



# Newsletter

ISSUE 5 DECEMBER 2017

## NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW ZEALAND PEDIATRIC TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY CONSORTIUM (PTBIC)

What another busy year it has been for us all! Attention on TBI continues to rapidly grow at an international level with a milestone publication recently featured in The Lancet Neurology. You can find out more about this over the page. This trend looks set to continue next year with a several key international TBI conferences on offer (see page 3). The team here have been busy contacting parents of children who were identified in the BIOINIC study some 7-years ago now. The latest round of follow-up assessments is progressing well. We continue to be extremely grateful to the families who so generously share their experiences with us.

I am also pleased to advise that a manuscript reporting child outcomes from the BIONIC study has been accepted for publication in Journal of Primary Health Care. This publication will allow key messages to reach the GP community who are often the first port of call for families of children who have sustained a mild TBI. In essence, findings from this research suggest that children's recovery from mild TBI continues beyond the initial 6-months following injury. Key messages for clinicians include the need to be vigilant about varying patterns in children's recovery. The value of on-going monitoring to enable timely and proactive responses to support those children experiencing persistent difficulties is also highlighted.

Further data analysis efforts now turn to examining child outcomes at 4-years post injury in an effort to better understand longer-term patterns of recovery. As always, there is no doubt another exciting year ahead for us all with opportunities to make unique and important contributions to the field of pediatric TBI.

Best wishes for the festive season from all the team!

Kelly Jones



### Inside:

MILESTONE  
GLOBAL TBI  
EVENT  
PAGE 2

UPCOMING  
CONFERENCES  
PAGE 3

#### SUPPORTED BY:

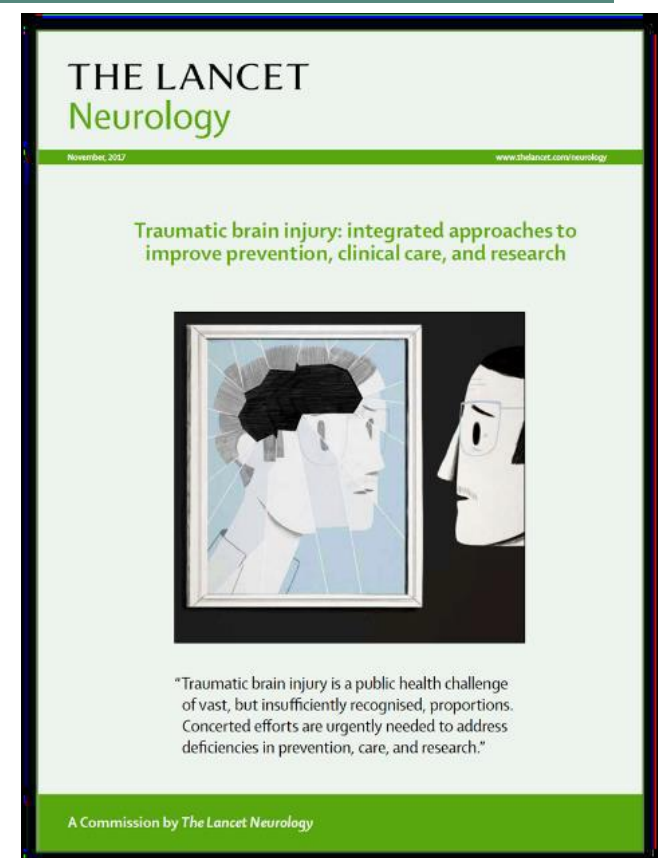


# Hot off the Press! Special Lancet Commission Issue on TBI



The Lancet Neurology Commission on Traumatic Brain Injury was released at The European Parliament on November 07<sup>th</sup>, 2017. This was a milestone event undertaken by the Collaborative European NeuroTrauma Effectiveness Research in TBI (CENTER-TBI) group. The development of the commission issue involved more than 300 clinicians and researchers worldwide, including Associate Professor Alice Theadom and Professor Valery Feigin from our consortium. The commission was released at a dedicated scientific event at the Foundation Universitaire in Brussels. The event began with an emotional recant of the mother of a young adult with severe TBI, followed by talks regarding disparities in healthcare, the global burden of TBI, and variations in TBI management. The event brought together policymakers, funders and healthcare professionals on a global basis.

The Lancet Neurology Commission highlights priorities and recommendations for reducing the global burden of TBI. Key areas to address include the availability of evidence to support treatment guidelines and recommendations, to better individualise treatment strategies (rather than using a one-size-fits-all approach), and the need for accurate epidemiological monitoring and health economic data to inform prevention programmes and health care policies. For those involved in the design of TBI-related research, the commission provides a value overview of the current state of affairs and highlights important areas that require further attention – Happy reading! The commission and related papers are available open access at <http://www.thelancet.com/commissions/traumatic-brain-injury>



## Local TBI research update

### BIONICAL

Latest figures show that just over 100 families have completed a study questionnaire to date. Recruitment rates are very healthy, being 75% for families of children with TBI and 85% for TBI-free control families. Well done to the research team who all work extremely hard to locate families and keep the study running smoothly.

**BIONIC8** Following on from the Bionical follow-up of children and adolescents identified with TBI in the original BIONIC study, plans are now well underway for the follow-up of adults from the 2010-2011 study. Follow-up assessments will commence in February 2018 and will run through until March 2019. This research has been funded by the Waikato Medical Research Foundation and will be led by Professor Nicola Starkey at the University of Waikato. This next stage of follow-up offers a valuable opportunity to examine longer-term outcomes of TBI, including the effects of injury on the transition from adolescence to adulthood. Keeping in mind the importance of determining the potentially cumulative effects of TBI alongside the natural process of aging, planning for funding of a 10-year follow-up of the entire BIONIC sample is also underway.

# Updates from recent conferences

## SECOND INTERNATIONAL PAEDIATRIC ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY CONFERENCE

The International Paediatric Brain Injury Society and the International Brain Injury Association recently hosted this event in Rome, Italy. Professor Nicola Starkey was fortunate enough to attend the event. Nicola presented on 'Improvements in Children's Executive Functioning Four years after mild TBI' and delivered a workshop with other pediatric TBI researchers (Professor Vicki Anderson, Murdoch Childrens Research Institute; Dr Audrey McKinlay, University of Melbourne and Dr Mark Linden, Queens' University Belfast) on 'Long-term Outcomes of Traumatic Brain injury in Children'. There were a number of excellent keynote presentations. Dr Al Condeluci outlined the importance of helping children to remain socially connected after TBI, and described their work to involve classmates and the wider community in ensuring children maintain and develop their social networks. On a different note, Associate Professor Miriam Beauchamp's presentation focused on "Thinking Positive" encouraging us to think about wellness rather than weakness after injury. The conference was a resounding success. Professor Starkey came away more inspired to continue our research into pediatric TBI.

## BRAINSTORM: HEADS TOGETHER FOR CONCUSSION

Held at the Havelock North Function Centre in the sunny Hawkes Bay, about 150 clinicians and researchers from throughout the country recently met at the inaugural 2-day event to debate hot topics and get updates on the latest research into pediatric TBI management. An impressive array of speakers included Dr Nathan Zasler, Medical Director and CEO of Concussion Care Centre of Virginia, and our own Associate Professor Alice Theadom. The event that was put together by Geneva Health and ABI Rehabilitation. Here are a few words from Alice about the conference - The conference discussed a number of issues including the terms we use to describe injuries to patients, gradual return to activity, and the need to consider other areas potentially affected such as in the neck and eyes that could aggravate symptoms. Following a presentation on difficulties some experience both returning to work and maintaining work performance and school functioning over time after mild injury, there was an interesting discussion about the need to support people following initial return to work to help them maintain their employment. Several practitioners working with children stated that in some cases children often find it hard to catch up to their peers at school following their injury which affected their self-esteem, particularly young girls. It was a great conference connecting researchers and practitioners and challenging current ways of working. For more see [http://www.nzherald.co.nz/hawkes-bay-today/news/article.cfm?c\\_id=1503462&objectid=11945031](http://www.nzherald.co.nz/hawkes-bay-today/news/article.cfm?c_id=1503462&objectid=11945031)



*Latest new members of the Bionical team!*



*Amy Fallaize*



*Katy Pocock*

[WWW.NISAN.AUT.AC.NZ/](http://WWW.NISAN.AUT.AC.NZ/)

[PEDIATRIC-TBI-](#)

[CONSORTIUM](#)

# Upcoming conferences

## BRAINWAVE TRUST AOTEAROA: ADVANCING EFFECTIVE CHILD-CENTERED PRACTICE

06 March (Auckland) and 08 March (Wellington) 2018, NZ

<http://www.brainwave.org.nz>

## BRAIN INJURY ACROSS THE SPECTRUM: IMPROVING OUTCOMES FOR CHILDREN AND ADULTS

14-17 March 2018, Houston, Texas, USA

<http://abi2018.org/>

## 41<sup>ST</sup> ANNUAL BRAIN IMPAIRMENT CONFERENCE (ASSBI)

03-05 May 2018, Adelaide, South Australia

<https://assbi.com.au/ASSBI-Conferences>

## THE 8<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY CONFERENCE

16-17 May 2018, Washington DC

<http://tbiconference.com/home/>

## NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL REHABILITATION SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP OF THE WFNR

15-16 July 2018, Prague, Czech Republic

<http://tbiconference.com/home/>

## INTERNATIONAL NEUROPSYCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY (INS) MID-YEAR CONGRESS

18-20 July 2018, Prague, Czech Republic

<http://www.internationalbrain.org/third-international-conference-on-paediatric-acquired-brain-injury/>

## THIRD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PAEDIATRIC ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY

20-23 September 2018, Belfast, Northern Ireland

<http://www.internationalbrain.org/third-international-conference-on-paediatric-acquired-brain-injury/>

If you would like to profile your TBI-related research or organisation here please feel free to email [kelly.jones@aut.ac.nz](mailto:kelly.jones@aut.ac.nz).

**AUCKLAND UNIVERSITY OF TECHNOLOGY  
PRIVATE BAG 92006 AUCKLAND 1142 NEW ZEALAND**

## *Next Issue:*

*News on keeping up to date with pediatric TBI literature – support is on the way*

*A summary of pediatric findings from BIONIC4you – a 4-year TBI follow-up study*

*Trends in hospitalised pediatric TBI cases – Preliminary findings from the Midland Trauma Registry*

