Improving Child Brain Injury Outcomes: From science to innovation in practice

Glaziers Hall, London Bridge
11th February 2016
Neuropsychological Consequences of Child Brain Injury

This talk will review important recent trends in the incidence of traumatic brain injury (TBI) in children, highlight anatomical and physiological features that may render the immature brain more susceptible to injury, discuss age and developmental issues in assessing acute and longer-term consequences of TBI, and review concepts important in understanding developmental influences on recovery such as "neuroplasticity", "arrested and altered development trajectories of recovery", "critical periods of development" and "growing into deficits." Findings related to injury-related changes in major cognitive domains often affected by TBI such as attention, memory, executive functioning, processing speed, as well as academic achievement, behavioral issues, social functioning, and quality of life will also be discussed.

Dr Elisabeth Wilde, Assistant Professor, Director of Research for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, US

Telehealth Interventions to Improve Child and Family Adaptation from Brain Injury: Moving from Clinical Trial to Clinical Practice

This talk will focus on research findings from two promising telehealth interventions to improve behavioural outcomes and reduce parent distress following TBI: teen online problem solving (TOPS) and online parent-skills training (I-InTERACT). Dr. Wade will describe the programs and present evidence for their efficacy, including who is likely to benefit from each. She will then discuss how these programs have been adapted in various settings for both clinical and research purposes, examining the challenges associated with moving from research to clinical innovation. Finally, she will explore future directions for integrating telehealth innovations into clinical care including description of preliminary findings from an app to support social participation in adolescents following TBI.

Shari L. Wade, Ph.D., Professor of Paediatrics, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Director of Research, Division of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Centre

Measuring Outcomes in Clinical and Educational Practice: Getting beyond the buzzwords to practical approaches

Recently there has been a lot of talk about the importance of achieving outcomes across health, social care and education sectors. Anyone working in these areas will be aware how difficult it can be to define and work towards outcomes, let alone achieve them. This session will discuss what outcomes are and how they sit within legislation such as the Health & Social Care Act (2012) and the Children & Families Act (2014). We will work through some of the challenges to measuring outcomes and present a range of available
methods with a focus on goal setting and scaling. Examples will be provided of fitting outcome measures to the task in hand and practical ways forward will be suggested. We aim for this to be a motivating session that focuses on helping children and young people adjust to their life circumstances and tracking their progress towards what they want to achieve.

Dr Peter Tucker, Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Recolo
Rebecca Ashton, Educational Psychologist & Child Neuropsychologist, Recolo

13:15 – 14:20
Lunch

14:20 – 15:10
Cognitive Interventions for Children with Brain Injury

This talk will briefly introduce a model that provides a framework for providing cognitive interventions in childhood acquired brain injury. The rationale for selecting interventions and examples of different approaches that specifically address impairments in areas such as attention, executive functioning, memory and learning will then be presented.

Generic rehabilitation issues such as remediation and compensation approaches, the role of carers and education providers will be discussed within the context of neurocognitive intervention provision. The current state of the evidence to support the use of different neurocognitive interventions will also be considered.

Dr Jenny Limond, Consultant Clinical Neuropsychologist, CoRaL Psychology Ltd, Senior Lecturer and Deputy Director of Research for DClinPsy Programme
Dr Anna-Lynne Ruth Adlam, Senior Lecturer, Deputy Director of Research for Professional Doctorates, University of Exeter

15:10 – 15:30
Mid Afternoon Break

15:30 – 16:20
Music Therapy and Neuropsychology; Clinical Harmony
An innovative and integrated approach to delivering paediatric rehabilitation services

This presentation will describe an evidence based, joint working relationship between Music Therapy and Neuropsychology which presents as a unique and effective method to improve rehabilitation outcomes for some children with acquired brain injury (ABI).

To date, the joint working relationship has been found to be effective in relation to orientating to time and place, establishing routine and structure, developmental and cognitive assessment, positive behaviour support, social skills training, attachment-focused interventions, memory and new learning.

This presentation will outline the rationale and methodology for the joint therapeutic approach during assessment and treatment. Interventions and findings will be discussed through detailed case studies and illustrated with video extracts of clinical sessions.

Dr Sarah O’Doherty, Clinical Psychologist in Paediatric Neuropsychology
Rebecca O’Connor, Senior Music Therapist,
The National Rehabilitation Hospital, Dublin, Ireland

16:20 – 16:30
Close by Conference Chair

Improving Child Brain Injury Outcomes: From science to innovation in practice
Dr. Elisabeth Wilde  
**Assistant Professor, Director of Research for Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Baylor College of Medicine, Houston, Texas, US**  
Dr. Wilde received her PhD in clinical psychology from Brigham Young University, completed internship at the Ann Arbor VA, and her neuropsychology postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Michigan. She is a Health Research Scientist the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center, and has been faculty at Baylor College of Medicine since 2002 in the department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, where she currently serves as Director of Research for the department. She has secondary appointments in Neurology and Radiology. She has participated in over 30 federally-funded clinical projects as a primary or co-primary investigator or co-investigator, and has authored over 88 peer-reviewed publications. She has served as a reviewer for over 35 journals and has also served as a scientific reviewer for national and international funding agencies, including the VA, NIH and the Department of Defense. She has been actively involved in the International Common Data Elements for TBI initiative supported by NIH/NINDS and other federal funding agencies since 2008, first as a member and lead author for the Outcomes Working group, then as chair of the Paediatric Outcome Working Group, and most recently as Chair of the Mild TBI and Concussion Working Group. She has also been involved in the American College of Radiology (ACR) Head Injury Institute. She has directed the Imaging Core for an NIH-funded program project, co-directed the Imaging Core for the MEDVAMC TBI Center of Excellence, and is currently the Director of the DoD-VA co-funded Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium (CENC) Imaging Core. Her research interests are in neuropsychology and neuroimaging, particularly of traumatic brain injury and its associated comorbidities.

Shari L. Wade, Ph.D.  
**Professor of Pediatrics, University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, Director of Research, Division of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center**  
Shari Wade is a paediatric rehabilitation psychologist and Professor of Paediatrics at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center and the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. She is also director of research in the Division of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. She obtained her Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh and completed a predoctoral internship at Yale University and a postdoctoral fellowship in paediatric psychology at Case Western Reserve University. Professor Wade has been investigating social environmental predictors of recovery from childhood traumatic brain injury for more than 20 years. More recently, she has developed and tested web-based problem-solving and parenting skills interventions to facilitate child and family adaptation post injury. Her research has resulted in more than 130 peer-reviewed publications and has been supported by funding from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the National Institute of Mental Health, the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research including a Rehabilitation Research and Training Center for Paediatric TBI Interventions. She is particularly interested in supporting the translation of empirically-based treatment strategies into the standard clinical care.
Dr Peter Tucker
Consultant Clinical Psychologist, Recolo

Dr Peter Tucker is a Consultant Clinical Psychologist who qualified at the University of Birmingham in 2001, then obtained a Diploma in Applied Clinical Neuropsychology from Kings College London in 2004. Peter has contributed to the national Clinical Reference Group for specialised commissioning of neuro-rehabilitation and has worked as a clinician and manager in a range of clinical services across the age range. Currently a Consultant Clinical Psychologist with Recolo taking the lead on the development of research practice, Peter leads training as well as working clinically and providing supervision in child neuropsychological rehabilitation. Peter teaches on the Doctoral Programme in Clinical Psychology, University of Bath and MSc Applied Neuropsychology Programme, University of Bristol. He has previously been a Clinical & Academic Tutor at the University of Exeter. He has published and presented on neuro-rehabilitation of children and young people and most recently on the use of goal setting in child neuro-rehabilitation.

Rebecca Ashton
Educational Psychologist & Child Neuropsychologist, Recolo

Rebecca Ashton qualified as an Educational Psychologist in 2003 and gained her Diploma in Clinical Paediatric Neuropsychology in 2010. She has been working in child neuropsychology ever since, winning a British Psychological Society Division of Neuropsychology prize in 2013 for outstanding practice. Rebecca has 11 years’ experience working as an educational psychologist for a Local Authority. Since 2014 she has worked in a specialist NHS neuropsychology service and is currently working in schools for a private company. As well as her practitioner work, Rebecca teaches on neuropsychology courses at UCL and Manchester University. Rebecca is expecting to complete her Doctorate in Educational Psychology in 2016, with a thesis on sleep and working memory. As well as contributing the chapter on educational neuropsychology to “Neuropsychological Rehabilitation of Childhood Brain Injury,” a book edited by the Directors of Recolo, Rebecca has numerous articles published in peer-reviewed journals. She has written on diverse topics including shaken baby syndrome, transition to secondary school, writing directly to children and relaxation as an intervention. Rebecca is a Registered practitioner psychologist with the Health & Care Professions Council, a Chartered member of the British Psychological Society and a Full member of the Association of Educational Psychologists.

Dr Jenny Limond
Consultant Clinical Neuropsychologist, CoRaL Psychology Ltd, Senior Lecturer and Deputy Director of Research for DClinPsy Programme

Jenny is a Consultant Clinical Neuropsychologist who has worked in a range of private and NHS settings including services for traumatic brain injury, neuro-oncology and epilepsy surgery. Jenny has recently taken on the roles of Senior Lecturer and Deputy Director of Research for the DClinPsy programme at the University of Exeter. Jenny also works as a private practitioner providing rehabilitation for children and young adults with acquired brain injury. Jenny is currently collaborating with colleagues in the UK, USA and Europe researching potential interventions for children with acquired brain injury. Additional research interests include interventions for the psychosocial and cognitive sequelae of paediatric brain tumours, and premature birth.
Rebecca O’Connor
Senior Music Therapist, The National Rehabilitation Hospital, Dublin, Ireland

Rebecca O’Connor has 25 years music therapy experience in health and education, she was Lead music therapist at Chelsea and Westminster Hospital, London establishing and developing the music therapy service. Rebecca was a course tutor on the M.A. in music therapy training at University of Roehampton, London and is currently a senior lecturer on a number of therapy training courses in the UK and in Ireland. She established the music therapy service at the National Rehabilitation Hospital, Dublin in 2008 working with children and adults who have had an acquired brain or spinal cord injury. She has a specific interest in music therapy research and has a Masters in research methodologies. Rebecca is also the Chairperson of the Irish Association of Creative Arts Therapists (IACAT) and has published and presented at National and International conferences on her work.

Dr Anna-Lynne Ruth Adlam
Senior Lecturer, Deputy Director of Research for Professional Doctorates, University of Exeter

Dr Anna Adlam is a Chartered Clinical Psychologist (D.Clin.Psy.) and academic Neuropsychologist (Ph.D.). Anna gained her Ph.D., investigating dissociations in memory in developmental amnesia, at the Institute of Child Health, UCL (1999-2003). Following this, Anna worked as a post-doctoral researcher at the MRC-Cognition and Brain Sciences Unit (2003-2006), investigating the neural correlates of semantic memory. Anna went on to complete her doctoral training in Clinical Psychology at the University of East Anglia (UEA, 2006-2009) before joining the UEA as a Clinical Lecturer/Senior Lecturer. Anna also worked as a clinical psychologist (HCPC registered) for the Cambridge Centre of Paediatric Neuropsychological Rehabilitation (2009-2012). Anna is currently completing a mid-career research fellowship funded by the British Academy (2015-2016) and is the research lead for the University of Exeter Child and Adolescent Neuropsychology group. The main focus of Anna’s research is to develop and evaluate neuropsychological interventions for young people who have survived a neurological condition (e.g., acquired brain injury). To do this, research includes studies, which aim to understand how different cognitive processes are affected by neurological conditions in childhood (i.e., to identify targets for intervention), and studies which evaluate the efficacy of specific neuropsychological interventions (e.g., memory training).

Sarah O’Doherty, BA D.Clin DipPaedNeuro AFBPsS, has worked for over 14 years as a clinical paediatric neuropsychologist within a specialist interdisciplinary team at the National Rehabilitation Hospital Dublin. The service provides therapeutic support, neuropsychological assessment and cognitive rehabilitation services to children and young adults with acquired brain injury, spinal cord injury and limb absence from the entire island of Ireland. She has specific interests in mild traumatic brain injury, medically unexplained symptoms, the impact of injury on siblings and the combined effects of music therapy and neuropsychology.
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