

APIL MEETING MINUTES 10/03/2015

Pain syndromes: Physical and psychological

Fiona Ashworth, Kings Chambers

Dr Tim Johnson, pain expert

Gary Hennessey, Breathworks

APIL activity

Brett Dixon, APIL EC Officer

Renaissance Hotel Blackfriars Street Manchester M3 2EQ

Damian Bradley Co-Ordinator Introduction

Fiona Ashworth, Kings Chambers, barrister specialising in pain syndromes and fibromyalgia

Fiona provided an interesting talk outlining the basics of dealing with cases involving pain syndromes, discussing abnormal responses to pain, case law in respect of chronic pain and fibromyalgia, how to run a pain case and difficulties posed by Portals and Fixed Costs.

Gary Hennessey, mindfulness practitioner, Breathworks

Gary provided a hands on talk on mindfulness as a form of CBT, psychological treatment for pain syndromes, including undertaking some mindfulness exercises with the group.

Tim Johnson, Pain Expert

Tim provided an interesting talk on nerves behaving badly and pain syndromes from the expert's perspective. He discussed the disconnect between injury and pain and pain signalling. He discussed genetic pre-disposition and biopsychosocial factors contributing to pain disorders.

Questions were raised by the group relating to the effect of pre-existing history on the development of chronic pain and what sort of questions we should be asking in cases to identify where an undiagnosed pain condition may be something requiring further consideration.

Brett Dixon:

Brett provided an update to the Group on various issues including an update regarding:

Medco

Mesothelioma payment scheme.

COVENTRY v LAWRENCE 2014

Mediation Initiative

Criminal Justice and the Courts Bill

Medical Innovation Bill

SARAH Bill