

Special Interest Group for Driving and Neurological Conditions

WFNR

2013



Why is this topic important?

- Majority of adults are drivers
- Neurological conditions can adversely affect driving
- Inconsistency of medical rules on fitness to drive in different countries. (e.g. seizure free period for epilepsy patients ranges from 3 months to 2 years)
- Research has shown that many health professionals are not good at advising patients on driving fitness
- Lack of reliable assessment and screening tools for different neurological conditions

Main Neurological Conditions Affecting Driving

- Brain injury
- Brain tumour
- Stroke/TIA
- Parkinson's
- Epilepsy
- Dementia

Executive Committee

- Chair: Dr Carol Hawley (UK)
- Principal Research Fellow – Medical aspects of fitness to drive; driving after brain injury; advisor to UK Association of Chief Police Officers on FTD of older drivers
- Dr Shawn Marshall (Canada)
- Dr Hannes Devos (Belgium)

Shawn Marshall (Canada)

Ottawa Hospital Rehabilitation Centre

Physician specialising in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

- Research on medical aspects of fitness to drive
- Impact of medical conditions and crash rates
- Development of assessment tools for older drivers

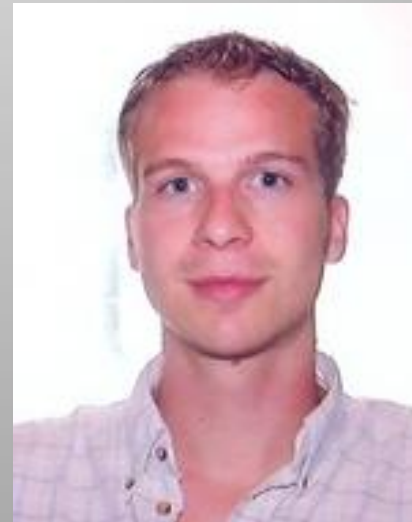


Hannes Devos (Belgium)

Katholieke Universiteit Leuven; visiting Research Fellow at University of Iowa; Associate Director of Driving Simulation Laboratory; Assistant Professor at Georgia Regents University

Physiotherapist

- Assessment and rehabilitation of driving in people with neurological conditions
- Screening tools



Aims

- **Principal Aim:** To achieve consensus on medical standards of fitness to drive for neurological conditions which will be adopted by different countries.
- **Secondary Aims:**
 - Collaborative research studies across different countries.
 - Contribute to the evidence on which medical rules for driving are based.
 - Deliver a position statement on driving after a neurological condition or event.

Current Objectives

- To compare medical rules for driving across different countries and continents.
- To examine and compare methods of assessing driving fitness (including on and off road assessments) for neurological disorders.
- To examine neurological disorders and driving accident risk in different countries and cultural settings.

Desired Outcomes

- Attract members from a wide range of countries.
- Work towards gaining funding for collaborative international research.
- Publication of collaborative research papers and an edited book.

Update

- Well attended meeting in Vienna (WFNR Congress 2010) >10 countries represented.
- No meeting in Australia (WFNR Congress 2012).
- Re-launch at WFNR Congress in Turkey 2014.
- 90 minute Symposium to present UK, European and North American/Canadian perspectives.

Symposium at WFNR Congress, Istanbul 2014

- Title: **Medical Aspects of Fitness to Drive: How should we advise patients and how do we predict safe return to driving after neurological conditions?**
- Chairs: Carol Hawley and Shawn Marshall
- Speakers: Shawn Marshall, Hannes Devos, Carol Hawley

- 1. Worldwide Guidelines for Fitness to Drive: A Review of Quality
- 2a. Driving with a neurological condition – UK perspective
- 2b. Driving with a neurological condition – European perspective
- 2c. Driving with a neurological condition – Canadian and North American perspective
- 3. Prediction of safe return to driving after brain injury or stroke: Which tools work best?
- 4. Patient perspectives on driving with a medical condition

Next Tasks

- Re-launch the SIG at the WFNR Congress in Istanbul April 2014
- Hold Symposium at WFNR Istanbul
- Hold a SIG meeting at WFNR Istanbul
- Boost membership