



Newsletter

ISSUE 9 MAY 2019

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW ZEALAND PEDIATRIC TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY CONSORTIUM

Since our last update, TBI continues to attract increased recognition and there are some exciting new initiatives coming up. A new international TBI Network directed by Associate Professor Alice Theadom is in development and will be formally launched on 21 May 2019 (see more on page 2). Geneva Healthcare, in partnership with AUT are busy planning for a second Brainstorm conference to be held at AUT's City Campus in Auckland from 21-22 November 2019 – to find out more visit <https://www.genevahealth.com/geneva-brainstorm-concussion-conference> The prior Brainstorm held in Hawkes Bay attracted several hundred delegates and was positively received. Now would be a good time to get the 2019 dates in your diary. We will keep you posted on key dates for abstract submissions and registration as they are announced.

Other developments from the team, include several recent publications. You can read about BIONIC study findings concerning longitudinal patterns of children's recovery over four years post injury (see link over page). Further, research led by Dawn Willix-Payne, supervised by Prof. Nicola Starkey, looking at caregiver knowledge of pediatric brain injury has recently been accepted for publication in Brain Impairment. Congratulations to Dawn and the team!

For those of you who are interested in professional development opportunities that support the brain injury community, there are several opportunities to do so at Brain Injury – Waikato (see over page). You may also know of people who would like to join the Waikato Combined Neurological Choir which meets every Tuesday at 10.30 am at the Baptist Church, 43 Charlemont Street in Hamilton.

In terms of latest research opportunities, you may be interested in a current study testing the effectiveness of a new memory aid to help people after TBI. If you are aged over 16 years with TBI and memory problems, contact Dr Annika Hinze at the University of Waikato about the MyMemory App at hinze@waikato.ac.nz Finally, thank you to SafeKids Aotearoa who continues to provide us with a quarterly update on recent literature related to head injury as we endeavor to keep up to date with latest research in TBI (see attachment to newsletter email). Please continue to send through your updates, news, and topics that may be of interest to others. Happy reading all! Keep warm as the cooler months head our way.

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:



MIDLAND
— TRAUMA SYSTEM —



Hot off the press! Latest findings on children's long-term recovery from mild TBI – NZ findings



PATTERNS OF CHILDREN'S RECOVERY OVER 4-YEARS FOLLOWING TBI

Research examining children's outcomes after mild TBI tends to focus on recovery over the first year following injury. Recent research from the HRC-funded BIONIC study followed 196 children over four years after mild TBI to look at longer term patterns of recovery. Findings revealed that children had significantly fewer behaviour problems, better adaptability, and improved quality of life in the first year after injury, according to parent reports. Unfortunately, these patterns of improvements were not observed from 12 to 48 months after injury. During this time, parents reported that their children's quality of life reduced while child behaviour plateaued with no further improvements observed over this time. Those children found to be at increased risk for poor recovery from 12 to 48 months after injury tended to be those from families with low socio-economic status and those with parents who were experiencing greater levels of anxiety. Overall, these findings suggest that there are important changes in children's behaviour and quality of life after even a mild TBI. Findings provide further evidence of the need to carefully monitor children's recovery, especially among high-risk families. Interventions to identify and treat parent mental health issues may offer valuable opportunities to reduce the negative outcomes for children. If you would like to read more about the findings of this study, access the full publication at <https://www.tandfonline.com/eprint/hPiDEz8XszE7wg7iUkbA/full?target=10.1080/02699052.2019.1606445>



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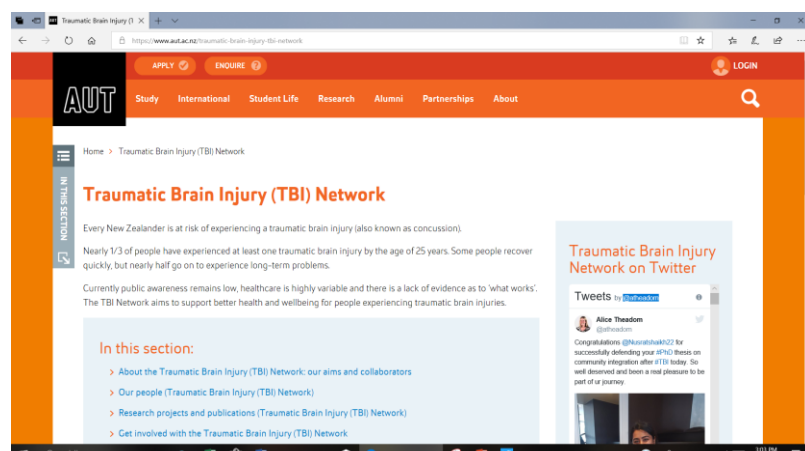
NEW INTERNATIONAL TBI NETWORK

The recent formation of the TBI Network aims to bring together people, services, and research to discover how to prevent and optimise recovery from TBI across the lifespan from birth to older age. Associate Professor Alice Theadom, Director of the network, strongly believes that more can be achieved by working together. This new network aligns closely with the aims of the Pediatric TBI Consortium and as such will be a valuable network to be linked to going forward. The establishment group of the network are keen to hear from patients, clinicians, parents, community groups and stakeholders. To find out more about the structure of the network, download a summary of recent research findings, and/or find out how you can be involved, visit <https://www.aut.ac.nz/traumatic-brain-injury-tbi-network>

Keep up to date with tweets from the TBI network by following [@atheadom](https://twitter.com/atheadom) We look forward to keeping you all updated as developments continue.



Associate Professor Alice Theadom
Auckland University of Technology



Professional Development Opportunities

Brain Injury - Waikato

EXECUTIVE BOARD MEMBER VACANCIES *Applications due by 30 May 2019*

Founded in 1987, Brain Injury – Waikato (BIW) is a non-profit and charitable agency dedicated to providing services in the Waikato region for individuals with brain injury and their family/whanau. BIW is seeking additional Board Members to assist in achieving its Mission “To raise awareness and promote prevention of brain injury, and to empower people affected by brain injury through the provision of advocacy, support and education.” Board members are expected to serve for a minimum two (2) year term. The Board meets monthly to govern and oversee management of the organisation. The role provides an opportunity for members to provide professional input, advice and guidance to the direction of BIW, participate in decision-making activities, raise the profile of BIW in the community, and to facilitate building relationships with all stakeholders. Previous governance experience and knowledge of brain injury would be an advantage. To apply, please register your interest with a CV and covering letter to the Executive Board Chairperson, Amanda Straiton by emailing amanda.straiton@brain-injury.org.nz



Do you have knowledge and experience that may be of value to those affected by brain injury or their family/whanau? The team at Brain Injury – Waikato are always looking out for potential guest speakers for their annual education seminar, as well as more informal education sessions with clients and service providers from a range of areas. Prior guest speakers include academic researchers from the Auckland University of Technology and Waikato University, Dr Ron Dick from Older Persons Rehabilitation at Waikato Hospital, and clients sharing their personal experiences of living with brain injury. Please email Ella Scheepers BIW Manager, direct at ella@braininjurywaikato.org.nz to express your interest in contributing to education around brain injury and supporting the team and clients at BIW.

GUEST SPEAKER OPPORTUNITIES *On-going opportunities*

Do you have knowledge and experience that may be of value to those affected by brain injury or their family/whanau? The team at Brain Injury – Waikato are always looking out for potential guest speakers for their annual education seminar, as well as more informal education sessions with clients and service providers from a range of areas. Prior guest speakers include academic researchers from the Auckland University of Technology and Waikato University, Dr Ron Dick from Older Persons Rehabilitation at Waikato Hospital, and clients sharing their personal experiences of living with brain injury. Please email Ella Scheepers BIW Manager, direct at ella@braininjurywaikato.org.nz to express your interest in contributing to education around brain injury and supporting the team and clients at BIW.



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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