

# ASSBI Newsletter

Australasian Society for the Study of Brain Impairment

June 2016

Issue 55

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 OFFICER**

Dr Dana Wong

### NATIONAL:

Ms Jessica Barnes

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

This page – Committees, Words from our President, EO's Report, Social Media, Website  
Page 2 – Corporate Partners, Professional Development (PD);  
Page 3 – PD, Journal, Resources, Opportunities for Involvement  
Page 4 – PsychBITE, New ASSBI Awards, Students Corner, Advert  
Page 5 – ASSBI Membership; Calendar of Events; Other Conference Details

## WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Dear ASSBI Members and Supporters,

The last few months have been a very busy time for ASSBI. The AGM in April provided a great opportunity to reflect on the progress made over the last 12 months. Some key highlights include the change of Editors for Brain Impairment, ASSBI's partnership with Shine Lawyers, the active engagement of our student representatives, and the growth in membership for the Society (current membership of 458).

Abstracts have now closed for the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Brain Impairment Conference which will be held in September 26-28<sup>th</sup> in Macau at the Sheraton Macau Hotel. I am really looking forward to this conference and want to particularly thank our Conference Chair David Shum and the conference committee for their efforts to organise ASSBI's first conference in Asia.

As outlined on p. 2-3 ASSBI has a diverse professional development programme this year, with workshops held in London (Jacinta Douglas and Skye McDonald), Macau and around Australia. ASSBI aims to provide varied and flexible modes of continuing education and networking opportunities that include face-to-face workshops, webinars and social media. ASSBI recently conducted the first ASSBIchat session on mental health which was moderated by Dr Elizabeth Beadle.

Please read about upcoming ASSBI professional development opportunities, research involvement, new resources and Students Corner.

I look forward to seeing you in Macau!

Warmest wishes,  
Tamara Ownsworth, President

## EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



As you can see on the left we have our new committee members, Our President thanked Prof Glynda Kinsella, Dr Larry Cashion and Dr Sharon Savage for their time on the committee. She also welcomed our committee who re-nominated as well as our new members Ms Nicci Grace (VIC), Dr Clare Ramsden (TAS) and Dr Janet Wagland (WA).

Minutes of the ASSBI AGM and the 2015 Annual Report can be found on the [ASSBI NEWS page](#) on the website if you were unable to attend the AGM

We have a [Calendar](#) on the website now which shows ALL our Webinars, Workshops and Conference 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 Macau.

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

Rachael is organising an #ASSBIchat ANYTHING interesting that should be tweeted contact Rachael on [socialmedia@assbi.com.au](mailto:socialmedia@assbi.com.au)

## 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

Executive Officer

Proudly supported by



## CORPORATE PARTNERS



### News from our Corporate Partners, Shine Lawyers



Delegates attending the *Capacity Assessment & Guardianship* workshop on the 11<sup>th</sup> of March in Brisbane will have noticed that their legal presenter Jamie Shine was sporting a

rather large baby bump!

The ASSBI Committee were delighted to learn of the birth of Jamie's firstborn on Friday, 22<sup>nd</sup> of April. We wish to congratulate Jamie and her family on the safe arrival of their daughter, Darcy Grace. Shine Lawyers will join with ASSBI in hosting future workshops on Capacity Assessment and Guardianship in Melbourne, Sydney and Perth. To register for any of these workshops or for more information, please visit:

<http://www.assbi.com.au/workshops.html>

## 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. Most of the workshops are up too, just waiting on information for two of them.

If you would like to see someone give a workshop in your State or know of anyone coming to Australia in 2016 or 2017 who would like to give a workshop or webinar for ASSBI members, please email [admin@assbi.com.au](mailto:admin@assbi.com.au) and we will endeavour to organise a full/half day workshop or a one hour webinar.

### 2016 Workshop Series #assbiworkshops



**5 July - Measuring and coping with cognitive-communication problems following brain injury & Treating Social Cognition:**



Profs Jacinta Douglas and Skye McDonald - full day in London, UK

[INFORMATION](#)



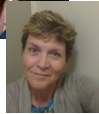
**14 October - Capacity Assessment and Guardianship:** Liz Mullaly and Paula Shelton (Shine Lawyers). Half-day in Melbourne

[INFORMATION](#)



**21 October: Capacity Assessment and Guardianship:** Sharon Flanagan and Caryn Ger (Shine Lawyers). Half-day in Sydney.

[INFORMATION](#)



**28 October: Capacity Assessment and Guardianship:** Robyn Lieblich and David Bayly (Bradley Bayly's Lawyers). Half-day in Perth.

[INFORMATION](#)



**14 November: A clinician's guide to trauma and the brain:** Jan Ewing. Full day in Melbourne

[INFORMATION](#)

### 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](#)



**14<sup>th</sup> June – Aboriginal Australians' experiences of brain injury and ways to move forward in providing culturally secure rehabilitation services** by Prof Beth Armstrong



**9<sup>th</sup> August – Addiction and the brain: what do we know?** By Dr Valentina Lorenzetti



**11<sup>th</sup> October – Suicide prevention in acquired brain injury** by A/Prof Grahame Simpson



**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.

## CONFERENCES 39<sup>th</sup> Conference



39th Annual Brain Impairment Conference  
Sheraton Macau Hotel, Cotai Central  
Translating knowledge into practice:  
Evidence, Lessons and Challenges  
26 - 28 September 2016  
SHINE LAWYERS



The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Brain Impairment Conference will be held at the Sheraton Grand Hotel in Cotai Central in beautiful and historic Macau on Monday 26 to Wednesday 28 September 2016 and convened by Prof David Shum.

[INFORMATION](#) [REGISTER NOW](#)

Macau is a wonderful place which showcases both Chinese and Portuguese culture; see a 3 minute video on Macau on [ASSBI's YouTube Channel](#)

We have a great accommodation deal with the Sheraton Grand; [Book Now](#) and SAVE

[Check out the bios of the Keynote Speakers](#)

### Prof Agnes Chan Sui Yin



Agnes is currently a Professor at the Department of Psychology of the Chinese University of Hong Kong and the Director of the Chanwuyi Research Center for

Neuropsychological Well-Being.

Professor Chan will present a keynote entitled: **Chinese Chan Medical Approach as a Possible Neuropsychological Intervention**

### Prof Brendan Weekes



Brendan is currently a Chair Professor in Communication Science at the University of Hong Kong.

Prof Weekes will present a keynote entitled: **Cognitive-neuropsychological testing across languages**

## Prof Glynda Kinsella



Glynda is Professor of Clinical Neuropsychology, School of Psychology & Public Health and coordinator of the Postgraduate

Training Programs in Clinical Neuropsychology, La Trobe University. Professor Kinsella will present a keynote entitled: **Work with memory groups and mild cognitive impairment in AD**

## A/Prof Tamara Ownsworth



Tamara is a clinical neuropsychologist with 20 years of clinical and research experience in the brain injury field. She was awarded the National Health & Medical Research

Council Public Health Fellowship in 2002 and is now based in the School of Applied Psychology at Griffith University. A/Professor Ownsworth will present the ASSBI Presidential Address entitled: **Coping with the unthinkable: Advances in psychosocial care for people with brain cancer**

## A/Prof Jenny Fleming



Jenny is an occupational therapist with more than 25 years research experience in the area of brain injury rehabilitation. She is a former Menzies Scholar, a chief investigator on the

'Moving Ahead' Centre for Research Excellence in Brain Recovery, and the Co-Editor of *Brain Impairment*. A/Professor Fleming will present a Keynote entitled: **The use of 'occupation' to enhance self-awareness and performance in brain injury rehabilitation**

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

The 40<sup>th</sup> Annual Brain Impairment Conference will be held in Melbourne on 1-3 June 2017 and 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 will go out on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2016.

## ASSBI'S JOURNAL BRAIN IMPAIRMENT

Is ASSBI's multidisciplinary Journal

Look out for the upcoming September Issue (17.2). The issue includes an interesting mix of papers focusing on Alzheimer's Disease, Parkinson and stroke. The issue has an international flavour with papers reporting research from Italy, Greece, Africa, Japan as well as Australia. Papers cover a broad range of research including a including a study demonstrating that cognitive training was successful in teaching a new procedure to people with early stage Alzheimer's disease and had lasting effects a year later; a new measure for Desire to Void among stroke patients; a qualitative exploration of the good/bad experiences and tensions of the relationship between health professionals and spouses caring for a partner with Parkinsons; and a systematic scoping review into the research about prospective memory in stroke. Keep an eye out for your e-mail alert for Issue 17.2 if you are a member. If not a member of ASSBI [join here](#).

You should have received login instructions when you joined ASSBI, if you require any help with this please email [Margaret Jennifer Fleming and Grahame Simpson](#) Co-Editors

## ASSBI RESOURCES

ASSBI Resources is pleased to announce the Montreal Assessment of Communication is now on sale. The MEC, originally published in French in 2004, has been published in Portuguese (Brasil and Portugal), Spanish, Italian and German. A major international effort has seen MEC adapted into English including re-standardisation with 220 English speakers.

The MEC was developed to address the critical gap in assessment tools for people who have problems with communication in the absence of aphasia. Many populations, such as people who experience right hemisphere stroke, traumatic brain injury or dementia can have difficulties communicating including problems with "higher order" or pragmatic components of language

The MEC kit available from ASSBI Resources comprises a manual, a stimulus book, response booklets and informant questionnaires along with a USB containing audio-files and back up response forms.

The MEC provides a comprehensive examination of critical facets of communicative competence including

- Comprehension and production of linguistic and emotional prosody
- Lexico-semantic processes including verbal fluency and semantic judgements
- Conversational

and narrative discourse

- Pragmatic processes including the interpretation of indirect speech acts and metaphors
- Self awareness of deficits
- Informant awareness of deficits

We have a plethora of ASSBI manuals and resources available free to everyone, free to members and for sale on Treatment, Assessment and Norms. We also have Non-ASSBI books and products as well as Resource Links.

Check out the ASSBI Resources page on our website to read more about our resources and order online.

## OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT

### TBIconnect Research: Seeking participants

We would like to inform you about to a clinical trial we will be running over the next two years comparing in-person with Skype-based intervention for people with traumatic brain injury and their communication partners. We are currently aiming to recruit 36 volunteers with TBI to participate in this research. 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=EDRe3D4ZNI>. Alternatively, contact: Rachael Rietdijk at [rman7827@uni.sydney.edu.au](mailto:rman7827@uni.sydney.edu.au) or on 0402 159 516.



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

## NEW AWARDS FROM ASSBI

### 2016 ASSBI Early Career Clinical Innovation Award

The ASSBI Early Career Clinical Innovation Award is designed to recognise innovation in the field of brain impairment consistent with our mission to improve the lives of individuals and families affected by progressive and non-progressive neurological conditions across the lifespan.

The Award for 2016 is sponsored by Shine Lawyers. The value of the award is \$1,500 plus free registration to the 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Australasian Society for the Study of Brain Impairment Conference in Macau, China where the award will be announced and presented (September 26<sup>th</sup>-28<sup>th</sup>, 2016).

#### Eligibility:

Entries are welcome from an early career clinician who:

- is a qualified allied health or medical professional,
- is a current financial member of ASSBI, and
- works with people with brain impairment in a relevant setting that involves direct delivery of clinical services.

An early career clinician is defined as someone who was awarded their highest level of qualification within the last 10 years (career disruptions such as maternity, sick or carer leave will be taken into consideration).

Applications can come from an individual early career clinician, or a team led or co-led by one or more early career clinicians. An application from a team led by an early career clinician can include and should acknowledge relevant contributions

from other team members such as: students, clinical colleagues, researchers, other staff from relevant services or universities, people with brain impairment and their families.

It is a requirement that the clinical initiative does not form the basis of an honours or post-graduate research project and also has not received funding from a major competitive grant scheme. Please also note that clinicians who are primarily in a research position (i.e., more than 50% research) are not eligible to lead the application.

#### Selection Criteria:

A) A clinician and/or team have introduced **innovative practice** in the field of brain impairment. This could relate to change in one or both of the following:

- Clinical service delivery – such as screening and early intervention, diagnosis, assessment, treatment or management, care coordination and long-term follow-up and support
- Education, training, supervision and professional development of trainees and clinicians

B) The implementation of this innovative practice has had a demonstrated impact on the lives of people with brain impairment and their families and/or the knowledge and skills base of trainees and clinicians. At the time of application the initiative needs to have been completed or progressed to the point of yielding an outcome or impact on practice that has been evaluated in some capacity, as appropriate to the nature of the practice.

[Links to the full application details](#) have been emailed to all members.

#### STUDENT TRAVEL AWARDS

As well as the 3 awards presented at the conference there are also 4 further awards that will be awarded to students prior to Annual Conference. The grants will be based on submitted abstracts. (value: AU\$800 each plus free registration to Annual Conference) [Click here to download an application form.](#)

### BOOKS MAKE THE BEST BIRTHDAY / GRADUATION PRESENTS

Go to the ASSBI BOOKSTORE on the ASSBI website, buy all sorts of books and help out ASSBI at the same time.

## STUDENTS CORNER

All of our student representative teams around the nation have been busy over the past few months planning, organising and hosting a variety of great events supported by ASSBI to promote networking and awareness of the abundant opportunities for students within the organization! On the 5<sup>th</sup> of May the Brisbane Team hosted a very successful Q&A event with 3 guest speakers at UQ. A summary of the evening by team leader Seline Fallon is detailed below:

The night included three speakers specialising in traumatic brain injury, followed by a Q&A session. The speakers included Dr. Jenny Fleming (occupational therapist and researcher specialising in rehabilitation), Dr Peter Dodd (director of the Queensland Brain Bank) and Lizzie Beadle (Neuropsychology PhD candidate investigating insight after Traumatic Brain Injury). Each speaker's work was very interesting and all quite different which was great to have such diversity. The evening concluded with a lively Q&A. It was a terrific evening enjoyed by all and the guest speakers especially liked presenting to such enthused students.



The Perth Team also hosted the first ASSBI event of the year on Friday the 13th; a Quiz Night to promote awareness and networking for health students and peers. Team Leader Courtney Hill has provided a summary of the evening:

The 45 guests were tested on their general, music, and entertainment knowledge, as well as a round dedicated to the human brain. There was much laughter, head-scratching, and pizza consumption, and a good night was had by all! Special thanks go to all of our donors, to Bianca, Sharon, Mel, Jess, Le Qing, and Doha, and to everyone who attended - we look forward to seeing you all for our second semester event!

*Keep an eye-out for upcoming events hosted by ASSBI student teams over the remainder of 2016!*

For any student enquiries email [students@assbi.com.au](mailto:students@assbi.com.au)

## ASSBI MEMBERSHIPS

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 3:** Prof Beth Armstrong - *Aboriginal  
Australians' experiences of brain injury and ways to  
move forward in providing culturally secure  
rehabilitation services*  
Date: 14 June 2016

**Webinar 4:** Dr Valentina Lorenzetti - *Addiction and the  
brain: what do we know?*  
Date: 9 August 2016

**Webinar 5:** A/Prof Grahame Simpson - *Suicide  
prevention in acquired brain injury*  
Date: 11 October 2016

**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*

### 2016 – CONFERENCE/ WORKSHOPS

Date: 5 July 2016 – full day

Speakers: Profs Jacinta Douglas & Skye McDonald

Venue: 30 Euston Square, London, UK

Register: <http://www.cvent.com/d/9fqkvw/4W>

39<sup>th</sup> Annual Brain Impairment Conference

Date: 26 - 28 September 2016

Venue: Sheraton Grand Hotel, Cotai Strip, Macau, China

Register: <http://www.cvent.com/d/7fq485/4W>

Convenor: Prof David Shum

Capacity Assessment and Guardianship Workshop VIC

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> October

Register: <http://www.cvent.com/d/wfq06m/4W>

Capacity Assessment and Guardianship Workshop NSW

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> October

Register: <http://www.cvent.com/d/qfq18r/4W>

Capacity Assessment and Guardianship Workshop WA

Date: 28<sup>th</sup> October

Register: <http://www.cvent.com/d/mfqw1f/4W>

A clinician's guide to trauma and the brain by Jan Ewing

Date: 14<sup>th</sup> November

Venue: Ether Convention Centre, Melbourne, VIC

Register: <http://www.cvent.com/d/mfq97s/4W>

## OUTSIDE EVENTS CALENDAR

### 2016

#### 3<sup>rd</sup> National Meeting of the Australasian Society for Social & Affective Neuroscience

Venue: University of Technology  
Sydney, NSW, Australia

Date: 23-24 June 2016

Contact: <http://www.as4sn.com/>

#### INS Mid-Year Meeting

Date: 6-8 July 2016

Venue: London, UK

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

#### 13<sup>th</sup> NR-SIG-WFNR Conference

Date: 11-12 July 2016

Venue: Hilton Grosvenor, Glasgow,  
Scotland, UK

Website:

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

Contact: [mers@exemail.com.au](mailto:mers@exemail.com.au)

#### Fourth Annual Stroke Conference

Date: 20 August 2016

Venue: University of San Diego Joan B.  
Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice, San  
Diego, California

Website:

<https://www.scripps.org/events/fourth-annual-stroke-conference-august-20-2016>

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

Date: 10-11 July 2017

Venue: South Africa