

Newsletter

ISSUE 1 DECEMBER 2015

Understanding Better Tackled By Joint Effort

WELCOME TO THE FIRST QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW ZEALAND PEDIATRIC TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY CONSORTIUM (PTBIC)

The New Zealand PTBIC has been developed with the goal of expanding understanding of pediatric brain injury and improving the outcomes of children through a collaborative effort to undertake research. Many questions remain unanswered within the field of pediatric TBI, including the role of age at injury, the short and longer term developmental consequences of TBI, and the interplay between genetics and environment in recovery. It is our aim to tackle these areas collectively with clinicians, researchers and those supporting children affected by TBI and their families/whānau.

Your input into formulating the nature of the consortium and our collaborative efforts is most welcome. Likewise, you are also invited to nominate additional members and organisations who may wish to be involved and/or kept up to date with developments concerning pediatric TBI research in New Zealand. We look forward to liaising more closely with you all in the New Year!

Regards,

Kelly Jones

Senior Research Fellow, National Institute for Stroke and Applied Neurosciences, Auckland University of Technology (AUT)

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MISSION STATEMENT

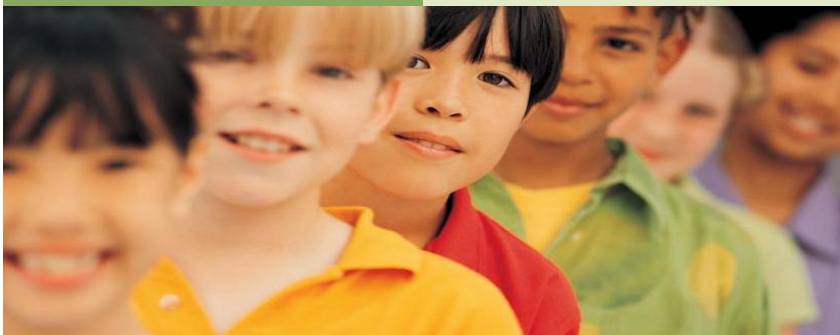
Our goals are to 1) expand understanding of TBI during childhood and adolescence and 2) improve outcomes of affected children and their families by promoting a collaborative approach to research.

Who Are We?

The researchers behind the consortium



AUT University
University of Waikato
The University of Auckland



The PTBIC emerged following the HRC-funded Brain Injury Incidence and Outcomes New Zealand in the Community (BIONIC) Study. Led by **PROFESSOR VALERY FEIGIN (AUT)** - *Neurologist*, members of the BIONIC investigative team continue to collaborate on TBI research including child- research. Driving members of the consortium include: **DR KELLY JONES (AUT)** - *Developmental Psychologist*, **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR NICOLA STARKEY (UOW)** - *Neuroscientist*; **DR ALICE THEADOM (AUT)** - *Health Psychologist*, and **ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR SUZANNE BARKER-COLLO (UOA)** - *Clinical Psychologist*. Together, this team has a strong track record in TBI research with over 35 years combined experience. Some of the team are Global Burden of Disease TBI Panel members, collaborators on the CENTER-TBI project, and are currently developing interventions specifically designed to support children and adolescents with TBI and their families/whānau. Watch this space for further details!

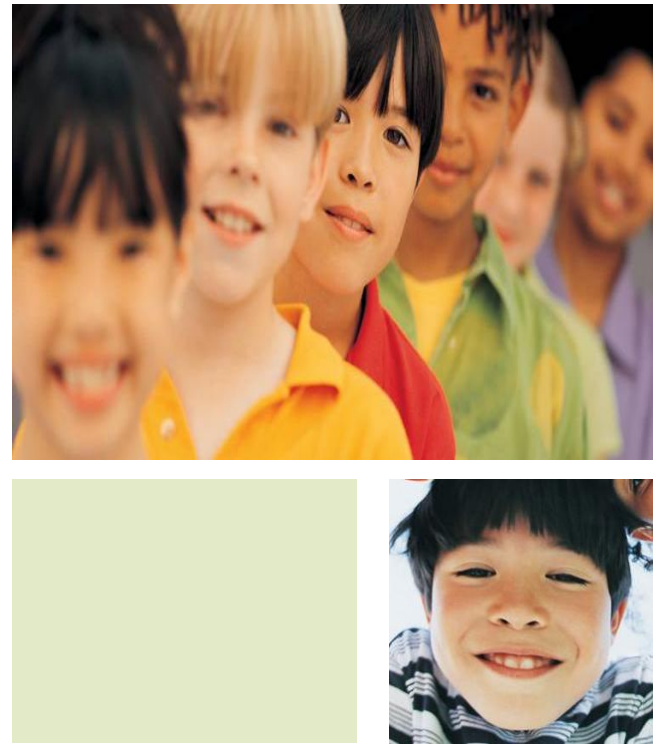
Supporting Organisation Profile

THINK! - THE HEAD INJURY NETWORK FOR KIWIS empowers adults, children and families affected by brain injury through the provision of information, education and advocacy support and raise awareness and prevention in the community. THINK! assist children with TBI by educating teacher's aides and teachers about the effects TBI may have on the child, strategies to maximise learning and how to manage the student's fatigue. We provide information to families including siblings on coping with the child with TBI, and how to avoid further injury. We also assist and work with families and liaise with services, including ACC, to meet a broad range of needs.

THINK!
THE HEAD INJURY NETWORK FOR KIWIS

First International Conference of Paediatric Acquired Brain Injury Liverpool, 16-18 September 2015

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR NICOLA STARKEY



The first international paediatric acquired brain injury conference was attended by almost 500 delegates. The talks and posters covered topics including evidence based research of treatments of pediatric TBI, information about support for families, and how to recognise, treat and manage mild TBI. One of the highlights was the pre-conference workshop on 'clinical assessments and management of concussion' which provided contrasting views on how concussion was managed here and in the USA, particularly in terms of when and how children are assessed and followed up after a mild TBI. In the US extensive assessment occurred soon after injury whereas in NZ (and Australia) extensive cognitive assessments are only carried out with children who have ongoing problems. There are significant resource implications in following the US model and as yet there is little evidence to suggest that early extensive assessment lead to better long-term outcomes. This is certainly a space to watch about how best to manage concussion. All in all a great conference with some informative debates and discussions!

UPCOMING 2016 MEETINGS ON TBI

- **12th International NeuroTrauma Society (INTS) Symposium**

February 01-04, Cape Town, SOUTH AFRICA (Abstract submission closed)

<http://ints2014.com/Content/INTS-2016>

- **11th World Congress on Brain Injury**

March 02-05, The Hague, THE NETHERLANDS (Abstract submission closed)

<http://www.internationalbrain.org/news/save-date-eleventh-world-congress-2016/>

- **Neuropsychological Rehabilitation Special interest group of the WFNR**

July 11-12, Glasgow, UNITED KINGDOM (Abstract submission closes Feb 07)

<http://mers.vpweb.com.au/NR-SIG-WFNR-Conf.html>

- **39th ASSBI Annual Brain Impairment Conference**

September 26-28, 2016, Macau, CHINA

http://www.assbi.com.au/conference_2016.html



Current Research Profile

NORTHERN REGIONAL CHILD HEALTH PROJECT – HEAD INJURY FOLLOW-UP IN CHILDREN

The Northern Regional Child Health Steering Group has commenced a project in efforts to provide greater support for those in the medical community who encounter children post-TBI. Under the guidance of Dr Mike Shepherd, Director of Starship Child Health, and in conjunction with representatives from ACC, regional primary care, DHBs and members of the Pediatric TBI Consortium, the project aims to deliver the following:

- Mapping of current Northern regional pathways for head injury follow-up for children
- Identifying potential assessment tools for head injury follow-up for children in primary care less than 5 years (understanding mechanism and understanding concussion) and 5-15 years.
- Developing a health pathways page for Northland and Auckland Regional Health Pathways for utilisation by General Practice, accident & medical facilities and hospital emergency departments
- Collaborating with ACC on the appropriate criteria for referral for children post head injury – where ACC follow-up management is recommended.

If you would like to profile your research here please email a brief project description to Dr Kelly Jones kejones@aut.ac.nz.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALL THE TEAM!



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Next Issue:

**TEEN ONLINE PROBLEM
SOLVING (TOPS) – NEW
ZEALAND VERSION
DR KELLY JONES**

**CHILD SLEEP
OUTCOMES AT 1-YEAR
AFTER INJURY
DR ALICE THEADOM**

**TEACHER KNOWLEDGE
OF TBI SYMPTOMS
DR ROSALIND CASE**

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