

# ASSBI Newsletter

December 2021

Issue 77

Working together to improve the lives of people with brain impairment



## WORDS FROM YOUR PRESIDENT



It gives me considerable pleasure to start this entry with some good news. It looks like the wish expressed in the closing paragraph of my last 'Word from the President' was granted: With the help of a sustained and combined effort to promote the importance of COVID-19 vaccination and expanded infrastructure at multiple levels (federal, State, communities), the proportion of people fully vaccinated is reaching levels (80-90%) that are the envy of many countries around the world (although with considerable variability between urban and regional/remote areas). As a result, people living in Australia are slowly enjoying renewed freedom. Freedom to travel, freedom to engage in physical, social and sporting activities, and, most importantly, freedom to meet with loved ones, friends and families face to face. For many, it will also be the first opportunity to travel overseas and come back without having to quarantine in over 600 days.

Once again, the importance of direct social and physical contacts is not to be underestimated. As reported by many around the world, social interactions have wide ranging benefits that include mental as well as physical health, improved cognition, improved immune system and lower stress levels. We are, and will remain, social animals in need of social interactions.

Pleasingly, the importance and contributions of social interactions to our general wellbeing is also recognised by clinicians and researchers working in the field of brain impairment. Indeed, reviewing the articles published in the past 12 months in *Brain Impairment*, the journal of ASSBI, no fewer than 25% of accepted submissions covered a topic related to some of aspects of social functioning, such as caregiver support (Wallace et al., doi:10.1017/Brlmp.2021.5) compassion and unmet needs (Hennessy & Sullivan), moral cognition (Lloyd et al., doi:10.1017/Brlmp.2021.7), reflection on professional practice (Whiffin & Ellis-Hill, doi:10.1017/Brlmp.2021.14), or working memory and emotions (Byom et al., doi:10.1017/Brlmp.2021.20), in clinical populations as varied as traumatic brain injury, stroke, Parkinson's disease and multiple sclerosis. If you haven't done so already, I invite you to read these papers which demonstrate the importance of this topic in clinical practice. More broadly, these articles highlight the breadth and quality of studies published in *Brain Impairment*, which has enjoyed a marked increase in its impact factor (from 0.96 in 2018 to 1.73 in 2020), an increase that is almost twice as large as similar journals and reflecting its quality and increasing standing in the field.

Finally, as we are fast approaching the end of the year and the festive season, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all of you ASSBI members for your continuing support of the

society and to the ASSBI committee at large for your ongoing contributions and for helping steer this ship during what has been an interesting time (understatement of the year).

Wishing you all a prosperous and healthy 2022 and looking forward to seeing you all in person in May at the 45<sup>th</sup> annual ASSBI conference in Perth.

Olivier Piguet, President

## Executive Officer'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 2022.

15<sup>th</sup> March 2022 is the closing date for applications to be a part of the ASSBI Committee, Treasurer or Secretary. [Click here for a nomination form.](#)

I would like to wish you all a very merry Christmas and hope you have a brilliant 2022. Hopefully I'll see all your lovely faces in Perth in May next year. We will have some really great news for you about the 2023 conference shortly too.

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](mailto:assbisocialmedia@gmail.com).

Lizzie Beadle and Travis Wearne – Social Media Officers

## WEBSITE

It is now possible to order a pdf of most of the manuals/kits and workshops/webinars and receive the pdf by return email (if paid for at the time of ordering)

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](#) 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](#) so she can put your payment through. NO INTERNATIONAL 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](mailto:admin@assbi.com.au).  
Matthew, Webmaster's sidekick

## NEWS

Dr Dana Wong is now Associate Professor Dana Wong.  
Congratulations from all your friends and colleagues at ASSBI

Our friends at @The Brain Injury Association of Tasmania are launching an amazing project and initiative to assist people living with brain injury.

The National Assistance Card has key information about a person with brain injury, their disability related difficulties and ways they can be assisted.

The card can assist people with brain injury to feel more confident in everyday social situations, reduce the need for cardholders to continually explain the effects of their brain injury and increase community understanding of brain injury.

BIAT is currently accepting expressions of interest for the National Assistance Card ahead of its release in early December.

Click the following link to learn more and express your interest:  
<https://bit.ly/3CZl4xC>

## NOMINATIONS ARE OPEN FOR ASSBI Committee as well as Treasurer and Secretary

To nominate for any of these roles please [complete a nomination form](#) and email to ASSBI's Executive Officer prior to 15<sup>th</sup> March 2022

### Please note:

- it is a requirement that the Treasurer is based in Victoria
- you must be a financial member of ASSBI
- you must be seconded by a financial member of ASSBI

If you have any questions, please contact Margaret Eagers ([admin@assbi.com.au](mailto:admin@assbi.com.au))

caregivers, and the other about the relationship between vocal affect recognition and psychosocial functioning in severe TBI. Other original research articles include a prospective cohort study of the assessment of cognition and behaviour during PTA, and a study profiling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adults with stroke and TBI from a regional hospital. Plus the issue includes studies of novel assistive technology interventions for brain injury and dementia.

As we wrap up another year of the journal, we extend our gratitude to the Editorial Board members and reviewers who have contributed reviews in 2021 (see the full list in the journal). Without your valuable intellectual input, we would not have such a high quality journal.

Our social media editors have started sharing author-generated multimedia via our Twitter account [@BrainImpairment](#). You can see an example [Tweet](#) on our feed where authors have shared an infographic about their publication that explains the co-design of a new open employment pathway for people with ABI. Also, don't forget to check out the new look ASSBI journal webpages here <https://assbi.com.au/Journal-BIM> and follow the journal [@BrainImpairment](#) on Twitter to stay up-to-date.

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  
Nick, Liss and Louisa – Social Media Editors*

## STUDENT INFORMATION

### ASSBI STUDENT AMBASSADORS

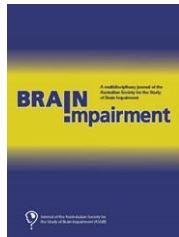
The student ambassador teams have continued to organise more ASSBI student events throughout the year around Australia!

For more updates on these events with photos click [here](#)

**To apply for the role of Student National Coordinator and find out more about the benefits of the role, go to: [ASSBI Applicant Portal](#)**

If you have any questions, please contact Jonathan Reyes ([Jonathan.reyes@monash.edu](mailto:Jonathan.reyes@monash.edu)).

## BRAIN IMPAIRMENT



### ASSBI's multidisciplinary Journal

Issue 22.3 of *Brain Impairment* will be out in December. If you missed the Presidential Address by ASSBI President Olivier Piguet at the conference, "Dazed and Confused! Social Disconnect in the Time of Pandemic", you can catch up on it in this issue.

There are also two interesting systematic reviews. One is about online peer support interventions for

## STUDENTS

Dear ASSBI & Student Community,

### Melbourne Team

The ASSBI Melbourne student ambassadors hosted an online panel event, titled "Sex, Relationships, and Intimacy following Brain Injury". We were joined by Associate Professor Emma Power, Doctor Claire Lynch, Elinor Fraser, and Jill Hwang, who spoke about their perspectives and experiences in supporting

individuals with brain injury to navigate relationships, sex, and intimacy. Panellists gave presentations and provided the audience with tips and tricks on how to better support individuals with brain injury in this important area of practice. Audience questions were also answered in a Q & A session. Over 60 people attended the event, spanning a range of disciplines and levels of experience. The session concluded with an important call to action from Dr Claire Lynch: "plant the seed of permission and possibility".

#### Perth Team

The WA student ambassadors hosted a Trivia Sundowner Student Networking Night which promoted and raised awareness for ASSBI and offered students information on how to get involved in working and researching in the field of brain impairment. The event was attended by people from a range of health science disciplines including clinical psychology, neuropsychology, speech pathology and occupational therapy.

The audience engaged in a Q&A session as the ambassadors gave insights into their experiences of working with people with brain impairment. Attendees were encouraged to network with their peers in a neuro-themed trivia competition that put everyone's brains to the test!

Overall, the event was engaging, interactive and well-received with many attendees expressing interest in the ASSBI conference to be held in Perth next year.



We are currently seeking expressions of interest from students from all health disciplines in Australia who would like to become part of the ASSBI student community for 2022 and 2023! We still have some remaining vacancies for Team Leader and Ambassador positions in various cities.

We encourage both undergraduate and postgraduate students from all universities across Australia and across all disciplines (e.g., Speech Pathology, Clinical Psychology, Neuropsychology, Occupational Therapy, Nursing, Medicine, Social Work, Physiotherapy) to apply.

To apply for all student positions and find out more about the benefits of the role, go to [ASSBI Applicant Portal](#)

If you have any questions, please contact Jonathan Reyes ([Jonathan.reyes@monash.edu](mailto:Jonathan.reyes@monash.edu)).  
The ASSBI Student Team

## PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

We are in the process of putting together the WEBINAR series for 2022 so if you would like to see someone give a webinar or a workshop or would like to give one yourself, please email

Margaret. If someone you suggest agrees to present for ASSBI you will receive a complementary registration.

## ASSBI 2021 Series of Webinars

These are now available in the ASSBI Online Store



*Recognising and managing mild TBIs in the community*  
**Dr Alice Theadom, NZ**



*An occupation-based approach to facilitating self-awareness after TBI*  
**Prof Jennifer Fleming, Australia**



*The effect of sleep-wake disturbance in relation to cognition and brain degeneration*  
**Prof Sharon Naismith, Australia**



*Treating social cognitive deficits after brain injury*  
**Dr Anneli Cassel, Australia**



*Technology to support remembering and goal management: Can an ApplTree improve my PM?*  
**Prof Jon Evans, Glasgow, UK**



*Helping others: finding meaning in projects for people with brain injury*  
**Dr Nick Behn, London, UK**



*Better together: Enhancing family-centred care during rehabilitation for children with acquired brain injury*  
**Dr Sarah Knight, Australia**

## ASSBI CONFERENCES

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

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

#assbi2022



We are looking at bringing you a hybrid conference from Perth on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> for workshops followed by the conference on 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022 at the Pan Pacific Hotel in Perth City, Western Australia.

We have confirmed Dr Mathilde Chevignard, Prof Lynne Turner-Stokes, Prof Bronwyn Hemsley, Prof Beth Armstrong and Prof Juli Coffin, Dr Caroline Fisher and Edmund (Eddie) Tsang as keynote speakers.

The call for abstracts is closed, the programme is being put together and we will be in touch very shortly

#### PUT THESE DATES INTO YOUR DIARY

**Registration Opens:** 1<sup>st</sup> January 2022  
**Early bird closes:** 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022

**In-person Conference Registration Closes:** 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022  
**Online Conference Registration Closes:** 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
**Consumer Focused Afternoon:** Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
**Conference Workshops:** Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> May 2022  
**Conference:** Friday 6<sup>th</sup> – Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022

If you are already on ASSBI or MERS Events' distribution lists you need do nothing as you will be notified as usual. If you are not and want to be then drop an email to [admin@assbi.com.au](mailto:admin@assbi.com.au)



**Professor Mathilde Chevignard - France**  
Mathilde will be giving 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 Lynne Turner Stokes - UK**  
Lyn will be giving a workshop 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



**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



**Professor Olivier Piquet - Australia**

Olivier will be presenting the ASSBI Presidential Address

Sponsorship Is open, if you wish to sponsor/partner with ASSBI [email Margaret](#)

## PAST CONFERENCES

### ASSBI's 44<sup>th</sup> Conference - 6<sup>th</sup> Pacific Rim Conference – Wrap up report



The 6<sup>th</sup> Pacific Rim conference was held from 30 June – 3 July 2021, and was the first joint conference of the International Neuropsychological Society (INS), the Australasian Society for the Study of Brain Impairment (ASSBI), and the Australian Psychological Society's College of Clinical Neuropsychologists (CCN). The conference theme was "Putting our heads together to change lives", which had several intended meanings: not only did 3 organisations collaborate to put together this conference, but it was also a way to connect across disciplines, across countries, across topics of research, and across clinical practice and research, all in the service of improving the lives of people living with conditions affecting the brain.

This conference was unique and challenging in several ways. The most prominent of these was that a Melbourne-based COVID outbreak and associated restrictions forced the hybrid conference to turn completely virtual, just 10 days before the conference was due to start. This meant a dizzyingly large number of quick changes to our plans, requiring a flurry of last minute instructions, acquisition of new IT skills, and emails to presenters, chairs, and delegates (sorry everyone!). It was a true test of cognitive, behavioural, and emotional flexibility. We are very proud that we managed to pull it off, with surprisingly few hiccups.

We were delighted to host 728 registered delegates for this conference from all corners of the world: Australia, New Zealand, UK, USA, Canada, Mexico, Poland, South Africa, Hong Kong, Singapore, Norway, Netherlands, Japan, Switzerland, Chile, Finland, Bangladesh, Argentina, Israel, and Malaysia. The programme involved plenary sessions from 3 international keynote speakers (Prof Sarah-Jayne Blakemore, A/Prof Sarah McPherson, and Prof Neil Pliskin), 3 national keynote speakers (A/Prof Emma Power, Dr Kylie Radford, and A/Prof Rene Stolwyk), 3 presidential addresses (Prof Skye McDonald, Prof Olivier Piquet and Amy Scholes), plus 6 highly successful pre-conference workshops, 3 mini-masterclasses, 3 invited symposia, 70 platform papers, 56 datablitz papers, 88 posters, and 15 'How to' sessions.

In the absence of a physical location for the conference, the level of engagement and connection on Twitter was extraordinary. The #headstogether2021 hashtag had over 2.33 million impressions! We had 2145 tweets, 226 engaged participants, 21 average tweets per hour and an average of 9 tweets per participant across the entire conference – This is amazing! There were also several fabulous "watch parties" in places where that was allowable.

Much fun was had at our virtual welcome ceremony on the evening of Day 1, where attendees were put into random breakout rooms to guess ‘The Masked Presenter’, and participated in a treasure hunt and other shenanigans with great enthusiasm. Prior in the day, there were a series of workshops on wide-ranging topics including: electrical injuries, holistic approaches to neuropsychology with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, child concussion (from Prof Vicki Anderson and colleagues), teleneuropsychology, executive function assessment, and implementation of communication partner training.

The main conference was opened on Day 2 with a beautiful welcome to country from Aunty Georgina, followed by welcomes from the conference co-convenors and the Presidents and Chairs of INS (Prof Skye McDonald), ASSBI (Prof Olivier Piguet) and CCN (Dr Amy Scholes), all of whom also gave inspiring and engaging presidential addresses as part of the conference programme.

Other programme highlights from the conference were keynote presentations by Professor Neil Pliskin, who conveyed an encouraging message about the value of neuropsychology; Dr Kylie Radford, who inspired us with her crucial co-design work with indigenous Australians; A/Prof Rene Stolwyk, who gave a comprehensive update on the current state of tele-neuropsychology research and practice; Prof Sarah-Jayne Blakemore, who normalised adolescent risk-taking; A/Prof Sarah McPherson, who got us thinking about executive functions; and A/Prof Emma Power, who shed light on the important but oft-overlooked issue of sexuality and intimacy after acquired brain injury. We also had fabulous mini-masterclasses on vocational rehabilitation, voluntary assisted dying, and cognitive rehabilitation in psychiatric disorders.

A unique and popular feature of the program was a debate on the merits of Goal Attainment Scaling, which was organised and run by Professor Barbara Wilson, with impressive and persuasive speakers both for and against. The ‘against’ team managed to sway some (but not all!) voters over to their side. There was a superb array of high-quality platform, datablitz, poster and ‘how to’ presentations, covering topics from COVID-19, to paediatrics, adult ADHD, brain injury rehabilitation, speech and language, accommodation issues, and more.

Our conference dinner would have been held on the evening of Day 3, but alas was not to be. We are all greatly anticipating/hoping for a spectacular return to conference dance floors in 2022.

The 4 day conference ended with our award ceremony and prizes. The following is a list of prizes and awarded given out on the day:

#### **ASSBI Awards**

**Kevin Walsh Award – Best Presentation by a Masters student**

- Josephine Paasila (Sydney University) – “Do Reasons for Living and Other Protective Factors Buffer against Psychological Distress and Suicide Ideation Following Severe TBI? A Cross-Sectional Study”

**Luria Award – Best Presentation by a PhD Candidate**

- Amelia Hicks (Monash University) – “Does ongoing cognitive decline occur decades after a moderate to severe traumatic brain injury? A prospective controlled study”

**Travel Award**

- Grace Wei (Sydney University) – “Behavioural and psychological effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on

people living with dementia and their carers: an international study”

#### **INS Awards**

**INS Early-Career Award**

- Professor Muireann Irish (University of Sydney)

**INS Mid-Career Award**

- Professor Tamara Ownsworth (Griffith University)

**INS Lifetime Research Award**

- Professor Joan Borod (City University of New York, USA)

**INS Distinguished Career Award**

- Professor Robyn Tate (University of Sydney)

**INS Mentoring Award**

- Professor Nancy Foldi (City University of New York, USA)
- Professor Peter Arnett (Pennsylvania State University, USA)

**Marit Korkman Award – Best Presentation by Graduate Student in Paediatric Neuropsychology**

- Cecilia Law (Sydney University) – “Factor Structure of the Parent and Child Memory Questionnaires: Exploratory Factor Analysis with Typically Developing Children”

**Phillip Rennick Award – Best Presentation by a PhD Candidate**

- Talia Nardo (Macquarie University) – “Cognitive Rehabilitation for Substance Use Disorder: Results from the ACE Stepped-Wedge Cluster Randomised Trial.”

**Laird Cermak Award – Memory functioning and memory disorders research award**

- Diana Ramirez (La Trobe University) – “The experience and acceptability of smartphone reminder app training for people with acquired brain injury: a mixed methods study”

**Nelson Butters Award – Award for best Postdoctoral Researcher award**

- Kristina Haebich (MCRI) - Telehealth-delivered neurodevelopmental Assessments in children and adolescents (Tele-Assess): preliminary neuropsychological assessment results

**INS Student Liaison Committee Awards**

- Laura Connolly (Monash University) – “Home-Based Light Therapy for Fatigue Following Acquired Brain Injury: A Pilot Randomized Controlled Trial”
- Mitchell Byrne (Macquarie University) - “Post traumatic amnesia duration as a predictor of cognitive outcome in a litigating, non-malingering traumatic brain injury sample”
- Hayley Pickering (La Trobe University) – “Visuospatial Memory and Vocabulary Relations in School-Aged Children: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis”
- Halle Quang (UNSW) – “Do more for more: Reward processing underlying apathy following moderate-to-severe traumatic brain injury”

- Katherine Franks (University of Melbourne) – “Association of psychological stress with risk of mild cognitive impairment: A systematic review and meta-analysis”

#### **CCN Awards:**

- Jessica Peters (La Trobe University) - “Action video game training improves text reading accuracy, rate and comprehension in children with dyslexia: A randomized controlled trial.” –
- Amie Foran (University of Adelaide) – “The QuickSort: a brief, new cognitive screen for older adults.”
- Anita Dharan (University of Melbourne) – “Cognitive comorbidities in juvenile absence epilepsy.”

Thank you to all the delegates who provided feedback on the conference. We were very gratified to see an average attendee rating of 4.7/5. Attendees enjoyed the breadth and quality of presentations. There was mixed feedback about the online format. Although many people missed being able to be together face-to-face, many attendees appreciated the flexibility of the online delivery. It was suggested that future events should be hybrid, to enable people to attend around their other work or family commitments. Session recordings were also appreciated so that people could watch at a time that suited them, or watch sessions that had been programmed concurrently.

A big thank you to everyone who made this conference a success. Special thanks to the Melbourne Convention Bureau, who worked alongside us to try and bring you all to visit our wonderful city of Melbourne. Although it was not to be, they really were fantastic to work with, and we do hope our interstate and international delegates manage to visit Melbourne in the future. We would also like to shout out to the team at the Melbourne Convention Centre, who did their best to try and accommodate our needs and help us deal with the constantly changing regulations. Thanks also to Showtime Events who were very understanding when we had to cancel the dinner last minute. Thanks to our Principal Conference Partner, the Transport Accident Commission; our major partner, Brightwater; and our community partners Coviu, Drake Medox, Ipsen, Pearson, and the Summer Foundation. We also appreciate the sponsorship from Cambridge University Press and Rehabilitation Australia. Thank you also to the 2021 Conference Organising Committee: Kelly Allott, Marina Cavuoto, Kate Gould, David Lawson and Jessica Trevena-Peters, as well as the Scientific Committee. Kate Gould and David Lawson also ran an amazing community forum on Research Co-Design the day before the conference, with support from the genyus network's Caleb Rixon – thank you! A special mention to our 3 student conference organising committee members – Jonathan Reyes, Anique Muttiah, and Aishani Desai. Your leadership, enthusiasm, teamwork, and can-do attitude was inspiring. The other student volunteers also really stepped up, especially crucially as our IT support team, for which we are incredibly grateful – thank you Donella Coro, Alex Davies, Thomas Goodwin, Amelia Hicks, Susan Langborne, Elise Li, Ruth Minkov, Bill Nguyen, Daniel Pearce, Rebekah Simpson, Paulina Stedall, Hariklia Vagias, and Lucie Zwart. Thank you to our conference steering committee, Jacinta Douglas, Simon Crowe, and Vicki Anderson, for giving us the opportunity to chair this conference, providing us with plenty of freedom in the program design, but having our backs when needed. Finally, none of this could have been achieved without, of course, the incredible organisational

## **ASSBI EVENTS**

### **2022 LIVE Webinars**

### **FREE LIVE Webinar**

### **FREE Pre-Recorded Webinars**

## **NON-ASSBI EVENTS**

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

### **Monash Epworth Rehabilitation Research Centre Symposium**

Addressing the Challenges of Brain Injury:  
A 20 Year Perspective

Free Virtual Symposium

7 December 2021  
1pm - 6.30pm AEDT

MONASH EPWORTH RehabilitationResearchCentre



Online, 7<sup>th</sup> December 2021 1pm-6.30pm

### **19<sup>th</sup> NR-SIG-WFNR Conference**

Neuropsychological Rehabilitation Special Interest Group of the WFNR



Thursday 13  
Friday 14 October  
2022  
in Maastricht  
Netherlands



Maastricht, 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022

### **5<sup>th</sup> AADPA Conference**

Sydney, 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July 2022

### **And lots more.....**

ASSBI is happy to advertise your Workshop, Webinar, Conference on this page. If you want to advertise here  
[email ASSBI](#)

The only cost is that you advertise our events 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 this link:

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

prowess of Margaret “the Terminator” Eagers, and her 2IC tech support Matt Eagers. Thank you all for making the 6<sup>th</sup> Pacific Rim conference such a fantastic success.

Dr Kerryn Pike, Dr Travis Wearne & Dr Dana Wong  
Co-convenors

## 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 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](#)

## ASSBI RESOURCES

You do NOT need to be a member of ASSBI to order anything from ASSBI you just get 10% off if you are!

We now have a new option that has been set up in the Store and is available NOW. You will receive the link to download a pdf of a manual or kit and webinar as soon as you pay **BUT YOU MUST BUY THE PDF OPTION**. Also, if you wish to purchase the UK version tick that option please. You can pay online by PayPal OR using Debit/Credit cards Visa or MasterCard.

To get members price (10% discount) login to the ASSBI website first. If you go to the resources page you will find a great range of evidence-based resources for assessing, managing and/or 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

## 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](#)

### 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)

## 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](#)

## CyberAbility Training and Workshops

While cyberscams can happen to anyone, people with ABI may be more at risk, particularly of romance scams. From the stories of people with ABI, their family members and clinicians, the need for tailored cyber safety training was strongly endorsed. The CyberAbility team (Monash University, Li-Ve Tasmania) in collaboration with people with lived experience of scams and brain injury have developed an online cybersafety program tailored for people with ABI, funded by the TAC. Eight self-directed online modules and workbook activities explore the most important aspects of recognising scams and staying safe online.

We are launching the CyberAbility web-based training in Melbourne in October.

People with lived experience of brain injury, family members, carers, advocates, therapists, service providers and funders are invited to attend the launch. There will be an opportunity for attendees to get hands-on support in accessing the web platform and the training modules, completing a personalised cybersafety plan, and self-evaluating their online safety skills. The date for the launch will be announced soon. To stay up to date with our project, please register your interest at [www.cyberability.org.au](http://www.cyberability.org.au). Promoting this to your clients and networks would also be appreciated.

*Dr Kate Gould, Monash University, and the CyberAbility team*

### **Seeking people with ABI to participate in an online conversation skills program**

We are seeking participants with ABI and their communication partners to participate in a study of the convers-ABI-ity program. The program involves a person with ABI and their communication partner participating in online self-guided activities and weekly sessions with a speech pathologist over 10 weeks. For this program, we are recruiting people with acquired brain injury who are NOT currently receiving speech pathology intervention focused on communication. The information statement is available [here](#). We are looking for people who:

- Had a brain injury (e.g., a traumatic brain injury, stroke, or other type of brain injury) at least 6 months ago
- Are aged 18 and over
- Have difficulties in conversations, and would like to improve their conversation skills
- Are able to read short paragraphs of information
- Have a computer or tablet at home which is connected to the Internet
- Have a family member or carer available to participate in the program with them

The study has been developed by team of researchers at the University of Sydney and the University of Technology Sydney including Professor Leanne Togher, Associate Professor Emma Power, Dr Rachael Rietdijk and Dr Melissa Brunner, and is supported by funding from icare NSW. This study has been approved by the Western Sydney Local Health District Human Research Ethics Committee.

For further information about this study, contact Rachael Rietdijk at [rachael.rietdijk@sydney.edu.au](mailto:rachael.rietdijk@sydney.edu.au).

Hi everyone,  
Our team is conducting a research project titled “Behaviour Support: Provision by Australian Disability Service Providers”, which will help to build an understanding of who is developing behaviour support plans in Australia. As you may be aware, there are many people involved in this work across various disciplines, and with various experience and training. This research will help us to gain a snapshot of the current field of practice.

This research is being led by Dr Alinka Fisher from Disability and Community Inclusion, College of Nursing and Health Sciences, Flinders University and Associate Investigators Dr Glenn Kelly, Dr Peter Kremer and Ms Kymberly Louise (Research Assistant) Ethics approval has been sought from the Flinders University Human Research Ethics Committee (Project number: 4624).

Participation involves the completion of a **short 15-minute survey by those who are responsible for writing/developing individual behaviour support plans** for people living in community settings in Australia (including schools and residential care). Upon completion respondents will have the option to go into a draw to win an Ipad.

We would appreciate it if you could circulate the details of this study to anyone who may be interested and also meet inclusion criteria (i.e., they are responsible for writing behaviour support plans). We also have the survey being circulated on social media (Twitter and LinkedIn) via #BSPractionerSurvey.

The survey is anonymous, and respondents can choose not to answer questions or withdraw from the survey at any time. More detailed information about the survey, including its purpose, participant involvement and information about the research team is available via the survey link.

The survey can be accessed here: [https://qualtrics.flinders.edu.au/jfe/form/SV\\_01GnQTU9jvQpy74](https://qualtrics.flinders.edu.au/jfe/form/SV_01GnQTU9jvQpy74)

**It will close on Monday the 20th of December 2021.**

Thanks in advance for supporting this research.  
Alinka, Glenn, Peter, Kymberly

**WALT Institute Presents  
Advanced Masterclass  
How To Resolve Conflict of Competing Goals for Better  
Work/Life Balance!  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> December 10am – 11:30am AEDT  
[Register HERE](#)**

Do you find it hard to get your own goals completed?

Are you confused as to where to even start with your goals?

Are you afraid to focus on your personal goals before professional goals?

If you are confused about where to start with your goals or how to juggle between work and personal demands, or are afraid to even start to achieve a goal because it seems so huge, then this FREE Advanced Masterclass is a MUST for you!

In this Masterclass you will learn:

**Key #1** Why you must create short-term goals that align with your purpose

**Key #2** Why you don't need to set complex, difficult goals to achieve well at work

**Key #3** You'll be shocked to learn why the highest achievers in STEMM are not necessarily the most talented people!

A must to help you stay focussed, achieve your goals that align to your purpose, and set yourself up to achieve your career goals.

Find out how!

[Register HERE](#)

Dear Colleagues,  
you are invited to participate in the research study: **Pocket MEC: Development of a screening version of the Montreal Protocol for the Evaluation of Communication.** (GU ref no: 2021/847)

Speech pathologists with **expertise** in working with people with Right Hemisphere Stroke or Traumatic Brain Injury who **have used the Montreal Protocol for the Evaluation of Communication (MEC)** are purposefully being recruited. The aim of the project is to gather recommendations on essential items from the MEC that should be retained in a screening tool, called the Pocket MEC.

Please find information about the research here:  
[https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Participant\\_Information](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Participant_Information). If

you consent to participate, please access an online survey via the following link:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZBM2Z2F>

If you have any questions about your participation in this research, contact Ronelle Hewetson at  
[r.hewetson@griffith.edu.au](mailto:r.hewetson@griffith.edu.au)

**Seeking speech pathologists perspectives on the important issues that matter for successful NDIS funding for people with ABI and communication disability – Emma Power,  
emma.power@uts.edu.au**

**NDIS speak up: Clinician perspectives on NDIS assessment and intervention provision for people with acquired neurological communication disability.**



**Who is doing this research:**  
Ms Anna Parker (speech pathology student at UTS) with academic supervisors, Associate Professor Emma Power, Ms Melissa Miao and Dr Brooke Ryan (speech pathology, UTS).

**Who can participate:**  
Speech pathologists who have had at least **6 months experience** working with adults who have an **Acquired Brain Injury** (e.g., stroke, traumatic brain injury, multiple sclerosis etc) in the NDIS system.

**What will it involve:**  
Join an **online focus group discussion** with other speech pathologists, if we can find a time to suit, if not, a 1:1 interview.

**Why? The NDIS is critically important to people with ABI and a lot has been happening!**  
Speech pathologists are needed to join a focus group about NDIS services and assessments for people with ABI.  
What works? What are the issues now and into the future that we need to know about?

**UTS**  
UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY SYDNEY

Please contact: [Emma.power@uts.edu.au](mailto:Emma.power@uts.edu.au) if you are interested in participating or have any questions!