

## 2015 CONFERENCE REPORT

### Report on the 5<sup>th</sup> INS/ASSBI 5<sup>th</sup> Pacific Rim Conference held in Sydney, 1<sup>st</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> July 2015



This was the fifth INS/ASSBI collaboration and was held in Sydney, Australia. The conference incorporated the International Neuropsychological Society (INS)'s mid-year meeting and the Australasian Society for the Study of Brain Impairment (ASSBI)'s 38<sup>th</sup> Annual Brain Impairment Conference. This was the largest of the conferences borne of the longstanding and fruitful partnership between these multidisciplinary organisations. The theme of the conference, Implementing Knowledge to Improve Outcomes reflected the diverse interests of our members, from experimental studies to clinical issues, across the developmental spectrum, with emphasis on making a difference to the lives of individuals with brain injury and it proved a major success.

There were 405 abstracts submitted to the conference from 22 countries, with most from Australia, the UK, USA, Japan, the Netherlands and New Zealand, followed by Canada, Singapore, Israel, Czech Republic, Hong Kong and India. There were 22 symposia submitted, of which two were invited. 14 symposia were accepted and a number of other symposium papers woven into the programme. The other symposia were accepted as poster symposia. Delegates attended from: Australia, USA, Belgium, Canada, China, Czech Republic, Estonia, France, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Israel, Japan, Mexico, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Poland, Russian Federation, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden, Taiwan and the UK. The total number of registrants was 673 with 75% being female, and 44% were first time INS or ASSBI Conference attendees.

Workshops on a broad range of topics were presented on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> July by Prof LeeAnne Carey on Beyond the Lesion – Neuroimaging foundations for post-stroke recovery and rehabilitation, Profs Terry Inder, Jeffrey Neil and Peter Anderson on Foetal and neonatal brain development – What are the neuropsychological consequences of biological and environmental insults? Prof Angelle Sander - on ACT for Success: Application of Acceptance and Commitment Therapy for Persons with Traumatic Brain Injury and Emotional Distress, Prof Mark Sherer on Early assessments of patients with TBI, Profs Jan Copeland, Murat Yucel and A/Prof Raul Gonzalez on Of Brains and Bongs: The Neuropsychology of Cannabis Use Disorders and their Treatment, Profs Roy Kessels and Luciano Fasotti on Cognitive rehabilitation of complex everyday tasks.

The conference was officially opened with: An Indigenous Welcome to Country by Matt and Glen Doyle. Robert Heaton presented the INS awards as follows: Nelson Butters Award – Gershon Spitz, Laird Cermak Award – Rachel Buckley, Phillip M. Rennick Award – Joyce Kootker; Marit Korkman Award – Elisha Josev, the Paul Satz-INS Career Mentoring Award – Prof Jennie Ponsford, the, INS Distinguished Career Award to Dr Jenni Ogden and the Benton Award to Prof John DeLuca. A/Prof Tamara Ownsworth presented ASSBI fellowships to Prof Glynda Kinsella and Dr Michael Perdices, and honoured the brain Impairment journal editors, Jacinta Douglas and Robyn Tate. Prof John DeLuca delivered the Benton Award lecture on Cognitive Rehabilitation in Multiple Sclerosis, demonstrating the development of evidence-based rehabilitation practice. This was followed by a keynote address from Prof Paul McCrory addressing the controversial topic of the short and long term consequences of sports concussion - media myth or scientific fact?

The INS Presidential Address, delivered by Dr Ann Watts was entitled, How International is International Neuropsychology? A Review of Evolving Challenges and Opportunities. The ASSBI Presidential Address delivered by A/Prof Tamara Ownsworth was entitled To err is human; to self-regulate after brain injury, divine. Other keynote lectures were presented by Prof John Hodges on Frontotemporal dementia in the context of the genetic revolution, Prof LeeAnne Carey on Stroke Rehabilitation: Translating Neuroscience to Neurorehabilitation, Prof Mark Sherer on A New Classification System for Persons with TBI in the Post-acute Period of Recovery, Prof Angelle Sander on Memory Strategy Training After Traumatic Brain Injury: Where We Have Been and Where We Are Going, and Prof Terrie Inder - Protecting the Developing Brain - Improving what we do not fully understand.

Symposia were presented on the following topics: Concussion in sport: long-term Impact, Understanding and supporting optimal psychosocial outcomes following brain injury across childhood and adolescence, Errorless learning: From lab to rehab, Improving patient outcomes in clinical neuropsychology: taking advantage of evidence-based practice, Social-emotional cognition in healthy and pathological populations, Using technologies to support instrumental actions in persons with executive function and memory impairments, Advances in memory research in healthy and pathological ageing, Predictors of cognitive, academic and mental health outcomes in very preterm survivors, Cognitive control deficits in addiction, Improving functional outcomes in multiple sclerosis, Improving outcomes after adult epilepsy surgery: From pre-surgical memory assessment to post-surgical memory rehabilitation, Facilitating successful and safe return to driving following traumatic brain injury: assessment and rehabilitation, Traumatic Brain Injury & Crime: The Role of Social Cognition in Offending and Psychiatric Disturbance and Predicting the outcome of traumatic brain injury. Paper sessions covered topics including Cognitive function in degenerative and vascular disease, Behaviours of concern following Brain Injury, Traumatic Brain Injury, Psychiatric Disorders following Brain Injury and their treatment, Cognitive impairment in childhood disorders, Memory, Community living after Brain Impairment, Cognitive and emotional disturbance in psychiatric disorders and HIV, Behaviour and Cognition in dementia, and Rehabilitation Support Systems.

Breakfast seminars were presented during the conference by Prof Barbara A Wilson on Connecting with others: Writing for Publication: papers, chapters and books, Dr Kirrie Ballard - The art of speaking: Converting our thoughts to sounds and Dr Hayley Bennett on The legal presumption of mental capacity: Implications for "issue-specific."

Dr Ann Watts, President of INS presented the INS Student Liaison Committee (SLC) Student Research Awards at the closing ceremony to the following students:

**Nicole Milne** - *The right stuff: Hippocampal asymmetry and cognitive decline in Type 2 diabetes*

**Emily Guo** - *Validation of Stroke and Aphasia Quality of Life Scale in Singapore*

**James Gooden** - *Self-awareness and self-regulation of on-road driving following Traumatic Brain Injury*

**Sicong Tu** - *Orientation dysfunction in frontotemporal dementia and Alzheimer's disease*

**Yvette Alway** - *Psychiatric Disorders in the first 5-years following Traumatic Brain Injury*

Tamara Ownsworth, President of ASSBI presented the ASSBI student prizes to:

Winner of the Kevin Walsh Award was **Bridget Hoey** with a highly commended prize going to **Rebecca Kirchner**

Winner of the Luria Award was **Alicia Dymowski** with a highly commended prize going to **Pamela Ross**

Winner of the Travel Award was **Michael Gascoigne** with a highly commended prize going to **Soheil Afshar**

The winner of the Mindlink Brightwater Award for interdisciplinary research was **Sue Sloan**.

I would like to thank the Program Committee for all their help in putting together this very impressive programme and the INS for support in many aspects of the organisation. I would also like to thank our Major Partners: Business Events Sydney, Lifetime Care and Support Authority, our Headline Partners Epworth Rehabilitation, Transport Accident Commission and Shine Lawyers as well as and the American Psychological Association, Brain Sciences UNSW and Menzies Health Institute Queensland who have sponsored our student programme. Thanks to the ARC Centre of Excellence in Cognition and its Disorders and. Also our Exhibitors, MRTS, Viatour Travel, Sydney Coffee, Drake Medox, Taylor & Francis, Pearson Clinical Assessment, Everyday Independence and Cambridge University Press as well as our satchel insert sponsors, Psych Assessments Australia, Rehability ABI Services and Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

#### **Program Committee**

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**Above all I would like to thank the wonderful Conference Organiser (PCO)**  
Margaret Eagers-Rickit (MERS Events)

**Jennie Ponsford**  
**Convenor and Program Chair**