



**PEDIATRIC
TRAUMATIC
BRAIN INJURY
CONSORTIUM**



Newsletter

ISSUE 6 APRIL 2018

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW ZEALAND PEDIATRIC TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY CONSORTIUM

Ask any researcher or clinician about the challenges they face in their everyday work, and chances are they will tell you it's about keeping up to date with what's happening in their field — keeping a close watch on what other researchers and clinicians are doing, and identifying potential collaborations, opportunities for improving practice and new research opportunities. The good news is that through our consortium members a valuable opportunity has been identified to help us all keep more up-to-date with latest research into pediatric TBI. You can read more about this on page 2.

There has been plenty to pack into this newsletter with so much going on in the field of pediatric TBI. The month of March was Brain Injury Awareness month. Worldwide, there were many efforts to raise awareness with a flurry of social media activity. Our local Brain Injury – Waikato team marked the occasion with birthday celebrations of their own – supporting those impacted by TBI for 30 years! Congratulations to Ella, Marion and the team for all you do. See over page for further details.

Brain Injury Awareness month was also a poignant time to confirm the design of and release our new consortium logo (see above right hand corner). Thank you to Kaz Designs for their talent in capturing the essence of the consortium. Hoping you all recently had a safe and enjoyable Easter break with your loved ones. Happy reading!



Best wishes,
Kelly Jones

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.

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SUPPORTED BY:



Help keeping up to date with pediatric TBI literature



Safekids Aotearoa have kindly offered to support consortium members by adding a pediatric TBI research review to their current range of research alerts. Focusing on children and youth aged 0-18 years, these reviews will be run on a quarterly basis to coincide with each of our newsletters. Search criteria for these reviews will be tweaked over time. Electronic links to research articles that have been identified as part of the first research review are included in the email accompanying this newsletter. We hope you find this support of value. Any feedback to ensure this review meets your needs is most welcome. An enormous thank you to Safekids Aotearoa for your support of the consortium and work that we all do to ultimately support children and their families/whanau.

Local TBI research update

TRENDS IN PEDIATRIC TBI PRESENTING AT HOSPITAL

Midland Trauma System data concerning child admissions to Waikato Hospital have been examined from 01 January 2012 to 31 December 2015 as part of a collaborative project. During this time, 224 children aged 0-14 years were admitted to hospital as a result of TBI. Overall, incidence of child TBI cases presenting at hospital increased slightly from 2012 to 2015. Upon closer inspection looking at two-year age bands, linear increases in TBI incidence were observed among youngest patients aged 0-2 years. Preliminary findings indicate incidence rates in this age group consistently increased each year. While to a lesser extent, increasing incidence of TBI among 11-12 year olds was also consistently observed. Consistent with international evidence, falls were consistently the main mechanism of injury for children from 2012 to 2015 and most common among children aged 0-2 years. Further research is required to better understand trends in incidence of TBI at the population-level, including numbers of children being presented to family GPs, other service providers, or not seeking any treatment after TBI. As found in recent US studies, TBI incidence among children is currently a moving target.

BIONIC4YOU – PRELIMINARY CHILD FINDINGS AT 4-YEARS FOLLOWING MILD TBI

Preliminary findings from the Bionic4you study suggests that children's gains in recovery that were evident over the first year of injury are maintained over the following 3 years. Focusing on children's externalising, internalising and adaptive behaviours, as a group parents tended to report similar levels of child behavior at 12 months and 4-years following injury. This pattern of findings suggests some stability in children's behavior and overall cognitive function between 12-months and 4-years post-injury. It is important to note, however, that we have examined a global measure of children's overall cognitive function. An important step will be to take a closer look at different aspects of children's cognitive function over the same time frame, such as specific executive function skills. Another important next step, will be to look at aspects of children's recovery over a longer period of time. Known as the Bionical study, efforts are now underway to prepare data from this latest round of follow-up assessments for analysis. These additional data will enable us to examine children's recovery over a longer time frame and to identify characteristics that may be associated with good or poor recovery in certain areas of functioning.

Other Updates

BRAIN INJURY AWARENESS WEEK

International efforts to raise awareness of brain injury were in full swing last week. There has been a hive of activity on twitter as folks posted black images in support of brain injury awareness. Many TBI research teams and service providers have been sharing latest research articles and facts. In the United States, the CDC encouraged folks to join their 'Heads Up!' campaign to raise awareness for children and communities around brain injury - #CDCHEADSUP Closer to home, the Brain Injury Association ran a 'Black out for brain injury' campaign, with street banners and posters raising awareness throughout the region.

HAPPY 30TH BIRTHDAY TO BRAIN INJURY - WAIKATO

Brain Injury – Waikato celebrated its 30th birthday last week. Staff, members of the Executive Board, clients and supporters gathered to acknowledge the valuable and on-going support offered to those affected in some way by brain injury in the Waikato area and beyond. Mayor Andrew King, the Deputy Mayor Martin Gallagher, Councilor Paula Southgate and Tim Macindoe, MP for Hamilton West also made time to join in and acknowledge this special occasion, and enjoy some cake.



Happy 30th Brain Injury – Waikato!

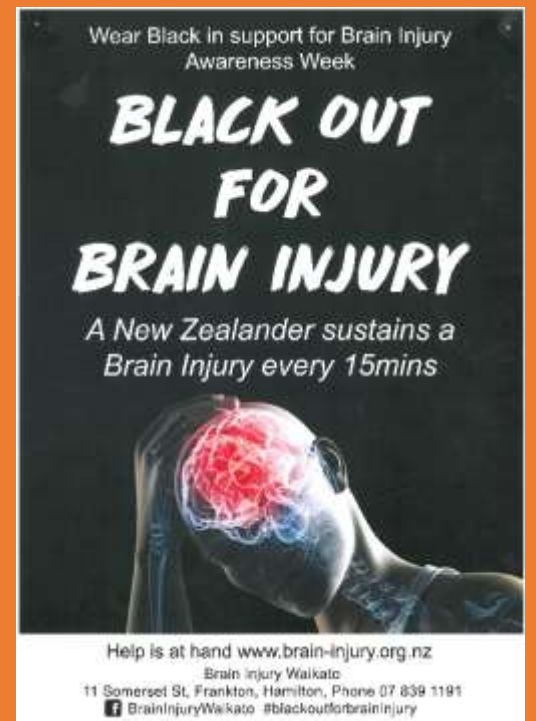


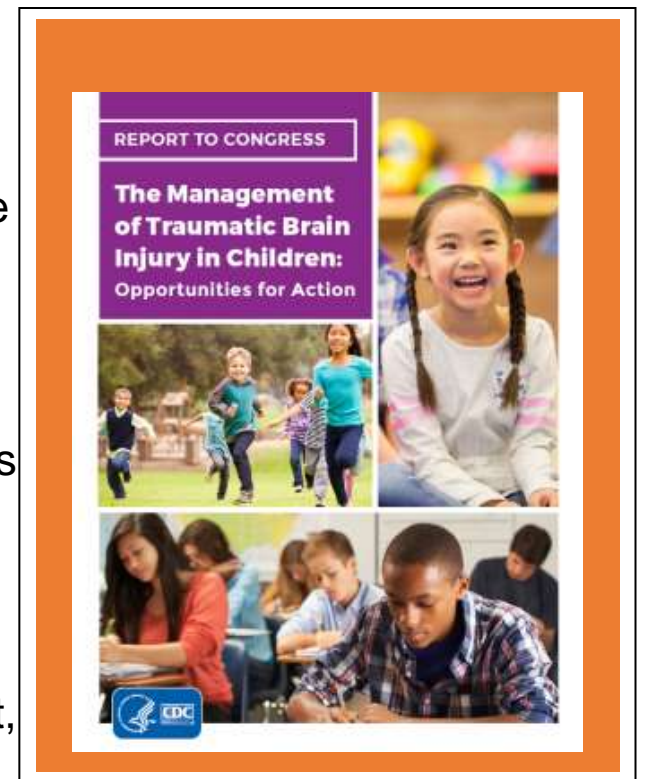
Photo (right) bottom: Executive Board members John Hadfield & Margaret Brewerton.



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CDC Report to Congress

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recently released a Report to Congress on The Management of TBI in Children, which details the impact a TBI can have on children and their families. The report identifies gaps in care, provides opportunities for action to reduce the gaps, and highlights key policy strategies to address the short and long-term consequences of a TBI. The report highlights that most of the TBI recovery process occurs after initial injury care. Therefore, coordination among parents and educational systems is crucial going forward. Key areas of the report include the public health burden of TBI, child outcomes and factors associated with recovery, and service delivery. Gaps in knowledge are also clearly outlined along with calls for more science to advance acute and long-term management of pediatric TBI. To learn more and access the report, visit : <http://go.usa.gov/xnvbq>



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Monitor.
Care.**

Optimize TBI outcomes
through coordinated care.

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**Recognize.
Monitor.
Care.**

Help support
children
after TBI.

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Do you have colleagues who would like to join the consortium? Just ask them to email kelly.jones@aut.ac.nz to join.

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