

# ASSBI Newsletter

Australasian Society for the Study of Brain Impairment  
December 2016

Issue 57

Working together to improve the lives of people with brain impairment



## ASSBI COMMITTEES

### EXECUTIVE

**PRESIDENT:** A/Prof Tamara Ownsworth

**PRESIDENT ELECT:** Prof Jacinta Douglas

**PAST PRESIDENT:** Prof David Shum

**SECRETARY:** Prof Jennie Ponsford

**TREASURER:** Prof Skye McDonald

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OFFICER**

Ms Miriam Poole

**STUDENT LIAISON** - Dr Dana Wong

### NATIONAL:

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A/Prof David Copland

Ms Nicci Grace

Dr Michelle Kelly

Dr Michael Perdices

Dr Clare Ramsden

Prof Leanne Togher

Dr Janet Wagland

### EXECUTIVE OFFICER:

Ms Margaret Eagers-Rickit

### PUBLICATIONS

Dr Jan Ewing – Chair

Dr Olivier Piguet

A/Prof Jennifer Fleming – Co-Editor

A/Prof Grahame Simpson – Co-Editor

Dr Petrea Cornwell – Assistant Editor

### SOCIAL MEDIA & STUDENTS

Dr Elizabeth Beadle – Social Media

Ms Anna Carmichael – Student Co-ordinator

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## WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT



The past 12 months have been a really enjoyable and busy period. Some key highlights for me included the ASSBI conference in Macau, celebrating the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our corporate partners Shine Lawyers, presenting awards to our members and observing the growth of our social media platform.

Attending the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Brain Impairment Conference (Sept 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>) in Macau was a truly memorable experience due to the quality of the conference program, delicious food and great company. I had the privilege of announcing that the new Fellow of ASSBI was our Conference Chair Professor David Shum (see p. 2).

Shine Lawyers were major sponsors of the Macau conference and our corporate partnership enables the Society to provide wonderful new opportunities for members. In particular, travel grants were awarded to five students to support them to attend the Macau conference. This year we also introduced the ASSBI Early Career Clinical Innovation Award. Dr Dana Wong received this award in recognition of her initiative, the Monash Memory Skills Group (see p2).

Another exciting development for ASSBI over the past 12 months has been the launch of #ASSBIchat. This Twitter forum is proving invaluable as a platform for professionals in the brain impairment field to share ideas and resources. I would like to thank our past and current Social Media Officers (Rachel Rietdijk and Lizzie Beadle) and all session moderators for their enthusiasm and technological savvy.

It has been another active year for the ASSBI student ambassadors who have organised professional networking events around Australia with the support of Anna Carmichael our Student Coordinator. Nominations are now open for ASSBI Ambassadors (due 18<sup>th</sup> December, see p4). Please consider nominating for these roles, as these provide an excellent opportunity for leadership of the profession.

We are also seeking applications and/or nominations for student travel grants for the 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Brain Impairment Conference, ASSBI Early Career Clinical Innovation Award, and ASSBI Fellows. The 2017 ASSBI conference will be held in Melbourne (1-3 June) and is being convened by Dr Dana Wong. The details of this conference, invited speakers and workshop abstracts are on page 3-5.

As I reflect on the year I feel very fortunate to be in the role of President and have the support of the ASSBI Committee and the amazing Margaret Eagers. Thank you also to all members for your dedication to people with brain impairment and their families.

Have a wonderful and safe Christmas.

Warmest wishes,  
Tamara Ownsworth, President

## EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



I would like to send my best wishes to all our members and readers in New Zealand. I hope the recent earthquakes which have devastated your wonderful country have not impacted too badly on you and your family.

Don't forget to check out our [Calendar](#) on the website which shows ALL our Professional Development Dates as well as Training, Meetings and Conferences from other organisations for 2016 and into 2017. If you want to put an event on the Calendar please [email me](#) details.

If you haven't renewed your membership you can now – all memberships are valid for a full 12 months and you will get a substantial discount to the conference in Melbourne.  
Cheers, Margaret Eagers-Rickit, EO

## SOCIAL MEDIA



Like us on [Facebook](#),

[Follow ASSBI](#) on Twitter

Join [Psychwire](#) and follow ASSBI.

Become a contact on LinkedIn

Proudly supported by



ANYTHING interesting that should be tweeted contact Lizzie on [socialmedia@assbi.com.au](mailto:socialmedia@assbi.com.au)

## NEWS

Nominations are open for [ASSBI Ambassadors](#). Nominations close on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2016

Nominations are open for [4 student conference travel grants](#). Nominations close on 21<sup>st</sup> February 2017

Nominations are open for [The ASSBI Early Career Clinical Innovation Award](#). Nominations close on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017

Nominations are open for ASSBI Fellows [please complete and return the application form to admin@assbi.com.au](#). Nominations close on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017

## ASSBI EARLY CAREER CLINICAL INNOVATION AWARD



The Inaugural Winner of this prestigious award for clinicians is Dr Dana Wong. Dana was awarded her certificate and

cheque by Tamara Ownsworth and Jamie Shine at the 39<sup>th</sup> Conference in Macau. See below for a summary of her clinical innovation. Applications are open for the 2017 award, [click here for information](#). Nominations close on 1<sup>st</sup> April 2017.

### The Monash Memory Skills Group: Integrating clinical training and research into clinical service delivery for people with acquired brain injury

The Monash Memory Skills Group (MMSG) is a group-based memory rehabilitation program for people experiencing memory problems following acquired brain injury (ABI). It has been running since June 2014 at the Monash Psychology Centre (MPC), which is Monash University's student training clinic for Doctor of Psychology students. The MMSG is co-facilitated by 2 students under my supervision. Its content is based on the manualised "Making the Most of Your Memory" program (ASSBI resources, 2010), which incorporates psychoeducation, internal and external memory strategies, and lifestyle improvements in sleep and fatigue, mood, exercise, and nutrition. The objectives of the MMSG are threefold: 1)

Provide clinical training in delivering ABI interventions; 2) Provide low-cost, evidence based cognitive rehabilitation to people with ABI; and 3) Conduct research on how clinical training methods impact clinician competencies. Outcomes as of March 2016 indicated that group participants showed significant improvement in prospective memory, subjective everyday memory, and strategy use. Student competencies have demonstrated significant improvement on newly developed measures of competency in intervention delivery and group facilitation. The MMSG has also changed practice in other clinical settings, with new memory groups commencing at Austin Health, Monash Health, and Epworth Rehabilitation; I am training neuropsychologists in those services to run the group. I am now leading a world-first investigation into the program's efficacy when delivered individually via telehealth format, allowing wider access to the program nationally, and more widespread impact.

While the MMSG is based on an existing manual, its innovative implementation as a student training clinic and research focus makes it the first clinical training opportunity of its type in Australia. Students complete the placement equipped with the skills to deliver evidence-based ABI rehabilitation interventions throughout their career. The development of clinician competency measures to evaluate clinical initiatives is new in the field of neuropsychological rehabilitation. The MMSG represents an innovative, effective approach to an essential aspect of clinical translation: training competent clinicians to deliver evidence-based interventions to improve the lives of individuals with ABI.

## FELLOWSHIP



Professor David Shum was awarded with an ASSBI Fellowship for his contribution to ASSBI and the Brain Impairment field at the 2016 conference in

Macau.

If you know of an ASSBI member who deserves this honour you can find an application form on the [ASSBI Website](#). Applications close on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

## WEBSITE

The ASSBI website is a very important tool for distributing information with links to our

Social Media. Please let me have your feedback at [admin@assbi.com.au](mailto:admin@assbi.com.au).  
*Margaret Eagers, EO*

## SHINE LAWYERS CORPORATE PARTNERS

### News from our Corporate Partners

At the 2016 Brain Impairment Conference in Macau, my colleague Jamie Shine and I had the privilege of sharing the story of a family that we assisted who was referred to us by an ASSBI member.

David\* contacted us regarding his wife Susan\* who had sustained a brain injury with rapid onset of dementia. Susan was in her mid-forties and had worked in an office environment most of her life performing administrative duties. As a result of Susan's injuries and her inability to return to work, the family was inundated up with medical bills and were struggling to meet their mortgage repayments.

Our Superannuation and Disability Insurance team were able to assist Susan with the early release of her superannuation account and also fast tracked a claim for Total and Permanent Disablement via the insurance held through her superannuation fund. These funds provided immediate financial relief for Susan and David, and also meant that they were able to access additional treatment and care.

A significant number of people are unaware that they hold Total and Permanent Disability insurance through their superannuation. Importantly, there does not need to be anyone at fault to make a claim.

If you have a patient that has stopped working due to an injury or illness, even if no one is responsible for their injuries, they may be able to seek financial relief through a TPD claim. If you would like further information, please don't hesitate to contact me directly on 0497 997 075 or [wbarsby@shine.com.au](mailto:wbarsby@shine.com.au). Alternatively, you can visit our website [here](#).

**Will Barsby, General Manager at Shine Lawyers**

*\*names changed for privacy*

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The full webinar programme is up on the ASSBI Website AND on our new [CALENDAR](#) – go to the [Professional Development Page](#)

of the ASSBI website to find out about all our upcoming events.

If you would like to see someone give a workshop in your State or know of anyone coming to Australia in 2017 who would like to give a workshop or webinar for ASSBI members, please email [Margaret](#) and we will endeavour to organise a full/half day workshop or a one hour webinar.

## 2016 Webinar Series

### #assbiwebinars

The 2016 Webinar series is ready for you to register. [Click here](#) for information on the webinars and speakers. Webinars go for 1 hour from 12.30pm – 1.30pm Sydney/Melbourne time. [REGISTER NOW](#)



**13<sup>th</sup> December Neuroimaging in the dementias: what's the catch** by Prof Olivier Piguet



**AVAILABLE ON DEMAND**  
*Managing challenging behaviours in community settings* by Ms Sue Sloan



*Long-term Outcome Following Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI): Three-factor Cognitive Reserve Structure* by Prof Eli Vakil.



*Aboriginal Australians' experiences of brain injury and ways to move forward in providing culturally secure rehabilitation services* by Prof Beth Armstrong



*Addiction and the brain: what do we know?* By Dr Valentina Lorenzetti



*Suicide prevention in acquired brain injury* by A/Prof Grahame Simpson

## CONFERENCES

### 40<sup>th</sup> Conference - #assbi2017



The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Brain Impairment Conference will be held at the Grand Hyatt Melbourne, VIC on 1-3 June 2017 and is being convened by Dr Dana Wong, the theme of the conference is *Looking back to look ahead: 40 years of science, practice and education in brain impairment*. The call for abstracts is open, [click here](#) to be directed to the ASSBI Conference Page. Full bios of the keynote speakers can be found by [clicking here](#). Registration opens on 7<sup>th</sup> December.

### Professor Roshan das Nair



Roshan is Professor of Clinical Psychology & Neuropsychology at the University of Nottingham

and Honorary Consultant Clinical Psychologist at Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust. He is Co-Chief Investigator of the Rehabilitation of Memory in Brain Injuries (ReMemBrIn) trial ([www.remembrin.org](http://www.remembrin.org)), and Cognitive Rehabilitation of Attention and Memory in Multiple Sclerosis (CRAMMS) trial. Roshan will be presenting Workshop 1 (half day) and a Keynote Address entitled *Memory rehabilitation in acquired brain injuries: On the bumpy road to establishing evidence*

**Abstract for Workshop 1:**  
***Developing and evaluating complex interventions: Putting the Medical Research Council Framework into practice***  
In 2000 (and updated in 2008), the UK Medical Research Council (MRC) produced a framework for the development and evaluation of complex interventions. This was followed by guidance on process evaluation. These MRC Frameworks have been influential in healthcare research. At this workshop, using examples from our research on the development and evaluation of cognitive rehabilitation, we will discuss how we can use these frameworks in our own work, consider how we can ensure the fidelity of the delivery of our interventions, and how best to report our interventions for replication in clinical practice or other research studies. In this workshop, we will:

- Consider the meaning and limits of 'complex interventions' within our own areas of clinical practice or research.
- Examine the development pathways that will lead us to a definitive randomised controlled trial to evaluate the complex intervention (and the challenges that go with it).

- Explore what process evaluations can be factored into the evaluation phase.
- Consider how best to report the complex intervention in publications.

### Dr Tessa Hart



Tessa received a PhD in Clinical Neuropsychology from the University of Houston, where she specialized early in rehabilitation of traumatic

brain injury (TBI). She spent more than 15 years treating and developing programs for people with acquired brain injury and their families in inpatient, outpatient, and residential settings before joining the MRRI faculty as a full-time researcher in 1999. She is Principal Investigator of the Moss Traumatic Brain Injury Model System funded by the National Institute of Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research. Tessa will be presenting Workshop 3 (half day) and a Keynote Address entitled: *Anger Self-Management in Traumatic Brain Injury: Outcomes and Lessons Learned from a Randomized Clinical Trial*

**Abstract for Workshop 3:**  
***What Are We Doing When We Treat Our Patients? A Scheme-in-Progress for Analyzing the Active Ingredients of Rehabilitation***

Rehabilitation is often said to be 'more than the sum of its parts.' But what, exactly, are the parts? More importantly, what are the parts that make the greatest difference to the outcomes sought by our patients; that is, what are the *active ingredients* of rehabilitation? In this workshop we consider both the importance of this question and potential ways to begin to answer it, with an emphasis on rehabilitation treatments of most relevance to patients with acquired brain injury (ABI).

The majority of rehabilitation treatments do not exert their effects passively (as do 'medical' treatments such as medications and surgery). Rather, most of our interventions involve complex scenarios in which patient engagement, active learning, and interaction with the provider and the environment are key components. Add to this the diversity of goals addressed in rehabilitation and the dynamics of a rehabilitation team, and we have a treatment package whose active ingredients are difficult to characterize, let alone to measure. It is little wonder that we are typically left with crude measures of treatment such as the number of days or

hours spent, with little information as to what was actually done inside that 'black box.' Yet it is only by specifying and measuring the ingredients of rehabilitation that we can advance the scientific evidence base, with the ultimate hope of developing treatment guidelines for particular problems and particular kinds of patients. Arriving at a common language for specifying the ingredients of rehabilitation would also benefit therapist training and program evaluation efforts, as well as improving communication across the team, and between provider and patient/ family.

Previous attempts at characterizing rehabilitation treatments have been mostly 'bottom-up' or inductive, in which therapists list and quantify the specific activities included in their interventions. While useful for some purposes, these approaches have significant shortcomings. The bulk of this workshop will be devoted to discussing and illustrating an alternative scheme under development by a US-funded, multi-disciplinary group of rehabilitation researchers known as the **Rehabilitation Treatment Taxonomy (RTT)** group. Our scheme is 'top-down,' in that it uses *treatment theory* as a basis for characterizing the interventions used in rehabilitation. We have elaborated a *tripartite structure of treatment theory* that is necessary and sufficient to explain any treatment's effects. This tripartite structure consists of a treatment **target**, which is a *specific and measurable* aspect of functioning selected for change; a set of active **ingredients** that, in some combination, are hypothesized to effect the desired changes in the target; and the **mechanism(s) of action**, which specifies the processes by which ingredients bring about these changes.

We have also identified 3 broad clusters of rehabilitation treatment targets that are mutually exclusive with respect to their essential active ingredients and hypothesized mechanisms of action: changes in **organ functions**, changes in **skilled performances**, and changes in **cognitive and affective representations**, i.e., factual knowledge, attitudes, and beliefs. The latter two are of particular importance to treatment of ABI, as by definition, the organ responsible for learning and for cognitive representation has been damaged. In this workshop, we will examine the basic rationale and terminology associated with the RTT scheme; explore the targets, ingredients, and mechanisms of action within each

treatment cluster, with an emphasis on learning-based treatments; and discuss real-world examples of treatments for ABI in relation to the specification of their active ingredients. Participants will have opportunities to work with the RTT concepts using their own examples, to practice specifying treatments with respect to the targets within them and the ingredients that are hypothesized to be active, i.e., to effect changes, in each. Outcomes:

- List at least 3 reasons why rehabilitation is in need of a system for specifying the targets and ingredients of its interventions;
- Define treatment theory and identify the 3 parts of its tripartite structure, and
- Name at least 2 features distinguishing skills-based and representations-based learning in rehabilitation.

### A/Professor William Levack



William is an Associate Professor in Rehabilitation at the University of Otago, New Zealand, where he also works as the Associate Dean Research for the University's

Wellington campus. William will be presenting Workshop 2 (half day) and a Keynote Address entitled: *From research to practice – knowledge translation in brain injury rehabilitation*.

[CLICK HERE TO hear A/Prof Levack talk about his presentations](#)

#### **Abstract for Workshop 2: Goal setting, motivation, and patient engagement in neurorehabilitation**

Neurorehabilitation is a specialist area of healthcare that has patient engagement at its core. The majority of neurorehabilitation interventions *require* patient involvement to be implemented, with the degree of this involvement heavily influencing the effectiveness of these interventions. This workshop will examine factors associated with patient engagement in neurorehabilitation, with a particular focus on the application of goal setting as a tool for enhancing a person's active involvement in therapy and rehabilitation planning. Consideration will be given to how people's needs change over the course of their recovery and how health professionals should alter their behaviour and methods of goal setting to address these needs at different stages of neurorehabilitation. The workshop will

## STUDENTS CORNER

We are currently seeking applications from students to join the ASSBI student representative team for 2017!

We encourage both undergraduate and graduate students from all universities across Australia and all disciplines (Speech Pathology, Clinical Psychology, OT, Neuropsychology, Physiotherapy) to apply as soon as possible to our student co-ordinator, Anna Carmichael [students@assbi.com.au](mailto:students@assbi.com.au). Please send CV and specify which position(s) you are applying for. [Click here for flyer](#)

**Applications close on December 18<sup>th</sup> 2016**

Don't forget there are also travel grants available when you submit an abstract to the 2017 conference in Melbourne

Below are updates from two of our ASSBI Team Leaders:

#### **WA ASSBI STUDENT EVENT**

The Perth team hosted their final event of 2016 on the 16<sup>th</sup> of September; a film screening of "Concussion" at the ECU Joondalup campus. The team coordinated with the Northern Suburbs Stroke Support Group (NSSSG), who shared some of their experiences in a presentation before the screening. The ASSBI WA Team welcomed Paul West, the CEO of HeadWest, at the end of the film to give a brief presentation. Paul was a great guest, who provided information on ABI and answered questions from both students and NSSSG members.

#### **QLD ASSBI STUDENT EVENT**

Semester two saw the QLD Team host another warmly received event! The documentary "The Crash Reel" was screened at UQ on October 14<sup>th</sup> with attendees ranging from undergraduates to those already working in the allied health field. Disciplines represented included Speech Pathology, Occupational Therapy and Neuropsychology. Everyone loved the screening and the insight given into traumatic brain injury from many different perspectives!

*You can find out about upcoming events hosted by ASSBI teams in your local area for 2016 via our website, facebook page, and other social media outlets!*

*For full reports on these events go to the [Student News Page](#)*

involve tutorials on motivation theory related to goal setting, discussion of contextual factors such as ethnicity and patient preferences for engagement, application of taught concepts to practice-based case studies, and group based activities to explore attitudes and experiences of goal setting in clinical practice.

#### **Learning objectives:**

On completion of this workshop attendees will be able to:

- Describe four or more theories of goal setting and how these theories can be applied in the practice of neurorehabilitation
- Critically appraise their healthcare services' approaches to patient engagement, identifying strengths and weaknesses of different approaches, with particular emphasis on goal setting
- Identify assumptions about goal setting in relation to patient behaviour that are evidence-based and those that are not
- Discuss cultural safety in relation to engagement of indigenous populations in neurorehabilitation

### **A/Prof Olivier Piguet**



Olivier is an NHMRC Senior Research Fellow and the newly appointed Professor of Clinical Neuropsychology at the University of Sydney. A clinical

neuropsychologist with over 20 years clinical experience in the field of ageing and neurodegeneration, he is the co-director of FRONTIER, the frontotemporal dementia clinical research group and the director of the Memory Program of the Centre of Excellence in Cognition and its Disorders supported by the Australian Research Council. Olivier will be presenting Workshop 4 (half day) and a Keynote Address entitled *The long and winding road: (Social) cognition and sense of identity in dementia*

#### **Abstract for Workshop 4:**

##### **Clinical presentations and neurobiology of younger onset dementia syndromes**

Frontotemporal dementia is a common cause of dementia before the age of 65 years. Despite recent codification of its main clinical syndromes, detection and diagnosis remains suboptimal because of overlap in clinical features with other neurological (e.g., Alzheimer's disease) and psychiatric (e.g., major depressive disorders) conditions. In addition, the prediction of the underlying pathology in

frontotemporal dementia syndromes in life is variable. This workshop will review the latest research relevant to the main syndromes of younger onset dementia, focusing on frontotemporal dementia, Alzheimer's disease, and the primary progressive aphasia. The following topics will be discussed: current diagnostic criteria, clinical and neuroimaging profiles, as well as neuropathology and genetic risks of these dementias. The workshop will provide attendees with tools to improve diagnosis of dementia syndromes, an understanding of their possible trajectories, and their impact on patient management and carer burden.

#### **Outcomes**

- Recognise the clinical presentations of younger-onset dementia syndromes;
- Identify the cardinal features of younger-onset dementia syndromes on structural brain imaging;
- Understand the genetic risks associated with younger-onset dementia;
- Identify potential management issues and likely sources of burden for carers and family members.

### **Professor Jacinta Douglas**



Jacinta is Professor of Acquired Brain Injury and holds the Summer Foundation Research Chair in the Living with Disability Research Centre at La Trobe University,

in Melbourne, Australia. Jacinta will be presenting the ASSBI Presidential Address.

### **NON-ASSBI CONFERENCES**



See page 5 for information on conferences being held in 2017 by Associations other than ASSBI. NOTE that ASSBI

members can register as members for the IBIA2017 conference in the USA. The 14<sup>th</sup> NR-SIG-WFNR Conference is being held in South Africa next year just after the #assbi2017 and INS Mid-year Meeting.

### **BRAIN IMPAIRMENT**

is ASSBI's multidisciplinary Journal  
**Announcing the establishment of the Douglas and Tate prize**

Brain Impairment co-editors Jenny Fleming and Grahame Simpson have announced the establishment of the Douglas and Tate prize. The prize provides a

means to recognise the seminal contribution made by Professor Jacinta Douglas and Professor Robyn Tate as founding editors of Brain Impairment.

The prize will recognise the best research article published in Brain Impairment in the previous year as judged by the Co-Editors and a sub-committee of the Editorial Board. The prize will be judged on the (i) innovation or significance of the contribution it makes to the field of brain impairment and (ii) the scientific rigour of the work.

The inaugural prize will be awarded for the best paper published in 2016 and be announced at the ASSBI conference in Melbourne in 2017. The successful authors will receive a GBP 300 prize sponsored by Cambridge University Press.

You should have received login instructions when you joined ASSBI, if you require any help with this please email [Margaret](mailto:Margaret.J.Fleming@cam.ac.uk)  
*Jennifer Fleming and Grahame Simpson*  
Co-Editors

### **ASSBI RESOURCES**

I would like to remind everyone that in addition to the manuals that ASSBI has for sale Members of ASSBI can download many free tests including the Austin Maze.

Non-members also have access to some free downloads too – [click here](#) to see the full list of manuals and free to downloads on offer

*Skye McDonald*  
Resources Manager

### **OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT**

#### **Speech pathologist survey: Seeking participants**

Our research team are investigating the current clinical practices of speech pathologists when managing adults with cognitive-communication disorders following Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). We are seeking speech pathologists who have experience (current or within the last two years) managing adults with cognitive-communication disorders following TBI who are living in the community.

The study involves an online survey which takes approximately 15 minutes to complete. The results of this study will contribute to the cognitive-communication body of research and will inform future studies in the field. Upon completion of the survey, all participants have the option to

enter a draw to win a \$50 Myer voucher. The study has received ethical approval from Griffith University Human Research Ethics Committee (2016/731). The survey closes on the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2017.

The research team includes Crystal Kelly (PhD candidate), Associate Professor Petrea Cornwell, Dr Anna Copley, and Professor David Shum.

Speech pathologists who are interested in participating in the survey or would like further information about the study can access the survey/participant information sheet directly at

<https://prodsurvey.rcs.griffith.edu.au/prods190/index.php?sid=51339&lang=en>

Alternatively, contact Crystal Kelly at [crystal.kelly@griffithuni.edu.au](mailto:crystal.kelly@griffithuni.edu.au)

#### **TBIconnect Research: Seeking participants**

In 2017 we will be continuing our clinical trial comparing in-person with Skype-based communication skills intervention for people with traumatic brain injury and their communication partners. We have already recruited 21 volunteers with TBI to participate in this research, and are seeking

15 more volunteers to complete the study. We would appreciate your assistance with passing on information about this study with families who may be interested in participating. The study has received ethical approval from Hunter New England HREC (12/06/20/4.04) which includes approval for private clinicians or brain injury support organisations to provide information about the study to people with TBI and their families.

Participants will complete a 10 week social communication skills intervention via either home visits or Skype-based sessions. Participants do NOT need to be located in Sydney to participate in this study. Participants in Sydney will be randomised to either in-person or Skype-based intervention. Participants outside Sydney will be allocated directly to Skype-based intervention.

The investigators are Rachael Rietdijk, PhD candidate, supervised by Professor Leanne Togher and Dr Emma Power at The University of Sydney. Interested families or clinicians/researchers who would like to receive further information may register

their details

at <https://surveys.sydney.edu.au/surveys/?s=EDRe3D4ZNj>. Alternatively, contact:

Rachael

Rietdijk at [rman7827@uni.sydney.edu.au](mailto:rman7827@uni.sydney.edu.au) or on 0402 159 516.

#### **PsycBITE™**



Learn more about evidence based practice; understand more about scientific evidence underpinning remediation and rehabilitation: Become a rater for PsycBITE

#### **What is PsycBITE?**

[PsycBITE](#) is a world-class, living e-resource that archives all published literature on psychological treatments for people with chronic diseases and disorders from acquired brain impairment. Launched in 2004, PsycBITE updates the literature monthly. It currently archives 4,000 empirical papers

## ASSBI MEMBERSHIPS

### JOIN/RENEW

ARE NOW ANNIVERSARY which means that your membership lasts for a full 12 or 24 months

- ✓ Full member cost
  - ✓ \$150 for 1 year
  - ✓ \$257 for 2 years
  - ✓ Student Cost
  - ✓ \$80 for 1 year
  - ✓ \$144 for 2 years
- (students please email id proof to [admin@assbi.com.au](mailto:admin@assbi.com.au) )

### Advantages of being an ASSBI member include:

- ✓ Substantial discount off registration fees for the 2016 ASSBI conference in Macau
- ✓ Discounted registration to all ASSBI workshops and the webinar series
- ✓ Access to Brain Impairment online
- ✓ 4 Newsletters per annum
- ✓ Access to previously published papers with normative data on tests for children, adults and older adults.
- ✓ If you refer someone to ASSBI and they join you will receive a 10% discount on any ASSBI run workshop or webinar

Information on Membership can be found at [www.assbi.com.au](http://www.assbi.com.au).  
Not sure if you are financial? go to the website to find out.

MEMBERS please go to the [members page](#) to update your profile, you can also add a photo, you are also able to contact other members via email.

Margaret Eagers  
Executive Officer

## ASSBI EVENTS

### CALENDAR - ASSBI

#### 2016 WEBINAR SERIES

1 hour 12.30-1.30

Cost varies [go here](#) to find out  
[Register here](#) For 1 or more

**Webinar 6:** - A/Prof Olivier Piguet -  
*Neuroimaging in the dementias: what's the catch?*  
Date: 13 December 2016

#### AVAILABLE ON DEMAND

**Webinar 1:** - *Managing challenging behaviours in community settings* - Ms Sue Sloan

**Webinar 2:** *Long-term Outcome Following Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI): Three-factor Cognitive Reserve Structure*- Prof Eli Vakil

**Webinar 3:** *Aboriginal Australians' experiences of brain injury and ways to move forward in providing culturally secure rehabilitation services* - Prof Beth Armstrong

**Webinar 4:** *Addiction and the brain: what do we know?* - Dr Valentina Lorenzetti

**Webinar 5:** *Suicide prevention in acquired brain injury* - A/Prof Grahame Simpson

#### 2017 CONFERENCE/WORKSHOPS

*40<sup>th</sup> Annual Brain Impairment Conference*

Date: 1 – 3 June 2017

Venue: Grand Hyatt, Melbourne, Australia

Convenor: Dr Dana Wong

Information:

<http://www.assbi.com.au/confhome.htm>

#### 2018 CONFERENCE/WORKSHOPS

*41<sup>st</sup> Annual Brain Impairment Conference*

Date: 31 May – 2 June 2018

Venue: Adelaide, South Australia

Convenor: Dr Liz Williams

## OUTSIDE EVENTS

### CALENDAR

#### 2017

International Cognitive-Communication Disorders Conference (ICCDC)

Date: 19-21 January 2017

Venue: Chapman University, California, USA

Contact: <http://www.chapman.edu/ICCDC>

4 day training program – Whatever it takes – a training course on rehabilitation following ABI

Date: 21-24 February 2017

Venue: Flinders University, City Campus, Adelaide, SA

Contact: [www.abirehab.org](http://www.abirehab.org)

6<sup>th</sup> Annual International Conference on Cognitive and Behavioral Psychology CBP 2017

Date: 6-7 March 2017

Venue: Singapore

Contact: <http://cognitive-behavior.org>

12<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Brain Injury

Date: March 29 – April 1 2017

Venue: New Orleans, Louisiana, USA

Contact: [www.ibia2017.org](http://www.ibia2017.org)

INS Mid-Year Meeting

Date: 5-8 July 2017

Venue: Cape Town, South Africa

Contact: <http://www.the-ins.org/future-ins-meetings>

14<sup>th</sup> NR-SIG-WFNR Conference

Date: 10-11 July 2017

Venue: Townhouse Hotel, Cape Town, South Africa

Contact: Margaret Eagers

<http://mers.vpweb.com.au/NR-SIG-WFNR-Conf.html>

#### 2018

10<sup>th</sup> World Congress for NeuroRehabilitation

Date: 7-10 February 2018

Venue: Mumbai, India

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