

Medicolegal Assessment of Neuropsychological & Behavioural Functions

Avoiding Trial & Error

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Professor Jonathan Foster

*Director of Clinical Services Synapse
Neuropsychology, Adjunct University
Clinical Professor*

We are delighted to welcome our presenter, Clinical Professor Jonathan Foster, who has been awarded University Chairs in Neuropsychology in both the United Kingdom and overseas.

He has written over 750 medicolegal reports and has served as an expert witness internationally to a range of Tribunals and Courts.

Professor Foster's expert evidence has included presenting findings in a traumatic brain injury case which received the highest personal injury financial award then made in that jurisdiction.



This online training resource includes a video of the presentation and PDF copy of the slides.

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2 POINTS

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The central focus of the presentation will be evidence-based assessment of neurocognitive and neurobehavioural functions. The session will commence with a brief overview of what an evidence-based neuropsychological assessment entails, especially as relevant to a medicolegal context (including with respect to fundamental statistical principles and quantitative and qualitative considerations). The majority of the presentation will focus in more detail on medicolegal assessment of neurocognitive and neurobehavioural domains, including relevant evidence-based considerations and potential 'trial & error' pitfalls to avoid. Finally, evaluation of the validity of presentation will be considered (including culture-fair appropriateness of methods in different examinee groups). There will be consideration of both external and embedded measures, procedural questions and finessing of the wording of reports to embody fundamental evidence-based principles (such as 'absence of evidence' vs. 'evidence of absence'). The relevance of neuropsychological findings to everyday functioning in the real world will also be briefly considered.

Expected learning outcomes

- Be re-familiarised with the value of evidence-based assessment of neurocognitive and neurobehavioural functions – in particular, within a medicolegal context.
- To have extended your knowledge to develop a greater awareness of relevant international empirical and judicial findings concerning the application of neuropsychological findings in a medicolegal context - including potential 'trial & error' pitfalls to avoid.
- To develop insight into the validity of neuropsychological presentation in a medicolegal context (including culture-fair considerations and external/embedded measures of response validity); the relevance of neuropsychological findings to everyday functioning in the real world will also be briefly considered.

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Clinical Professor Foster's initial tertiary education was in Medicine (University of Edinburgh). He next obtained an intercalated First Class Honours degree in Psychology, Mathematics and Philosophy (1986, University of Manchester), subsequently completing a doctorate in Neuropsychology (1986-89) at the University of Oxford. Professor Foster subsequently received advanced training in clinical and experimental neuropsychology in the USA and Canada via a Royal Society/NATO International Fellowship in Neuropsychology; he was a Clinical & Research Fellow at the Rotman Institute of Baycrest Centre/University of Toronto (1990-92). Professor Foster additionally received advanced training in clinical neuropsychology via the Universities of Pittsburgh, Ottawa and Boston.

Professor Foster is a Fellow of the Royal Medical Society, an Associate Fellow of the British Psychological Society, a Chartered Psychologist/Chartered Scientist (United Kingdom), a Full Member of the Division of Neuropsychology of the British Psychological Society, an international associate of the American Academy of Clinical Neuropsychology, an endorsed Clinical Neuropsychologist and a Fellow of the College of Clinical Neuropsychologists (Australian Psychological Society). He was elected to the National Executive Committee of the British Neuropsychological Society (1997-2000), and to the National Executive Committee of the College of Clinical Neuropsychologists (Australian Psychological Society; 2005-2008).

Professor Foster was awarded a Chair in Neuropsychology in London in 2002 and subsequently in Australia. He has served on a range of hospital ethics and other clinical committees (e.g. catastrophic injury) and has recently been confirmed as the Division of Neuropsychology Representative on the Ethics Committee of the British Psychological Society. Professor Foster has undertaken practitioner assessments and professional reviews for international Regulator Boards. More broadly, Professor Foster has consulted to clinical, industrial, commercial, media and legal organisations in North America, Europe and Australia/New Zealand. In addition, Professor Foster presents regularly in the media on matters related to his expertise in clinical neuroscience.

Professor Foster has written over 750 medicolegal reports and has served as an expert witness internationally to a range of Tribunals and Courts. His expert evidence has included presenting findings in a traumatic brain injury case which received the highest personal injury financial award then made in that jurisdiction.

Professor Foster has published and lectured widely, including the authoring of numerous publications that are directly related to his clinical practice. He has written or edited 6 books to date, published over 180 scientific publications (Google Scholar) and given over 250 oral presentations. He has published over 100 articles listed in the ISI Web of Science, with a current scientific H index of over 45 (Google Scholar).

A recent book for a general audience published by Oxford University Press has now been translated into ten languages:- <https://www.amazon.com/Memory-Introduction-Jonathan-K-Foster/dp/0192806750>

Professor Foster has been formally trained through the American College of Disability Medicine in the AMA Guides to Permanent Impairment and in the WA Work Cover Guides for the Evaluation of Permanent Impairment.

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