



Brainkind Mini-conference 2024: The evolution of person-centred, compassionate care and rehabilitation

Speakers and Presentations

26 September 2024

Abstracts

Leading with heart: supporting neurorehabilitation teams for better care

[Dr Cathryn Roberts | North Wales Brain Injury Service - Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board](#)

Dr Cathryn Roberts will use examples from her own clinical and leadership work within the NHS to highlight the important role of compassionate leadership in improving outcomes for people with a brain injury and their families. In her presentation, she will describe the unique holistic community neurorehabilitation model developed and employed by the North Wales Brain Injury Service for over 25 years. She will discuss the challenges faced by the team following COVID-19, and how a compassionate and collaborative leadership approach within the service has facilitated team-working, collaboration and innovation. The overall impact that this work has had on the rehabilitation experience for people with acquired brain injury, their family and wider systems will be described.

Designing environments to support rehabilitation

[Chris Race | Jefferson Sheard Architects](#)

Chris, Project Director and Architect will be discussing the design of the Neurological Centre, how the scheme moved from concept through to what you experience today – including general design principles, designing for inclusivity and human centric experiences. The discussion will highlight the important aspects of the design and build process and lessons learned.



From past to present: development of the Brainkind Neurological Centre York

Dr Miles Rogish | Brainkind; University of York

Dr. Miles Rogish will be speaking about the development of the Brainkind Neurological Centre York. This will include a brief historic overview of how The Retreat Hospital was developed, the partnership between The Retreat and (at that time) the Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust (now Brainkind), and how this partnership has further influenced the development of compassionate care within our own organisation. Dr. Rogish will then discuss work over the last 20 years at our previous service, York House, the trends in this service provision and how this has led to adaptation and expansion of the neurobehavioural approach and how this influenced the development of our current service, Brainkind Neurological Centre York.

Neuropsychiatry plus

Dr Thomas Elanjithara & Dr Jenni Kuehnle | Brainkind

This talk will describe in more detail the ethos, principles and interventions of the neuropsychiatry plus approach employed at the Brainkind Neurological Centre York.

Future impact of current choices: managing money and wealth after brain injury

Thom Harrison | Perspective Financial Group

Managing finances for individuals with capacity is different than managing for those who lack capacity – and things can become even more complicated when there is potential change to the landscape. The presentation looks at cashflow modelling and ‘What if’ planning related to the issue of regaining capacity from a range of angles, and addressing concepts such as ‘How does my tax environment change’, ‘How can I influence how my money is spent – and make informed decisions along the way’, and ‘Do my family need to do anything differently’.



Speakers

Dr Cathryn Roberts

Dr Cathryn Roberts is Consultant Neuropsychologist and Deputy Head of the North Wales Brain Injury Service, Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board. As part of this role, she leads a multi-disciplinary team providing community neurorehabilitation for people living with acquired brain injury across north Wales. Cathryn has a special interest in compassionate leadership and the role it plays in improving neurorehabilitation outcomes for people with a brain injury and their families.

Chris Race

Chris is Regional Director and Healthcare Lead at Jefferson Sheard Architects. Our aim is to design buildings that facilitate the delivery of excellent healthcare reflecting the needs of those who interact with them. Chris' design response is function over form, healthcare buildings must be efficient and functional at heart, from that point we can then begin to add layers, including the overall look and feel. Whilst Chris specialised in Healthcare, he also touches on education and residential projects where health and wellbeing are at the forefront of the design, plus projects in the veterinary sector.

Dr Miles Rogish

Miles is the Consultant Clinical Psychologist at York House in York. He has worked for BIRT since 2003 at our two hospitals in Yorkshire ([York House](#) and [Goole Neurorehabilitation Centre](#)). He trained and worked at the University of Florida, USA, where he has a PhD in clinical psychology specialising in neuropsychology and he has also worked in the US Veteran's hospitals national TBI rehabilitation service in Tampa, Florida. While in the UK, Miles has worked for the University of Hull as a Clinical Tutor in the Department of Clinical Psychology and Psychological Therapies and at the University of York where he currently teaches on a number of Masters' courses with an emphasis on clinical practice in psychology. His research interests include traumatic brain injury, neurobehavioural rehabilitation, cross cultural issues in developmental and neurological disorders, and the impact of neurological disability on family systems functioning.



Dr Thomas Elanjithara

Dr Elanjithara is a psychiatrist specialising in Neuropsychiatry of brain injury, ADHD (Attention Deficit and Hiperactivity Disorder) and Autism. Dr Elanjithara completed his core training in Psychiatry from the South London and Maudsley scheme and higher specialist training in adult psychiatry, neuropsychiatry, and psychiatry of addictions from Barts and London. Dr Elanjithara participated in research and published in the fields of early detection and treatment of psychosis and Bipolar Disorder through the Institute of Psychiatry, Kings College London. He also has publications in the field of psychosomatic medicine. He has worked with Brainkind as a Consultant Neuropsychiatrist since 2014. Dr Elanjithara has been involved in setting up and leading the ADHD service in North Yorkshire, since 2016. His current area of research involves holistic treatment models in the field of brain injury rehabilitation and neurodevelopmental disorders.

Dr Jenni Kuehnle

Dr Kuehnle is a Speciality Doctor in Psychiatry and has been working with Brainkind since 2021. She is a local graduate, and one of the first batch of students through Hull York Medical School. She has a previously worked with people experiencing memory problems and has a particular interest in conditions that challenge our perception of the boundaries between mental and physical health. Outside of work Jenni is a keen equestrian and (when time allows) hill walker and can often be found exploring the countryside with her border-collie dog Kes.

Thom Harrison

Thom is a Financial Planner at Perspective (North West) Ltd. He joined the Warrington Office (North West) in 2020 having worked in financial services for over eight years and is working towards achieving the prestigious Chartered Financial Planner status. He specialises in providing holistic financial planning advice to individual clients, and holds additional qualifications in Discretionary Investment Management and Long-Term Care planning. Thom also specialises in providing advice to clients with complex needs, many of whom have survived catastrophic injury and who, as a result of litigation, have secured funds which need to be invested, managed and utilised wisely to provide for their long-term wellbeing. Prior to working in financial services, Thom enjoyed working as a Sound Engineer, working with live and recorded music, theatre and dance, specialising in classical and acoustic music.