

ASSBI Newsletter

Australasian Society for the Study of Brain Impairment

December 2019

Issue 69

Working together to improve the lives of people with brain impairment



ASSBI COMMITTEES

[EXECUTIVE](#)

[PUBLICATIONS](#)

WORDS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



As 2019 draws to a close, this affords the opportunity to reflect upon the year and plan ahead. Since taking on the Presidency of ASSBI at the AGM in May 2019, I have appreciated with new eyes

what a multi-faceted and vibrant multi-disciplinary Society we are. With the Society concluding its 42nd year since it was formed in 1978, it seems that a review of our activities is timely – indeed, well overdue. Accordingly, we plan to conduct an external review of the Society (date to be announced). In planning the review, I am working closely with the ASSBI Executive Committee, and in particular Jacinta Douglas, past President and Olivier Piguet, President-elect. As part of the review, we welcome submissions from the membership. Here is a snap-shot of who ASSBI is and what ASSBI does.

ASSBI is a multidisciplinary society dedicated to improving the quality of life of people with brain impairment and their families. ASSBI's mission is to:

- enable all disciplines who work with people with brain impairment to meet, learn and discuss the latest clinical research initiatives in a scholarly environment
- provide high quality continuing education
- publish scholarly research via our journal *Brain Impairment*
- promote scientific rigour and evidence-based practice in the field of brain impairment

- encourage students to present, share and publish their work
- provide high quality assessment and treatment resources via ASSBI Resources

ASSBI Executive Committee activities include the following:

- a 16-member Executive Committee (chaired by Robyn Tate) with representation from all Australian states. The Committee meets every two months by teleconference and oversees the day-to-day running and other activities of the Society.
- a Publications Committee (chaired by Jan Ewing) which oversees the running of the official journal of the ASSBI, *Brain Impairment* (co-edited by Jenny Fleming and Grahame Simpson, with Petrea Cornwall and Cynthia Honan as

ASSBI MEMBERSHIPS

**Memberships ARE ANNIVERSARY
which means that your
membership lasts for a full
12 or 24 months from date of
purchase or renewal**

**Don't forget as a member you
will get a significant discount to
the ASSBI 2020 Conference**

[CLICK HERE](#) to join or renew

- associate editors). The journal is published quarterly and has a 26-member Editorial Board.
- a Professional Development group (coordinated by ASSBI's Executive Officer, Margaret Eagers, and MERS Events, with consultation from Barbara Zupan and Skye McDonald from the Executive Committee) that oversees the planning of a variety of continuing education activities, including:

- the annual 3-day conference, with invited international keynote speakers
- workshops (full- and half-day), incorporating face-to-face presentation and live streaming via Zoom, as well as available for purchase as MP4 to view later
- webinars (60 or 90 mins) streamed live via Zoom, also available for purchase as MP4 to view later
- a Student Ambassador programme which aims to recruit students from all Australian states. As part of the programme there is a Student Coordinator (Jonathan Reyes) and Student Liaison Officer (Dana Wong).
- a Marketing arm, which includes:
 - social media, with Twitter, Facebook (managed by Lizzie Beadle and Travis Wearne), and LinkedIn (managed by MERS Events)
 - the ASSBI Newsletter (coordinated by Margaret Eagers) produced quarterly
 - the ASSBI website (managed by MERS Events)
- ASSBI Resources (managed by Skye McDonald and Margaret Eagers), contains assessment tools to download and/or purchase, treatment manuals to download and/or purchase, past workshops/webinars to download
- In addition, ASSBI has working parties that consider time-bound issues, such as consumer involvement (Michelle Kelly, Janet Wagland and Claire Ramsden)
- It also hosts BRAINSPaN, a community of practice network, curated by Dana Wong, Emmah Doig and Joanne Steele
- ASSBI fosters the next generation of clinicians and researchers and acknowledges outstanding achievement with a range of prizes, which are awarded at the annual conference:
 - The Douglas and Tate Prize for the best research article published in *Brain Impairment* for the year
 - Early Career Clinical Innovation Award for innovation in the field of brain

impairment consistent with ASSBI's mission (see above)

- Student Awards:
 - o The Kevin Walsh Encouragement Award for the best Honours/Masters student presentation at the annual conference
 - o The Luria Award for the best PhD presentation at the annual conference
 - o The Travel Award for the best conference abstract

Again, I welcome your thoughts, ideas comments and submissions regarding the external review. I will keep the ASSBI membership updated about the external review via this newsletter. May I take this opportunity to send you season's greetings and well wishes for an excellent year ahead. And do enjoy reading this bumper Christmas issue of ASSBI's Newsletter. Robyn Tate
President

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 admin@assbi.com.au.

WEBSITE

Signing in whether you are a member or not will give you the opportunity to update your own information **including your email address**. It will also give you access to *Brain Impairment if you are a member*. If you want to change your email address login with your old email address or email@assbi.com.au to change it prior to you logging in. <https://www.assbi.com.au>

We would like to collect stats such as your discipline and where you come from to get a better idea of our community.

When your membership is due you will receive a couple of reminder emails and you can renew and pay online by Visa, MasterCard and 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 go onto the site or have any feedback please email me at admin@assbi.com.au.
Matthew, Webmaster's sidekick

CEO'S REPORT



We have a lot of books by ASSBI members being advertised in this newsletter as well as a NEW ASSBI MANUAL by our illustrious President Robyn Tate. Enjoy this newsletter and don't forget to get copy for the March Newsletter to me by 15th February 2020.

My thoughts are with all our members and colleagues who are caught up in the fires in NSW and QLD as well as the drought.

I send my best wishes to everyone and hope you all have a wonderful Christmas period.

Cheers, Margaret Eagers, CEO

NEWS



Our wonderful Social Media Officer Dr Lizzie Beadle has got married – congratulations Lizzie and Mark

We are happy to announce that Jamie Shine has had a beautiful bay girl, both Jamie and her baby are doing well.

University of Melbourne Clinical Neuropsychology Reunion 2020

It is with great delight that we invite you to the inaugural Master of Psychology (Clinical Neuropsychology) Reunion.

The Master of Psychology (Clinical Neuropsychology) at the University of Melbourne enjoys an excellent reputation as one of the premier clinical neuropsychology programs in the country and produces graduates with a detailed understanding of the affective, behavioural and cognitive manifestations of diseases of the central nervous system, particularly those affecting the brain, in adults and children.

It is with great delight that we invite all cohorts of the Master of Psychology (Clinical Neuropsychology) to the inaugural Master of Psychology (Clinical Neuropsychology) Reunion for all University of Melbourne cohorts. Please join us as we reconnect with friends, make new friends and meet our current cohort of students.

The reunion will be held on the evening of **Friday 14 February 2020** at University House at the University of Melbourne. We hope you will help us to spread this

invitation as widely as possible through your networks so that nobody misses out.

In order to express your interest in attending, and to be added to the mailing list, please register your interest here: <http://alumni.online.unimelb.edu.au/neuro-psychalumni>

Many thanks
Amy Bugeja | Project Manager

ASSBI STUDENTS

The student ambassador teams have continued to organise more ASSBI student events throughout the year around Australia and New Zealand!

Student teams from Auckland, Adelaide, Perth, Sydney, Melbourne and Tasmania have recently held their ASSBI student event with great success!

We are now recruiting for Ambassadors for 2020 [CLICK HERE](#) for more information and to apply

Applications close on 20 December

You can read more about the student events [HERE](#)

Register here for membership: <https://assbi.com.au/join-us>

Don't forget as a member you will get a significant discount to the ASSBI 2020 Conference and the workshops

(Advancement and Engagement)
Melbourne School of Psychological Sciences

NEW ARTICLE

We are featuring the article that Prof Tate talked about in the last newsletter by Melissa Brummer

ARTICLE 2019 (First View, Published online: 04 June 2019. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/Brlmp.2019.12>) – Brain Impairment

Brunner, A; Palmer, S; Togher, L; Dann, S; and Hemsley, B.

“If I knew what I was doing on Twitter then I would use it more”: Twitter experiences and networks of people with traumatic brain injury (TBI)

What the study is about

Addressing social communication and participation is a part of core business in rehabilitation after traumatic brain injury (TBI) given the devastating impacts a TBI can have on a person’s social communication and relationships. As yet, we have little information about how social media is used by people with TBI or how it can be addressed during rehabilitation to support social participation. Considering the high rate of TBI in young adults and the widespread use of Twitter by young adults generally, this study aimed to investigate the Twitter experiences and networks of six people with a TBI.

What we did

We recruited six people who self-identified as having a TBI who used Twitter. With their permission, we collected their tweets and analysed them. We then interviewed the participants about their experiences in using Twitter and their perspectives on using the platform. During the interviews, we showed them data visualisations of their tweet analysis to reflect on their use over time and who they connected with. The interview data was then analysed qualitatively.

What we found

Two males and four females took part in the study, ranging in age from 26 to 72 years. All the participants in this study used more than one social media platform (e.g., Twitter, Facebook, Instagram). With regards to Twitter, they reported diverse experiences, with two participants being experienced users and four being novice users. None had received any support to use it aside from setting up their account. All the participants used Twitter to feel connected and included; and reported both positive and negative experiences. Engaging in Twitter communities facilitated their higher frequency of tweeting and established feelings of enjoyment and connection. Novice and established users alike were keen to continue using Twitter and eager to learn more but had not received any rehabilitation support for their social media goals. However, they all learnt to use social media through ‘giving it a go’ and experimenting. They also reported difficulties with cognitive fatigue and understanding concepts around using

Twitter, for example knowing how to use hashtags properly. People with TBI use Twitter for connection but approach the sometimes-confusing platform using trial-and-error to develop their skills. Considering their cognitive-communication disability and increased risk for social media safety incidents they are likely to require more active integration of social media if they wish to use it during rehabilitation and beyond for safe and enjoyable social connection. This will likely require individual tailored and explicit training and ongoing support in social media use during rehabilitation and in the community. This research gives us great insights into the experiences of using Twitter by people with TBI – but what about health professionals? We followed this study up with focus groups with TBI rehabilitation professionals to find out what the experiences and perspectives were of health professionals working in TBI rehabilitation on the use of social media by people with TBI. You can read more about this focus group study in Disability and rehabilitation here: <https://doi.org/10.1080/09638288.2019.1685604>.

Acknowledgements

The authors would like to acknowledge and thank the participants for their time and for sharing their experiences, Dr Lucy Bryant for acting as an independent consensus coder in tweet data analysis, and the University of Newcastle and the University of Technology Sydney for administration of funding and support in the conduction of this study. This research was funded through an Australian Government Research Training Program scholarship (Melissa Brunner) and a Discovery Early Career Research Award from the Australian Research Council (Bronwyn Hemsley). Melissa was also supported through ASSBI through a student conference travel grant in 2019 to present these findings at the ASSBI-NZRA Inaugural Trans-Tasman Conference.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

If you would like to see someone give a workshop or webinar in your State or know of anyone coming to Australia in 2020 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 webinar. If someone you suggest agrees to present for

ASSBI you will receive a complimentary registration.

ASSBI CONFERENCES **ASSBI’s 43rd Conference**

#assbi2020



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

Call for Abstracts is CLOSED and everyone has been informed of their presentation type. REGISTRATION is OPENING this week.

Sign up for a workshop and the conference. Prices are the same as they have been for the last 5 years. \$140 for a half-day workshop and \$499 for the conference if you are an ASSBI member. \$299 if you are an ASSBI student member. ASSBI student members also get conference workshops for a discounted \$110 each.

INVITED KEYNOTES

Professor Mathilde Chevignard -



France

Mathilde will be giving a half-day workshop entitled **Organization, development and characteristics of services for teenagers and young adults who sustained childhood acquired brain injury: specific challenges and possible solutions** and a keynote address entitled **Long-term outcomes and transition to adulthood following childhood acquired brain injury**. This talk would be based on results of cohorts follow-up we have performed here, in childhood severe TBI (TGE cohort) and in medulloblastoma cohorts). [CLICK HERE](#) for her bio

Professor Lyn Turner Stokes - UK



Lyn will be giving a half-day workshop entitled **GAS without tears – finding the right balance for goal setting in rehabilitation** and a keynote address entitled:

Tough Decisions around Catastrophic Brain Injury – An International Perspective. [CLICK HERE](#) for her bio

Professor Bronwyn Hensley – Australia



Bronwyn will be facilitating a half-day workshop entitled **Crafting A Robust Social Media Strategic Plan for Professional Practice: Development,**

Intervention, and Advocacy Online. This workshop is an active-learning forum for delegates aiming to (a) move the evidence base, gathered over the past decade, into their development and implementation of a practice-based social media strategic plan, and (b) increase the safety and enjoyment of health professionals using social media as a communication intervention with clients and as a means to advocate for their client groups.

Bronwyn will also be giving a Keynote Address entitled **People with Communication Disability Striving, Thriving, and Surviving as Technology Advances** on the use of mainstream technologies, including smart home devices, virtual reality, social media, and 3D printing to improve the participation, inclusion, and safety of people with communication disability and dysphagia. [CLICK HERE](#) for her bio

ABSTRACTS for Profs Armstrong and Coffin's Keynote and Workshop

KEYNOTE

Improving services for Aboriginal Australians after brain injury: Current initiatives and findings to date

Recent research has provided insights from Aboriginal people with brain injury and their families around their journeys of recovery that involve geographical, cultural and linguistically diverse issues. One of the biggest barriers is communication, and without a culturally secure care in place, many Aboriginal Australians are simply not recovering to their full potential. The keynote address will explore the journeys of Aboriginal Australians after stroke and traumatic brain injury, highlighting ongoing challenges faced, as well as family and community resources that assist recovery, and new service initiatives aimed at improving access to rehabilitation. The presentation will also outline a program of research informed by Aboriginal people with brain injury and their families. The research involves the co-design of all new initiatives by Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal researchers, clinicians and Aboriginal community members. The presentation will provide the background to, findings to date

and current initiatives to improve service delivery including the WA based Healing Right Way clinical trial – the first of its kind in brain injury involving Aboriginal people specifically. The role of cultural security training of hospital staff and the employment of Aboriginal Brain Injury Coordinators throughout WA will be discussed, with implications for national practice proposed.

WORKSHOP 4

What does culturally secure brain injury care look like for Aboriginal Australians?

This workshop will provide participants with practical ways of implementing culturally secure practice with Aboriginal patients with brain injury in both acute and rehabilitation contexts. It will discuss the concept of cultural security (Coffin, 2007) in relation to brain injury. Cultural security refers to ensuring that Aboriginal cultural values, world views and ways of working are incorporated at each level and stage of the acute and rehabilitation service and that services will not compromise the legitimate cultural rights, values and expectations of Aboriginal people. During the workshop, institutional policies and procedures, team practices and individual attitudes will be discussed as they relate to the care of Aboriginal people after brain injury. Authentic clinical scenarios involving Aboriginal people with brain injury will be provided emanating from the Missing Voices and Healing Right Way projects. Participants will also be encouraged to present scenarios from their own work contexts and discuss both challenges and facilitators to culturally secure care in the brain injury context. Outcomes for workshop attendees:

1. Understanding of the concept of cultural security.
2. Practical ways forward for the implementation of culturally secure care for Aboriginal Australians with brain injury.
3. Ability to translate notions of cultural security to their own workplace.

Professor Beth Armstrong - Australia



Beth Armstrong will be co-presenting with Juli Coffin - giving a half-day workshop entitled: **What does culturally secure brain injury care look like for Aboriginal Australians?** and a keynote address entitled: **Improving**

services for Aboriginal Australians after brain injury: Current initiatives and findings to date. [CLICK HERE](#) for her bio

Professor Juli Coffin - Australia



Juli Coffin will be co-presenting with Beth Armstrong - giving a half-day workshop and a keynote address. [CLICK HERE](#) for her bio

Sponsorships are still open, if you wish to sponsor/partner with ASSBI [email Margaret](#)



Insurance Commission of Western Australia



UNSW SYDNEY

ASSBI's 44th Conference



#headstogether2021

The 44th Conference will be held in conjunction with INS and CCN and will be known as the 6th Pacific Rim

Conference. It will be run in Melbourne on 1st – 3rd July with workshops on 30th June 2021.

The theme of the conference is **Putting our heads together to change lives**

Co-Convenors for the conference are:
ASSBI Representative – Dana Wong
INS Representative – Travis Wearne
CCN Representative – Kerryn Pike
Steering Committee: Vicki Anderson, Jacinta Douglas and Simon Crowe.

Confirmed Presidential Addresses are from Olivier Piguet (ASSBI) and Skye McDonald (INS)

PUT THESE DATES INTO YOUR DIARY

Call for abstracts opens:

31st July 2020

Conference Workshops:

Wednesday 30th June 2021

Conference:

Thursday 1st – Saturday 3rd July 2021

If you are already on any of MERS Events' distribution list (run by Margaret Eagers) you need do nothing as you will be notified as usual. If you are not and want to be email mers@exemail.com.au

Past Workshops and Webinars are available for download as video files

#assbiworkshops

[CLICK HERE](#) to see more and order

Jessica Trevena-Peters, Jennie Ponsford, Adam McKay, Dana Wong, Neera Kapoor and Alinka Fisher have all presented full day training workshops and 90 min webinars over the last 2 years. If you missed this Continuing Education the first time around and would like to access it now please go to the website and order one or all of them.

BRAIN IMPAIRMENT

ASSBI's multidisciplinary Journal

To login to the BI site of CUP, just **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](#)

Call for EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST Social Media Editor – Brain Impairment

The Co-Editors of *Brain Impairment* are calling for expressions of interest for the new position of Social Media Editor for the journal. This is an honorary position on the Editorial Board with the aim of promoting the articles published in the journal via social media. The role will include responsibility for developing and implementing a plan for engaging with social media via various platforms and may include interviewing authors to create blogs, using twitter feeds to disseminate information about new articles, and maintaining a Facebook page. To submit your expression of interest please email Margaret at admin@assbi.com.au with a **brief one page outline of your experience in social media and potential initiatives that could be used to promote *Brain Impairment* through social media, as well as a copy of your CV.**

Jennifer Fleming and Grahame Simpson
Co-Editors

ASSBI RESOURCES

ASSBI Resources is going from strength to strength. Our website has been improved to provide more information about all our products (check it out!) and to make it more accessible to people searching for evidence-based resources on-line. We have now introduced PDF versions of most of our products for local buyers as well as overseas. These cost less than the printed versions making them even more affordable. With 10% off for ASSBI and INS members, there is simply no reason not to stock up!



ASSBI Resources is excited to announce its latest intervention resource. Programme for Engagement, Participation and Activities (PEPA): A manual to maximise opportunity to engage in leisure, social and community activities for people with acquired brain injury. Developed by our President Professor Emerita Robyn Tate along with Donna Wakim, Linda Sigmundsdottir, Wendy Longley and Michelle Genders. PEPA is a manualised approach to help clients with brain injury increase their engagement and participation in activities that they find meaningful. PEPA is a complete manual that provides the steps a clinician can take to assess their client, and then systematically help their client work towards an activity goal over an intensive five week period (with further goals thereafter as appropriate). PEPA is suitable to be used by any qualified and experienced health professional (e.g., neuropsychologist, occupational therapist, rehabilitation counsellor) with knowledge about brain injury. It is designed specifically for people with brain injury who have not been able to return to paid employment and who wish to increase their level of everyday activity, including recreation and social activity. [Read more and order here](#)

Non-members 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

BOOKS PUBLISHED

Books that have been published this year that may be of interest to ASSBI members below and on the [website](#)



Single-Case Experimental Designs for clinical research and neurorehabilitation settings: Planning, conduct, analysis and reporting by Robyn L. Tate and Michael Perdices [Click here to go directly to the site](#)



Rebuilding Life after Brain Injury by Sheena McDonald, Allan Little and Gail Robinson
The next book in Barbara A. Wilson's After Brain Injury: Survivor Stories
Click here for flyer and code to get a 20% discount. [Click here to go directly to the site](#)

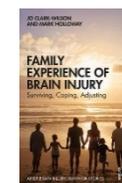
The authors were invited to the Edinburgh International Book Festival in August and there is a panel discussion on you tube talking about the book: [CLICK HERE](#) to hear this



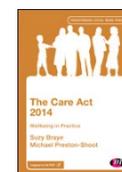
The Inpatient Functional Communication Interview: Screening, Assessment and Intervention by Robyn O'Halloran, Linda Worrall, Deborah Toffolo and Chris Code
[Click here for more information](#)



Reinventing Emma by Emma Gee
[Click here for more information](#)



Family Experience of Brain Injury: Surviving, Coping, Adjusting by Jo Clark-Wilson & Mark Holloway
[Click here for more information](#)



Mark Holloway has **Chapter 10: Hidden in plain sight: Social work, acquired brain injury and missed opportunities for change** in the UK textbook: **The Care**

Act 2014: Wellbeing in Practice Edited by Suzy Braye and Michael Preston-Shoot. [Click here for more information](#)

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](#)

ValiANT (Valued Living After Neurological Trauma) group program

Dr Dana Wong and team are currently recruiting participants for ValiANT which is being run at the La Trobe Psychology Clinic as part of a randomised controlled trial. ValiANT is designed to enhance psychological adjustment/wellbeing by focusing on valued living - i.e., participating in activities that are consistent with personal values - after acquired brain injury. It is a newly developed intervention that integrates cognitive rehabilitation (using evidence-based compensatory strategies) and psychological therapy (using techniques and principles from Acceptance and Commitment Therapy). Participation is free. It is for adults aged 18+ who:

- have had an **ABI** (including stroke, TBI or other non-degenerative ABI)
- could attend the **8-week program at the La Trobe Psychology Clinic** (in Bundoora, VIC)
- have experienced **cognitive and/or emotional changes post-ABI that have impacted on their participation in valued activities.**

Participants may be randomised to receive the intervention immediately or after a 4-month waiting period. However, we are using a 2:1 randomisation schedule which means that participants are more likely to receive the intervention straight away. If you would like to make a referral, please email valiant@latrobe.edu.au or call (03) 9479 1679. More info is also here: <https://www.latrobe.edu.au/psychology-clinic/services/group-programs/valiant-group>.

Memory-SuSTAIN study

Memory-SuSTAIN is a new study investigating methods for sustaining gains made in memory rehabilitation post-stroke. There is a memory group running at Austin Health (in Heidelberg, VIC) starting early in 2020. Participants can attend this group for

free and will then be offered one of three different 'maintenance' options. Referrals can be made for stroke survivors who are not Austin Health patients. If you know anyone who may be interested, please email through your referral to either Dr Dana Wong (d.wong@latrobe.edu.au) or Dr Jenny Bradshaw (Jennifer.BRADSHAW@austin.org.au) by the end of the year.

Assessment and management of early recovery after TBI

Just a quick reminder that Jennie Ponsford and her team still need clinicians to complete their survey. The survey will take approx. 15 mins to complete and all responses are completely anonymous. [CLICK HERE](#) to complete the survey.

Patient Reported Outcome Measures Project - Survey

We request your support to feedback on the way Patient Reported Outcome Measures (PROMs) are summarised and provided to hospitals and clinicians. We ask you to consider completing the following survey (further details below).

Patient reported outcome measures (PROMs) ask patients to assess elements of their own health, quality of life, and functioning. This information can be used to show how healthcare interventions and treatments affect these aspects of a person's day-to-day life.

Background:

The Victorian Agency for Health Information (VAHI) has appointed staff from the Public Health & Health Services Research group, Stroke Division, Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health to summarise the evidence base and facilitate a process to determine the best methods for future implementation of PROMs into quality improvement initiatives. A multidisciplinary project working group, met to discuss and refine PROMs feedback templates. Stroke has been used as a case study for this project, however, the broader scope of this work also includes other disease areas, clinical quality registries and clinical specialties collecting and reporting PROMs in routine practice.

Survey:

As part of the next stage of this project, we seek your assistance in further testing a selection of PROMs templates to determine those that are most readily understood and have greatest perceived utility. The survey can be accessed through <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/MFRHJ9>

H. The survey will be open until Friday 6th December. We thank you for your time and support with this important project.

If you have any questions or further comments, please contact: Violet Marion violet.marion@florey.edu.au or 03 9035 7080.

Thank you for your support with this work.

Kind regards,
Dominique Cadilhac

Investigating novel treatments for Alzheimer's disease and Mild Cognitive Impairment

Researchers at the Epworth Centre for Innovation in Mental Health (ECIMH) are exploring whether gentle brain stimulation can improve thinking and memory problems in individuals with Alzheimer's disease and in people who meet criteria for Mild Cognitive Impairment (MCI).

The two types of non-invasive stimulation we are investigating are transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS) and transcranial alternating current stimulation (tACS). TMS uses a magnetic pulse to increase activity in the brain. tACS is a gentle electrical stimulation that is self-administered in the comfort of your own home, following comprehensive training.

Participation may involve assessments of thinking and memory skills, questionnaires about daily activities, as well as recording of brain activity through electroencephalography (EEG).

We are seeking volunteers who

- Are aged 50 - 95 years
- Have a diagnosis of mild-to-moderate Alzheimer's disease **OR** meet criteria for MCI
- Are interested in participating

For more information, contact:

Dr Melanie Emonson
Phone: (03) 9805 4346
Email: melanie.emonson@monash.edu
Epworth Centre for Innovation in Mental Health
888 Toorak Rd, Camberwell VIC 3124
www.epworth.org.au/mentalhealth
These studies have been approved by The Alfred Human Research Ethics Committee (372/15; 480/16; 274/18) and Monash Health Human Research Ethics Committee (RES-18-0000646A).

Online tools to support communication skills after TBI

In 2020, a team from The University of Sydney, University of Technology Sydney, Brain Injury Australia and Changineers will

be developing new online tools to support communication skills after TBI. This project has received funding from the icare foundation. The tools will include an online course about communicating with someone after TBI, a learning module about using social media after TBI, and an online portal to support a person with TBI and their communication partner to complete a communication skills program. We will be looking for professionals experienced in working with people with TBI to help us design and test these tools. To receive updates about this project, please send an email to Rachael Rietdijk at rman7827@uni.sydney.edu.au.

Recruiting for CREST Concussion Study

The Neurotrauma team at Curtin University and the Perron Institute, led by Professor Lindy Fitzgerald, are currently recruiting participants for an exciting new study on concussion- the CREST Concussion REcovery STudy. This study is the largest of its kind in Western Australia and involves a range of techniques that are at the forefront of concussion research.

The aim of the study is to identify factors which may predict individuals at increased risk of delayed recovery following concussion to better manage treatment and improve recovery.

Within the past 48 hours have you sustained a concussion injury from any cause (e.g. falls, transport accidents, sports-related concussions), been diagnosed by a medical doctor and aged between 18-65 years?

For more information or to see if you are eligible, please emails concussionstudy@curtin.edu.au or phone 0466 526 849.

The 2019/2020 AOD National Workforce Survey

It's been over 10 years since the last national survey of the AOD workforce. The 2019/2020 AOD National Workforce Survey is an opportunity for AOD workers to share your views. Tell us about your what you do, how you experience your work, your wellbeing and professional development needs.

To complete the survey, click here.

The survey is open until early 2020 and takes about 15-20 minutes.

Your survey input will help provide the crucial insights to inform evidence-based policy, practices, programs and funding to support the AOD workforce.

The Survey will provide consistent insights for the AOD sector Australia-wide and complements workforce surveys conducted independently in each jurisdiction.

The survey is being conducted by the National Centre for Education and Training on Addiction (NCETA, Flinders University, funded by the Australian Government Department of Health.

All workers in the AOD sector are invited to participate, including those in client service, management, project, administration and other roles.

For more information about the survey contact the Project Manager Dr Natalie Skinner (natalie.skinner@flinders.edu.au) or go to the NCETA website.

All participants who complete the survey will go into a draw to win an iPad mini. Please feel free to forward this information and encourage your colleagues and work mates to participate.

COMPARE



"COMPARE RCT now at 90% recruitment!"

Do you know someone in Australia or New Zealand with aphasia after stroke (>6 months after stroke onset)? Would they be interested in participating in a study comparing two intensive aphasia therapies (Constraint induced aphasia therapy ; Multi-modality aphasia therapy)? Would they like the opportunity to contribute to the aphasia intervention evidence base and receive 30 hours of aphasia therapy?

Please contact us on **(03) 9479 2776**, compareaphasia@latrobe.edu.au or via our website www.latrobe.edu.au/COMPARE. Remaining spots filling fast.

Community-based rehabilitation for adults following traumatic brain injury (TBI)

Did you know the majority of people who experience a TBI will have some form of communication impairment, which for many presents as a cognitive-communication disorder (MacDonald and Wiseman-Hakes, 2010)? The purpose of this study is to explore the lived experiences of adults with cognitive-communication disorders following TBI as well as their significant others. We are seeking participants who have received speech pathology services in the community and are located in the Brisbane, Logan, Ipswich and Gold Coast areas (and surrounds) to participate in this study.

What is involved?

A Griffith University researcher will conduct a one-hour face-to-face interview at a

location convenient to the participants. During the interview participants will be asked to reflect on any experiences they have had receiving community-based rehabilitation services and their recommendations for future models of care for this population.

What next?

Health professionals are invited to share the details of this study with any clients they feel would be interested in participating. If you would like to participate or have any questions about the study please contact Crystal Kelly (ph: 0419568552, crystal.kelly@griffithuni.edu.au) GU ref no: 2019/512

Light Therapy for ABI Study

We are currently seeking **referrals** for a randomised controlled trial evaluating the impact of **in-home light therapy** on post-brain injury **fatigue**, as well as daytime sleepiness, sleep quality and mood. The study entails 7 study visits over a 5 to 6 month period in the participant's home and exposure to a tailored light therapy program. Ceiling lights and lamps are installed by a certified electrician, using participant's pre-existing fixtures.

It is for adults aged 18+ who:

- Have had a **TBI** (mild, moderate or severe) OR
- **Stroke**
- Reports experiencing significant **fatigue**
- Is 3+ months post-injury (participants may also be many years post-injury eg. 20-30 years).
- Lives within the greater **Melbourne** area (up to 2 hr drive).

The study has been developed at Monash University in conjunction with the Monash-Epworth Rehabilitation Research Centre (MERRC) by Professors Jennie Ponsford, Shantha Rajaratnam, Steven Lockley and myself. The project has been approved by the Epworth HealthCare Human Research Ethics Committee.

If you would like any further information or would like to refer a potential participant, please don't hesitate to contact me at laura.connolly@monash.edu or 0419 372 468.

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<https://www.assbi.com.au/World-Events>



Golberg Brain-Mind Symposia Present
Brain and Cognition in Health and Disease
17 - 21 February 2020
Bali, Indonesia



inspire
rehab &
psychology

Putting the pieces together: A practical approach to understanding and supporting people with cognitive and behavioural impairments after brain injury
18-20 February 2020

