



**PEDIATRIC
TRAUMATIC
BRAIN INJURY
CONSORTIUM**



Newsletter

ISSUE 10 SEPTEMBER 2019

NEWSLETTER OF THE NEW ZEALAND PEDIATRIC TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY CONSORTIUM

Can you believe it's been nearly 10 years since the original BIONIC study was undertaken in the Waikato? What a busy year it was identifying all TBI across all severities and ages between March 2010 and February 2011. Since that time, significant contributions have been made to international knowledge of the incidence and impacts of TBI. Strong, effective relationships have been established among TBI researchers and health care providers. This is evident in AUT's partnership with Geneva Health to support the BrainStorm event at our city campus in November. Many of the original research team continue to disseminate findings from BIONIC. These efforts ensure that participants' generous contributions benefit others affected by TBI. Over the last decade, the BIONIC study has led to over 60 academic and media activities, and regular social media activity via Twitter. The BIONIC study continues to support the on-going development of emerging and mid-career researchers. This tremendous work will continue with a 10-year follow-up of BIONIC participants taking place in 2020 – see page 2.

On other fronts, it is my great pleasure to be nominated as incoming Chairperson for Brain Injury – Waikato. Having served on the Executive Board over the past 3 years, I look forward to working more closely with the rest of the team to achieve our strategic objectives. We look forward to welcoming new members to the Board at our next meeting.

Professor Shari Wade, Cincinnati Children's Hospital, and I are delivering a one-day pediatric TBI workshop in Hawkes Bay in November. Shari will join the workshop remotely in the morning to talk about her research findings and efforts to support young people and their whānau affected by TBI. This event is being held in support of Dee and the team at Brain Injury – Hawkes Bay. See page 3 for further details. All are most welcome!

Finally, I encourage those of you working with children to look at the latest Canadian Pediatric Concussion Guidelines. This latest version is based on evidence from 383 scientific articles (including NZ findings from the BIONIC study). The guidelines focus on headache, sleep, mental health, cognition, fatigue, oculomotor function, and return to school. While developed for the Canadian context, there are recommendations and links to tools that may be relevant and helpful for your efforts to support young New Zealanders with TBI. See the guidelines at <https://braininjuryguidelines.org/pediatricconcussion/>

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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CRANIAC
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SUPPORTED BY:

safekids
Aotearoa



MIDLAND
— TRAUMA SYSTEM —



NEW PEDIATRIC TBI RESEARCH



BIONIC STUDY 10-YEAR FOLLOW-UP IN 2020

With thanks to funding from The Royal Society, Te Apārangi and the Waikato Medical Research Foundation, researchers from AUT and the Universities of Auckland and Waikato will undertake a 10-year follow-up of adults and children from the BIONIC study. Led by Associate Professor Alice Theadom (adult follow-up) and Dr Kelly Jones (child follow-up), this research provides a unique opportunity to find out more about the long-term social and health effects of sustaining a TBI. Researchers also aim to identify factors that predict and influence long-term outcomes. Follow-up assessments will focus on a wide range of areas, including cognitive function, quality of life, participation, behaviour, and social relationships. This round of follow-up assessments will get underway in March 2020. Learning more about long-term recovery pathways after TBI will help to identify the persistent difficulties affecting people's return to pre-injury function. This research will also reveal factors associated with good and poor outcomes to help guide the delivery and nature of treatment. In addition, identifying the individuals and sub-populations most at risk of recurrent injury will also help to inform injury prevention strategies to reduce people's risk of TBI, health inequalities, and associated costs.

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITY

The 10-year follow-up of BIONIC participants includes a fabulous opportunity for a Masters level student to be involved in this project. Funding has been provided by The Royal Society, Te Apārangi for a post-graduate student to join the team and complete a Masters Thesis project at AUT. If you would like to know more, contact Associate Professor Alice Theadom by emailing alice.theadom@aut.ac.nz or phone 09 921 9999 extension 7805.



NEW STUDY TO EXAMINE CHILDREN'S RECOVERY FROM CONCUSSION

University of Waikato Professor Nicola Starkey, along with collaborators from AUT, Murdoch Children's Research Institute, and University of Auckland have been awarded a \$1.1 million grant from the Health Research Council of New Zealand. Known as the Concussion Recovery Assessment of New Zealanders in Adolescence and Childhood (CRANIAC) study, this research focuses on learning more about how children recover from concussion. Findings will help to develop evidence-based guidelines around children's return to activities, such as school, sports and play. The study will involve 600 children and adolescents from the Auckland and Waikato areas, with a mixture of Māori, Pacific, and Pākehā families. Those taking part will be assessed at 5 time points after injury to see how children and young people recover and to find out about the types of symptoms they may be experiencing and when and for how long. Ultimately, study findings will help inform international guidelines that will help GPs, educators and families in supporting children to get back to their usual activities while also promoting their full recovery from concussion. If you would like to know more about this study see [or](#) contact Professor Nicola Starkey by emailing nstarkey@waikato.ac.nz



Upcoming opportunities

FREE CAMP FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES

Tui Ridge, Rotorua, 11-13 October 2019

Please help spread the word about this fantastic opportunity for children affected by TBI and their families. This is a free 2-day camp held in Rotorua to help form connections and to support healing as a family. There will be lots of fun activities, including a free jet boat ride for all of the children. This event is sponsored by a wide range of organisations, including ACC, LifePlus, HellsGate, Zorb, Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust, and the Health Quality and Safety Commission New Zealand. Spaces are limited. To find out more, contact Te Rina Ruru as soon as possible by emailing terinamaraea@yahoo.com

BRAIN INJURY – THE SCOPE AND CHALLENGES

Hamilton Gardens, 18 October 2019

This event hosted by Brain Injury – Waikato includes an impressive range of speakers and informative topics including Allison King (Neurologist, Waikato Neurology) 'Understanding concussion – a Neurologist perspective'; Hamish Bartle (Clinical Psychologist, Focus on Potential) 'Working with motivation and resistance'; Dr Tai Kake (University of Auckland) 'The experiences of Māori with TBI and their whānau in the Waikato region'; and Kay Sloan (Department of Corrections) 'TBI screening tool at Tongariro and the prevalence of brain injury'. To RSVP, email admin@braininjurywaikato.org.nz before 10 October 2019.

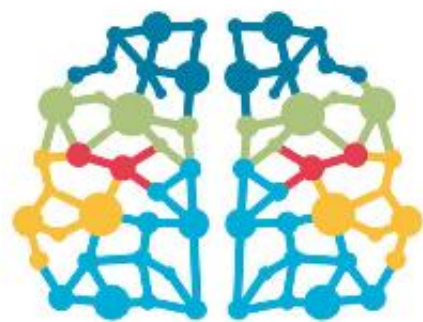
PEDIATRIC TBI INTERACTIVE ONE-DAY WORKSHOP

Hawkes Bay, 06 November 2019

Join Professor Shari Wade and Dr Kelly Jones to hear about latest pediatric TBI findings. Learn about an online rehabilitation programme for adolescents and their families that Shari and Kelly have adapted for use in the New Zealand environment. This workshop will be held at EIT Institute of Sport and Health. Attendees are invited to bring along a device to spend time reviewing the Teen Online Problem Solving (TOPS) programme. To find out more and register, email dee.withers@braininjuryhb.co.nz

BRAINSTORM CONFERENCE

AUT City Campus, 21-22 November 2019



Geneva Healthcare

BrainStorm

Following the success of the inaugural 2017 conference, BrainStorm is now an established industry event supported by AUT, Medtech, and ACC. Attendees will gain insights into latest research findings and innovations with locally and internationally renowned speakers from health, medical and rehabilitation. Early bird closes 30 September 2019. For registration details see bit.ly/GenevaBrainstorm2019

Children & Mild Traumatic Brain Injury

06 November 2019
8:30am - 4:00pm

Join international and nationally recognised researchers and leaders in their fields to discuss the implications of Mild Traumatic Brain Injury on children.

Kelly Jones will facilitate this full day workshop with Shari Wade joining the group remotely from the United States for a presentation.

Learn about latest New Zealand research examining children's social competence at four-years following mild TBI. Find out about the Teen Online Problem Solving (TOPS) programme developed by Professor Shari Wade that has now been adapted for use in New Zealand.

This interactive workshop will also provide an opportunity for small group work exploring the TOPS - NZ programme. This workshop is suitable for all working with or having interest in children and the impact of mild traumatic brain injury

REGISTRATION -
\$120

liaison@braininjuryhb.co.nz

Includes - Morning Tea, Lunch, Resources and Certificate
An invoice will be provided on registration with payment information

This is an interactive workshop please bring a device - WIFI will be available

ORGANISER DETAILS

Brain Injury Hawke's Bay
Event Organiser: Dee Withers
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SHARI WADE

Professor - Director of Research
Division of Rehabilitation
Medicine
Professor, UC Department of
Pediatrics

VENUE DETAILS

EIT Institute of Sport and Health
Sports Park Hawke's Bay
42 Percival Road, Hastings
Free parking available onsite

If you would like to share updates and events in this newsletter,
email kelly.jones@aut.ac.nz

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