SOME WAYS TO HELP MANAGE YOUR MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

SEEK MEDICAL ADVICE
Speak to a medical professional about how you are feeling. This may lead to intervention such as medication or counselling to help you manage your mental health.

TALK TO YOUR SUPERVISOR
It is not always possible, but if you can approach your supervisor, discuss your mental health concerns with them. Other options include discussions to reduce workload temporarily and taking time out.

TALK TO YOUR PEERS/POSTDOCS
It is highly likely that people around you have also experienced the stressful nature of a PhD. Reach out, if you feel able. Remember, postdocs have survived their PhD so may have some useful tips/coping strategies.

TAKE SOME TIME OUT
Taking a break can actually improve efficiency when you return to work. If you cannot justify taking a couple of weeks off, take a series of long weekends to get some time away.

FOCUS ON YOU
It is a proven fact that lack of sleep can add to feelings of stress. Exercise can also work to alleviate stress. It may feel like you don’t have time, but going for a walk at lunchtime (for example) may help.

CREATE MANAGEABLE CHunks
If everything is overwhelming, try to breakdown your research into manageable tasks. It may help to do this in consultation with your supervisor. When writing, consider starting with figures first.

REQUEST COUNSELLING
Universities have counselling services that are available for you to use. This can be useful to help talk through your problems and also make sure appropriate coping strategies are in place.

READ LITERATURE
There are a large amount of online resources available to help manage mental health and wellbeing. For example, the charity Mind, have a range available, from how to manage stress, to how to support others.

A study by the University of California, Berkeley, found nearly half of postgraduate students met criteria to classify them as depressed.


SELF-HARMING? SUICIDAL THOUGHTS? NEED HELP? CALL:
CAPS: 1-919-966-3658 (24/7) or National Suicide Hotline: 1-800-273-8255 (TALK)

A poster by Dr Zoe Ayres (@zjayres). Free to distribute. Originally produced for #RSCPoster.