

WFNR SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP ANNUAL REPORT

Name of Special Interest Group	OPSYRIS: Organisation for PSYchological Research Into Stroke https://opsyris.org/
Chair Email	Stephanie Rossit, Ph.D. s.rossit@uea.ac.uk Following the annual meeting on 11 th September the following people will become co-chairs: Kathleen Vancleef, Ph.D.: kathleen.vancleef@durham.ac.uk Eirini Kontou, Ph.D.: Eirini.Kontou@nottingham.ac.uk)
Co-Chair(s) where applicable	OPSYRIS SIG Management committee Secretary: Sam Webb, Ph.D. Treasurer: Andrea Kusec, Ph.D. Conference Secretary: Fergus Gracey, Ph.D. Social media committee and website: Joshua Blake, Ph.D.; Tom Steverson, Ph.D.; Yidian Gao, Ph.D.; Kellsey McCann
Number of Members	530 members , with 13 countries represented (Australia, Germany, Hungary, India, Jordan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Netherlands, Portugal, Sierra Leone, Spain, United Kingdom, and United States).
Key objectives and action plan	Aim: to support, develop and promote psychological research in stroke. Objectives: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to provide a network of researchers who can communicate to the mutual benefit of their psychological studies with reference to stroke 2. to provide a forum at which ideas for psychological research into stroke, whatever stage of development, may be considered to improve the quality of research proposals, grant applications and the final research delivered. 3. to provide a vehicle for early dissemination of findings in relation to psychological research into stroke to improve subsequent reporting, both via formal conference and peer review publication. 4. to lobby for research funds to be made available for psychological research into stroke both directly via OPSYRIS but also via different bodies whose membership is reflected in those that are members of OPSYRIS, e.g. BPS, RCN, The Stroke Association 5. to raise awareness of psychological factors in clinical stroke services and support evidence-based practice in the application of psychological knowledge to stroke.

	<p>6. to consult and teach about psychological research and psychological aspects of researching in stroke.</p> <p>We work on these objectives with a management committee. The OPSYRIS-SIG and the committee is chaired by Stephanie Rossit and includes a social media team which aims to raise awareness of and promote OPSYRIS-SIG and WFNR activities, as well as to disseminate information on and promote psychological research into stroke. Our activities include our annual 1-day conference, webinars supporting the training of students and the provision of continuing educational activities for clinicians and researchers, and dissemination of research and events via newsletters.</p> <p>Funds generated from OPSYRIS-SIG activities are channeled into a rising star award for ECRs, travel and student-assistant bursary scheme to support attendance at the annual conference and poster awards.</p>
<p>Activities during previous 12 months</p>	<p>In 2025, we organized the annual meeting of OPSYRIS at the University of Manchester (UK) as a hybrid event. The event was hosted by Prof Audrey Bowen. The event attracted 52 in person and 28 virtual attendees. More information: https://opsyris.org/meetings/past-conference-programmes/manchester-2025/</p> <p>Our newsletters have been circulated throughout 2025 and 2026: https://opsyris.org/news/past-newsletters/</p> <p>We have re-invigorated member engagement and refreshed our email list. We have set up a new JISC mailing list to send out newsletters and important announcements (abstract deadlines, registration deadlines, WFNR posts, etc.).</p>
<p>Proposed activities</p>	<p>Two main activities are being prepared:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - OPSYRIS mid-year webinar on Wednesday 15th July at 12noon on 'The Mental Practice Variants Model for upper limb recovery after stroke: Towards evidence-based practice and clinical implementation' (Dr. Eaves, Newcastle University) - 20th anniversary annual OPSYRIS meeting on 11th September 2026 in Norwich, University of East Anglia, UK. The theme will be: <i>Cognition and Emotion after Acquired Brain Injury: Clinical and Technological Advances</i> - The Chair and local committee members will host the conference. More information can be found here: https://opsyris.org/meetings/

<p>Publications</p>	<p>Many members of the OPSYRIS-SIG published many articles during 2025. A selection of some of the publications from Committee members includes:</p> <p>Binney, R. J., Smith, L., Rossit, S., Demeyere, N., Learmonth, G., Olgiati, E., Halai, A., Rounis, E., Evans, J., Edelstyn, N. M. J., & McIntosh, R. D. (2025). Practical Routes to Preregistration: A Guide to Enhanced Transparency and Rigour in Neuropsychological Research. <i>Brain Communications</i>. https://doi.org/10.31234/osf.io/p267j</p> <p>McIntosh, R. D., Rossit, S., & Beschin, N. (2025). Spatial working memory predicts re-cancellation behaviour in neglect. <i>Cortex</i>, 182, 135-146. https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cortex.2024.11.006</p> <p>Kelleher, K., Demeyere, N., & Kusec, A. (2025). Augmenting Behavioural Activation with mental imagery improves post-stroke depressive symptoms. <i>Neuropsychological Rehabilitation</i>. https://doi.org/10.1080/09602011.2025.2573340</p> <p>Kelleher, K., Demeyere, N., & Kusec, A. (2025). Specific within-domain cognitive impairments predict depression severity six-months after stroke. <i>Topics in Stroke Rehabilitation</i>. https://doi.org/10.1080/10749357.2025.2557317</p> <p>Kusec, A., & Demeyere, N. (2025). Relationship of subjective and objective cognition with post-stroke mood differs between early and long-term stroke. <i>The Clinical Neuropsychologist</i>, 39(6), 1651-1672. https://doi.org/10.1080/13854046.2024.2417865</p> <p>Webb SS, Sun L, Tang EYH, Demeyere N. The mini-Oxford cognitive screen (Mini-OCS): A very brief cognitive screen for use in chronic stroke. <i>Eur Stroke J</i>. 2025 Jul 27:23969873251358811. Epub ahead of print. PMID: PMC12301230. doi.1177/23969873251358811</p> <p>Wo, Y., Demeyere, N. & Webb, S. S., (2025). Comparison of the Tele-Oxford Cognitive Screen to a neuropsychological battery in chronic stroke survivors. <i>Journal of Neuropsychology</i>. doi: 10.1111/jnp.70021</p> <p>Ene, C. G., Gracey, F., & Ford, C. (2025). A feasibility randomized-controlled trial of an executive functioning telerehabilitation intervention for stroke survivors. <i>Brain Injury</i>, 39(9), 772-783.</p>
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Farrell, L. J., **Gracey, F.**, Warty, M., & Ford, C. E. L. (2025). The effectiveness of interventions to support informal stroke carers: a systematic review. *Disability and Rehabilitation*, 1-14.

Kadri, A., **Gracey, F.**, & Leddy, A. (2025). What factors are associated with posttraumatic growth in older adults? A systematic review. *Clinical gerontologist*, 48(1), 4-21.

Elmi, A., Palmer, Y., **Gracey, F.**, & Shepherd, A. (2026). Preserving identity through caregiving: A systematic review and meta-synthesis of minority informal caregivers' experiences caring for older adults with neurological conditions. *Neuropsychological Rehabilitation*, 1-26.

Bracho, M. J., Salas, C., Ayden, J., & **Gracey, F.** (2025). The lived experiences of stigma among stroke survivors in a peer group. *Disability and Rehabilitation*, 1-21.

Ayden, J., Bracho-Ponce, M. J., Ajayi, J., Hanson, S., & **Gracey, F.** (2025). The experiences of social connection and isolation in adults with acquired brain injury: A qualitative systematic review and metasynthesis. *Health Expectations*, 28(5), e70420.

Spencer, D., Whiffin, C. J., & **Gracey, F.** (2025). A thematic synthesis of parents'/carers' perspectives regarding the development and content of interventions aimed at supporting children and young people with acquired brain injury and their families. *Disability and Rehabilitation*, 1-20.

Ottaway, G., Ene, C., **Gracey, F.**, & Broomfield, N. M. (2025). Investigating the reporting of participant characteristics relating to health equity in randomised controlled trials of non-pharmacological interventions for post-stroke anxiety and/or depression: a scoping review. *Disability and Rehabilitation*, 47(12), 2997-3008.

Hassan, E. T., **Gracey, F.**, & **Blake, J.** (2025). Evaluation of the Wisdom Enhancement Timeline approach for post-stroke depression using a single-case experimental design. *Behavioural and Cognitive Psychotherapy*, 53(4), 410-423. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1352465825101124>

Sacripante, R., James, T., Melega, G., Lancelotte, F., Johnen, A-K., Lopez Saquisili, C., Lidstrom, A., Niu, L., Goddard, K., Fountain, S., Clark, I., **Blake, J.**, Hornberger, M., Levine, B. & Renoult, L., 7 Nov 2025, (Accepted/In press) In: *Psychology and Aging*. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1037/pag0000960>

Semantic memory in healthy apolipoprotein ε4 carriers: A systematic review. Sacripante, R., James, T., Hornberger, M., **Blake, J.** & Renoult, L., Oct 2025, In: *Cortex*. 191, p. 228-244 17 p. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cortex.2025.08.006>

	<p>The factor structure of the Patient Health Questionnaire-9 in stroke: A comparison with a non-stroke population. Blake, J. J., Munyombwe, T., Fischer, F., Quinn, T. J., Van der Feltz-Cornelis, C. M., De Man-van Ginkel, J. M., Santos, I. S., Jeon, H. J., Köhler, S., Schram, M. T., Wang, J. L., Levin-Aspenson, H. F., Whooley, M. A., Hobfoll, S. E., Patten, S. B., Simning, A., Gracey, F. & Broomfield, N. M., Jan 2025, In: <i>Journal of Psychosomatic Research</i>. 188, 111983. DOI: 10.1016/j.jpsychores.2024.111983</p>
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