



## 16th Annual Conference of the WFNR Neuropsychological Rehabilitation Special Interest Group Conference Report

The 16th annual conference of the WFNR Neuropsychological Rehabilitation Special Interest Group (NR-SIG-WFNR) was held at the Palacio de Congresos in Granada, Spain, from June 27th – 28th 2019. It was held jointly with the 15<sup>th</sup> Congress of the Sociedad Andaluza de Neuropsicología (SANP). The conference was the largest ever for the NR-SIG, with 300 delegates from 28 different countries. Professional profiles of the assistants included several specialties of psychology, occupational therapy, speech therapy, physiotherapy, medicine, nursing, teaching, and computer science.



The academic programme opened on Thursday with a presentation from the Chair of the NR-SIG-WFNR, Professor Barbara Wilson, on the topic of 'Is it time to move on from SMART goals?', which proposed the challenge of reviewing the establishment of rehabilitation objectives based on the SMART paradigm, based on the opinion of patients and new proposals

from professionals. The conference had 12 sessions, including 31 paper presentations, 24 datablitz presentations, and 146 posters.

Presentations covered a wide spectrum of disorders across the life span and depicted rehabilitation advances in many facets, including ADL, families, and social participation. Many procedures such as setting goals, feedback, working alliance, peer-befriending and training others were presented as key factors in effectiveness of rehabilitation. Barriers and outcomes from different models of intervention were discussed. Research designs in single-case interventions occupied a central role in the conference. The excellent quality of the presentations and discussions prompted some proposals for future research collaborations.

Prizes were awarded for the two best datablitz presentations, the winners being David Lucena-Anton and Peggy Spauwen, and for the best posters, the winners being Madoko Yamashita and Anne Norup.



The social programme had several events that encouraged the updating and the establishment of new personal relationships. The first contact took place on the Wednesday evening around *tapas* and views of the Arab quarter of Albaycin. The welcoming ceremony was attended by most of the delegates and ended the first day of the meeting with an exciting Flamenco show, wine, and an olive oil tasting. Conference dinner took place for the first time after closing of the meeting, attracting 133 delegates to a fantastic evening of Andalusian food and dancing until dawn, without losing sight of the spectacular Alhambra illuminated as a backdrop.

The conference was organized by the ever multitasking and fireproof Margaret Eagers. Thanks to the priceless work of the local committee that also included the whole PNinsula research group. We thank the NR-SIG-WFNR and the SANP Scientific and Executive committees that made possible the selection of high-quality proposals and the difficult task of choosing the award winners from among them.

We appreciate the enormous support of the sponsors, among which are companies with great international relevance in the field of rehabilitation. It was very notable that, together with the international neuropsychological rehabilitation centres, there was massive support from all the main Spanish centres, indicative of the recognition that the work of the NR-SIG-WFNR has.



Granada 2019 has broken the attendance record, while the traditional high quality standard of the conference program has been maintained. The 16th meeting has decisively contributed to the consolidation of the NR-SIG-WFNR annual conference as a must for the reunion of colleagues and friends and the expansion of new professional horizons and personal relationships in the field of neuropsychological rehabilitation. We are looking forward for the next NR-SIG-WFNR conference!

A/Professor Alfonso Caracuel  
Programme Chair

