

2015 Conference Report

The 12th annual conference of the Neuropsychological Rehabilitation Special Interest Group, was held between July 6th and 7th 2015 on Daydream Island in the Whitsundays, Australia.



The conference program showcased 29 oral, 21 datablitz and 35 poster presentations and brought together 110 delegates from 10 countries (including Australia, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, and The Netherlands among others).

In addition to being located in one of Australia's iconic tourist destinations, a highlight of the meeting was the conference dinner held at the beautiful Lovers Cove. The delegates enjoyed a BBQ feast surrounded by a glorious coral beach in the backdrop of the Whitsunday passage. A glorious sunset over welcome drinks on Sunlovers Terrace certainly set the scene for a truly memorable meeting.

The program covered a wide spectrum of disorders that included a diverse range of traumatic and acquired brain injuries — notably, stroke, multiple sclerosis, tumour and hypoxic brain injury — and their treatment. The presentations were stimulating and depicted major novel advances in measurement of outcomes, neurocognitive treatment approaches across the life span, and management of communication and emotional disorders arising from brain injury from around the world. Topics included unusual presentations of syndromes in areas of topographical disorientation and number agnosia, integration of assistive technology in rehabilitation, and novel approaches to metacognitive, executive, memory and language intervention in paediatric, adult and older adult populations. The presentations promoted lively discussion and provided an important basis for future collaborations between researchers and clinicians across continents.

The high quality of presentations made it difficult to award just single prizes in the categories of best datablitz and poster presentations, and thus two awards were made in each as follows:

Best datablitz prize: Jennifer Fleming— Australia

Highly commended: Linda Sigmundsdottir – Australia

Best poster prize: Suzanne Barker-Collo – New Zealand

Highly commended: Wendy Longley - Australia

Overall, the conference program stimulated great discussions, healthy debates and the exchange of ideas that are so important for building capacity in neuro-rehabilitation and moving the field forward.

The Chairing baton has now been passed to Jonathan Evans, who will chair the 13th conference of the NR-SIG-WFNR in Glasgow, Scotland, UK on 11th and 12th July 2016.