Research Networks | A Case Study

NETWORK NAME: Edinburgh Mental Health Interdisciplinary Research Network
RESEARCH AREA: Mental Health
CONTACT: Jessica Campbell, Edinburgh Mental Health Network Coordinator

Edinburgh Mental Health
Interdisciplinary Research Network

Summarise your network in just three words:

1. Inclusive
2. Interdisciplinary
3. Collaborative

Tell us about your Research Network?

Edinburgh Mental Health is a growing interdisciplinary research network based at the University of Edinburgh. Launched in 2022, our network provides a supportive and inclusive community for mental health researchers of all disciplines. Anyone based at the University of Edinburgh, or who wishes to collaborate with our colleagues, and who is working in the field of mental health, is welcome to join the network. We encourage the production of cutting edge, challenge-led research with a focus on collaboration and interdisciplinarity.

What type of events/Initiatives does your network run?

The EMH Network runs regular events throughout the calendar year including our annual conference. This year's theme is 'Navigating Mental Health Research: Uncertainty, Action, Change' and will focus on showcasing the diverse range of interdisciplinary and collaborative research being undertaken by our members.

We also hold networking events specifically for early career researchers, funding information events- such as our upcoming collaboration with Edinburgh Neuroscience and the Wellcome Trust's

Mental Health Team- and are in the process of scheduling a regular work in progress seminar series.

In addition to events, EMH has been able to offer seed-funding for early career researchers to fund activities which support pathways to external funding and/or impact and engagement. We are also in the process of developing a fellowship support scheme which we hope to develop into wider network mentorship programme.

What does your network do to support and build communities and research collaborations?

The University of Edinburgh is recognised internationally for mental health research. There are many areas of strength including psychiatry, psychology and clinical psychology, basic and clinical neurosciences, public and population health, social sciences and social work, arts and mental health humanities, cross-cultural mental health and informatics. There are few universities within the UK with such a depth and breadth of expertise. The Edinburgh Mental Health network aims bring together these diverse strengths from across the University in order to facilitate new collaborations and support our community.

We are in the process of developing inclusive University-wide infrastructure to support new collaborations and grant proposals, as well as to demonstrate a clear profile for the public, government, funders, and third sector

organisations. Part of this process has included establishing a new monthly newsletter and an MS Teams group for our members, as well as continuing to host a range of networking events.

Our research mapping exercise on mental health research activity across the university, which was completed in 2022, is also in the process of being translated into searchable 'find a researcher' tool which will soon be accessible on our brand new website. We hope that this tool will help to facilitate stronger communication and collaboration between network members, internal and external stakeholders and contribute to showcasing the breadth and depth of mental health research being undertaken at the University.

What would be the benefits of being part of your network?

One of the key benefits of being part of EMH is the opportunity to be introduced to and connected with a supportive community of like-minded colleagues all of whom have a keen interest in the field of mental health research.

We are open to all career stages and disciplines and, becoming a member of the network and participating in our activities, members have many opportunities to meet, network and collaborate with people from a diverse range of disciplinary backgrounds, including those who they might not normally have worked with, on exciting, on meaningful and challenge-led projects.

For early career researchers especially, EMH provides development support from senior colleagues who are experts in their field and who have been successful in applying for a wide range of fellowships, grant and funding applications. We also are proud to work in collaboration with a wide range of partner organisations, so beyond

being part of our internal University of Edinburgh community, there is the opportunity to make connections with industry, policy-makers, clinicians, and charities.

How can researchers get involved?

If you would like to get involved, please contact our network coordinator, Jessica Campbell, at:

emh.network@ed.ac.uk

You can also follow the Edinburgh Mental Health Interdisciplinary Research Network on:

- **Twitter/X:** @EdinUniMentalH
- **Instagram:** @emhnetwork
- **Website:** www.mental-health-research.ed.ac.uk/

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