



the brain injury association

Neuroplasticity in Action

Transforming brain injury
rehabilitation and law

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Programme

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Session 1

Sponsor's Welcome

Stuart Brazington, Partner, RWK Goodman

Session 2

What Is Neuroplasticity? – Fundamentals and Principles

In this session Professor Leff will cover the concept of neuroplasticity from a behavioural, neural systems (brain imaging), and neural network (neuronal ensembles) perspective, including examples of such from studies of people with acquired (stroke, TBI) or degenerative (dementia) brain injury.

Professor Alexander Leff, Professor of Cognitive Neurology & Consultant Neurologist, Deputy Director: Head of Education & Student Experience, UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology & National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery, University College London

Session 3

Neuroplasticity in Neurorehabilitation: How does advanced imaging help us make sense of clinical recovery?

This session explores cutting-edge methodologies for assessing neuroplasticity in individuals with traumatic brain injury (TBI). Participants will gain insights into the tools and techniques currently used to capture brain reorganisation and functional recovery. These include Functional Magnetic Resonance Imaging (fMRI), which tracks changes in brain activation during cognitive or motor tasks as well as at rest; Diffusion Tensor Imaging (DTI), used to map white matter pathways and observe changes in structural connectivity; and techniques such as Electroencephalography (EEG) and Magnetoencephalography (MEG), which monitor real-time neural activity through electrical and magnetic signals. Standardized functional assessments will also be discussed, focusing on how motor and cognitive outcomes can be interpreted through validated clinical tools and behavioural observations. Additionally, the session introduces emerging molecular biomarkers, such as Brain-Derived Neurotrophic Factor (BDNF), and their potential relevance to neuroplasticity research.

Designed for clinicians, researchers, and rehabilitation professionals, this session bridges neuroscience and clinical practice, offering a comprehensive look at how brain change can be meaningfully measured.

Dr. Steve Alder, Consultant Neurologist, Director of Neurological Services, Re:Cognition Healthcare

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Session 4

Non-Invasive Neurostimulation

Non-invasive neurostimulation is transforming how clinicians assess and support people with acquired brain injury. This session examines the mechanistic rationale for applying techniques such as transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), transcranial electrical stimulation (tDCS, tACS, tRNS), vagus nerve stimulation (tVNS), and functional electrical stimulation (FES/FET) in both the assessment and treatment of neurological function.

Attendees will explore the clinical utility of these techniques in motor, cognitive, and neuropsychiatric rehabilitation, alongside current evidence on their efficacy and feasibility. The session will also highlight strategies for integrating stimulation into personalised, evidence-based neurorehabilitation programmes tailored to individual neurological profiles.

It will address the emerging medico-legal landscape surrounding neuromodulation—focusing on how these interventions may influence evolving standards of care, equitable access to technology, and medico-legal decision-making in litigation contexts. This talk is ideal for clinicians, case managers, and legal professionals working in the brain injury and rehabilitation sectors.

Dr. Michael J. Grey, Reader in Rehabilitation Neuroscience, Loughborough University & National Rehabilitation Centre

Session 5

Innovations in Neurorehabilitation

This talk aims to challenge the perception of 'traditional' neurological rehabilitation by considering the research evidence encompassing how our understanding of individualised neuroplasticity capabilities is shaping new developments and concepts that are accelerating clinical outcomes for patients.

Sarah Daniel, Director and Neurological Physiotherapist, MOTIONrehab Limited

Session 6

The Neuropsychological Impact of Brain Injury

This session explores the neuropsychological consequences of brain injury through the lens of neuroplasticity. It will examine how cognitive, emotional, and behavioural changes arise from injury and how targeted interventions can support functional recovery.

Dr. Will Curvis, Clinical Neuropsychologist, Clinical Tutor, Lancaster University

Session 7

What Does This Mean for the Legal Arena?

Focusing on the legal perspective, this session explores how advances in neuroplasticity and neurorehabilitation are reshaping compensation claims and legal proceedings for brain injury. It will examine recalibrated assessments of long-term disability, evolving evidentiary standards in medico-legal cases, and how emerging research supports or challenges existing legal arguments.

David Cunningham, Barrister, Old Square Chambers

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Luke Griggs

Chief Executive of Headway UK

Luke was appointed Chief Executive of Headway UK in December 2022 having worked in various roles throughout the charity for the past 17 years, including Director of Communications, Acting Director of Services, and Deputy Chief Executive. Since being appointed CEO, Luke has been working on a programme of modernisation for the charity and the implementation of a new long-term strategy, which was launched in August 2024.



Alexander Leff

NIHR Research Professor, Professor of Cognitive Neurology & Consultant Neurologist, Deputy Director: Head of Education & Student Experience, UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology & National Hospital for Neurology & Neurosurgery, University College London

Professor Alexander Leff is a Professor of Cognitive Neurology and a Consultant Neurologist at the UCL Queen Square Institute of Neurology. His main clinical and academic interest is in cognitive rehabilitation, especially in the field of acquired language disorders and vision. He is developing mechanistic accounts of how cognitive disorders can be improved by different types of therapy – mainly behavioural – using functional and structural brain imaging. He has developed a range of web-based rehabilitation tools that can be used by therapists and patients with visual or language problems; these projects have been sponsored by the MRC, NIHR and The Stroke Association. He believes that web-based applications are a good way to make scientifically proven behavioural therapies available to suitable patients and their therapists. At the UCLH National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, he has a specialist out-patient MDT assessment clinic for patients with hemianopia and/or higher disorders of vision. He also helps run the Queen Square Intensive Comprehensive Aphasia Programme.

Publications: <http://scholar.google.com/citations?user=uwZaCzQAAAAJ&hl=en>

Academic website: <https://www.ucl.ac.uk/icn/research/research-groups/neurotherapeutics>

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Dr Steven Alder

Consultant Neurologist and Clinical Director for Neurological Services at Re:Cognition Health

Dr Alder is a Consultant Neurologist. He offers both clinical and medicolegal neurological services. He is also the local Primary Investigator on several global Phase 3 studies relating to Parkinson's Disease and Clinical Director for neurological services at Re:Cognition Health.

Dr Alder's main clinical focus is traumatic brain injury (TBI), and functional neurological disorders (FND). With respect to TBI, Dr Alder provides a clinical and medicolegal services for the assessment of patients with TBI across the whole spectrum of injury severity i.e moderate - severe to mild; and across diverse aetiologies of TBI i.e. civilian, sport's and military. Recognition Health, under Dr Alder's clinical leadership, are completing a 4 years collaboration with the Aston Brain Centre looking at the clinical utility of Magnetoencephalography (MEG) in TBI, especially mTBI where MRI including DTI is normal. This has been a successful collaboration which will lead to the development of several improved diagnostic tools for mild TBI. The collaboration has also led to further projects across a wide spectrum of TBI aetiologies, engaging new partnerships with Nottingham University, Toronto Sick kids, and several commercial organisations. Since 2020, Dr Alder and Recognition Health have developed a new primary academic collaboration with King's College Hospital. This joint work is exploring two complementary areas.

Firstly, the utility of more sophisticated MRI sequences to further enhance diagnostic and pathophysiological insights into mild TBI, especially sports related TBI. Secondly, we are exploring how deployment of state-of-the-art neuro-computational techniques can reveal the mechanisms underlying how structural injury from TBI creates the clinical profiles seen in these conditions. It is hoped this will lead to improved treatment strategies. With respect to Functional Neurological Disorder Dr Alder has long standing interest and is a founding member of the FND Society. Dr Alder offers a clinical and medicolegal service for the assessment of patients with suspected FND. Dr Alder has a long-standing collaboration with Dr Leo Russell and Prof Allan Abbass, who are leading practitioners and researchers in a treatment modality for FND termed Intensive short-term dynamic psychotherapy (ISTDP). ISTDP is modality with a strong neuroscience rationale and empirical evidence base supporting its effectiveness. Dr Russell has recently joined Recognition Health and is working with Dr Alder to enhance our clinical offering for this patient group and extend research into the mechanisms by which this treatment modality creates improvements for patients.



Dr Michael J. Grey

Reader in Rehabilitation Neuroscience, Loughborough University & National Rehabilitation Centre

Dr Grey is Reader in Rehabilitation Neuroscience at Loughborough University and leads research into neuroplasticity and brain injury recovery at the National Rehabilitation Centre. With a background in physics, biomechanics, and biomedical science and engineering, his research focuses on harnessing neuroplasticity to inform and improve rehabilitation following acquired brain injury, including stroke, traumatic brain injury, and sport-related concussion. He employs electrophysiological, biomechanical, and cognitive methods to evaluate brain function and develop clinically viable interventions. Dr Grey is a Trustee of the UK Acquired Brain Injury Forum, a Scientific

Advisor to the Concussion Legacy Foundation UK, and an advisor to the Professional Footballers' Association Brain Health Group.

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Sarah Daniel

Director and Neurological Physiotherapist, MOTIONrehab Limited

Sarah Daniel is the Owner and Founder of MOTIONrehab Limited. She qualified from St George's Hospital Medical School, London, with a 1st Class Honours Degree in Physiotherapy in 2001. She subsequently completed a Master's degree with a Merit in Neurological Physiotherapy at Coventry University in 2006. In 2007 she opened a private neurological physiotherapy company in Yorkshire. Rebranded as MOTIONrehab in 2017, the company provides rehabilitation to improve the quality of life of adults and children with neurological impairments.

In April 2018 Sarah opened the UK's first Intensive Robotic-Led Neurological Rehabilitation Facility augmented by Robotics and Virtual Reality technology in Leeds. Her vision was to accelerate therapy outcomes to enable individuals to learn to walk again or regain the use of their arms and hands quicker so that they can be as independent as possible in their daily lives. Sarah won an international business award for digital innovation from Google and The Financial Times, who recognised the innovation MOTIONrehab brought to the industry of Neurological Rehabilitation. With internal investment in the company, she was able to open a second facility, based in Hull in December 2020 and a third in Doncaster in February 2024. The unique innovation has challenged the perception of 'traditional' rehabilitation within the UK with the implementation of technology and an evidence-based approach to intensive and high repetition training in neurological rehabilitation. The clinics operate with great success and patients from across the globe have achieved functional outcomes not previously thought possible resulting in greater quality of life.

Her forward thinking, industry disruption and innovation has resulted in global invitations to speak at industry conferences and consult on clinic development worldwide. She continues to contribute to academic research projects in the UK and internationally. In addition to her clinical role Sarah works as an Expert Witness in Civil Litigation and is a guest lecturer at Universities across the UK.



Dr Will Curvis

Clinical Neuropsychologist & Clinical Tutor, Lancaster University

Dr Will Curvis is a Clinical Neuropsychologist and has worked mainly in acute inpatient physical health and neuropsychology services with people with long-term physical health problems, pain problems or neurological conditions, across the North West of England. He also works as a Clinical Tutor for the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology programme at Lancaster University, UK.

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David Cunningham

Barrister, Old Square Chambers

David acts in high value and complex personal injury actions and has vast experience acting for Claimants in a wide range of cases. Most of David's caseload involves high-value, complex or catastrophic injury and fatal accident claims including brain injury, spinal cord injury and amputation. He is one of the most experienced and busiest barristers at the personal injury bar. He is known both for his expertise in shaping tactical strategy in personal injury claims and his technical knowledge of law. He deals with all aspects of expert evidence and is frequently instructed to advise in complex cases which involve teams of experts across many medical disciplines. He also has particular experience in advising in relation to indemnity claims and insurance coverage disputes arising out of personal injury actions.



Stuart Brazington

Partner, RWK Goodman

Stuart is a partner who specialises in brain and catastrophic injuries and leads the Brain Injury team, which helps catastrophically injured clients who have had life changing injuries. Stuart is an elected member of the Partnership Committee.

Stuart is highly experienced and works on complex brain and spinal injury litigation.

Stuart also has a special interest in paediatric brain injury work and is a Trustee for two leading charities in the brain injury sector. Stuart lectures on brain and spinal injury issues to legal, medical and charity specialists. Stuart is also Deputy approved by the Court of Protection.

Stuart has recovered over £120m on behalf of his clients over the course of his career.

The Legal 500 UK epitomise Stuart as "a very good strategist", while Chambers and Partners UK says Stuart "knows the subject area extremely well" and that he "he is highly respected". They also recognise Stuart as a "Leader in his field".

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Vicki Gilman MSc MCSP

Founder Social Return Case Management Ltd, Chair of BABICM (outgoing in 2025),
Senior Lecturer in Physiotherapy & Health Enterprise, University of Teesside

Vicki qualified as a physiotherapist in 1988, beginning her career in a military hospital, where she developed a strong interest in brain injury, clinical complexity, and innovative rehabilitation approaches. She went on to establish three community rehabilitation teams within the NHS and independent sector and served as an expert witness in catastrophic injury cases for two decades.

As the founder of Social Return Case Management Ltd, Vicki champions a biopsychosocial approach to case management and rehabilitation, emphasising and advocating for holistic, person-driven approaches to support client recovery. Her open-minded curiosity has been central to fostering a culture of continuous learning, adaptability and creative co-produced problem-solving. Leadership roles have included Chair of the British Association of Brain Injury and Complex Case Management (BABICM) 2021- 2025 and a past Chair of the Northern Acquired Brain Injury Forum (NABIF). With over 35 years of experience in neurorehabilitation and complex case management, Vicki speaks and teaches regularly on rehabilitation, leadership, case management, and health enterprise.



Dr Bruce Powell

Former Head of Intensive Care, Rockingham General Hospital, Western Australia, Former
Director of Organ and Tissue Donation, Western Australia, Honorary Research Fellow, Monash
University, Melbourne, Australia, Brain Injury Advocate & Writer

Dr Bruce Powell is a former Royal Navy medical officer, intensive care specialist, and Australia's longest-serving State Medical Director for Organ and Tissue Donation. With a career spanning anaesthesia, trauma care, and intensive care, Bruce has worked with trauma victims for decades until he found himself on the other side.

Following a near-fatal cycling accident that left him with a traumatic brain injury and no memory of the year that followed, Bruce became his own patient. His experience as a critically ill ICU patient and his long, uncertain recovery have given him a rare dual perspective on trauma, identity, and resilience.

Now a writer, mentor, and public advocate, Bruce speaks with raw insight and sharp humour about what it means to lose everything you thought defined you and how to begin again. He works with brain injury survivors, clinicians, and support networks, using storytelling as both a therapeutic tool and a call for change in how we approach healing.



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Improving life after brain injury



Headway – the brain injury association is the UK-wide charity that works to improve life after brain injury for survivors, their families and carers, as well as the professionals supporting them.

As the UK's leading source of brain injury information, we offer specialist help at all stages of injury, ensuring survivors have access to the support they need to live well.

Call our free, nurse-led helpline:
0808 800 2244

www.headway.org.uk

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