

# ASSBI Newsletter

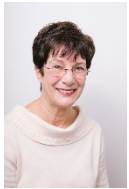
December 2020

Issue 73

Working together to improve the lives of people with brain impairment



## WORDS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



As I write my President's report for the final issue of ASSBI's Newsletter for the year, I am sure that you will agree with me that we look forward to putting 2020 behind us. Who would have thought that, just 12 months ago, we would experience the worst wildfires in Australia's history burning more than 12.6 million hectares, which would be eclipsed by the

COVID-19 pandemic with, at current count, 60.7 million confirmed cases worldwide and 1.4 million deaths. Australia and New Zealand have continued to be model countries in dealing with the pandemic and, at year's end, we welcome the reopening of our inter-state and territory borders, and look forward to soon being able to travel within the "Australia-New Zealand bubble". Particular mention is made of our Melburnian colleagues, who have recently emerged victorious from a crippling second wave of the virus. Tough lockdown measures were enforced for more than 110 days, with good community adherence, and a supportive and highly visible Premier who gave lengthy and candid press conferences for 120 consecutive days. We hope that the sky-rocketing rates of infections and deaths in other countries will be contained soon, particularly as the northern hemisphere enters its winter season.

Like many other businesses, the pandemic has had adverse consequences upon ASSBI's financial position. The annual conference, scheduled for Perth in May, had to be cancelled. This was a severe financial blow to the Society, given that the conference is our main source of revenue. But it could have been a lot worse. Thanks to our remarkable Executive Officer, Margaret Eagers, our Continuing Education Officer, Barbara Zupan, and ASSBI Resources Manager, Skye McDonald, an excellent series of diverse and well-attended webinars was scheduled throughout the remainder of the year. This was marketed as ASSBI Conference Bite Size, thus allowing ASSBI to continue offering its (always highly acclaimed) professional development programme. Particular thanks are also due to the webinar speakers, not only for the high standard of their presentations, but also for foregoing payment for the webinars.

The ASSBI Committee has been extra busy this year planning for a review of the Society. An important first step in the process was a survey of the membership (see the September 2020 Newsletter for a summary of the survey results). We have had various working parties to advance this process, and I thank Jacinta Douglas, Olivier Piguat and Dana Wong for working with me to develop the survey items; and also Olivier, Jacinta, Dana, Nicci Grace and Clare Ramsden for their subsequent input into synthesising the results into a detailed report. This report has been discussed at length by the entire Committee. The next step has been the formation of another Working Party, with Jacinta, Olivier, Jennie Ponsford, Tamara Ownsworth, Janet Wagland, Margaret Eagers and myself, which will take the report and Committee discussions and

develop goals for a review for consideration by the Committee. These activities will carry over into next year and I will keep you updated via the Newsletter.

Other activities have included instating a new social media team specifically formed to promote our journal, *Brain Impairment* (see this Newsletter for details), and student activity, coordinated by Jonathan Reyes. ASSBI's encouragement and support of students and early career clinicians and researchers were identified in our membership survey as being worthwhile areas to expand, as is ASSBI's role in greater inclusion of people with lived experience with brain impairment. So you can expect to see further development of ASSBI's role in these areas.

As I mentioned in the September Newsletter, one of the most encouraging outcomes of the review was the positive endorsement of ASSBI being a welcoming community that is friendly, approachable, generous, inclusive, supportive, and collegiate; a society where members feel a sense of belonging. This sets ASSBI aside from many other professional organisations and makes us especially proud of our Society. I thank both the Committee and the wider membership who make ASSBI what it is. On that note, I take this opportunity to send you season's greetings and let us all welcome in 2021 in a big way.

My very best wishes to you all,

Robyn Tate

President

## CEO'S REPORT



Please enjoy this newsletter and don't forget to get copy for the March Newsletter to me by 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

You can download an application form for President Elect [here](#). Applications close on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and will be announced at the AGM which will be held via Zoom on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021. An invitation to the AGM will be sent out next year. Application form to apply to be ASSBI's next President Elect [here](#). Applications close on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020 and will be announced at the AGM which will be held via Zoom on 6<sup>th</sup> May 2021. An invitation to the AGM will be sent out next year.

Call for Abstracts and Registration is now OPEN for the 6<sup>th</sup> Pacific Rim Conference which is ASSBI's 2021 conference \$10,000 worth of student grants are available thanks to the Melbourne Convention Bureau [Click here](#)

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish all members and associates of ASSBI a very merry Christmas and a wonderful 2021, hopefully it will be better than this year has been 😊

Cheers, Margaret Eagers, CEO

## 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 Travis via [assbisocialmedia@gmail.com](mailto:assbisocialmedia@gmail.com).

## WEBSITE

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>

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 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 INTERNATIONAL 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](mailto:admin@assbi.com.au).  
*Matthew, Webmaster's sidekick*

## GOOD NEWS STORY

A serious spinal cord injury in the 90s left Dean bound to his bed. His functions declining over the years, the 51-year-old spent his days eating, sleeping, having a bed bath, changing his urinary bag and watching television. Better Rehab Occupational Therapists Emily and Danielle have been working diligently alongside Dean's support coordinators and equipment suppliers from AusTech medical to improve his quality of life. They conducted research to explore his options for a power wheelchair (PWC), eventually coordinating a date to trial a chair from Permobil. "The trial took over 3 hours to script the chair to Dean's anthropometrics, get him on the power wheelchair, check the chair fit within his home, and explore switch options to ensure he could drive the chair," Emily said.

After an application to the NDIS, funding approval and training, Dean was given his Permobil Power Wheelchair, which he could independently control using ergonomic switches. With his right arm positioned at his chest, he can navigate the PWC forwards and backwards, while head switches facilitate side-to-side movement. A final switch, behind his elbow, allows him to adjust modes, including wheelchair speed and position.

In June, for the first time in 20 years, Dean was able to get out of bed.

"I felt independent and like I was 17 again – driving a car for the first time," he said. "I felt freedom - like I could go anywhere at any time."

Emily said Dean has redefined possible and the progress he has made is remarkable.

"When we first met Dean, he was bedbound, only leaving his bed in the ambulance plinth to go to the hospital," she said. "Dean's wheelchair is brand new - he has now been able to use it on three occasions in which he was able to spend time in the sun, visit neighbours down his street, see a rainbow, see his backyard for the first time in twenty years and have a tea party on his back patio."

[Click here to meet Dean](#)

Better Rehab is an NDIS- registered allied health provider with branches across Australia. For more information on the services they provide, visit [www.betterrehab.com.au](http://www.betterrehab.com.au).

Better Rehab  
1300 0 REHAB  
[www.betterrehab.com.au](http://www.betterrehab.com.au)

## NEW PUBLISHED ARTICLE

This is the Douglas/Tate winning article for 2019  
*Third-Wave Therapies for Long-Term Neurological Conditions: A Systematic Review to Evaluate the Status and Quality of Evidence*  
Paula L. Robinson, Ailsa Russell and Leon Dysch  
Brain Impairment  
<https://www.cambridge.org/core/terms>.  
<https://doi.org/10.1017/BrImp.2019.2>

### What the study is about

Adults with long term neurological conditions can face complex challenges including anxiety and depression. Emerging research suggests the utility of third wave approaches (the third development of psychotherapies) in working transdiagnostically with these difficulties.

### What we did

This systematic review sought to summarise and appraise the quality of published empirical studies using third wave therapies such as: Compassion Focused Therapy (CFT); Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT); and Mindfulness-Based Cognitive Therapy (MBCT) or Mindfulness-Based Stress Reduction (MBSR). Review procedures followed PRISMA guidelines, with 437 abstracts screened, 24 full-text articles retrieved and 19 studies found to meet inclusion criteria. Six out of seven randomised studies had unclear or high risk of bias, whilst the majority of non-randomised studies were considered moderate quality.

### What we found

Overall, studies reported a statistically significant reduction in emotional distress. Of the 13 studies that used model-specific process measures, 10 found statistically significant improvements in transdiagnostic factors. The findings indicate that third wave therapies show promise in addressing transdiagnostic difficulties within neurological conditions. A number of methodological and conceptual issues for the included studies were highlighted during the quality appraisal process. Clinical implications include consideration of intervention length and use of outcome measures. Research implications are discussed by considering the progressive stages of development for behavioural treatments.

## BRAIN IMPAIRMENT



### ASSBI's multidisciplinary Journal

Our journal *Brain Impairment* is happy to introduce our social media editors



Dr Nicholas Behn, Dr Melissa Brunner and Dr Louisa Selvadurai. They have already been busy at work setting up a Twitter account @BrainImpairment and starting to share some of the high-quality pieces of research that have published in the journal. Please follow the journal and stay tuned for more news.

To login to the BI site of CUP, **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

If you would like to see someone give a workshop or webinar in your State or know of anyone who you would like to see 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 complementary registration, just like Danielle Sansonetti did when she suggested Barbara Wilson.

## ASSBI 2020 Conference Bite Size! A Series of Webinars

**ASSBI 2020 Conference Bite Size!**  
**9 webinars from May to November 2020 via Zoom**  
 How to plan and implement single-case designs Part 1 & 2 - Robyn Tate  
 Pediatric telehealth - perspectives from research and practice - Hodge & Sutherland  
 Digital technologies in neuro assessment and rehabilitation - Beadle, Ownsworth, Kelly, Topping & Brunner  
 Managing people with brain injury at home - McDonald, Fisher, Cameron, Wegener & Bohan  
 Investigating social cognition in dementia syndromes - Oliver Jagot  
 Improving services for Aboriginal Australians after brain injury - Armstrong & Coffin  
 What works for training communication partners of people with TBI? - Together & Fieldtk  
 How to evaluate mainstream and emerging technologies - Callaway & Simpson  
 Fridays 1.00 - 2.00 or 1.00 - 2.30  
 Proudly brought to you by **IPSEN** | NEUROSCIENCE

All of these webinars as well as many more are now available in the [ASSBI Online Store](#)

## ASSBI 2021 Series of Webinars

**60 minute webinars – all times mentioned are SYD/MEL time**

- 

19<sup>th</sup> February – 1pm – 2pm *Title to be confirmed*  
**Dr Matire Harwood, NZ**  
[Register](#)
- 

19<sup>th</sup> March – 1pm – 2pm entitled: *Better together: Enhancing family-centred care during rehabilitation for children with acquired brain injury*  
**Dr Sarah Knight, Australia**  
[Register](#)
- 

16<sup>th</sup> April – 5pm – 6pm entitled: *Technology to support remembering and goal management: Can an ApplTree improve my PM?*  
**Prof Jon Evans, Glasgow, UK**  
[Register](#)
- 

21<sup>st</sup> May – 5pm – 6pm entitled: *Helping others: finding meaning in projects for people with brain injury*  
**Dr Nick Behn, London, UK**  
[Register](#)
- 

18<sup>th</sup> June – 1pm – 2pm *Title to be confirmed*  
**Prof Sharon Naismith, Australia**  
[Register](#)
- 

20<sup>th</sup> August – 1pm – 2.30pm entitled: *Help Disrupt the Isolation Industry* by **Caleb Rixon and GenYus Network**  
**This is a free 90-minute webinar**  
[REGISTER HERE VIA ZOOM](#)
- 

17<sup>th</sup> September – 1pm – 2pm entitled: *Recognising and managing mild TBIs in the community*  
**Dr Alice Theadom, NZ**  
[Register](#)
- 

15<sup>th</sup> October – 1pm – 2pm entitled: *An occupation-based approach to facilitating self-awareness after TBI*  
**Prof Jennifer Fleming, Australia**  
[Register](#)



19<sup>th</sup> November – 1pm – 2pm entitled: *Treating social cognitive deficits after brain injury*  
**Ms Anneli Cassel, Australia**  
[Register](#)

Click on the [Home Page](#) to see abstracts, speakers bios and register <https://mers.cventevents.com/ASSBIwebinars>

## ASSBI CONFERENCES

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

## ASSBI's 44<sup>th</sup> Conference 6<sup>th</sup> Pacific Rim Conference

**6<sup>th</sup> Pacific Rim Conference**  
 Melbourne, Australia  
 30 June – 3 July 2021  
 #headstogether2021  
 Putting Our HEADS TOGETHER TO CHANGE LIVES

The 44<sup>th</sup> Conference will be held in conjunction with INS and CCN and will be known as the 6<sup>th</sup> Pacific Rim Conference. It will be run as a hybrid conference both in Melbourne and virtually via CVENT's Virtual Attendee Hub on 1– 3 July preceded by a consumer afternoon on 29<sup>th</sup> and workshops on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021. Home Page: <https://mers.cventevents.com/6thpacificrim>

**THE CONFERENCE WILL BE A HYBRID CONFERENCE and the call for abstracts is OPEN** so finish your work year by [submitting your abstract HERE](#)

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

**The convenors anticipate that people living in Australia will attend face 2 face. Streaming registration is restricted to international delegates at this stage**

If you submit an abstract for a face to face presentation and circumstances change (i.e. travel restrictions) we will endeavor to accommodate you so submit.

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.

## AMONG THE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS ARE

### Sarah E. MacPherson



who is an Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology at the University of Edinburgh, UK. She earned her PhD in Cognitive Neuropsychology from the Department of Psychology, University of Aberdeen, UK and then received postdoctoral training at Department of Psychology, University of Aberdeen, UK and the Institute of Cognitive Neuroscience, University College London, UK. Since 2006, she has worked at the Human Cognitive Neuroscience Unit at University of Edinburgh. Her research focuses on the neuropsychological assessment of frontal lobe functions including executive functions, social cognition and memory. Her research is mainly conducted through the study of

patients with focal frontal lobe lesions or neurodegenerative conditions, as well as healthy older adults. She has developed the more recent version of the Cognitive Estimation Test (CET, MacPherson et al., 2014) and the Edinburgh Social Cognition Test (ESCoT, Baksh et al., 2018). She has authored over 65 papers in peer reviewed journals as well as co-authoring, "The Handbook of Frontal Lobe Assessment" (2015) and co-editing the book, "Cases of Amnesia: Contributions to Understanding Memory and the Brain" (2019).

Sarah's workshop is entitled: *Executive function assessments as cognitive markers of pathological aging: Evidence from healthy aging and dementia*

and Keynote Address is entitled: *Frontal lobe assessment: Where are we now?*

## Rene Stolwyk



is a clinical neuropsychologist based at the Turner Institute for Brain and Mental Health at Monash University in Melbourne, Australia. A/Professor Stolwyk has extensive clinical experience working in stroke rehabilitation, including at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Queen Square, London. He is the founder and clinical lead of the Monash TeleNeuropsychology Service, a world first initiative using digital health technology to open up much needed neuropsychological assessment and rehabilitation services to rural neurology patients throughout Australia.

Dr Stolwyk is convenor of the Clinical PhD in Clinical Neuropsychology training program at Monash University. He leads a team of highly-skilled educators providing excellence in clinical training to the next generation of Australian neuropsychologists. From a research perspective, Dr Stolwyk leads the stroke and telehealth research theme within the Monash-Epworth Rehabilitation Research Centre. He supervises a team of 12 research fellows, research officers and doctoral students and has published over 50 scientific works aimed at improving outcomes for survivors of brain injury.

Rene's Workshop is entitled: *Zooming into the details: a practical guide to conducting assessments of cognition, language and mood using telehealth*

and his Keynote Address is entitled: *From Kanyapella to the COVID ward and beyond: past, present and future applications of telehealth within brain injury rehabilitation*

## Six half-day 6 Workshops on 30<sup>th</sup> June

**Workshop 1 (9am)** Neil H. Pliskin: *The shocking truth about electrical injuries*

**Workshop 2 (9am)** Sarah E. MacPherson: *Executive function assessments as cognitive markers of pathological aging: Evidence from healthy aging and dementia*

**Workshop 3 (9am)** Vicki Anderson, Michael Takagi, Vanessa Rausa, Katie Davies, Gavin Davis: *Accelerating recovery from child concussion requires a collaborative multidisciplinary approach*

**Workshop 4 (1pm)** Rene Stolwyk and Wendy Kelso: *Zooming into the details: a practical guide to conducting assessments of cognition, language and mood using telehealth*

**Workshop 5 (1pm)** Kylie Radford and Terry Donovan: *Wisdom, memories and connections: Towards a more holistic approach to neuropsychology with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples*

**Workshop 6 (1pm)** Emma Power: *Implementation of face to face and online communication partner training programs in ABI: A step by step clinical implementation workshop*

## 3 Mini-Masterclasses on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> July

**Masterclass 1 (7.30am)** Fiona Fisher, Jen Bradshaw and James Howe - *Understanding the Victorian Voluntary Assisted Dying Act 2017: Considerations and conundrums*

**Masterclass 2 (7.30am)** Natasha Lannin and Sophie O'Keefe - *State of the Evidence Masterclass on Effective Vocational Rehabilitation after Brain Impairment*

**Masterclass 3 (7.30am)** Katie Douglas and Richard Porter - *Interventions for Cognitive Impairment in Mood Disorders*

Confirmed Presidential Addresses are from Professor Olivier Piguet (ASSBI), Professor Skye McDonald (INS) and Dr Amy Scholes (CCN)

## PUT THESE DATES INTO YOUR DIARY

Call for abstracts

OPEN

Closes: 7<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Early bird closes: 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2021

Consumer Event: Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Consumer Focused Afternoon:

Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Conference Workshops:

Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2021

Conference: Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> – Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2021

If you are already on any of MERS Events' distribution lists or the ASSBI list (run by Margaret Eagers) you need do nothing as you will be notified as usual. If you are not and want to be then drop an email to [mers@exemail.com.au](mailto:mers@exemail.com.au)

## ASSBI's 45<sup>th</sup> Conference

#assbi2022

The 45<sup>th</sup> Conference will be held in Perth on 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022. Dr Mathilde Chevignard, Prof Lynne Turner-Stokes and Prof Bronwyn Hemsley, Prof Beth Armstrong and Prof Juli Coffin are keynote speakers.

## Past Workshops and Webinars are available for download #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 and Neera Kapoor and Caroline van Heugten 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 [ASSBI ONLINE STORE](#)

## WORLD EVENTS

ASSBI is happy to advertise your Workshop, Webinar, Conference on this page. If you want to advertise here email Margaret. The only cost is that you advertise our conference on your page – EASY!

Events being held in Australia and around the world streamed or live by INS, BIA, NR-SIG-WFNR and other organisations can be found by clicking on the undernoted link <https://www.assbi.com.au/World-Events>

## ASSBI RESOURCES

Our online store has been very busy with over 168 orders being placed since we opened earlier this year. We now have a shopping cart which makes it super easy to buy our resources on-line for members and non-members alike. To get members price (10%

## ASSBI EVENTS

[2021 LIVE Webinars](#)

[FREE LIVE Webinar](#)

[FREE Pre-Recorded Webinars](#)

[2021 CONFERENCE](#)

## WORLD EVENTS

This page is for Australian based non-ASSBI events as well as World Events

### 2<sup>nd</sup> CCD Symposium



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



[And lots more.....](#)

discount) login to the ASSBI website first. Also if you want to purchase the pdf or the UK version tick that option please If you go to the resources page you will find a great range of evidence-based resources for assessing, managing and/or and treating many different kinds of disorders arising from brain impairment. We have professionally produced manuals and kits that we can post to you (if in Australia) or, if you prefer, you can receive a PDF of the resource with any accompanying files if required. You can also find recordings of some of our most popular webinars. This year, to date we have sold over 100 items. Check it out!

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 now some FREE webinars which showcase some of our kits [CLICK HERE](#)  
*Skye McDonald, Resources Manager*

## Book

This recently published book by Dr Jeffrey Baron Levi contains practical and Innovative strategies to train clients with Traumatic Brain Injury to compensate for their deficits and to function independently in their environments. The book is the result of 30 years of working directly with clients in Sydney and. NSW who were

## ASSBI STUDENTS

Applications have opened for the 2021 student ambassador programme. [To apply click on this link](#)

The three student representatives on the 6<sup>th</sup> Pacific Rim Conference committee are putting together two events during the programme – a lunchtime workshop of one hour and a 90-minute symposium. There will also be a complementary networking event on the Thursday evening for all attending **students and early career delegates**.

There are also \$10,000 worth of grants available and each of the 3 Associations have Awards.

To find out about these opportunities proceed to the [Conference Website](#)

The student ambassador teams have continued to organise more ASSBI student events throughout the year around Australia and New Zealand!  
Student teams from Tasmania have recently held their ASSBI student event with great success! You can read more about the student events below:

### Tasmania Launceston

Team Tasmania (Sarah Skromanis, Rachel Breen and Jaclyn Kosta) hosted their first ASSBI event for 2020 on August 14th. The Online Panel Discussion and Q&A, which was attended by undergraduate and postgraduate students from varying disciplines, as well as by individuals from the community (including disability support workers, individuals with an ABI and family members of individuals with an ABI), was a great success. Four speakers delivered some wonderful presentations focusing on their work in the brain injury space. The speakers included a researcher, the Executive Officer of the Tasmanian Brain Injury Association (BIAT), a clinical neuropsychologist and a paediatrician who spoke about her experience as a mother of someone who had sustained an ABI and how that had impacted her clinical practice. Following the presentations, attendees were able to comment and ask questions of each of the speakers. Everyone left knowing a little bit more about some of the work that is happening in Tasmania around brain injury, as well as the important mission of ASSBI and how they can become involved. Overall, the event was a great success.

Jonathan Reyes, Student Co-ordinator

experiencing problems with organisation, memory, learning and problem solving.

The book is available through Springer or local suppliers  
Baron Levi, J. (2020) *The Hairy Bokie and other Metacognitive Strategies*. Springer: New York

## 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](#)

The Award, named after Professor Franz Gerstenbrand in recognition of his contribution to neurorehabilitation, recognises and rewards a neurorehabilitation project that has benefited patients. It is open to WFNR members and non-members worldwide.

The entries for the WFNR Award must demonstrate a difference to patient outcomes and can involve any aspect of neurorehabilitation, such as a patient or clinic management initiative, research project, best practice development or the use of a new technological development. Entries are encouraged from individuals under the age of 35 years who are clinicians, researchers or allied health professionals and currently working in neurorehabilitation. The work described must be completed and have already produced results, or been published in the last 12 months.

The Award is for a travel bursary to a clinical/scientific conference, professional development course or research project. For further information and an application form please visit: <http://wfnr.co.uk/education-and-research/wfnr-award/>

**For further information, please contact:**

Louise Blakeborough

T: +44 (0) 7831 444789

E: [lblakeborough@chapterfive.co.uk](mailto:lblakeborough@chapterfive.co.uk)

**Have you ever wondered whether older adults' performance on cognitive testing reflects their actual abilities?**

My name is Giverny Parker and I am completing a PhD in Clinical Psychology at Griffith University, under the supervision of Professor Tamara Ownsworth.

My research seeks to understand the various factors that might contribute to older adults' performance on cognitive tests and practices which may help to facilitate their optimal performance. Such insights may contribute to practice recommendations for health professionals conducting cognitive assessments with older adults.

To help us achieve this important objective, please consider participating in a 15-minute survey on your perceptions and practices regarding cognitive assessment of older adults.

Any health professional with experience in conducting cognitive assessments with older adults is eligible to participate.

The study has received ethical clearance by Griffith University's Human Research Ethics Committee (GU HREC Ref No: 2020/636).

Participation is voluntary and your responses will be anonymous.

You will be invited to enter a random prize draw to win **1 of 5 x \$50**

[Amazon.com.au](https://www.amazon.com.au) eGift Cards.

If you are interested in learning more and taking part, please click on the weblink below:

<https://prodsurvey.rcs.griffith.edu.au/prodIs200/index.php/648918?lang=en>

Please also consider forwarding this newsletter to any colleagues who you think may be interested in participating.

Giverny Parker

Psychologist and HDR Candidate – Doctor of Philosophy (Clinical Psychology)

School of Applied Psychology, Griffith University, Mt Gravatt, Australia

Ph: +61 (0)7 3735 3304

e: [giverny.parker@griffithuni.edu.au](mailto:giverny.parker@griffithuni.edu.au)

**Survey of rehabilitation professionals' experiences of social media use after acquired brain injury (ABI)**

Dr Melissa Brunner and Prof Leanne Togher are conducting a survey and are interested in hearing from health professionals who work with people in rehabilitation after ABI, who are willing to take part in research about the use of social media.

This survey specifically aims to determine:

- How social media is used during rehabilitation after ABI;
- Any problems people with ABI experience in using social media;
- Barriers and facilitators to using social media in ABI rehabilitation; and
- The role of health professionals in supporting the use of social media in ABI rehabilitation.

The survey will take approximately 30 minutes to complete and will provide information about the current and future scope of practice with regards to using social media after an ABI, as well as the enablers and barriers to supporting people in its use.

Findings from this research will further inform rehabilitation pathways, including the design and development of online tools and resources, to support people with ABI in their use of social media as a form of communication, and to provide guidance for rehabilitation professionals in clinical practice.

The participant information statement and consent form are available via the survey link:

<https://redcap.sydney.edu.au/surveys/?s=8PMLKJ8MYH>

Please contact Melissa if you have any questions about the study.

Ethics Approval/Reference Number: 2020/510

Contact Name: Melissa Brunner

Email: [melissa.brunner@sydney.edu.au](mailto:melissa.brunner@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 7 days 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 email [concussionstudy@curtin.edu.au](mailto:concussionstudy@curtin.edu.au) or phone 0466 526 849.

**Memory-SuSTAIN program**

Referrals are now open for **stroke survivors experiencing memory difficulties anywhere in Australia** to participate in a **telehealth memory group** as part of the Memory-SuSTAIN study being run through La Trobe and Monash Universities. This includes:

- A FREE 6-week memory skills group run by a clinical neuropsychologist via Zoom
- After completing the memory group, participants will receive either:
  - Booster sessions with a clinical neuropsychologist using Zoom
  - SMS/email reminders of helpful memory strategies OR
  - No further treatment (i.e., usual practice)
- Participants will also complete a series of assessments over Zoom to measure outcomes.

If you have anyone you would like to refer, please contact Dr David Lawson (research officer) on [d.lawson@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:d.lawson@latrobe.edu.au) or principal investigator Dr Dana Wong on [d.wong@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:d.wong@latrobe.edu.au)

### **Speech pathology for adults following traumatic brain injury (TBI)**

Our research team is exploring the lived experiences of adults when receiving speech pathology services in community settings (e.g. community-rehabilitation services, day hospital, private practice). The study is open to adults following TBI and/or their significant others who received services in Australia or New Zealand and involves a one hour interview using video conferencing. All participants can go into a draw to win a \$50 Coles/Myer or Farmers voucher. For more information about the study go to <https://sites.google.com/griffithuni.edu.au/speechpathologystudy/home> or contact Crystal Kelly ([crystal.kelly@griffith.edu.au](mailto:crystal.kelly@griffith.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 5-6 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](mailto:laura.connolly@monash.edu) or 0419 372 468. [Download the flyer here](#)

**Monash University is seeking the views and experience of health practitioners who have treated and supported individuals recovering from major trauma injury.** Many people have long-term ongoing rehabilitation needs after they sustain major trauma injury. There are a number of rehabilitation services that may be needed. The purpose of this study is to understand the experiences of practitioners delivering services to people who have returned to the community following major trauma and require ongoing assistance.

#### **How can you help?**

If you are a practitioner who has helped at least one person to 'get back on track' after a major trauma injury, we'd like you to complete a 15-minute online survey about your experience. The survey is completed anonymously, and will ask you questions about:

The types of services you provide to major trauma survivors

- Your confidence in providing these services
- What training, education and/or support you have when treating major trauma survivors
- Whether there are difficulties in providing access to your services, and

- The methods you use to provide any of your services (e.g. telehealth). We are keen to hear from a wide range of health practitioners, including:
  - Allied Health Assistants
  - Counsellors
  - Exercise Physiologists
  - General Practitioners
  - Neurologists
  - Nurses
  - Occupational Therapists
  - Personal Care Attendants
  - Physiotherapists
  - Psychiatrists
  - Psychologists
  - Rehabilitation Consultant/Physicians
  - Vocational Rehabilitation Counsellors
  - Social Workers
  - Speech Therapists
  - *AND* any other practitioners who are assisting individuals with major trauma injury

### **How do you participate?**

To go to the survey, follow the link: <http://tiny.cc/yc1jdz>

To complete the survey by telephone, call (03) 9902 0272 when ready, or email [injury.ruralresearch@monash.edu](mailto:injury.ruralresearch@monash.edu) to arrange a time for call-back.

The project has been approved by the Monash University Human Research Ethics Committee (MUHREC). Project ID number: 18016.

### **Latest updates from the co-designed CyberABILITY project**

While cybercams can happen to anyone, people with ABI may be more at risk. Social restrictions due to Covid-19 have led to people spending more time online, and unfortunately, reports of cybercams have soared during this time. This year, Dr Kate Gould and her research team at Monash University have been listening to the stories of people with ABI and their family members who have generously offered to speak about their cybercam experiences. Thank you to everyone in the ASSBI community who has taken part. The findings reinforced that romance scams are one of the key scam types for people with ABI, and that they cause both financial loss and distress for the person with ABI as well as conflict with their families. Family members said they struggled to help the person with ABI recognise the scam and stop engaging with the scammer. A clear need was identified for tailored ways to help people with ABI learn about staying safe online. The CyberABILITY team is grateful to receive funding from the TAC Small Grants program which will enable the creation of an online cybersafety training program designed with and for people with ABI. The inclusion of videos of individuals sharing their lived experiences of scams after ABI will be a powerful and relatable method to help people understand and connect with the importance of cyberscam prevention. There will be opportunities for people with ABI to help with the design and trialling of the online resources.

If you would like to know more about the project, stay up to date, or get involved, please register your interest at [www.cyberability.org.au](http://www.cyberability.org.au).

You can also follow Dr Kate Gould on twitter: @THINKFULLY\_ and follow our hashtag #CyberAbility