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Overcoming Challenges: Psychiatry and Psychopharmacology
in the Post-pandemic Era

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Mitul Mehta

Professor Mitul Mehta graduated from the University of Cambridge, specialising in Neuroscience. His PhD research focussed on dopaminergic modulation of cognitive function in healthy volunteers to validate animal models. He was one of the first researchers to provide insight into the mechanisms behind working memory enhancement with the stimulant drug methylphenidate at the level of the brain. Following his PhD he extended this work as an MRC Fellow at Imperial College, London advancing the use of positron emission tomography to study dopamine release in vivo during cognition and after drug administration such as the cannabinoid THC. On joining the Institute of Psychiatry he received a Wellcome Trust Award to pursue the use of functional magnetic resonance imaging in understanding drug effects on cognitive networks. He is currently based in the Department of Neuroimaging at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology & Neuroscience where his group utilises neuroimaging and behavioural testing to assay drug action for advanced mechanistic understanding and as translational tools to accelerate drug development. This work has benefitted from close collaboration with the pharmaceutical industry allowing Prof. Mehta to pursue the study of little explored systems in the humans with novel compounds. He is currently the deputy lead for the Neuroimaging Theme of the Biomedical Research Centre for Mental Health and is the Director of the Centre for Innovative Therapeutics. He is also on the editorial boards for Biological Psychiatry: General Open Science and the Journal of Psychopharmacology and Principal editor for Psychopharmacology.