

Laudatio David Clark

Professor David Clark is currently Professor and Head of the Experimental Psychology Department at Magdalen College, University of Oxford. Many people know him for his influential explanatory models of panic attacks (the 'panic circle') and post-traumatic stress disorder. His research is characterised by a combination of experimental and applied (clinical) studies, and focuses primarily on cognitive approaches to understanding and treating anxiety disorders. This has led to the development of new and effective cognitive-behavioural treatment programmes for panic disorder, social phobia and post-traumatic stress disorder, among others, which have been included in the influential NICE guidelines in the UK as first-choice treatments.

Making effective treatments available to as many people as possible has always been an important part of David Clark's work. His first major dissemination project was aimed at training clinicians in cognitive therapy for PTSD in victims of bombings in Omagh and London. More recently, the UK Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) programme aims to train and deploy 6000 new clinicians in specialist treatment centres for anxiety disorders and depression. The IAPT programme is an unparalleled large-scale mental health care innovation, attracting the attention of professionals and policymakers around the world.

David Clark is the (co-)author of several hundreds of scientific publications and several dozen books within our field. Despite his busy schedule, he has always been willing to support our association's activities, most recently in 2018 with a keynote at the symposium on 'Therapiewinst' in 'De Nieuwe Liefde' in Amsterdam.

For these reasons, it is with great pleasure that the board and member council of the VGt appoint him as honorary member of the association.

