**TITLE AND ABSTRACT: KORSAKOFF SYMPOSIUM MEETING 29 NOVEMBER 2019**

**PREVENTION IS BETTER THAN CURE**

**DR JANE MARSHALL**

The best treatment for Korsakoff's Syndrome (KS) is timely recognition of Wernicke's Encephalopathy (WE) and appropriate intervention and prevention.

Rates of Wernicke–Korsakoff Syndrome vary across countries and depend on several factors including per capita alcohol consumption; rates of heavy alcohol use and dependence; nutrition; genetic and other unknown factors. It is a global public health problem about which we still have too little information. There is no internationally accepted guideline advising on thiamine requirements in individuals who are misusing alcohol or are alcohol dependent.

In this talk I shall review the aetiological and diagnostic factors for WE and the importance of early treatment with parenteral thiamine. The risk-benefit ratio for administration of parenteral thiamine is favourable given the long-term costs of the Wernicke-Korsakoff Syndrome. Recommendations are made for developing international agreement on optimum thiamine treatment.

**SHORT BIOGRAPHY**

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Jane is a Consultant Psychiatrist in the Addictions at the South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust (SLaM) and visiting Senior Lecturer at the Institute of Psychiatry, Psychology and Neuroscience, Kings College London. She works in complex care addiction services, including a dedicated service for doctors and dentists with mental health and addiction problems. Jane is a Consultant Advisor in Psychiatry (Drugs and Alcohol) to the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA); a Health Examiner and Medical Supervisor for the General Medical Council and a medical member of the DVLA Medical Advisory Panel for alcohol, drugs, substance misuse and driving.