

Report on the 10th Conference of the Neuropsychological Rehabilitation Special Interest Group of the World Federation for NeuroRehabilitation

The 10th annual conference of the Neuropsychological Rehabilitation Special Interest Group was held from July 8-9th 2013 in Maastricht, The Netherlands. The venue for the two day meeting was the Crowne Plaza Hotel. The conference program showcased 26 oral, 30 datablitz and 77 poster presentations and brought together 181 delegates from 21 countries. One of the many highlights of the conference included the conference dinner held at the beautiful castle Neercanne at the border of Holland and Belgium. The conference was held in a very sunny atmosphere, both inside and outside!

For the opening address, Professor Barbara Wilson (President of the Special Interest Group) gave an excellent presentation on rare and unusual syndromes neuropsychologists may encounter in their daily clinical practice.

The conference program provided a suite of stimulating presentations that depicted some major advances in conceptualisation, outcome assessment, psychometric and statistical analysis, treatment approaches and clinical service provision in neuropsychological rehabilitation.

As a characteristic themes of this conference, the effectiveness of neuropsychological rehabilitation treatment (eg. Tamara Ownsworth), the influence of psychological factors (eg Gisela Wolters-Gregorio) and more specifically depression (eg Marloes van Mierlo), assessment methods and psychometrics (eg Robyn Tate), challenging behaviour (eg Brian O'Neill), caregiver burden (eg Kessiah Hunt), and rehabilitation services (eg Tessa Hart) can be mentioned. Lingani Mbakile gave the audience an impressive outlook on the experience of Traumatic Brain Injury in Botswana; with only two hospitals in the country this makes you realize the abundance of rehabilitation options in western countries, despite the many current financial drawbacks.

The following prizes were awarded for the best datablitz and poster presentations:

Best datablitz prize: Matthew Jamieson - UK

Best datablitz prize: Anna-Marie Visser-Keizer – The Netherlands

Best poster prize: Jacinta Douglas - Australia

Highly commended: Jenny Svanberg - UK

Overall, the conference program stimulated great discussions, healthy debates and the exchange of ideas that are so important for moving our field forwards. The Chairing baton has now been passed onto Fofi Constantinidou, who will chair the 11th conference of the Special Interest Group in Neuropsychological Rehabilitation in Limassol, Cyprus.

Acknowledgements:

Conference Organiser Margaret Eagers-Rickit and Graham Rickit
([ME Research Solutions](#))

Special Interest Group Committee

Professor Barbara Wilson (SIG President and Convenor), UK
Dr Tamara Ownsworth (Program Chair), Australia
Professor James Malec (SIG Treasurer), USA
Professor Robyn Tate (SIG Secretary), Australia
Professor Jonathan Evans, UK
Professor Jennie Ponsford, Australia
Dr Michael Perdices, Australia

Other Scientific Committee

Dr Teresa Ashman, USA
Dr Tessa Hart, USA
Dr Andrew Bateman, UK
Professor Fofi Constantinidou, Cyprus
Dr Fergus Gracey, UK
Professor Caroline van Heugten, The Netherlands
Dr Ashok Jansari, UK

Local Organising Committee

Prof Caroline van Heugten
Prof Rudolf Ponds
Prof Joke Spikman
Dr Luciano Fasotti

Technological Support

Satu Baylan, UK

Thanks also go to our sponsors

PsychCorp from Pearson – Platinum
Raphael Medical Centre – Exhibitor who also had 12 members of their team attend the conference
NeuronUp – Exhibitor
Psychology Press – Exhibitor
And Satchel inserts from ASSBI, WFNR, Encephalitis Society, Cambridge University Press and Cambridge Scholars Publishing

Prof Caroline van Heugten
Chair, 10th Conference of the Special Interest Group in Neuropsychological Rehabilitation