

It is always amazing to me, how quickly the time flies as we return from CSM and the excitement, networking and inspiration of the conference. Many of us have been challenged by severe weather since our returns and all of us have been faced with resumption of day to day activities and catching up after being away.

As we all settle back into relative normality I want to take the opportunity to thank you all for your trust in me as the new chair of the CMHSIG. I am humbled to have been chosen and know that I have a very hard act to follow but hope that my direction can continue to help the group grow and develop. All of us are extremely grateful to Lise for her outstanding conception and initiation of this group.

My leadership style is one of direction and guidance, I know that many of you are currently working on projects and I am happy to help in any way that is needed, please feel free to reach out to me. I feel it is important for people to know that I am there if needed but will not be looking over their shoulder unless we are very close to strict deadlines.

Speaking of deadlines – submission for education sessions for 2020 CSM is rapidly approaching but the submission for posters and platforms is open until June. I would like to throw out a challenge to all our members, particularly those of you primarily in the clinic, to submit a poster for CSM. We all know that evidence informed practice is a critical component of our profession, but to be successful, this requires the evidence. The first step in producing this body of evidence is case reports and examples.

Please think about the clients you are working with, the interesting, unusual, successful or total failure and put together a poster to inform your colleagues. I would love to see the CMHSIG have a strong collection of posters at CSM 2020 as an opportunity to start conversations and partnerships to develop further quality work. With the growing challenges of cognitive and mental health issues, it is critical that we develop the evidence to ensure we can treat these clients appropriately. This group is the key to unlocking the evidence.

I look forward to working with you all.

Chris PT, BSc (Hons), Ph.D.

Chair of the CMHSIG