



Brain Injury Research in Ireland: Advancing our knowledge, growing our community.

DRAFT Seminar Programme, 14 June 2019*

09:30	Registration and refreshments	
09:45	Introduction and welcome	Barbara O'Connell Acquired Brain Injury Ireland
Session 1: Moving from theory to practice, what the research is telling us Chairperson: Dr. Brian Waldron, Acquired Brain Injury Ireland		
09:50	"Lonely in my head". An exploration of the experience of loneliness in individuals with brain injury.	Dr. Niamh Lowe HSE
10:20	Supporting people with post-stroke aphasia to live well: interim findings from an ongoing study.	Molly Manning University of Limerick
10.50	Music therapy and disorders of consciousness	Rebecca O'Connor National Rehabilitation Hospital
11.20 TEA AND COFFEE		
11:40	An Examination of the Effectiveness of a Cognitive Group Intervention for People with ABI Cognitive Group Interventions	Dr. Carol Rogan NUI Maynooth
Session 2: Building and growing our knowledge and brain injury research community Chairperson: Dr. Lorraine Crawley, Acquired Brain Injury Ireland		
12:10	Concussion, evidence and treatment	Professor John Ryan St. Vincent's University Hospital
12:40	Traumatic Brain injury-the surgeon's perspective	Dr. Philip O'Halloran Beaumont Hospital
13.10	Brain injury research network – update on progress with open discussion	Yvonne Pearse, Soli Projects
13:25	Closing remarks	Barbara O'Connell Acquired Brain Injury Ireland
13:30 ENDS		

*Subject to change

Biographies of Seminar Speakers and Chairpersons

Dr. Niamh Lowe, Clinical Psychologist, Health Service Executive



Dr. Niamh Lowe is a recent graduate of the Clinical Psychology Doctorate in Trinity College Dublin. She is currently working as a Clinical Psychologist in a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Team in North County Dublin. Niamh completed her BA and MA in Applied Psychology from University College Cork. In 2010, she was involved in a road traffic accident and sustained a severe traumatic brain injury. She was a patient in the NRH and client of both Headway and ABI Ireland. This personal experience led Niamh to develop an interest in the area of brain injury. During her MA and Doctoral Training Niamh completed placements in Headway Brain Injury Services and undertook research in the areas of social isolation, loneliness, and emotional adjustment in individuals with brain injury. She was the winner of the inaugural early career award of the Division of Neuropsychology in December 2018 for her thesis research. She has published articles in *Brain Injury Journal* and *The Psychologist Magazine* of the British Psychological Society.

Molly Manning, Speech and Language Therapist, University of Limerick



Molly is a HRB-funded PhD scholar on the SPHeRE programme (Structured PhD in Population Health & Health Services Research). Her background is in service design and project management, mainly in the health sector. She is also a qualified Speech & Language Therapist and has worked in a variety of roles clinically and academically. As part of her PhD, Molly is looking at how best to support people with post-stroke aphasia, particularly those of working age, to live well. She is working with an aphasia advisory group and has completed a systematic review, a survey of current service provision and interviews with people with aphasia.

Dr. Carol Rogan, National University of Ireland, Maynooth



Carol Rogan has recently completed a PhD through Maynooth University, investigating the effectiveness of a Cognitive Group Programme for individuals with Acquired Brain Injury (ABI). She previously conducted research in the area of post-traumatic growth after brain injury and received the Irish Medical Times Clinical Researcher of the Year Award (2011) and the Deirdre McMackin Award (Psychological Society of Ireland, 2012) for this research. Carol previously worked as a Training Manager in ABI Ireland and during this time was editor of the *Essential Brain Injury Guide - Irish Edition* (2013). She also managed a Family Carer Training Programme (*Brain Aware*) which won an Astellas Pharma Changing Tomorrow Award and resulted in a published paper in the *British Journal of Health Psychology* (2015). Carol currently works as Scientific Coordinator for the Dementia and Neurodegeneration Network Ireland (DNNI), an all-Ireland research development initiative. DNNI seeks to improve our understanding of the causes and mechanisms of dementia and neurodegeneration, the effectiveness of different models of care and the policy changes required to improve the quality of life for individuals and their caregivers.

Dr. Philip O'Halloran, Senior Specialist Registrar, Neurosurgery, Beaumont Hospital



Phil is currently the Senior Specialist Registrar at the national neurosurgical center in Beaumont Hospital & is due to complete his neurosurgical training during the summer. Phil is a science graduate from UCC and a medical graduate from RCSI. During his neurosurgical training he was awarded a PhD from RCSI, in the field of translational neuro-oncology which included a research fellowship at the European Institute of Molecular Imaging in Germany. Phil also founded the Brain Tumour Biobank, in 2012, to further enhance the understanding of the molecular biology of different types of brain tumours. He is a principle investigator/collaborator in many brain tumour projects but also in the field of traumatic brain injury. He has several peer review publications as well as being the recipient of numerous awards/grants at an international & national level and holds the position of an honorary clinical lecturer in RCSI. In July 2019, Phil will commence a surgical neuro-oncology fellowship in Toronto.

Professor John Ryan, Clinical Professor Emergency Medicine, St. Vincent's University Hospital



Professor Ryan is a UCD clinical professor in Emergency Medicine. He is the current Clinical Lead for the Department. He trained in Emergency Medicine in Ireland, the UK and Australia. He was formerly a consultant and senior lecturer in Emergency Medicine in Brighton, UK. He is the Vice Dean for Advanced Specialty Training in Emergency Medicine (ASTEM) in Ireland and the Programme Director for specialty training in sports and exercise medicine. He has a track record and a particular interest in medical education and sport centre exercise medicine.

Yvonne Pearse, Freelance Contractor, Soli Projects



Yvonne Pearse is a freelance contractor within the charity sector in Ireland, operating under the name of Soli Projects. Her experience is in both the non-profit and the commercial sectors, and most recently she led the Irish launch of an international tech startup. Witnessing the changes that were facing charities in Ireland, she felt compelled to return to work with them. A qualified project manager, she now offers project support to a wide-range of dynamic organisations. Her passion is to collate and share best practice, and to champion disruptive and transformative change.

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



Brian has held 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, 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 former chair of the Psychological Society of Ireland (PSI) Division of Neuropsychology and is currently the PSI rep on the National Clinical Program for Rehabilitation Medicine Working Group. Brian teaches on the Trinity College Dublin Doctorate in Clinical Psychology Programme and on the University College Dublin Masters in Rehabilitation and Disability studies. Brian has been appointed president of the World Congress on Brain Injury and will lead the Scientific Committee for the Dublin 2021 World Congress event from 3-6 March, 2021.



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 5 years, having formerly worked in the HSE. She is a member of the Psychological Society of Ireland and the British Psychological Society. Lorraine is the current Chair of the ABI Ireland Research & Ethics Committee. She provided clinical supervision for Dr. Niamh Lowe's Doctoral thesis on the topic of ABI & Loneliness. Lorraine previously supervised a Neuropsychology Master's thesis on the development and effectiveness of Executive Functioning groups for adults with ABI. She co-facilitated a workshop on this topic at the 2015 PSI Annual Conference. She is currently involved in a research study on fatigue management and ABI. Lorraine draws particularly from Acceptance & Commitment therapy and Narrative approaches in her therapeutic work with clients.