

ASSBI NEWS

March 2023

Issue 82

Working together to improve the lives of people with brain impairment



WORDS FROM OUR PRESIDENT



Short story: A 10-year-old boy falls off his bike. By all accounts, his fall is mild. Following this incident, however, he starts experiencing seizures which become increasingly frequent, often several times a day. These seizures cannot be controlled by medications, and the boy becomes increasingly incapacitated, dropping out of school and later unable to hold a job. The boy's name was Henry Molaison, or HM as he became to be better known.

Seventy years ago - on the 1st of September 1953 - at the age of 27, Henry underwent a pioneering brain operation to remove what was thought to be the origin of his seizures. William Scoville removed Henry's both hippocampi. As neurosurgeons often say, "the operation was a success, the patient survived". Indeed, Henry did survive but also became densely amnesic, unable to remember any new information for more than a few second unless it was continuously rehearsed. Scoville, together with Brenda Milner reported the case of Henry in 1957 in a seminal article published in the Journal of Neurology, Neurosurgery and Psychiatry.

Henry's unfortunate outcome was a critical milestone in our understanding of the biological bases of human cognition. Scoville and Milner's article, cited nearly 10,000 times, demonstrated the importance of the hippocampus to episodic memory functions, and has led to over 13,000 scientific articles on the topic of episodic memory since 1968! HM himself participated in many of these studies, first with Brenda Milner in Montreal, then with Suzanne Corkin at MIT, the last time in 2006, only a couple of years before he passed away¹. Remarkably, seventy years later, the mechanisms by which new memories are organised, laid down and later retrieved are still incompletely understood. Similarly, although the role of the hippocampus in memory is not under debate, its exact functions still are, as are the contributions of other brain regions towards this function.

Fascination for memory by the scientific and clinical community is not entirely surprising. Memory is a wonderful thing! In addition to allowing us to reminisce about the past, it is intimately linked to our survival. It allows us to navigate the world, solve problems and acquire knowledge, create social networks and have meaningful relationships. It is also linked to creativity, allowing us to project ourselves in the future, and therefore plan future actions that will contribute to our quality of life. But what this story also demonstrates is the importance of single-case experiments in understanding human behaviour. Although a lot is being said about experimental design, power calculation and sample size, many breakthroughs have come about from careful examinations of

single patients. This highlights the importance for clinicians to remain curious: you never know where your next patient will lead to.

I am telling you all this because I have been reminiscing about my tenure as President of ASSBI. Indeed, I am sad to announce that this will be my last 'words from the President' as I will be handing over the reins of the Presidency to Dana Wong at the Annual General Meeting in May. In spite of the challenging times, this has been a privilege to serve ASSBI during these past two years. I want to thank the members of the Executive Committee for helping me during this time and for their continuing contribution to making ASSBI such a wonderful and welcoming association. I also want to thank Margaret Eagers for her help and support during that time. As I bid you farewell, fear not: I will still be around for the foreseeable future and I hope to see many of you in Darwin at the ASSBI Annual Conference.

Until next time, stay well and stay safe.
Olivier Piguet, President, ASSBI

¹ Corkin S. (2013). *Permanent present tense. The man with no memory and what he taught the world.* Allen Lane.

Executive Officer's Report



Please enjoy this newsletter and don't forget to get copy for the June Newsletter to me by 15th May 2023. I've noticed that some people are not receiving emails about the conference and webinars from our registration platform CVENT. If this is

happening to you, please action the undernoted:

How can I ensure I receive emails from Cvent?

To ensure you receive important emails from Cvent (and ASSBI), follow the links below to learn how to [whitelist](#) email addresses in email clients:

- Add a contact on [Android](#)
- Add an email address as a Contact in [Apple Mail](#)
- Move an email to the Primary tab in [Gmail](#)
- Add a trusted name to the Safe Senders List in [Outlook](#)
- Add a contact from an email in [Yahoo](#)

Additionally, you can have your tech department [whitelist certain IP addresses](#) for Cvent emails.

Cheers, Margaret Eagers, EO

SOCIAL MEDIA



Like us on [Facebook](#),

[Follow ASSBI](#) on Twitter. Become a contact on LinkedIn

If you have anything interesting you would like tweeted or mentioned on Facebook, contact Lizzie or Travis via assbisocialmedia@gmail.com.
Lizzie Beadle and Travis Wearne – Social Media Officers

WEBSITE

ASSBI is in the process of refreshing and improving our website. As a result, you might come across pages that are still in development (i.e. not fully functioning yet), or find that some existing pages are temporarily unavailable. We thank you for your patience over this interim period and will endeavour to complete the updates as quickly as possible.

Signing in, as a member or associate, will give you the opportunity to update your own information **including your email address**. If you are an ASSBI member, it will also give you access to *Brain Impairment*. In addition, ASSBI members receive at least a 10% discount in the Store. If you want to change your email address login with your old email address or [email Matthew](mailto:email@assbi.com.au) to change it prior to you logging in. <https://www.assbi.com.au>

Be sure to add information about your discipline and your geographical base, as this will help us to better understand our ASSBI community.

When your membership is due you will receive a couple of reminder emails and you can renew and pay online by Visa, MasterCard or PayPal if you have an account. You can also transfer your fees via the bank – if you do this, email [Margaret](mailto:Margaret@assbi.com.au) so she can put your payment through. NO CHEQUES PLEASE.

If you have anything you wish to post on the site or have any feedback please email me at admin@assbi.com.au.
Matthew, Webmaster

NEW PUBLISHED ARTICLE

“You’re supporting the whole person”: A grounded theory study of quality support according to close others of people with neurological disability.

Megan Topping, Jacinta Douglas, Di Winkler

Neuropsychological Rehabilitation

<https://doi.org/10.1080/09602011.2022.2153149>

What is the study about?

People with acquired neurological disability often require paid disability support to live an ordinary life. However, little is known regarding the factors that influence the quality of support. Given the complex needs of some adults with acquired neurological disability, close others (i.e., family or partners) can play a significant role in supporting their loved one to navigate the support system and manage their support workers. This study is the third in a series of three studies aiming to develop a comprehensive understanding of the factors that influence the quality of paid disability support grounded in the lived experience of people with acquired neurological disability ([Topping et al. 2021](#)), disability support workers ([Topping et al. 2022](#)) and close others. This study explored the close other perspective.

What we did

Taking a constructivist grounded theory approach, we interviewed ten close others of adults with neurological disability (8 parents, 2 spouses). In-depth interviews centred around participants' experiences of support and what influences the quality of paid disability support. Interview transcripts were analysed following constructivist grounded theory methods to develop themes and subthemes and explore the relationships between the themes.

ASSBI STUDENTS

This page showcases all Student Ambassador activities and information

ASSBI Student Ambassador Program 2023-2024

We would like to introduce our student teams for 2023!

Adelaide Team

Chloe Roy (Team Leader)
Graham Mylett
Livinia Xia-Bednikov
Hannah Freeman

Melbourne Team

Michaela Grech (Team Leader)
Jao Carminati
Amy Bendall
Lara Piccoli

Newcastle Team

Jordan Morrow (Team Leader)
Sarah Haskard
Ella McConnochie
Tamara Small

Sydney Team

Grace Wei (Team Leader)
Mengjie Huang

National Student Coordinator

Aishani Desai

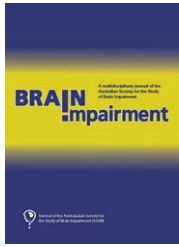
We look forward to meeting as many of you as possible at our future ASSBI events. Please stay tuned for an exciting new opportunity for ASSBI student members coming soon in 2023!

The ASSBI Student Team

What we found

A multi-level model of the factors that influence the quality of paid disability support was developed. At the dyadic level between the person with disability and the support worker, fundamental factors centred around the support worker recognising the person with disability as an individual. Close others stressed that support workers need to get to know the person they're supporting, prioritise their needs, and respect their autonomy. Moreover, the dyad need to be compatible and build a good working relationship. Close others also identified the importance of an effective support team and a responsive service provider to facilitate quality support. At the sector level, improving support workers' working conditions and raising the accountability of the disability sector was deemed key to developing a quality workforce. Together, the three studies in this series provide important practice and policy implications to improve the quality of disability support for adults with acquired neurological disability.

BRAIN IMPAIRMENT



ASSBI's multidisciplinary Journal

To login to the Brain Impairment site of Cambridge University Press, **login** to the ASSBI website and [click on this link](#) to get directed to the Brain Impairment page of the CUP website, if you require any help with this please email Margaret. To read some of the articles from the author's perspective [click here](#)

Jennifer Fleming and Grahame Simpson, Co-Editors

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

ASSBI Webinars

Are available in the [ASSBI Online Store](#)

ASSBI 2023 Series of Webinars

Please get in touch with Margaret if you have ideas of whom to invite to deliver a webinar in 2023.

ASSBI CONFERENCES

[Go to the ASSBI website to keep up to date](#)



ASSBI's 46th CONFERENCE (#assbi2023)

We are excited to announce that ASSBI's 2023 conference will be held in tropical Darwin at the DoubleTree by Hilton on the Esplanade from 4-6 May. The theme for the conference is 'Moving Forward Together' which captures so much of ASSBI's purpose, vision and mission. We are excited to be able to move back to bringing people from all different disciplines together face-to-face to share their knowledge, innovative ideas, and lived experience.

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Our exciting program will include four half-day workshops on Thursday 4th May, and keynote presentations from renowned international and national speakers on Friday 5th May and Saturday 6th May from



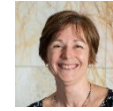
Prof David Shum from Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong
International Keynote Speaker



A/Prof Dawn Neumann from Indiana University School of Medicine, USA
International Keynote Speaker



A/Prof Emma Sciberras from Deakin University in Melbourne, Victoria
National Keynote Speaker



A/Professor Sarah Russell from James Cook University in Townsville, Queensland.
National Keynote Speaker



A/Professor Dana Wong from LaTrobe University in Melbourne, Victoria
ASSBI Presidential Address

The conference will include platform presentations, "how-to" sessions, datablitz presentations and posters. The programme has been drawn from abstracts covering all facets of brain impairment and rehabilitation across the lifespan and can be found [HERE](#)

Associate Professor Emma Sciberras



Domestic Keynote Speaker

Emma is a Clinical Psychologist and co-leads the Mental Health Care Research Stream of the Centre for Social and Early Emotional Development in the School of Psychology at Deakin University. She is also an Honorary Research Fellow in the Health Services Research at the Murdoch Children's Research Institute. Associate Professor Sciberras has had continuous research fellowship funding since 2012 and currently holds an Investigator Grant (Emerging Leader, Level 2) funded by the Medical Research Future Fund, which is focused on supporting children with ADHD and their families. She has attracted \$9.4 million in research funding. Associate Professor Sciberras was awarded a Doctor of Clinical Psychology (Child Specialisation) through the University of Melbourne in 2010, with her doctoral thesis focusing on adolescent girls with ADHD. Since that time, she has developed an international reputation for her research in the area of ADHD

Associate Professor Sciberras has published over 150 peer-reviewed papers, largely in the area of ADHD including two co-edited books. She is an elected member of the executive board of the Australian ADHD Professionals Association (AADPA) and was part of the Guideline Development Group for the Australian Evidence-Based Clinical Guideline for ADHD (2022). She has been awarded many prizes for her research including the Victorian Tall Poppy Science Award (2016) and the Australian Psychological Society, Early Career Award (2015). She has delivered over 40 invited presentations.

Associate Professor Sarah Russell



Domestic Keynote Speaker

Sarah is a clinical neuropsychologist with over 17-years' experience working in the public system and in private practice. She was instrumental in establishing a neuropsychology service within the Cairns and Hinterland Hospital and Health Service (Queensland Health) memory clinic and rehabilitation services. These services provide inpatient and outpatient neuropsychology services to people living within Far North Queensland including Cape and Torres Strait communities.

Sarah is also one of the founding members of the Healthy Ageing Research Team (HART), an interprofessional group of clinician-based researchers based at James Cook University Nguma-bada campus in Cairns. HART's research is driven by community-identified priorities and clinical need, with a particular focus on

better ways to deliver health services through integrated care models as well as improve health outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. Recently completed projects include a dementia prevalence study in the Torres Strait and evaluation of the KICA-cog for use in the Torres Strait and via telehealth. Current studies include developing a Framework of Healthy Ageing and developing culturally appropriate assessment tools and interventions for diet/activity, mental health, and cognition for the Torres Strait.

Associate Professor Dana Wong



ASSBI Presidential Address

Dana is an Associate Professor and Clinical Neuropsychologist in the School of Psychology and Public Health at La Trobe University, with active roles in research, teaching and clinical practice. She leads the eNACT (Neurorehabilitation And Clinical Translation) Research Group, which focuses on innovative neuropsychological rehabilitation techniques to improve the lives of brain injury survivors, and enhancing clinical implementation of and clinician competence in these evidence-based interventions. She has over 70 peer-reviewed publications including a CBT for ABI manual (published by ASSBI Resources!) She was awarded La Trobe's 2020 Research Engagement and Impact Award, the 2021 Australian Psychological Society (APS) College of Clinical Neuropsychologists Award of Distinction, and several teaching excellence awards. Dana is an Editorial Board member for ASSBI's journal Brain Impairment. In 2017 she led the development of BRAINSPaN, a multidisciplinary community of practice of clinicians and researchers in the brain impairment field. She is co-Chair of the Neuropsychological Intervention Special Interest Group of the International Neuropsychological Society as well as being President-Elect of ASSBI, soon to become President as of May 2023.

We look forward to seeing everyone in May 2023!!

Sponsorship is open, if you wish to sponsor/partner with ASSBI [click here](#)

Past Workshops and Webinars are available for purchase #assbiworkshops

[CLICK HERE](#) to see more and order. Jessica Trevena-Peters, Jennie Ponsford, Adam McKay, Dana Wong and Alinka Fisher have all presented full day training workshops. Neera Kapoor and Caroline van Heugten 90 min webinars and a multitude of 60-minute webinars have been presented and are available on the [ASSBI ONLINE STORE](#)

Non-ASSBI Conferences



2nd MERRC Symposium will be held ONLINE at 4 – 8pm on 9th March 2023

Completely online and on demand for 90 days post-conference. [Register free of charge HERE](#)



20th NR-SIG-WFNR Conference will be held HYBRID on 8th & 9th June

2023 Face to face in Glasgow, Scotland, UK, online and on demand for 90 days post-conference. Welcome and talks from Glasgow University's Clinical Neuropsychology Training Unit is on 7th June. [Registration is OPEN](#)



3rd CCD Symposium will be held HYBRID on 22nd & 23rd June 2023

Face to face in Manchester, England, UK, online and on demand for 90 days post-conference. [Call for Abstracts is open](#) and closes on: 11th March 2023 [Registration is also OPEN](#)



6th AADPA Conference will be held on 29th & 30th July 2023

Face to face in Melbourne, VIC, Australia, online and on demand for 90 days post-conference. NEW! Workshops on 28th July. [Call for Abstracts open](#) and close on 9th April 2023 [Registration is also OPEN](#)

ASSBI RESOURCES

ASSBI Resources is going from strength to strength. Please contact Elise: elise.elbourn@sydney.edu.au or Skye McDonald: s.mcdonald@unsw.edu.au if you have any queries or suggestions about Resources.

PLEASE NOTE that you do NOT have to be a member of ASSBI to purchase any of the manuals or tests

Our fabulous ASSBI Resources products span assessment and remediation of a wide variety of neuropsychological, cognitive and emotional disorders commonly seen in people with brain disorders. Products include PDF and video downloads as well as paper versions of professionally produced manuals and kits that can be posted to anywhere in Australia.

To see the range go to our Resources page. <https://www.assbi.com.au/Resource>. To get members price (10% discount) login to the ASSBI website first.

All resources in PDF form can be purchased instantly. Buy the PDF version and then you will receive the link to download a pdf of a manual or kit and webinar as soon as you pay. If you wish to purchase the UK version tick that option. You can pay online by PayPal OR using Debit/Credit cards Visa or MasterCard.

Non-members have access to some free downloads too – [click here](#) to see the full list of manuals **and** free to downloads on offer. There are also some FREE webinars which showcase some of our kits [CLICK HERE](#)

Skye McDonald and Elise Elbourn, ASSBI Resources



A streamlined, digital approach to the provision of Memory Rehabilitation

MEMORehab is an online memory training package that has grown out of the Making the Most of your Memory Program (ASSBI Resources). This new web-based app includes 6 hours of guided, group-based meetings (teleconference or face-to-face, **led by YOU**) along with bespoke educational videos, quizzes, notifications, homework-reporting capabilities and purpose-built, strategy-training, computer-based exercises. Statistics and feedback are provided to both clinicians and participants to track progress and increase motivation.

You can view a [DEMO video](#) and read the [RESEARCH](#) behind its development. To request a trial of the app, obtain the licensing price options or receive information on how this product might help *you* **increase your reach, earnings or research profile**, email MEMO at admin@memorehab.com.au
Keen to get started? ASSBI members will receive **15% off the regular price.**

Opportunities for Involvement

There are a lot of colleagues out there wanting your help, have a look and see if you can help out
[CLICK HERE TO SEE ALL REQUESTS FOR HELP](#)

Relaxation study for people with Aphasia

What: Research study for relaxation training

Where: Online on **Vimeo**

When: We are recruiting now!

Why: To help us **evaluate relaxation videos** for people with aphasia

How: Email rebeccahelou@icloud.com or call 0424 687 505

M.O.S.T-project: Meaningful Outcomes for School-aged kids with CCDs from TBI

We are trying to understand which treatment outcomes are most important for school-aged kids with cognitive-communication disorders (CCDs) arising from TBIs and their families.

In this project, we will interview children and teens with brain injuries and their parents. Interviews may last for up to 20 minutes. Interviews will happen over Zoom, meaning families can take part from home (or anywhere that is easiest for them!).

Children and teens will suggest treatment outcomes to help a fictional character with a TBI.

In their interviews, parents will be asked about what aspects of their child's communication and life they would most like to help following their TBI.

The results from the M.O.S.T project will be integrated with results from an international e-Delphi study to provide guidance for

clinicians undertaking assessment and outcome measurement in clinical practice.

Children, teens and their families are eligible to take part, if:

- They are between 5 - 18 years of age;
- They have a cognitive-communication disorder or difficulties (CCD) following a traumatic brain injury (TBI) (or concussion);
- They live in Australia.

Interested families can visit <https://swiy.co/UQMOSTProject> to read more about our study and register their interest. Please don't hesitate to contact Dr Sarah Wallace (s.wallace3@uq.edu.au) or Lauren Crumlish (Lauren.crumlish@uqconnect.edu.au) if any questions arise.

This research study has ethical approval from The University of Queensland [2022/HE000609].

Child Apraxia of Speech Trial

We are researchers from the Speech and Language Group at Murdoch Children's Institute. We're conducting a trial of methylphenidate (Ritalin) as a possible intervention for Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS). The study is open to 6–12-year-old children within 130km of MCRI who are either diagnosed with CAS or have suspected CAS, and elevated inattentive and/or hyperactive symptoms. Please find attached our study flyer for further information.

Interested participants can express their interest here:
<https://redcap.link/znc13io>

Please feel free to be in touch with Prof Angela Morgan for any queries: angela.morgan@mcri.edu.au or (03) 8341 6458.
Angela Morgan and Elana Forbes

Clinical Neuropsychologist Trainee Registrar

Townsville Hospital and Health
Townsville

We have a fantastic trainee position for a clinical neuropsychology registrar that aims to help the successful candidates academic and professional growth over the next three years.

The goal of this role is to provide clinical neuropsychological assessment and intervention to Townsville Hospital and Health Service patients.

This role is involved in psychological research, and the development, monitoring, and evaluation of best practice models of care for consumers.

Closing Thursday 16 March 2023

For confidential discussion, please contact

Vidula Garde 07 4433 5263

Apply online [here](#).

Current practice methods of rehabilitation professionals in the assessment of financial capability in people with acquired cognitive impairment: a mixed methods study.

- Are you an occupational therapist, neuropsychologist or other rehabilitation professional?
- Do you work with people who have acquired cognitive impairment due to acquired brain injury (ABI) or neurological disability (dementia, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis etc.)?
- Are you/ or have you been previously involved in exploring or assessing a person's **financial capability** (financial capacity/competence)?

Assessing **financial capability**, or the behaviours and approaches to personal financial decision-making may involve exploring a person's ability to manage money, shop, budget and pay bills. It may also involve examining how a person makes financial choices, plans ahead, or gains assistance with financial tasks if required.

Aim: To explore the current methods and practices of rehabilitation professionals in the assessment of financial capability following acquired cognitive impairment and understand their perspectives of desired aspects in future assessment tools.

Share: Please share your experiences with other rehabilitation professionals and the research team in a focus group (in-person or online) with an accompanying short survey to help build knowledge of current practice to inform assessment development.

Contact: Research team: Sarah Swan s.swan1@uq.edu.au

0406 532 778

Freyr Patterson, f.patterson@uq.edu.au

Jenny Fleming, j.fleming@uq.edu.au

This study has ethical approval from the University of Queensland (2022/HE002294)



The Concussion Essentials Studies



Examining an individualised treatment, including education, physiotherapy & psychology for children and adolescents 8 – 18 years who have persisting symptoms following a concussion.

Study 1 - For children and adolescents less than 3 weeks post-concussion 8-week treatment vs. Usual Care

Study 2 - For children and adolescents 3 to 12 months post-concussion 12-week treatment

Plus, all participants receive

- concussion-targeted physiotherapy assessment,
- neuropsychology assessment, and
- symptom monitoring

Where?

The Royal Children's Hospital, or Mt Waverley location Face-to-Face and telehealth appointments available

Interested?

Patients: Contact the study team for more information

E: takecare@mcri.edu.au

Ph: 0423 188 247

Health professionals: Refer by visiting

<https://redcap.link/concussion>

Occupational therapy researchers at La Trobe University are seeking survey participants for a study exploring how occupational therapists treat behavioural changes to optimise participation for people living with brain injury.

You May Qualify if You

- You are an AHPRA accredited occupational therapist
- You work, or have worked within the last 2 years, with adults living with brain injury and behavioural changes

Participation involves

If you decide to take part in the research, you would be asked to:

- Complete a 15-minute survey, online

Your decision to participate in research is voluntary.

Reimbursement for participation

There are no additional costs associated with participation in this research study, nor will you or the participant be paid.

For More Information

If you would like more information or are interested in being part of the study, please contact Ana Brown:

ana.brown@latrobe.edu.au

Survey link:

<https://redcap.latrobe.edu.au/redcap/surveys/?s=AJFF3NP7T8YDD7E>