



## 13<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the WFNR Neuropsychological Rehabilitation Special Interest Group Conference Report

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual conference of the WFNR Neuropsychological Rehabilitation Special Interest Group (NR-SIG-WFNR) was held at the Hilton Grosvenor hotel in Glasgow, UK, from July 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> 2016. The conference was one of the largest ever for the NR-SIG, with 244 delegates, from 17 different countries and from 16 different professional backgrounds, including several service users – it was truly multidisciplinary! For 170 of the delegates this was the first time they had attended the NR-SIG-WFNR conference, so we were delighted to be reaching a new audience.



On the Sunday evening, delegates were welcomed to the City of Glasgow by Bailie Eva Bolander on behalf of the Lord Provost of Glasgow at a wonderful reception in the stunning Kibble Palace, in the city's beautiful Botanic Gardens.



The academic programme opened on Monday with a presentation from the Chair of the NR-SIG-WFNR, Professor Barbara Wilson, on the topic of 'Rehabilitation Around the World', which highlighted the disparity in service provision for people across the globe, but also emphasised that there are many places in the world creatively developing neuropsychological rehabilitation practice. The conference had 16 sessions over two days, including 11 paper presentation sessions (with 36 paper presentations) and 5 datablitz sessions (with 26 datablitz presentations). In addition there were 70 posters presented over the two days. There was general agreement that the standard of presentations was excellent throughout the conference.

Prizes were awarded for the best datablitz presentations on each day, the winners being Vlagsma Thialda and Robin Hanks, and for the best posters on each day, the winners being Ieke Winkens and Emma Matthews.

During the conference delegates also enjoyed readings from two recently published books, both of which give deeply insightful accounts of the experience of brain injury. On Monday, Dr Ava Easton gave a reading from her book, 'Life After Encephalitis' and on Tuesday Professor Barbara Wilson read from her book, 'Identity Unknown: How acute brain disease can destroy knowledge of oneself and other'.



The conference dinner (kindly sponsored by the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust) was attended by around 130 delegates who enjoyed a fantastic evening of Scottish food and ceilidh dancing at the historic Oran Mor. Despite being a new experience for many of our delegates, there were clearly plenty of sure-footed folk who quickly mastered the complexities of traditional Scottish ceilidh dances!

The conference was organised by the wonderful Margret Eagers and a fantastic local organising team including Satu Baylan, Gaby Cruz, Breda Cullen, Liam Dorris, Kay Forbes, Denyse Kersel, Tom

McMillan, Brian O'Neill, and Jenny Preston. A team of helpers including Graham Rickit, Sumita Chatterjee, Vijaya Argawala, Jake Easto, and Maxine MacDonald ensured things ran smoothly during the conference. Our thanks also go to members of the NR-SIG-WFNR Scientific and Executive Committees who contributed to the challenging task of evaluating conference abstracts.



Thanks also go to all of the sponsors who made it possible to run the conference, including the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust, Digby Brown Solicitors, The Huntercombe Group, The British Psychological Society, the Oliver Zangwill Centre, The College of Occupational Therapists, Routledge, Taylor and Francis Group, Neural Pathways, Cambridge University Press, Pearson, ASSBI, The Raphael Medical centre, The Encephalitis Society, Pulse Healthcare, Fixxl, WFNR, Cambridge Scholars Publishing and Hogrefe.

Glasgow 2016 was clearly a big success. We all went away better informed, having cemented long-standing friendships and scientific collaborations, and developed new ones. We are eagerly awaiting the 14<sup>th</sup> NR-SIG-WFNR conference in Cape Town in 2017!

Professor Jonathan Evans  
Programme Chair

