 2009)
- Honorary Specialist Registrar in the Department of Research and Development at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital NHS Trust, NR4 7UY (Feb 2007 - May 2009)
- Senior House Officer in Psychiatry on the Norwich/Great Yarmouth/Lowestoft Psychiatric Rotational Training Scheme (Feb 2002 - March 2005)

Undergraduate Degree

September 1990 - February 1998

- College of Medicine, University of Nigeria Enugu Campus

Professional Registration/Memberships of Professional Bodies

- General Medical Council - 5203800
- Medical Protection Society - 421356
- Independent Doctors Federation (IDF)

Skills

Clinical skills

I am competent in the assessment of Mental Capacity in patients presenting with neuropsychiatric disorders. I am also competent in the assessment and management of complex neuropsychiatric conditions including traumatic brain injury, chronic fatigue syndrome; sleep disorders, epilepsy, non-epileptic attack disorders, somatoform disorders, and general neuropsychiatric disorders. I also have expertise in the assessment and management of general psychiatric disorders arising from trauma e.g. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). I am competent in the assessment and management of adults with a neurodevelopmental disorder including ADHD and ASD. I am competent in the use of relevant psychopharmacological treatments and other physical treatments in the management of patients with neuropsychiatric conditions. I am able to diagnose and treat patients with medically unexplained symptoms. I am able to interpret neuropsychological test results sufficiently to produce a neuropsychiatric formulation. I am able to undertake the clinical assessment of patients presenting with neuropsychiatric disorders and request relevant investigations.

I have excellent interpersonal and consulting skills as well as strong problem solving abilities and clinical expertise. I am a team player with a strong record of patient engagement and advocacy. My clinical practice is characterized by innovative and evidence-based interventions with a strong patient-centered therapeutic approach, which aims to empower patients and promotes independence, recovery and well-being.

Medico-legal skills

I have extensive experience in medico-legal reporting across various jurisdictions including England and Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. I have provided opinions to a variety of bodies and organizations including the General Medical Council (GMC), the Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC), the Health Service Ombudsman, the Health and Care Professions Council, the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority (CICA), the Court of Protection, the Employment Tribunal, the First-tier Tribunal (Mental Health) and several Law Organizations, solicitors and the insurance industry in civil cases.

I am an APIL 1st Tier Expert.

I produce over 100 reports per year on complex Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence cases. I have been providing opinions in complex Personal Injury cases and Clinical Negligence cases since 2009. Currently my annual workload is fairly evenly split between Personal Injury and Clinical Negligence cases. My percentage of work is approximately 65% (Claimant), 33% (Defendant), 2% (Single Joint Expert). I attend court hearings and give evidence approximately 2 to 3 times a year. I regularly attend medico-legal courses/training annually as part of my Continuous Professional Development (CPD) and I have successfully completed the Bond Solon Expert Witness Certificate from Cardiff University in 2014.

I am based in Birmingham but I am willing to see clients living in any part of the country. I am willing to carry out home visits and video consultations.

Publications

Maneeka Ubhi, Kanu Achinivu, Stefano Seri, Andrea E Cavanna (2020). *Motor stereotypes in adult patients with Tourette syndrome*. *Future Neurol.* (2020) FNL42

Achinivu K. Content Author: Paroxysmal Disorders in Autism. *In Neuropsychiatry Case Studies*. Edited by Josef Priller and Hugh Rickards. 2016. Pgs. 75-80.

Achinivu K. Content Author: Case Vignette. Brain Injury Can Make One Better! *In Neuropsychiatry Case Studies*. Edited by Josef Priller and Hugh Rickards. 2016. Pgs. 207-212

Achinivu K. Book Review: Textbook of Autism Spectrum Disorders. Edited by Eric Hollander, Alexander Kolevzon and Joseph T. Coyle. *In Journal of Intellectual Disability Research*, Vol 57, part 1, p103, Jan 2013

Achinivu K, Staufenberg E, Cull C, Cavanna AE, Ring H (2012). *Cognitive Function during Vagus Nerve Stimulation (VNS) for treatment-refractory epilepsy: a Pilot Study using the Critical Flicker Fusion (CFF) Test*. *Journal of Neurotherapy*, 16: 32-36.

Achinivu K. Book Review: The Oxford Handbook of Auditory Science: The Auditory Brain. Edited by Adrian Rees and Alan R. Palmer. *In Deafness & Education International*, Vol 12 No. 3, Sept, 2010, 177-78.

References

These are available on request. Both clinical and medico-legal references can be provided.