

Imogen Stokes

University of Birmingham

Winner of the Undergraduate Award

I am graduate-entry final year medical student at the University of Birmingham. Prior to medicine, I studied Biochemistry at the University of Sheffield and I worked a Special needs school supporting young adults with autism - I loved my work and this sparked an interest in psychiatry!

Since coming to Birmingham, I have cultivated my passion for psychiatry. I contacted Professor Rachel Upthegrove and got involved as a research assistant at the Barberry, working on an incredible project called PRONIA. PRONIA is an international study researching early prognostic indicators of developing psychotic disorders with the aim is to develop a prognostic tool for early psychosis management. It was during this project that I became more familiar with scoring scales, such as the Positive and negative syndrome scale (PANSS) and the Global assessment of functioning scale (GAF).

From here, I went on to carry out a clinical audit with Professor Upthegrove and Dr Sian Griffiths into the use of clozapine in treatment of first episode psychosis using the national EDEN study data from Birchwood *et al.*, the aim of the study was to explore pathways to commencement of clozapine in UK Early Intervention in psychosis services. I went on to present the findings from this study at the BAP Summer Meeting 2019 and was hugely honoured to be awarded the BAP Undergraduate prize for my work.

The next steps for me are to apply for the Academic Foundation Programme in psychiatry and then subsequently an Academic Clinical Fellowship!

