

SLT Rehabilitation Conference 2023

Supporting Recovery after
Brain Injury or Spinal Cord Injury



NRH

National Rehabilitation
University Hospital



October

19th and 20th, 2023

dlr Lexicon,
Dún Laoghaire

Introduction



Welcome to the National Rehabilitation Hospital's SLT Conference 2023! This exciting event brings together SLTs from all over Ireland with a similar passion for improving outcomes for patients with communication and swallowing difficulties after a Brain Injury or Spinal Cord Injury.

Our objectives for this Conference are to share knowledge and information, inspire new ideas and ways of working and build connections within the SLT world. Attendees will have the opportunity to listen to key presentations and engage in hands-on workshops, covering a range of topics such as complex dysphagia rehabilitation, assistive technology, and cognitive-communication rehabilitation. We aim to create an environment that promotes enriched learning and meaningful connections that will enhance the therapy we provide to our patients.

The NRH SLT department is very proud to host this event. We are a department of twenty-one passionate, innovative SLTs and SLT assistants. We provide services to all Rehabilitation Programmes in the NRH including the Spinal Cord System of Care, the Brain Injury and Stroke Programmes, the Paediatric Programme and occasionally the Prosthetic, Orthotic and Limb Absence Rehabilitation (POLAR) Programme.

The SLT department at the NRH is equipped with a wide range of specialist services. We have a FEES service with clinics running twice a week. Since January 2023, we offer Pharyngeal Electrical Stimulation to suitable patients. SLTs are active members of our tracheostomy team supporting patients with tracheostomies to communicate, eat and drink to the best of their abilities.

In addition to individual therapy, we run several groups including our 'Social Spotlight Group', which is jointly run by the SLT and Psychology Departments for patients with social communication difficulties: the 'Cognitive Communication Group' and the 'Heads Up: Transition to Secondary School Group' for children who are starting first year in secondary school. Our Electronic and Assistive Technology Clinic is run by SLT and OT and focuses on the use of technology to support our patients to access their environments and participate in everyday activities. Practice Education is a huge aspect of our work and we facilitate placements for approximately 14 students per year. These students often join our department as fully fledged SLTs after they have finished college.

We hope you thoroughly enjoy our two-day conference and we look forward to this opportunity to share our knowledge and learn together.

Alice Whyte,
A/SLT Manager in Charge III.

Thursday 19th October

9:00 Studio	Registration and Refreshments		
9:45	Introduction - Alice Whyte , SLT Manager, National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH) Keynote Speaker - June Stanley , Deputy Chief Executive Officer, NRH		
10:00 Studio	Complex Dysphagia Rehabilitation Presenters: Niamh O'Donovan , Clinical Specialist SLT Amy Rennie , Senior SLT and Teaching Fellow TCD.	10:00 Meeting Room 1	Cognitive Communication: A Practical Approach for Paediatrics Presenters: Becky Woods , Senior SLT Julianna Little , Clinical Specialist SLT
11:30 Studio	Coffee break	11:30 Studio	Coffee break
12:00 Studio	Cognitive Communication: The Why, What and How of Assessment Presenters: Paula Bradley SLT Specialising in Cognitive Communication Disorders and Neurorehabilitation Joan Monahan Clinical Specialist SLT Marie Cox Senior SLT	12:00 Meeting Room 1	School Reintegration and Collaboration with Schools Presenters: Julianna Little , Clinical Specialist SLT Becky Woods , Senior SLT.
13:00 Studio	Lunch	13:00 Studio	Lunch
14:00 Meeting Rooms 2, 3 & 4	Social Communication Intervention Workshop Facilitators: Cathal Phelan , Senior SLT Laoighse Gleeson , Senior SLT Toni Galligan , Clinical Psychologist	14:00 Meeting Room 1	Functional Integrative Therapy Tasks for Children and Young People Workshop Facilitators: Julianna Little , Clinical Specialist SLT Becky Woods , Senior SLT Amy Dominguez Reyes , SLT Asst.
	Cognitive Communication Intervention Workshop Facilitators: Nora Waghorne , Senior SLT Catherine Costello , SLT	14:50 Meeting Room 1	Assistive Technology for Children and Young People Workshop Facilitators: Julianna Little , Clinical Specialist SLT Becky Woods , Senior SLT Amy Dominguez Reyes , SLT Asst.
	Community Outings Workshop Facilitator: Emma Harte , Clinical Specialist SLT	15:40 Meeting Room 1	Paediatric Dysphagia Rehab Workshop Facilitators: Becky Woods , Senior SLT Ellen Dunne , SLT
16:30 Studio	Panel Discussion: Rehabilitation Potential and Complexity Panel Members: Dr Shane Hanratty , Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine Paula Bradley , SLT specialising in Cognitive Communication Disorders and Neurorehabilitation; and Julianna Little , Clinical Specialist SLT Panel Modulator: Prof. Aine Carroll , Professor of Healthcare Integration and Improvement, and Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine		
17:00	Finish		

Friday 20th October

9:00 Studio	Registration and refreshments
9:45	Coffee and Networking
10:00 Studio	SLT Assessment and Management for Patients with Prolonged Disorders of Consciousness Presenter: Emma Harte, Clinical Specialist SLT
11:00 Studio	Coffee break
11:30 Studio	Complex Rehabilitation Case Presentations Spinal Cord Injury Case Presentation: Niamh O'Donovan , Clinical Specialist SLT Brain Injury Case Presentation: Cathal Phelan , Senior SLT Dual Diagnoses Case Presentation: Claire Johnstone and Nora Waghorne , Senior SLTs
13:00 Studio	Lunch
14:00 Meeting Rooms 2, 3 & 4	Vocational Rehabilitation Workshop Facilitators: Claire Johnstone , Senior SLT Tara Diver , Senior SLT Eimear Corcoran , SLT
	Electronic Assistive Technology Workshop Facilitators: Marie Cox , Senior SLT Ellen Dunne , SLT Meagan Parkinson , SLT Assistant
	Aphasia Intervention Workshop Facilitators: Amy Rennie , Senior SLT & Teaching Fellow TCD Amy Kavanagh , SLT.
16:30 Studio	Patient Experience Presentation: Presenter: Sinead Connolly
17:00	Finish



Aine Carroll is Professor of Healthcare Integration and Improvement at University College Dublin, Ireland and a Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine at the National Rehabilitation University Hospital (NRH) in Dublin. She is Chair of the International Foundation for Integrated Care (IFIC) and Co-Director of IFIC Ireland, a collaborative hub established to support integrated care activities in Ireland. Prior to this, she was National Director of the Clinical Strategy and Programmes Division in the Health Services Executive in Ireland. During her tenure, Professor Carroll established the Integrated Care Programmes to promote coordinated care and teamwork across services and specialties, ensuring that care is provided effectively and seamlessly to patients as they move through the system. Áine is known internationally for her expertise in integrated care, whole system change, complexity and implementation. She is passionate about person-centred, coordinated care, complexity theory in healthcare, and the power of stories.



Paula Bradley LCST, MPhil (TCD), has worked in the field of acquired brain injury for over 30 years. Paula is a former SLT Manager and former Board member at the NRH, setting up a range of SLT neurorehabilitation services over 25 years (including Paediatrics, PDOC, Outpatients, AT). Former chair of an NRH led project, setting up the first multiagency assistive technology library (International Access award), Paula also led many collaborative SLT technology projects with UCD. As a co-founder of the Peter Bradley Foundation, now www.abiireland.ie, Paula is committed to building community supports, education and services for lifelong communication needs after ABI, and is a founder member of Headway Ireland. With longstanding collaborations in cognitive communication disorders, Paula and Joan Monahan, developed the Cedars information processing & Comprehension (Auditory) Profile, and offer cognitive communication disorders workshops to SLTs in Ireland & UK. Paula advocates across youth justice agencies for SLT services for cognitive communication disorders. Paula has been involved in undergraduate and postgraduate lecturing for many years and in carer & family education, including award winning BRAIN AWARE, and is a certified Brain Injury Specialist (CBIS) and CBIS trainer.



Marie Cox is Senior Speech & Language Therapist and Practice Tutor at the NRH. She holds an honours degree in Psychology from Trinity College Dublin (TCD) and a postgraduate professional qualification in Speech & Language Therapy from Queen Margaret University Edinburgh. Marie has over 10 years' experience working in neurorehabilitation. She lectures in TCD on the topic of Cognitive-Communication Disorders in ABI also. She has a special interest in the area of assistive technology and has been involved in the establishment of the Assistive Technology Clinic at the NRH. Marie is passionate about harnessing new and existing technologies to promote communication and enhance engagement in valued interests and life roles for individuals with acquired communication challenges.



Emma Harte is a Clinical Specialist Speech and Language Therapist in the NRH. Emma qualified with a BSc in Clinical Speech and Language Studies from Trinity College Dublin (TCD) and completed a Post-Graduate Diploma in Dysphagia at TCD in 2010. Emma worked in the acute setting before starting in the NRH in 2010, where she has been a valued team member ever since. Emma's clinical interests include complex dysphagia rehabilitation and prolonged disorders of consciousness, and she is a SMART assessor. She has a special interest in supporting student placements. Emma recently obtained her qualification as a professional make-up artist and has since piloted the groundbreaking 'Therapeutic Makeup Artist Service' in the NRH, helping patients to re-connect with their sense of personal identity and control, while practicing a range of skills. Emma was subsequently awarded funding from the SPARK Innovation Programme to support this service.



Claire Johnstone is a Senior Speech and Language therapist working within the Stroke unit in the NRH. She holds an honors degree in Business and Sociology from Trinity College Dublin and a MSc in Speech and Language Therapy from the University of Limerick. Claire spent a year working in the acute setting in Letterkenny University Hospital before moving to the NRH where she worked with the Brain Injury and Stroke programmes for 7 years. She has a keen interest in cognitive-communication disorders and complex communication and has been involved in several initiatives targeting group-based approaches and interventions in brain injury. In addition to her inpatient work, Claire has also spent time working as the Training Coordinator within the NRH Rehabilitation Training Unit (RTU), supporting trainees with their ongoing goals regarding home and community participation and vocational training.



Julianna Little qualified with a BSc honors degree in Clinical Speech and Language Studies from Trinity College Dublin. Julianna's clinical experience spans from post-acute inpatient neurorehabilitation through to community outreach and return to school. Julianna has worked within specialist interdisciplinary teams (IDTs), both at the National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH) and at The Children's Trust, Tadworth, Surrey in the UK. She has been involved in several innovative SLT education and training initiatives, focusing on a range of communication interventions in both adult and paediatric populations. Julianna is committed to ensuring holistic, interdisciplinary, child and family-centred care is at the forefront for all children, young people and families served. Motto: "Every interaction is an intervention".



Joan Monahan has worked in the field of adult neurorehabilitation in both Canada and Ireland since she qualified from Clinical Speech and Language Studies at Trinity College Dublin. She currently provides outpatient services at the NRH where she works collaboratively with the individual, their family and the interdisciplinary team to develop meaningful treatment goals, activities and strategies. Over the years, Joan has developed numerous clinical assessment tools and training resources. Joan was a founder board member of the Volunteer Stroke Scheme in Ireland. She has a passion to empower people with Acquired Brain Injuries by providing supportive training and education to patients, families and friends, to enable the person to live a full and meaningful life through effective communication and participation.



Niamh O'Donovan qualified with a BSc honors degree from Trinity College Dublin. She has worked across community, acute, and post-acute care for adults and children in South Tipperary, and the National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH). Niamh currently works as a Clinical Specialist Speech and Language therapist on the Spinal Cord Injury Programme and has developed the SLT service on the Spinal Programme in the NRH over the past decade. She is a Level 3 FEES endoscopist and is enthusiastic about developing skills in FEES for assessing clinician & endoscopy roles across the department. Niamh is hugely passionate about supporting patients to eat and drink with acknowledged risk of aspiration and empowering their families and teams to support this decision.



Cathal Phelan qualified as a Speech and Language Therapist from Canterbury Christchurch University and then worked in the NHS for 5 years where he gained experience working across a wide range of settings in the Merseyside area, including acute stroke, neurorehabilitation, stroke ESD and adult community. Since moving back to Ireland in 2018, Cathal has worked in Beaumont, St James' and Cherry Orchard Hospitals, before moving to the NRH in 2020. He is currently working in the Brain Injury programme. Prior to becoming a Speech and Language Therapist, Cathal attended UCD where he completed a Degree in Linguistics and Sociology. He then completed a Masters' Degree in Cognitive Science; his thesis examined memory systems in musicians.



Amy Rennie graduated in 2018 with a BSc in Clinical Speech and Language Studies from Trinity College Dublin (TCD). Post-qualification, Amy gained acute experience working in Beaumont Hospital. In early 2020 Amy joined the team at the NRH. During her time here Amy has worked primarily in the Brain Injury Programme but has also enjoyed working in paediatric brain injury and spinal cord injury. In 2021, Amy pursued a MSc in Neuroscience at TCD. This provided an excellent opportunity to understand the complex nature of neurological & psychiatric diseases. Her thesis explored the neurobiology underpinning human TBI through examining fruit flies! At present, Amy is a Senior SLT working in ABI. She is also employed part-time in the department of Clinical Speech and Language Studies as a Teaching Fellow in Aphasia. Amy is passionate about supporting patients to achieve meaningful outcomes and re-engage in their life, particularly in dysphagia & aphasia rehabilitation.

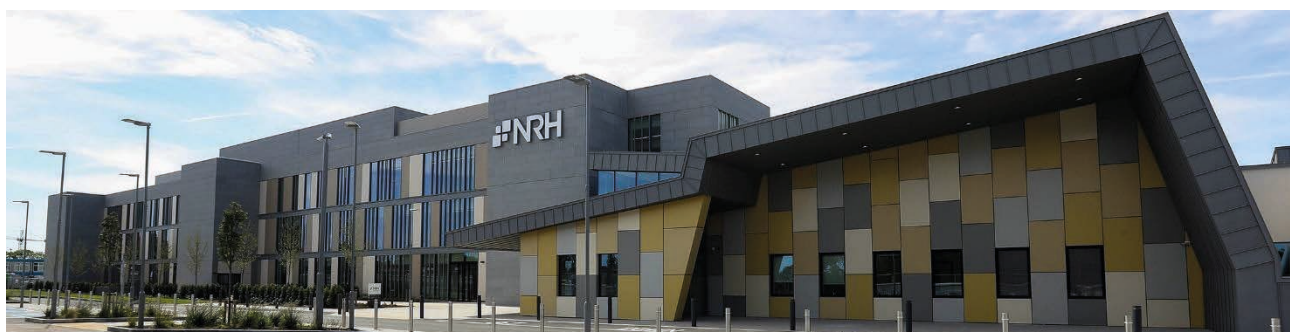


Nora Waghorne qualified with an MSc honors degree in Speech and Language Science from University College London. Nora spent 4 years working in King's College Hospital, a major trauma centre in London, where she gained valuable clinical experience in trauma, acute medicine, critical care, neurosurgery and neurorehabilitation. Nora has been working in the National Rehabilitation Hospital's Brain Injury and Stroke programmes for over 2 years. Nora has a keen interest in cognitive communication disorder and complex communication diagnoses and is passionate about person-centered and meaningful intervention. Motto: "None of us is as smart as all of us".



Becky Woods is a Senior Speech and Language Therapist working in the Paediatric and Family Centred Programme in the National Rehabilitation Hospital (NRH). Becky qualified with a BSc in Clinical Speech and Language Studies from Trinity College Dublin (TCD) and completed a Masters in Dysphagia at TCD. Becky gained over 2 years' experience working in acute hospitals settings before starting at the NRH in 2014, where she has worked in the Brain Injury Programme and the Paediatric Programme. Becky has a keen interest in supporting students and has worked as Clinical Tutor during her time here. Becky also lectures third level students on the topic of cognitive-communication disorders in paediatrics and adults with ABI. Becky's clinical interests include paediatric complex dysphagia, and she contributes to the NRH FEES service as an Endoscopist. She also has a special interest in cognitive-communication disorders, assistive technology, and supporting children and young people's successful return to school.

Thank you to our generous sponsors



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The National Rehabilitation Hospital is accredited by CARF (Commission for accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities) for a range of services, confirming they meet recognised international standards.