

# ASSBI newsletter

Australasian Society for the Study of Brain Impairment

March 2015

Issue 50

Working together to improve the lives of people with brain impairment



## ASSBI COMMITTEES

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**PRESIDENT ELECT:** A/Prof Tamara Ownsworth

**PAST PRESIDENT:** Prof Leanne Togher

**SECRETARY:** Prof Jennie Ponsford

**TREASURER:** Prof Skye McDonald

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Ms Margaret Eagers-Rickit

### PUBLICATIONS

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Dr Grahame Simpson – Editor

Dr Petrea Thomas – Assistant Ed.

## WORDS FROM OUR

### PRESIDENT



Dear Members,

This is my final newsletter as President of ASSBI. It has been an honour and pleasure to be President of the society. I found the last two years to be an interesting experience which I have learned much from. I am very grateful for having had the opportunity to lead the organisation.

As I am stepping down as President of ASSBI this year, I would like to warmly welcome ASSBI's incoming President, A/Prof Tamara Ownsworth. Having worked with Tamara at Griffith University for the last eight years I have every confidence that she will make valuable contributions to the society and continue its mission and work.

I hope to see everyone at the AGM in May, as well as at the INS/ASSBI 5th Pacific Rim Conference to be held in Sydney this July. It will be an excellent opportunity to listen to the latest research in the brain impairment and neuropsychology areas and to catch up with colleagues from Australia and overseas.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank members of the Executive and National Executive Committees and our Executive Officer for their wonderful support during my last two years as President.

Best wishes for the future.

David Shum, President

## EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT



The 2015 Membership renewal was due on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2014. Please renew or join now.

The 2015 AGM will be held in Melbourne at 3.45pm on 15<sup>th</sup> May after the Workshop at the Adina

Apartment Hotel. Drinks will be provided afterwards so please turn up and support your Association.

Cheers

Margaret Eagers-Rickit, EO

## SOCIAL MEDIA



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ASSBI. Become a contact on LinkedIn

## NEWS

**ARTICLE IN PRESS – Brain Impairment**  
McDonald, S., Fisher, A., Togher, L., Tate, R., Rushby, J., English, T., Kelly, M., Mathersul, D., Froreich, F., & Francis, H.

**Adolescent performance on The Awareness of Social Inference Test: TASIT**

**What the study is about**

Social cognition is the ability to identify and understand social cues such as emotion conveyed in someone's tone of voice, facial expression or body language. It also includes theory of mind, or the ability to know what someone else might be thinking, and this in turn allows us to infer what others beliefs may be, and predict their intentions based on this information. Social interactions require that we use this knowledge to guide communication.

**The ASSBI 2015 Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at 3.45pm on Friday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015**

These sorts of skills develop naturally throughout childhood and adolescence, however, there are known developmental and acquired brain disorders that can interrupt this process. These include disorders such as Autism Spectrum Disorder, traumatic brain injury and brain tumour to name a few. Despite growing

This page – Committees; Words from our President ; EO's Report; Social Media; News  
Page 2 & 3 – CE; Conferences  
Page 4 – Journal; PsychBite; Resources; Website;  
Page 6 – ASSBI Membership; Calendar of Events; Other Conference Details

interest in the area of social cognition in children and adolescents, there are few tools available for assessment, particularly in the area of emotion perception. Furthermore, many of these tests are paper and pen tests, which are far removed from how social interactions occur in the real world. One audio-visual based test that depicts social interaction with real world implications is The Awareness of Social Inference Test (TASIT: McDonald, Flanagan, & Rollins, 2011). Part 1 of the TASIT examines a persons' ability to read the emotional expression of another person using visual, vocal and gestural cues, while parts 2 and 3 examine recognition and understanding of more subtle emotional cues including the ability to know what another person may be thinking and inferring from the language they are using and the vocal tone in which it is expressed. There are two forms of TASIT (A and B) to allow for clinicians to test their clients on more than one occasion, or to use as a training tool.

Until now, this test was only valid for use in adults. This study aimed to examine performance on the various parts of this test in typically developing adolescents, and to identify any gender and age differences.

#### **What we did**

A cross sectional design was adopted with data being collected between 2002 and 2014. The TASIT was completed in the school classroom by 665 male and female adolescents aged 13-15 years. Participants were students from Sydney private and government schools. There were 97 participants for whom English is a second language. This data provided information on the validity of the test in those with varying levels of English familiarity. Parents completed a questionnaire that provided details of their child's developmental and educational history in order to exclude those with a developmental or neurological condition, or significant mental health history. Due to time constraints the adolescents completed Part 1, 2 and/or 3 parts from Form A or B.

#### **What we have found**

The performance of 464 students (removing those who met exclusion criteria and those whom English was not spoken at home), was examined for age and gender effects. Analysis of performance across four ages (13, 14, 15 and adult [previously collected normative data]) on Part 1 demonstrated that

performance improved with age, though this was mostly due to differences between the overall adolescent group and adults. This result was evident on both forms A and B. In Part 2 (sincerity and sarcasm) there were greater differences observed between the older (14-15yo) and younger 13yo adolescents. After controlling for age, adolescent girls performed significantly better than adolescent boys on both forms A and B, and all three parts of the test. Less familiarity with the English language, as measured by the degree to which English was spoken in the home, negatively affected performance on TASIT.

#### **What next**

These results indicate that TASIT is an appropriate test of social cognition in adolescents aged 13 and over. The normative data provided by this study will prove a useful adjunct for the assessment of adolescents with suspected impairments in social cognition.

*Dr Michelle Kelly*

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

BIG THANKS go to all of you who attended our 2014 Webinar Series; this was a great success, thanks also to our sponsors of the event TAC/Worksafe Victoria.

If you would like to see someone give a workshop in your State or know of anyone coming to Australia in 2015 or 2016 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.

## **Current Webinar Series**

The 2015 Webinar series is now available and the first one will go to air on 10<sup>th</sup> March with Prof Skye McDonald and you can [register](#) for each (or all) of the webinars now.



**10 March:** *Improving first impressions: Social skills training for adults with brain injury* by Prof Skye McDonald

**14 April:** *Overview of the neuropsychology of MS: for health professionals working clinically with people with MS* by Ms Wendy Longley



**9 June:** *Assessment of visuospatial memory on*

*clinical practice* by Prof Roy Kessels

**11 August:** *Prospective memory* by Prof David Shum



**13 October:** *Understanding self-identity change after brain injury and implications for clinical practice* by A/Prof Tamara Ownsworth

**8 December:** *Cognitive Interventions for Mild Cognitive Impairment* by Dr Maurice Finn



**IMPORTANT:** Don't forget that the webinar is for watching only and the material is not to be used in its entirety to train staff in your organisation. The speakers put a lot of time into preparing these webinars for YOUR continuing education.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

## **Workshop:**

**Date:** 15<sup>th</sup> May 2015

**Time:** 9.30 – 3.30

**Title:** *“Using cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT) to treat anxiety and depression after brain injury”*

**Speakers:** Prof Jennie Ponsford, Dr Dana Wong and Dr Adam McKay

## **CONFERENCES INS/ASSBI 5<sup>th</sup> Pacific Rim Conference**

The ASSBI 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Brain Impairment Conference is collaborating with the International Neuropsychological Society's mid-year Meeting on 1-4 July 2015 and will be held in Sydney at the Sofitel Sydney Wentworth and is convened by Prof Jennie Ponsford.

Keynote speakers and ½ day workshop presenters are: Professors Leeanne Carey (AUS), Terrie Inder (USA), Mark Sherer (USA) and A/Prof Angelle Sander (USA).

Workshops will also be given by Profs Roy Kessels and Luciano Fasotti (NL) and Prof Jan Copeland, Prof Murat Yucel (AUS) and A/Prof Raul Gonzalez (USA).

Prof Barbara A Wilson (UK), A/Prof Kirrie Ballard (AUS) and Dr Hayley Bennett (AUS) will present 1 hour breakfast workshops.

Prof John Hodges (UK & AUS) will give a keynote address,

A/Prof Paul McCrory will give the Opening Address

A/Prof Tamara Ownsworth (AUS) and Dr Ann Watts from South Africa will give the ASSBI and INS Presidential Addresses.

Over 400 abstracts were submitted for the conference and speakers will be informed of their acceptance mid-March

We have been showcasing the speakers in our newsletters. To download a flyer and to get information on the conference as it comes through go to [http://www.assbi.com.au/conference\\_2015.html](http://www.assbi.com.au/conference_2015.html)

## Dr Ann Watts

### INS Presidential Address



Ann Watts is a clinical psychologist based at Entabeni Hospital, Durban, South Africa, where she focuses on her clinical and research interests in

neuropsychological assessment and rehabilitation within multicultural and multilingual contexts. She is an expert in the field (neuropsychology) at the University of KwaZulu-Natal and visiting lecturer at the University of Zululand. Ann is Secretary General of the International Union of Psychological Science and their Co-Main Representative (Psychology) to the World Health Organization (WHO). She serves on the WHO International Advisory Group for the Revision of the International Classification of Diseases – Tenth Revision (ICD-10), as well as their Consultation Group on the Classification of Behavioural and Psychological Symptoms in Neurocognitive Disorders for ICD-11. She is also Treasurer of the Pan African Psychology Union and serves on the South African National Committee for the International Brain Research Organisation. Ann is Editor of the International Platform of the *International Journal of Psychology*. She completed her PhD in paediatric neuropsychology in 1990 and a Postdoctoral Research Fellowship in neuropsychology in 1991 at the then University of Natal.

Dr Watts will present the INS Presidential Address on *Challenges and opportunities for neuropsychology internationally*

## Prof Terrie Inder



**Keynote and ½ day Workshop (WS2 am)**

Professor Terrie Inder, Chair Newborn Medicine,

Brigham & Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA

Dr Inder is the Mary Ellen Avery Professor of Pediatrics in Newborn Medicine at Brigham and Women's Hospital, Harvard Medical School. She is a dual boarded newborn medicine physician and child neurologist with her predominant academic effort being focused on research in the newborn brain. Her research is targeted at understanding the timing, mechanisms and impact of cerebral injury and altered cerebral development in the human infant. Thus, her studies have focused on infants at high risk for brain injury including the prematurely-born infant, the sick term-born infant, and the infant with congenital heart disease. Dr Inder aims to investigate means of accurate, early diagnosis of brain injury as well as developing treatments and preventive strategies to reduce subsequent disabilities. This research work has utilized technologies including near infrared spectroscopy, electroencephalography and magnetic resonance imaging.

Prof Inder will be giving a half-day workshop entitled: *Fetal and neonatal brain development – What are the neuropsychological consequences of biological and environmental insults?* as well as a 1 hour Keynote Address entitled: *Protecting the Developing Brain - Improving what we do not fully understand*

## Prof Roy Kessels



**½ day Workshop (WS6 pm)** Professor of Neuropsychology, Radboud University Nijmegen; and Clinical neuropsychologist at the Department of

Medical Psychology, Radboud University Medical Center and Vincent van Gogh Institute of Psychiatry, Venray, the Netherlands

Roy Kessels is a registered clinical neuropsychologist and professor of neuropsychology at Radboud University Nijmegen, the Netherlands. He obtained his master's degree at this university and completed a clinical internship at the neurology clinic of Ludwig Maximilian University in Munich, Germany. He then moved to Utrecht to get his PhD in 2001 with Prof. Edward de Haan on the neuropsychology of spatial memory. He completed his specialist clinical training at the neurology clinic of

University Medical Center Utrecht and worked as assistant professor at Utrecht University. In 2006 he moved back to Nijmegen where he was appointed full professor of neuropsychology in 2008. Among his research topics are memory (dys)function in relation to the medial temporal lobe as well as memory assessment and rehabilitation, both from a fundamental perspective (fMRI research) as from a clinical perspective (patient studies on MCI, dementia, stroke and Korsakoff's amnesia). Clinically he is working at the memory clinic of Radboud University Medical Center and the Centre of Excellence for Korsakoff and alcohol-related cognitive disorders of Vincent van Gogh Institute for Psychiatry in Venray, the Netherlands. Kessels has (co-)authored more than 170 international peer-reviewed journal papers, several book chapters, the revised edition of the Location Learning Test, the Emotion Recognition Test, and is (co-)editor of various handbooks on neuropsychology in the Netherlands. He is member of the board of governors of the International Neuropsychological Society (INS) and the Federation of European Societies of Neuropsychology.

Prof Roy Kessels will be giving a half day workshop with Prof Fasotti entitled: *Cognitive rehabilitation of complex everyday tasks*. Roy will also be participating in an invited symposium with Prof Fasotti, Prof Wilson and A/Prof Ownsworth.

## Prof Luciano Fasotti



**½ day Workshop (WS6-pm)** Prof. Dr. Luciano Fasotti, is a clinical neuropsychologist who

graduated from the Psychology Department of the Università degli Studi di Padova (Italy) in 1981. He worked at the Institute for Rehabilitation Research (Hoensbroek, the Netherlands) and in the Rehabilitation Centre of Hoensbroek (the Netherlands) from 1981-1995. In 1992 he took his PhD degree at the University of Maastricht (the Netherlands) with a thesis on arithmetical problem solving after frontal lobe damage. In 1995 he started work at the research institute of the Sint Maartenskliniek in Nijmegen (the Netherlands), while still working as a clinician at the rehabilitation department of the same clinic. There he founded the Day Hospital for Brain Injury, where he worked as a clinical director until 2012. In 1994 he was appointed professor at the chair of Clinical Neuropsychology of the

Radboud University Nijmegen (the Netherlands). At this university he is a member of the Donders Institute for Brain, Cognition and Behaviour. Since 2008 he is also visiting professor at the University of Angers (France). In August 2012 he has taken up a new function as clinical neuropsychologist in the Medical Rehabilitation Centre Groot Klimmendaal in Arnhem (Netherlands). His research interests include attentional problems after brain damage, visual neglect, executive and memory problems after traumatic brain injury and fatigue after stroke.

Prof Luciano Fasotti will be giving a half day workshop with Prof Kessels entitled: *Cognitive rehabilitation of complex everyday tasks*. Luciano will also be participating in an invited symposium.

## Dr Hayley Bennett

1hr Breakfast Workshop (WS9 on Sat)



Dr Hayley Bennett, Barrister, NSW Bar Association  
Hayley has practiced as a barrister since 2009, having graduated from a law degree

the year before with first class honours. As a barrister, she has been involved in cases in a broad range of areas, however also specializes in health law across jurisdictions. For the two decades before this, Hayley worked as a clinical and research neuropsychologist, specializing in ageing, dementia, and decision making, with her qualifications in this area being BA (Hons), MA, MSc, and PhD. During this time she also provided expert opinion to courts and tribunals where mental capacity and decision making were in issue and sat on the Guardianship Tribunal of NSW (as it then was). Hayley maintains academic and research interests in neuroscience and within law, and is regularly invited to speak to judges, magistrates, and tribunal members about the interface between neuroscience and the law in general, and judicial

neurobiology and decision making in particular. She is also invited to speak to lawyers and clinicians about succession law and capacity assessment, as well as more generally about decision making and its legal implications.

Dr Hayley Bennett will be giving a breakfast workshop entitled: *The legal presumption of mental capacity: Implications for "issue-specific" assessment by clinicians*

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

The 39<sup>th</sup> Annual Brain Impairment Conference will be held in beautiful and historic Macau on Wednesday 28 to Friday 30 September 2015 and convened by Prof David Shum – more details to follow.

## BRAIN IMPAIRMENT

### NEW EDITORS

It is with great pleasure that we introduce you to the new Joint Editors of *Brain*



*Impairment:*  
A/Profs  
Jennifer  
Fleming and  
Grahame  
Simpson. Dr



Petrea Cornwell will also join the group as an Associate Editor.

The Committee would like to thank our departing joint and founding editors Professors Robyn Tate and Jacinta Douglas. Our huge thanks go to them for all their hard work over the years taking *Brain Impairment* to the international status that it is today. Thanks also to them for their help with the transition to new editors.

**Library Subscriptions** - Please encourage your organisation to subscribe to the journal. It's easy – just go to our website [www.assbi.com.au](http://www.assbi.com.au) and follow the links to the journal.

Jan Ewing, Chair, Publications Committee

## PsycBITE™



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### What is PsycBITE?

[PsycBITE](http://www.psycbite.com) 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 RESOURCES

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

## WEBSITE

The ASSBI website is a very important tool for distributing information. Please let me have your feedback at

[admin@assbi.com.au](mailto:admin@assbi.com.au) Is it user friendly?

There are photos of the various committees, reports on the 2013, 2012 and previous conferences. There is also information on the 2015 conference.

There are also links to ASSBI's Facebook, Twitter and Psychwire pages.  
*Margaret Eager-Rickit*  
Executive Officer

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

## STUDENTS CORNER

We are excited about our launch of the new student program for 2015 and beyond!

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome all the new Team Leaders and Student Ambassadors who have now all met in their respective states and begun planning for an exciting year of student ASSBI initiatives.

Please take a moment to familiarise yourselves with our student representatives by reading their profiles on our student page [www.assbi.com.au/student%20ambassadors](http://www.assbi.com.au/student%20ambassadors)

Please note we are still welcoming applications from students in Adelaide, Tasmania and New Zealand for 2015 student positions!

Please email all expressions of interest to the Student Coordinator, Nicci Grace [niccigrace@gmail.com](mailto:niccigrace@gmail.com)

## ASSBI MEMBERSHIPS

RENEWALS ARE DUE 1 JULY 2014 FOR 2014/2015

- ✓ Cost is only \$150 (\$257 for 2 yrs)
- ✓ Cost for students is only \$80 (\$144 for 2 yrs)  
(send 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 2015 INS/ASSBI conference in Sydney
- ✓ 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-Rickit  
Executive Officer*

## ASSBI EVENTS

### ASSBI Conferences/Workshops

#### 2015

#### WEBINAR SERIES

1 hour 12.30-1.30

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

**Webinar:** *Improving first impressions: Social skills training for adults with brain injury*

Date: 10 March 2015

Speaker: Prof Skye McDonald

**Webinar:** *Overview of the neuropsychology of MS: for health professionals working clinically with people with MS*

Date: 14 April 2015

Speaker: Ms Wendy Longley

**Webinar:** *Assessment of visuospatial memory on clinical practice*

Date: 9 June 2015

Speaker: Prof Roy Kessels

**Webinar:** *Prospective Memory*

Date: 1 August 2015

Speaker: Prof David Shum

**Webinar:** *Understanding self-identity change after brain injury and implications for clinical practice*

Date: 13 October 2015

Speaker: A/Prof Tamara Ownsworth

**Webinar:** *Cognitive Interventions for Mild Cognitive Impairment*

Date: 8 December 2015

Speaker: Dr Maurice Finn

**Workshop** *Using cognitive behaviour therapy (CBT) to treat anxiety and depression after brain injury*

Date: 15 May, 2015

Venue: Adina Apartment Hotel, Melbourne

Speaker: Prof Jennie Ponsford, Dr Dana Wong and Dr Adam McKay

[Register Now](#)

#### 2015 - July 1-4

INS/ASSBI 5<sup>th</sup> Pacific Rim Conference. 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Brain Impairment Conference in conjunction with INS mid-year meeting

Venue: Sofitel Wentworth Hotel, Sydney,

Convenor: Prof Jennie Ponsford

[Register Now](#)

#### 2016 - May

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

Date: 28-30 September 2016

Venue: Macau

Convenor: Prof David Shum

## OUTSIDE EVENTS

### 2015

**AD/PD 2015 Mechanisms, Clinical Strategies and Promising Treatments of Neurodegenerative Disease**

Venue: Nice, France

Date: 18-22 March 2015

Contact: [www.kenes.com/adpd](http://www.kenes.com/adpd)

**Speech Pathology Australia National Conference: Challenge, Broaden, Revolutionise**

Venue: Canberra, ACT, Australia

Date: 17-20 May 2015

Contact:

[www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/spa-news-and-events/2015-national-conference](http://www.speechpathologyaustralia.org.au/spa-news-and-events/2015-national-conference)

**The 12<sup>th</sup> Conference of the Neuropsychological Rehabilitation Special Interest Group of the WFNR (NF-SIG-WFNR)**

Venue: Daydream Island, Whitsundays, Australia

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> July 2015

Contact: Margaret Eagers-Rickit

[www.mers.vpweb.com.au/NR-SIG-WFNR-Conf](http://www.mers.vpweb.com.au/NR-SIG-WFNR-Conf)

[REGISTER NOW](#)

**16<sup>th</sup> International Mental Health Conference**

Venue: Gold Coast, QLD, Australia

Date: 12-14 August 2015

Contact: <http://www.anznmh.asn.au/conference/>

**25<sup>th</sup> ISN-APSN Joint Biennial Meeting in conjunction with ANS (ISN 2015)**

Venue: Cairns, QLD, Australia

Date: 23-27 August 2015

Contact: <http://neurochemistry.org/biennial-meeting/isn-2015-biennial-meeting.html>

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

HMC is Qatar's premier non-profit specialist healthcare provider, currently with eight hospitals and an ambulance service.

Exciting, new and rewarding career opportunities are now available at HMC as we enter an unparalleled phase of expansion with the planned opening of three new highly specialized facilities and a transitional research center, all designed to provide the safest, most effective and compassionate care to the population of Qatar.

For more information [click here](#) or go to [www.healthcarejobs.hamad.qa](http://www.healthcarejobs.hamad.qa)