



**PEDIATRIC
TRAUMATIC
BRAIN INJURY
CONSORTIUM**



Newsletter

ISSUE 8 DECEMBER 2018

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW ZEALAND PEDIATRIC TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY CONSORTIUM

2018 nears a close with some significant developments on the TBI front. At AUT University, we were privileged to host a Global Burden of Disease Brain Summit at our city campus last week. 'Outstanding', 'top quality' and 'inspiring' are words used to describe this invitation-only event. Thankfully, the event was live streamed and recorded (see link over page). I highly recommend that you take some time to soak up this unique event. If you are short on time, the official opening of the event followed by Dr Christopher Murray's presentation are my recommended highlights. Dr Murray is a Professor of Global Health at the University of Washington, Institute Director of the Institute for Health Economics and Evaluation, and founder of the Global Burden of Disease (GBD) study. For any of you who are new to the GBD approach, this is an ambitious, systematic effort to quantify the relative impact of health loss due to diseases, injuries, and risk factors on a worldwide scale. To highlight the scale of the project, GBD includes a network of 3,676 collaborators across 144 countries.

Other exciting TBI-related news includes the awarding of a Royal Society Te Apārangi Rutherford Discovery Fellowship 2018 to one of our members – warm congratulations Associate Professor Alice Theadom. This award for TBI research comes with 5-years of funding support and will enable Alice to focus further on her TBI research. This will include a 10-year follow-up of adults and children who took part in our BIONIC study in 2010-2011. Alice already has a well-established profile in the field of TBI and we look forward to updating you all as she becomes even more active in this space. Remember, feel free to send through any updates from your organisations that may be of interest to members in our collective efforts to prevent TBI, promote recovery in children and adolescents, and to support their families. We hope you enjoy reading the newsletter and a few updates from members.

Safe and happy holidays to all! See you in 2019.

Best wishes, Kelly Jones



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SUPPORTED BY:

safekids
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MIDLAND
— TRAUMA SYSTEM —


**Brain
Injury**
WAIKATO

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.

Global Burden of Disease Brain Summit hosted by AUT



GBD BRAIN SUMMIT Nearly 200 invited researchers, health professionals, and policy-makers attended this one-day event in Auckland last week. Formally opened by AUT's Vice Chancellor, Professor Derek McCormack, there were opening remarks by Professor Valery Feigin (Director, National Institute for Stroke and Applied Neurosciences and Chairman of the GBD TBI Experts Panel), Professor Kathryn McPherson, CEO of the NZ Health Research Council, and our Minister of Health, the Honourable Dr David Clark. The morning started with presentations from leading members of the GBD team, including GBD founder and NZ-born Dr Christopher Murray. In the afternoon, speakers from around the globe shared their findings on the impact of neurological conditions on populations in the U.S, Belgium, Austria, Italy, Egypt, Nigeria, Sri Lanka, China, Korea, Australia and New Zealand. Other highlights included Dr Elena Becker-Barroso, the Editor in Chief of The Lancet Neurology speaking to brain health being the biggest challenge of societies in the 21st century. An added bonus was a presentation by Dr Michael Brainin, President of the World Stroke Foundation who spoke at AUT following the GBD Brain Summit. The live-streamed GBD event is now available for viewing at:

<https://livestream.com/accounts/5183627/events/8426388>

You are also welcome to access the abstracts related to

this event that are have now been published in *Neuroepidemiology* and can be accessed online at

<https://www.karger.com/Article/Abstract/495016> It is also possible to view a media interview with Professor

Feigin about the Brain Summit at <https://news.aut.ac.nz/news/global-burden-of-disease-brain-summit>



'YOU ONLY GET ONE BRAIN': STORIES FROM ADOLESCENT TBI

Worldwide, adolescents are at a greater risk of sustaining a TBI than other age groups. However, relatively little is known about the recovery experiences of young people. As part of her doctorate in clinical psychology, Therese Mulligan, supervised by Clinical Neuropsychologist Professor Suzanne Barker-Collo, has been interviewing young adults who experienced mild or moderate TBIs as teenagers. Young people told stories of their experiences of ongoing fatigue, migraines, and changes in their thinking. One participant described how *"it's like my brain is just running around in circles, going 'where's this information? Where's this information? It's nowhere here!"* Some experienced frustration, sadness and anxiety. Others talked about changes in how they saw themselves. Physical and cognitive difficulties had affected their engagement in school, friendships and hobbies. Another participant shared that *"once it all happened, it kind of took away a part of my identity, part of who I viewed myself as... your whole world changes in a heartbeat"*. For some, fatigue, migraines and thinking difficulties lingered for years, and were exacerbated by challenges with adjustment to adulthood. We thank Therese for kindly sharing some of her research findings and we wish her all the very best with her future studies.



Therese Mulligan

UOA clinical psychology doctoral candidate

Conference updates

CHILDHOOD TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY: MAXIMISING OUTCOMES IN THE COMMUNITY

30th November, Gallagher Academy of Performing Arts, University of Waikato

Over 100 people from a range of organisations attended a day-long workshop, organised by Alaina Balme and sponsored by Focus on Potential. The day began with a series of excellent talks covering Neurodevelopment, Emotion Dysregulation (Prof Barry Willer), Incidence and Outcomes from mild TBI in Childhood (Prof Nicola Starkey), TBI and Criminal Behaviour, Educators Understanding of TBI (Dr Audrey McKinlay) and Applying Behavioural Principles in Rehab from Pediatric TBI (Dr Angela Arnold-Saritepe). Later in the afternoon a group of parents bravely shared stories of their journeys parenting a child with TBI, including the challenges and things they had found most helpful. A panel question-and-answer session wrapped up the day (there were a lot more questions than answers!!). It was a great day with stimulating discussion, sharing expertise and plenty of opportunity for networking. See <http://www.focusonpotential.com/childhood-tbi> for copies of the presentations.



THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE OF PAEDIATRIC ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY

26-28th September, Belfast, Northern Ireland

Dr Kelly Jones and Professor Nicola Starkey had the pleasure of attending the latest IPBIS conference in Belfast, Northern Ireland. Themed to focus on 'Promoting well-being in children and young people with ABI and their families', the conference was a unique opportunity to hear from leading pediatric TBI researchers across the globe. A particular highlight was Professor Jennie Ponsford's keynote presentation 'Promoting well-being in children and young people with brain injuries and their families' that set the scene for the 2-day conference. Some recurrent themes throughout the conference were the importance of team work, family and friends for improving outcomes. The gala dinner was held at the impressive Titanic Museum, with plenty of attractions available for fans of Game of Thrones and/or C.S. Lewis. Congratulations to Dr Mathilde Chevignard who was the 2018 recipient of the Jane Gillett Award. To learn more about latest research in this field, the conference abstract book is available at

http://www.internationalbrain.org/media/files/files/165b1fee/IPBIS_2018_Abstract_Book_9.12.18.pdf



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



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