

[REDACTED]

Long Covid Advocacy

12 June 2026

Dear Dr [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email and letter sharing your concerns with us. We appreciate that Post-COVID Condition (PCC) has a profound impact on people's lives, including many of our medical colleagues, and that access to research and evidence-based care and treatment is of primary importance.

The RCPsych International Congress is our annual flagship event which brings together leading psychiatrists from across the world to share knowledge and engage in constructive debate. Delegates are provided with opportunities to hear from a diverse range of views and presentations with the aim of promoting open discussion, scientific discovery and enriched learning.

We receive proposals for a wide range of sessions each year which are all independently reviewed. The session titled "Understanding and treating the Post-COVID Condition (PCC)" went through the same rigorous scoring process as all the other sessions.

The PCC session will feature a panel made up of three speakers who are experts in their respective fields and who bring perspectives from a variety of different backgrounds. They will be sharing their research and experience in clinical practice which will include discussion of biomedical evidence alongside psycho-social evidence. There will also be an opportunity for attendees to ask questions during the session.

Despite its biological antecedents, delegates will expect to be able to discuss the psychological impact of PCC and psychiatric treatments that might help patients, just as they would with any other illness regardless of its biological causes. Psychiatrists are experts at using the biopsychosocial model to understand all their patient's needs and any suggestion that they shouldn't debate illnesses with biological causes risks stigmatising patients who could benefit from their care. Of course, it is vital that patient experiences are considered as part of these conversations and continue to be placed at the heart of everything we do as clinicians.

All the speakers, panellists and participants views and comments are their own and not the established views of the College. However, we do expect all content of event programmes, and the behaviour of the speakers and delegates, to be professional, respectful and uphold our values.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L. Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Dr Lade Smith CBE
President