

## Newsletter – December 2019

### Time for new leadership – a call for new Chairs

The Neurorehabilitation Clinical Trials SIG has been running since 2012. Started by Julie Bernhardt and Bruce Dobkin, we hoped to help support the development of trialists in neurorehabilitation and foster multi-centre and international cooperation for clinical trials.

We have had some success in that time! The world of clinical trials in neurorehabilitation is a very different one today that in 2012. The volume of trials is increasing, making it almost impossible to keep abreast of the number of trials in the field. And while the quality of trials continues to increase, there is still much to do.

In 2015, I started the Stroke Recovery and Rehabilitation Roundtables, given my passion and career has been dedicated to stroke. While not directly affiliated with WFNR, the idea of holding the roundtable reflected previous discussion of our group. The SRRR was supported by the Australian Centre for Research Excellence in Stroke Recovery (co-ordinating centre the Florey Institute in Melbourne) and the Heart and Stroke Foundation Canadian Partnership for Stroke Recovery. Approximately 60 leading stroke experts met. The goal of the roundtable is to work globally to achieve consensus in key areas to help drive improvements in research and pathways for implementation of evidence into practice. Four working groups were established for the 2015/16 meeting: 1) *Biomarkers for recovery*, 2) *Measurement in Trials*, 3) *Translating Evidence into Human Trials*, and 4) *Intervention standards*. The consensus recommendations are all still freely available at the International Journal of Stroke and NNR and the papers have been **downloaded a remarkable 37,000+ times**.

The response to these papers was so strong that I decided to run a second one in 2018. This was held in Montreal and an expert group (with some returned and many new) continued to work on 1) the challenge of clinical trials – developing the Stroke Recovery and Rehabilitation Trials Development Framework; 2) consensus on quality of upper limb kinematic assessment; 3) research in cognition and 4) knowledge translation. These papers once again co-published in IJS and NNR (see below).

### **SRRR II (Stroke Recovery and Rehabilitation Roundtable)**

The Setting the Scene paper for SRRR II can be found here <https://journals-sagepub-com.ezp.lib.unimelb.edu.au/doi/full/10.1177/1747493019851287>

# Neurological Rehabilitation Clinical Trials

## Special Interest Group

Free IJS downloads and subscription access NNR papers below

**Cognition:** <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1747493019873600> & NNR:  
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/1545968319886444>

**Standardised measurement of Upper limb movement:**  
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1747493019873519> & NNR:  
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1545968319886477>

**SRRR Trial Development Framework**  
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1747493019879657> & NNR:  
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1545968319888642>

**Evidence to practice** <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1747493019873597> & NNR:  
<https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1545968319886485>

**Funders views about SRRR II** <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/1747493019884272> &  
NNR <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1545968319888638>

Podcasts can be found here <http://ijspodcasts.podbean.com>

Importantly, the group are starting to convene to develop a Stroke Recovery Alliance to continue to work on promoting and progressing recovery research globally.

I particularly recommend to this group the Trials Development Framework to see if it can help you work through the many challenging questions that need answers before we progress to trial.

### **BUT**

While I'm really proud of the work that has gone into these Roundtables, I am very conscious that the intent of this group was always much broader than stroke. Unfortunately, the choices I have made have limited my ability to also lead this group with its broader remit.

For that reason, I am proposing that we call for new Chairs for this SIG, and a refresh of the goals and ambitions of the group.

If you are interested in taking on the leadership of the SIG, please email Julie Bernhardt to discuss the role and time commitment for the group. [Julie.bernhardt@florey.edu.au](mailto:Julie.bernhardt@florey.edu.au)

# Neurological Rehabilitation Clinical Trials

## Special Interest Group

### Clinical trials training day, May 12 Vienna, 2020

For those attending the ESO-WSO meeting in Vienna in 2020, a free clinical trials training day will be running on the Tuesday before the meeting. The program outline is found below. This program was developed in partnership between the European Stroke Organisation, the World Stroke Organisation and the Global Alliance of International Networks in Stroke Trials. I strongly encourage rehabilitation trialists to consider signing up for this all day meeting.

#### **“Creating The Next Generation of Stroke Researchers Amongst Our Early Career Investigators”**

**May 12, 2020 – Vienna Congress Centre.**

Time	Topic	Lead(s)
0700 – 0800	<i>Breakfast</i>	
0800 – 0810	<b>Introductions</b> Meeting objectives	Julie Bernhardt
0810 – 0850	<b>SESSION 1: Global Trial Network Resources for Early Career Investigators - What Exists That Can Help You?</b> <b>Overview From Several Networks – CHAIR</b>	
0810 – 0816	GAINS & Stroke Net	Andrew Demchuk
0816 – 0822	ESOTA	Else Sandset
0822 – 0828	Early Career Professional Committees	Diana de Sousa
0828 – 0834	Emerging Country Perspective - Brazil	Sheila Martins
0834 – 0850	Q & A	
0850 – 0930	<b>SESSION 2: Roadmap To Becoming A Successful Stroke Clinician Scientist (to be confirmed)</b>	
0850 – 0858	My own journey- what worked, what I should have done differently	Rustam Al-Shahi Salman
0858 – 0906		Sheelagh Coutts
0906 – 0914		Bruce Campbell
0914 – 0930	Discussion	
0930 – 1030	<b>SESSION 3: Inspirations From Global Stroke Researchers</b>	
0930 – 1000	Lessons from failed trials	Chris Diener
1000 – 1015	Working across multiple centres or countries	Sandy Middleton
1015 – 1030	Q & A	
1030 – 1050	<i>Health Break</i>	
1050 – 1235	<b>SESSION 4: Becoming An Independent Researcher</b> <b>Workshop Key Challenges for Early Career Researchers</b>	
1050 - 1110	Working with a mentor – Conversation between mentor/mentee -Joe Broderick & Pooja	
1110 – 1150	<b>Breakout Session #1 – Select one topic for discussion (40 mins per discussion)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protecting your research time &amp; negotiating salary support for research</li> <li>Getting your first grant, building your funding</li> </ul>	Mentors will guide these sessions

# Neurological Rehabilitation Clinical Trials

## Special Interest Group

Time	Topic	Lead(s)
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work life balance</li> <li>• Saying NO and saying Yes – how to choose</li> <li>• Building your research network</li> <li>• Navigating becoming and independent researcher – moving from first to last author</li> </ul>	(earlier & later stage – 2 per session)
1150 – 1155	Switch topic for breakout session #2	
1155 – 1235	<b>Breakout Session #2 – select a new topic for discussion</b>	
1235 – 1330	<b>Lunch break</b>	
<b>1330 – 1630</b>	<b>SESSION 5: Research Project Presentations And Critique</b> <b>1.5 hours per session, chance to swap into second group part way through</b>	
	<p>Individual participants are invited to pitch their research ideas/study designs if they wish to receive friendly constructive feedback from a group of mentors with similar research theme interests. Organized into smaller groups by themes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hyperacute ischemic stroke</li> <li>• ICH</li> <li>• Prevention</li> <li>• Stroke Recovery and nursing</li> <li>• Imaging</li> <li>• Omics</li> <li>• Epidemiology, cohorts and big data</li> </ul> <p>Switch groups</p>	Mentors will support these sessions
1630	Brief wrap up then onto the Social Mixer	Andrew Demchuk
<b>1630 – 1900</b>	<b><i>Social Mixer Event: Get to know your peers around the world!</i></b> – nearby venue – self funded	

### Submitting your research idea

To get the most out of this day, participants should consider submitting an expression of interest to present their research idea in a small session format. The topic areas include hyperacute ischaemic stroke, ICH, secondary prevention, stroke recovery and nursing, imaging, omics, epidemiology and cohorts.

You can submit your abstract to the Organisers directly via [esoinfo@eso-stroke.org](mailto:esoinfo@eso-stroke.org)

Participant numbers are restricted.

To apply, please send a short CV to [esoinfo@eso-stroke.org](mailto:esoinfo@eso-stroke.org)

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