**WFNR SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ANNUAL REPORT**

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| Name of Special Interest Group | Communication Disorders SIG |
| Chair  Email | Dr Rebecca Palmer  r.l.palmer@sheffield.ac.uk |
| Co-Chair(s) where applicable   Email | Dr Apoorva Pauranik  apauranik@gmail.com |
| Number of Members | 6 signed up members (from UK, India, Austria, Egypt, France Kazakhstan)  20 delegates joined the meeting at WFNR congress in October 2020 |
| Key objectives and action plan | Purpose: To be an international, interdisciplinary group of rehabilitation professionals interested in improving delivery of rehabilitation to people with communication disorders worldwide  Objectives:  • To raise the profile of communication disorders within the WFNR  • To create links and communications with other international networks interested in communication disorders  • To provide and signpost to education and guidelines on communication to inter-disciplinary professionals and teams  • To provide training translated into local languages to improve work with people with communication disorders world-wide.  Specific topics of interest include:  o Communication Partner Training (for families and professionals)  o Translation and transfer of technology into different languages/cultural requirements & use of technology to provide communication rehabilitation in developing countries  o Reading and writing |
| Activities during previous 12 months | Contributed chapter on recommendations for rehabilitation of communication disorders within the Clinical Pathways in Stroke Rehabilitation: Evidence-based clinical practice recommendations book edited by T Platz and published by WFNR-Springer which will be available in 2021.  RP presented the content of this chapter in a WFNR pre-congress session attended by over 150 delegates.  Meeting of SIG members and interested delegates at WFNR to discuss USP, and renew aims and objectives of SIG.  Meeting of co-chairs to discuss how to take forward key objectives.  RP and AP contacted other related international groups to make them aware of this SIG.  RP began discussion with 2 software developer companies in the UK regarding translation and adaptation of aphasia software for India. AP worked on the material required with speech and language therapists in India.  RP and AP contacted members of the international Collaboration of Aphasia Triallists and set up meeting between SIG members and CATs members to see how we can collaborate to provide translated communication partner training to professionals and patients & families in different countries. |
| Proposed activities | * Contribute to Clinical Pathways training programme on stroke recommendations. * Pilot translated Communication Partner Training * Complete experiments with Steps Consulting Ltd to investigate how well speech recognition provides therapeutic feedback in Hindi in order to support translation of aphasia therapy software from English to Hindi * Investigate funding opportunities to support the roll out of international CPT training programmes/translation of training manuals, and development of software for aphasia in a range of world languages |
| Publications | Palmer R, Pauranik A Chapter 10. Rehabilitation of Communication Disorders. In Clinical Pathways in Stroke Rehabilitation: Evidence-based clinical practice recommendations T. Platz (ed) WFNR-Springer, 2021 |

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