

PROF. DECLAN G. MURPHY

Professor Declan Murphy is the Director of the Mortimer D Sackler Centre for Neurodevelopmental Translational Research; Head of the Department of Forensic and Neurodevelopmental Sciences at the Institute of Psychiatry, King's College, London; and Director of the Neurodevelopmental Clinical Academic Group in Kings Health Partners Academic Health Sciences Centre. This clinical and research group aim to rapidly bring new diagnostic approaches and treatments from the 'bench to the bedside'.

Currently Professor Murphy leads the largest autism grant, and autism research network, in the world. The network is funded under the EU Innovative Medicines initiative and brings together 20 academic centres, user and carer representatives and industry. Together they aim to identify novel treatment targets for autism; and develop new approaches that meet the social and health needs of affected individuals. The initiative (called EU AIMS) was only launched a year ago but has already; 1) identified new animal models for autism, 2) shown that brain functional abnormalities in autism can be reversed (and in even in adults), and 3) provided proof of concept that brain imaging and genetics can markedly improve diagnostic accuracy, reduce waiting lists, and are acceptable to patients.

Professor Murphy undertook his undergraduate medical training at University College London and then further trained at the Institute of Psychiatry (King's College, London), and at the Laboratory of Neurosciences (NIH, USA).