



ACQUIRED  
BRAIN INJURY  
IRELAND

# Acquired brain injury research in Ireland: current trends and future horizons

**FRIDAY 18 MAY, 2018**

The Wood Quay Venue, Dublin City Council Office  
Wood Quay, Dublin 8 from 9:30am to 1:30pm

More info at [www.abiireland.ie](http://www.abiireland.ie)



## SEMINAR PROGRAMME

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## Seminar Programme

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| 09:30   | Registration and refreshments   |  |
| 10:00   | Introduction and welcome  | Barbara O'Connell<br>Chief Executive<br>Acquired Brain Injury Ireland                                    |
| <b>Session 1: Current trends in evidence - adjusting to life and delivering interventions for people with acquired brain injury</b><br><b>Chairperson: Dr. Jacinta McElligott, National Rehabilitation Hospital</b> |   |  |
| 10:05   | Cognitive Behavioural Therapy in acquired brain injury. What works for whom?  | Dr. Brian Waldron<br>Acquired Brain Injury Ireland   |
| 10:30   | Executive functioning goals – how clinicians can support effectiveness        | Dr. Lorraine Crawley<br>Acquired Brain Injury Ireland  |
| 10:55   | Social identity and acquired brain injury                                     | Dr. Stephen Walsh<br>Manchester Metropolitan University  |
| <b>11.20 TEA AND COFFEE</b>   |   |  |
| 11.35   | A social cure for acquired brain injury?                                      | Prof Orla Muldoon<br>University of Limerick  |
| <b>Session 2: Future horizons in brain injury research; where to next?</b><br><b>Chairperson: Dr. Christine Linehan, University College Dublin</b>  |   |  |
| 12.00   | The role of economics in acquired brain injury                                | Dr. Dominic Trépel<br>Trinity College Dublin   |
| 12:25   | Technology and acquired brain injury: Current practice and future directions. | Sharon Leahy<br>National Rehabilitation Hospital<br>Claire Johnstone<br>National Rehabilitation Hospital |
| 12.50   | Exploring the ethical issues involved in brain injury research                | Dr. Fiadhait O'Keeffe<br>St. Vincent's Hospital  |
| 13.15   | One minute research pitch for delegates                                       | Anyone in the room who is engaged in a research project can pitch it for one minute!                     |
| 13:25   | Closing remarks   | Barbara O'Connell<br>Chief Executive<br>Acquired Brain Injury Ireland                                    |
| <b>13:30 ENDS</b>   |   |  |

*(The PowerPoint slides will be made available on [www.abiireland.ie](http://www.abiireland.ie) )*

# Biographies of Seminar Speakers and Chairpersons

## **Barbara O'Connell, Chief Executive, Acquired Brain Injury Ireland**



Barbara O'Connell is co-founder and Chief Executive of Acquired Brain Injury Ireland (ABI Ireland). Barbara has built the organisation from an idea to a national organisation providing specialist neuro-rehabilitation services in communities throughout Ireland. These services are internationally accredited by CARF (Commission on Accreditation for Rehabilitation Facilities). Prior to setting up ABI Ireland, Barbara worked as an Occupational Therapy Manager in the National Rehabilitation Hospital, pioneering the design, implementation and management of social re-integration programmes for people with an ABI, bridging the identified gap between post-acute services and return to the community. Across her career she has worked directly with clients and staff in adult and adolescent psychiatry and intellectual disability. Barbara has an MBA in Healthcare and Business from Smurfit Business School University College Dublin. Along with women in leadership training she completed an executive education course in Non-Profit Strategic Management in Harvard Business School in 2012 and strategic decision making in the Harvard Kennedy School in 2013. Additional achievements for Barbara include the two awards she received in 2012; Women Mean Business - Social Entrepreneur of the Year and National Winner of the Ulster Bank Business Achievers Award for Social Enterprise.

## **Dr. Jacinta McElligott, Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine, National Rehabilitation Hospital**



Dr McElligott is a Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine and the HSE Clinical Programme Lead for Rehabilitation Medicine with a Consultant appointment to National Rehabilitation Hospital, Tallaght Hospital and Peamount Healthcare. She graduated from the Royal College of Surgeons in Ireland and did her training in Rehabilitation at Montefiore Medical Centre in New York. Dr McElligott was an Associate Professor in Rehabilitation Medicine at East Carolina University in Greenville North Carolina before returning to Ireland in 2005. She has a special interest in Brain Injury, Stroke, Spinal Cord Injury and Complex Spasticity Management. She is a Senior Clinical Lecturer at Trinity College Dublin. Dr McElligott's current research interests includes, Traumatic Brain Injury , Epidemiology and Rehabilitation in Ireland, Brain Computer Interface in persons with Disorder of Consciousness, and investigating the impact of neurological music therapy for sensorimotor techniques.

## **Dr. Brian Waldron, Senior Clinical Psychologist and Clinical Neuropsychologist, Acquired Brain Injury Ireland**



Brian holds the post of Senior Clinical Psychologist with ABI Ireland since 2006. Prior to that, he held the post of Locum Senior Clinical Psychologist with the National Rehabilitation Hospital for 4 months.

Brian has also worked as a Clinical Psychologist for the HSE over 5 years (including 3 years of doctorate training), and was involved in the assessment and treatment of a variety of problems occurring in children, adults and families. Prior to his doctorate training he worked for Headway Ireland in 1999 as a Vocational Training Officer, and was involved in research on adjustment to spinal cord injuries from 1996 to 1998. He has been developing expertise in working with people with neurological damage over the last two decades. Brian holds a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology from University College Dublin and Master's degrees from University College Dublin and Trinity College Dublin. He is a registered member of the Psychological Society of Ireland, and a Practitioner Member of the British Psychological Society.

#### **Dr. Lorraine Crawley, Senior Clinical Psychologist, Acquired Brain Injury Ireland**



Dr. Lorraine Crawley has held the position of Senior Clinical Psychologist with Acquired Brain Injury Ireland for the past 4 years, having formerly worked in the HSE. She is a member of the Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) and the British Psychological Society. Lorraine is the current Chair of the ABI Ireland Research Ethics Committee. At present her research focus is on providing clinical supervision for a Clinical Psychology Doctoral thesis on the topic of acquired brain injury and loneliness. Lorraine previously supervised a Neuropsychology Masters thesis on the development and effectiveness of Executive Functioning groups for adults with acquired brain injury. She co-facilitated a workshop on this topic at the 2015 PSI Annual Conference. Lorraine draws particularly from Acceptance and Commitment Therapy and Narrative Approaches in her therapeutic work with clients.

#### **Dr. Stephen Walsh, Lecturer, Manchester Metropolitan University**



Dr Stephen Walsh is a psychologist whose research focus is on relationships between identity, health and wellbeing. Stephen has been involved with Acquired Brain Injury Ireland since 2009. ABI Ireland supported and facilitated Stephen's PhD research (A social identity approach to acquired brain injury) which was funded by the Irish Research Council and completed in the University of Limerick. Stephen has represented ABI Ireland at a range of events including the International Brain Injury Association conference. Now working at Manchester Metropolitan University, Stephen's relationship with ABI Ireland continues across a variety of projects.

**Professor Orla Muldoon, Professor of Psychology, University of Limerick**



Orla Muldoon is Professor of Psychology at University of Limerick. She has a long standing interest in the impact of trauma on children and adults. Much of her work relates to the role of groups and identity processes and how they can ameliorate the impact of trauma, stress and adversity. She has been working with colleagues in Limerick and ABI Ireland since 2009 to examine the role and value of community integration and group services on rehabilitation and adaptation after acquired brain injury.

**Dr. Christine Linehan, Associate Professor, University College Dublin**



Christine Linehan is an Associate Professor with the School of Psychology, University College Dublin. Christine is Director of the UCD Centre for Disability Studies and Joint Director of the UCD MSc in Rehabilitation and Disability Studies with Associate Professor Suzanne Guerin. Christine is also an Honorary Senior Lecturer with the Tizard Centre, University of Kent, UK. Before moving to UCD, Christine was employed as Associate Professor/Director of the National Institute for Intellectual Disability, Trinity College Dublin and was a Visiting Senior Research Fellow at Trinity's School of Social Work and Social Policy. Prior to this, Christine was employed as Senior Research Officer with the National Disability Authority, the statutory body providing advice on disability practice and policy to the Irish Government.

**Dr. Dominic Trépel, Assistant Professor of Economics, Trinity College Dublin**



Dominic is an Assistant Professor of Economics at Trinity College Dublin. He is a health economist with dedicated interests in dementia, mental health and ageing. Through working with Global Brain Health Institute, The Irish Longitudinal Study on Ageing (TILDA) and related studies, he aims to develop novel approaches to improve dementia care worldwide. Dominic was previously a senior research fellow with a leading health economic group, the University of York and the Academic Unit for Health Economics. His doctoral research on the Economics of Dementia in Ireland and Europe was supported by the prestigious Government of Ireland scholarship and the Cochrane Fellowship. He also received structured doctoral training in health economics from the Institut d'Economie et de Management de la Santé (IEMS) in the Swiss School of Public Health.

### **Sharon Leahy, Occupational Therapist, National Rehabilitation Hospital**



Sharon is an Occupational Therapist, graduating in Occupational Therapy from the National University of Ireland Galway in 2014 with a first class honours degree. She specialised in the area of neuro rehabilitation and is currently working in the National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH) in Dun Laoghaire, Co. Dublin. Sharon has worked across all programmes in the NRH; brain injury, spinal cord injury, limb absence and paediatrics. She has a keen interest in the area of Assistive Technology (AT) and is currently running an inter-disciplinary AT clinic with speech and language therapy. Sharon has represented the NRH at several national and international conferences presenting in the areas of brain injury and spinal cord injury.

### **Claire Johnstone, Speech and Language Therapist, National Rehabilitation Hospital**



Claire is a Speech and Language Therapist at the NRH. She completed an MSc in Speech and Language Therapy in the University of Limerick and graduated in 2013. Her undergraduate background is in Business Studies and Sociology. Claire has worked both within the acute and rehabilitation settings and is specialised in the area of neuro-rehabilitation, working in the National Rehabilitation Hospital. Claire has mainly worked within the adult Brain Injury Programme during her time in the NRH. She has a keen interest in Assistive Technology and have contributed to the NRH Electronic and Assistive Technology (EAT) Clinic and utilised technology in supporting engagement, language and cognitive-communication skills for patients.

### **Dr. Fiadhnaid O’Keeffe, Senior Clinical Psychologist and Senior Clinical Neuropsychologist, St. Vincent’s Hospital**



Dr Fiadhnaid O’Keeffe, Senior Clinical Psychologist and Senior Clinical Neuropsychologist, has worked with people with neurological conditions since 2001 both clinically and through research. Her current role is Senior Clinical Neuropsychologist in the Neurology Department in St Vincent’s University Hospital in Dublin. She previously held the role of Senior Clinical Neuropsychologist in the National Rehabilitation Hospital in Dun Laoghaire for 8 years. She also has experience in working in the National Health Service in the UK. Her PhD thesis in Trinity College Dublin investigated insight following Traumatic Brain Injury and other neurological conditions. She has 21 published research studies in international peer-reviewed journals. She is currently Chair of the Psychological Society of Ireland Division of Neuropsychology and a committee member of the Research Ethics Committee of Acquired Brain Injury Ireland.



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