

WFNR SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ANNUAL REPORT for 2025

Name of Special Interest Group	Neuropsychological Rehabilitation
Chair Email	<p>Caroline van Heugten</p> <p>C.vanheugten@maastrichtuniversity.nl</p> <p>Barbara Wilson, founding Chair of the NR-SIG in 2006, stood down as Chair at the NR-SIG 2021 AGM; co-founder Robyn Tate stepped down in 2024.</p>
Co-Chair(s) where applicable	<p><u>NR-SIG Management Committee:</u> Secretary: Marthe Ford; Treasurer: Jessica Fish; Committee members: Robyn Tate, Michael Perdices, Anna Adlam, Satu Baylan, Jonathan Evans, Jennie Ponsford, Tamara Ownsworth, Alexandra Rose, Kate Gould</p> <p><u>NR-SIG Social Media Committee:</u> Alexandra Rose</p> <p><u>Conference organiser and administrator:</u> Margaret Eagers, Matt Eagers</p>
Number of Members	About 200 members from 29 countries
Key objectives and action plan	<p>The NR-SIG is for clinicians and researchers from a range of disciplines who are interested in the rehabilitation of people across the lifespan with cognitive, emotional, psychosocial and behavioural deficits caused by acquired brain injury or neurological disease (both progressive and nonprogressive).</p> <p>The main objectives of the NR-SIG are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To encourage and support multidisciplinary clinical practice and research into the rehabilitation of people with cognitive, emotional, psychosocial and behavioural deficits caused by brain injury or neurological conditions (both progressive and nonprogressive) across the lifespan. 2. To improve the care of survivors of brain injury and their families through the translation of clinically relevant research. 3. To support the future of neuropsychological rehabilitation throughout the world and to provide a forum of communication and ongoing education for those with an interest in the area.

	<p>We work on these objectives with a management committee, along with our conference organiser and administrator, Margaret Eagers. The NR-SIG and the committee is chaired by Caroline van Heugten, and includes a social media team which aims to raise awareness of and promote NR-SIG activities, as well as to disseminate information on and promote research into acquired brain impairment and neurorehabilitation.</p> <p>Our activities include our annual 2-day conference, the training of students and the provision of continuing education activities to clinicians and researchers with lectures, webinars and workshops, including participating in the WFNR Flying Faculty programme and biennial congresses.</p> <p>Funds generated from NR-SIG activities are channelled into a travel and student-assistant bursary scheme to support attendance at the annual 2-day conference. Three types of bursaries are available:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Travel bursary for clinicians or researchers who are permanent residents from low, lower-middle and upper-middle income countries (as defined by the World Bank). - Travel bursary for Masters or PhD students or Early Career clinicians or researchers from other countries. - The student-assistant bursary provides students with hands-on experience in supporting the running of the annual conference in return for free registration.
<p>Activities during previous 12 months</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● In 2025, we organized the 22nd annual 2-day conference, which was held as a hybrid meeting in Mooloolaba, Australia in July 2025 following the conference of the International Neuropsychological Society (INS). It was convened by Tamara Ownsworth. ● The annual NR-SIG Newsletter 2025 was distributed in which – among other news - the new secretary Marthe Ford was presented as a spotlight researcher.

<p>Proposed activities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One main activity for 2026 will be the 23rd annual NR-SIG conference to be held 19-20 July, 2026 in Belfast, Ireland. Convenor is Saty Baylan. • The second main activity is the preparation of the WFNR e-book on Neuropsychological Rehabilitation. Springer had approved the book proposal in October 2025. Caroline van Heugten and Alexandra Rose will be editors. Jon Evans, Jessica Fish and Jennie Ponsford will form the editorial board. The book content and authors have been established. The first version of chapters is being written. Publication of the book is expected in 2026.
<p>Publications</p>	<p>As usual, many members of the NR-SIG published a large number of articles during 2025. A selection of some of the publications from Committee members includes:</p> <p>A series of systematic reviews of the Australian Traumatic Brain Injury Initiative: Neurotrauma Rep. 2024 Jul 4;5(1):0. J Neurotrauma. 2025 Nov;42(21-22):2047-2061. J Neurotrauma. 2025 Nov;42(21-22):2062-2077. J Neurotrauma. 2025 Nov;42(21-22):2096-2115. J Neurotrauma. 2025 Nov;42(21-22):2116-2137.</p> <p>Emery H, McDonald S, Wong D, Carrier S, Gertler P, Simpson G, Ownsworth T, Douglas J, Wearne T, Skromanis S, Honan CA; Guideline Development Group (full list of members available here https://osf.io/6vpu8/). Treatments for social cognitive difficulties following moderate-to-severe traumatic brain injury: A systematic review and meta-analysis. Neuropsychol Rehabil. 2025 Oct 9:1-43.</p> <p>King S, Rijkeboer M, Winkens I, Tuts N, Ford M, Frankenmolen N, Tanious R, van der Naalt J, van Heugten C. Effectiveness of intensive exposure therapy for persistent post-concussion symptoms: an aggregated single-case design approach. Behav Res Ther. 2026 Jan;196:104941.</p> <p>Rose AE, Cullen B, Crawford S, Evans JJ. The assessment of mood in people with severe cognitive and communication impairments following brain injury: a survey of UK-based professionals. Brain Inj. 2025 Aug;39(11):947-962.</p>

	<p>Gardani M, Baylan S, Zouhar V. Preliminary feasibility and efficacy of a brief behavioural treatment for insomnia after acquired brain injury: A case series. J Sleep Res. 2025 Aug;34(4):e14441.</p>
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Please send to Tracey Mole, WFNR Executive Director, traceymole@wfnr.co.uk