Rippling Minds
A Ripple in Mind

presents

BOOK NOW

Sex in Relation Following Brain Injury

Professionals in Debate and Conversation

EARLY BIRD
26th February 2027
£185 +VAT
Standard rate
£235 +VAT
20% discount for
NHS, Statutory Services & Charities

Thursday 8th July 2027

One Great George Street
Westminster, London

A multidisciplinary conference for professionals across the brain injury sector



Organised by
ABI Solutions

Sponsored by
IM irwinmitchell

5 pending CPD/APIL points
CPD AFFILIATE The CPD Certification Service
APIL Accreditation Pending

DISCUSSION | PERSPECTIVES | PRACTICAL TAKEAWAYS

Rippling Minds
A Ripple in Mind

Sex in Relation
Following Brain Injury

Thursday 8th July 2027

One Great George Street
Westminster, London

Draft Programme

08:30 – 09:15 **Registration, Tea/Coffee, Exhibition Stands & Networking**

09:15 – 09:20 **Welcome from the Sponsor**

Sarah Griggs, Partner, Irwin Mitchell

09:20 – 09:25 **Welcome from the Conference Chair**

Rhiannon Seaford-Jones (formerly Stokes), Managing Director, Stokes Case Management

09:25 – 09:55 **Introducing grey areas and complexity when supporting sexuality after brain injury**

This introduction sets the scene as a follow up to the first Sex and Brain Injury conference in 2023. The anxieties of professionals in navigating both legal and clinical parameters will be addressed, establishing a basis for the day's subsequent presentations and conversations.

Giles Yeates, Consultant Clinical Neuropsychologist, Rippling Minds

09:55 – 11:05 **Sex in Relation to the Law**

Rights to sexual expression following brain injury in relation to Sexual Offences & Mental Capacity Act, versus European Convention of Human Rights. Most brain injury professionals think about the UK's Sexual Offences Act and Mental Capacity Act as the key legislation to navigate when supporting the sexual expression of many survivors of brain injury. However European human rights law is an additional context of significance when optimising access to sexual expression and experience for people with disabilities. This is an exploration of our clinical practice decisions and ability to support survivor's wishes around sexual activity, in relation to all legal frameworks, using case material provided by delegates.

Professor Claire de Than, Judicial Officeholder, Senior Academic & Charity Chair

11:05 – 11:35 **Morning Tea/Coffee break, Exhibition Stands & Networking**

11:35 – 12:45 **Sex in Relation to Medication**

Exploring the interactions (positive and negative) of pharmacological interventions and sexual function after brain injury. While many people focus on the direct influences of brain injury on altered sexual functioning, the side-effects of common medications used by survivors often exert a more significant influence. These include anti-convulsant, anti-depressants and analgesics. Difficulties with low mood and low self-esteem have also been linked to reduced sexual functioning post-injury, and this presentation will explore how to navigate the use of pharmacological interventions with survivors while optimising sexual functioning. Specific pharmacological interventions for ABI subgroups such as Viagra after stroke will also be explored.

Dr Julius Bourke, Consultant Neuropsychiatrist, Recognition Health & The Nightingale Hospital and Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer in Neurophysiology & Clinical Psychiatry (QMUL) & Dr Giles Yeates, Consultant Clinical Neuropsychologist, Rippling Minds

BOOK NOW

Organised by ABI Solutions

Sponsored by irwinmitchell

5 pending CPD/APIL points

CPD AFFILIATE The CPD Certification Service

APIL Accreditation Pending

Thursday 8th July 2027

One Great George Street
Westminster, London

Sex in Relation
Following Brain Injury

Rippling Minds
A Ripple in Mind

12:45 – 13:45	**Lunch, Exhibition Stands & Networking**
13:45 – 14:55	**Sex in Relation to Others Part 1: Creating a Space for Understanding & Community: The HOPE4ABI Online Sexuality & Wellbeing After Brain Injury Resource** In this session, we will describe the co-development of an online resource to inform and empower survivors navigating sex and relationships post-injury. The programme is built upon principles of self-management, positive psychology, and peer support. Following a successful NIHR-funded research trial, Coventry University and Headway London staff and members adapted the programme into a bite-sized, personalised, digital resource for use on-the-go. We will share insights from our creative co-production process, and early feasibility data. **Dr Hayley Wright, Associate Professor, Coventry University & Nora Brennan, Therapy Service Manager & Neurophysiotherapist, NIHR Developing Research Leader, Headway London**
14:55 – 15:25	**Afternoon Coffee Break**
15:25 – 16:35	**Sex in Relation to Others Part 2: Dating, Research Co-Design & Amplifying Important Voices** A conversation about communication, dating, research co-design and supporting the voice of survivors and professionals to influence the development of sexuality support practice following brain injury. Research has consistently shown that the voices and wishes of survivors are not represented in rehabilitation provision for sexuality after brain injury. This session will share the themes from the latest wave of co-design and qualitative studies in this field, highlighting new and future priorities for clinical provision and further research when shaped by survivors' perspectives, and those of clinicians working in the field. **Nicholas Behn, Senior Research Fellow, Speech & Language Therapist, City St Georges, University of London, Jill Hwang, Research Fellow & Clinical Neuropsychologist, Monash-Epworth Rehabilitation Research Centre, Monash University and Dr Giles Yeates, Consultant Clinical Neuropsychologist, Rippling Minds**
16:35	**Conference Close**

BOOK NOW

Organised by ABI Solutions

Sponsored by irwinmitchell

5 pending CPD/APIL points
CPD AFFILIATE The CPD Certification Service
APIL Accreditation Pending

Rippling Minds
A Ripple in Mind

Sex in Relation
Following Brain Injury

Thursday 8th July 2027

One Great George Street
Westminster, London

Biographies



Dr Giles Yeates

Consultant Clinical Neuropsychologist, Couples Therapist & Tai Ji Instructor, Rippling Minds

Dr Giles works in private practice (Rippling Minds), assessing and supporting the psychosexual needs of survivors, their sexual partners and significant others. DrYeates has also collaborated with prominent UK brain injury charities (Different Strokes, Headway, SameYou) to generate free information booklets, videos, podcasts and webinars on the topic of sexuality following brain injury. These can all be accessed at www.rippingminds.com.

Dr Yeates is an active researcher, writer and academic, publishing several research studies, articles, chapters and books covering these topics, and with colleagues has pioneered teaching on neuro-sexuality for clinical neuropsychologists in training worldwide.

Dr Yeates provides national and international training on neuro-sexualityand related topics for professionals and staff teams.



Professor Claire de Than

Judicial Officeholder, Senior Academic & Charity Chair

Professor Claire de Than is an award-winning senior legal academic of more than 25 years' standing, a judicial officeholder and former Chair of the Jersey Law Commission. She has over 85 academic publications in total, including more than 15 books, chapters in leading legal monographs and edited collections, and articles in a variety of leading national and international journals including the Modern Law Review and the Criminal Law Review. Her publications and reform proposals have been adopted by governments, regulators and professions around the world. Her legal research fields include disability rights law, media law, financial law, criminal law, comparative law of tiny jurisdictions, trusts, environmental crimes and human rights law, and she is also expert in management and finance, all of which she is able to teach at any level. She is also regularly consulted on public and strategic policy.

She has been an expert for the Law Commission of England and Wales on two projects, and made many media appearances as a legal expert. She has advised governments large and small and many organisations on human rights and law reform issues, amongst other things. She is the Chair of several disability rights charities including The Outsiders Trust.

BOOK NOW

Organised by ABI Solutions

Sponsored by irwinmitchell

5 pending CPD/APIL points
CPD AFFILIATE The CPD Certification Service
APIL Accreditation Pending

Thursday 8th July 2027

One Great George Street
Westminster, London

Sex in Relation
Following Brain Injury

Rippling Minds
A Ripple in Mind

Biographies



Dr Julius Bourke

Consultant Neuropsychiatrist, Recognition Health & The Nightingale Hospital; Honorary Clinical Senior Lecturer in Neurophysiology & Clinical Psychiatry (QMUL)

Dr Julius Bourke has been practising as a Consultant Psychiatrist for the last 15 years. His areas of expertise include neuropsychiatric conditions, including functional neurological disorders, brain injury and the psychiatric aspects of epilepsy, Parkinson's disease, multiple sclerosis and other neurological diagnoses, treatment-resistant cases of depressive and anxiety disorders, and functional somatic syndromes such as those involving persistent pain and fatigue. Dr Bourke obtained his medical degree from Barts and The London School of Medicine and Dentistry. He went on to work in emergency medicine and neurology in East London, and hyperbaric medicine in Egypt. He pursued his psychiatric training in East London and then at The Maudsley and King's College Hospitals, before obtaining his postgraduate doctoral degree with Queen Mary University of London (QMUL). He serves as an honorary clinical senior lecturer in neurophysiology and clinical psychiatry at QMUL. His specialist research interests have included the neurophysiology of chronic idiopathic pain, functional syndromes and related disorders. Dr Bourke runs clinics catering to neuropsychiatric, functional and complex presentations at Recognition Health and the Nightingale Hospital.



Dr Hayley Wright

Associate Professor, Coventry University

Dr Hayley Wright is a cognitive neuropsychologist with broad research interests in psychosexual wellbeing. She has specific expertise in developing digital interventions to support people living with stroke and acquired brain injury (ABI). Hayley was awarded an NIHR Research for Patient Benefit grant (2022-2024) to co-develop and test a digital self-management programme to support sexual wellbeing after ABI. This flagship programme – HOPE4ABI – has generated spin-out programmes to support partners of survivors, and healthcare professionals, to navigate sexual wellbeing and difficult conversations around intimacy. She leads international, impactful initiatives focused on delivering holistic, inclusive healthcare solutions to support long-term recovery and quality of life for brain injury survivors and their partners..

BOOK NOW

Organised by ABI Solutions

Sponsored by irwinmitchell

5 pending CPD/APIL points
CPD AFFILIATE The CPD Certification Service
APIL Accreditation Pending

Rippling Minds
A Ripple in Mind

Sex in Relation
Following Brain Injury

Thursday 8th July 2027

One Great George Street
Westminster, London

Biographies



Nora Brennan

Therapy Service Manager, Neurophysiotherapist & NIHR Developing Research Leader, Headway London

Nora Brennan has worked in the field of brain injury for over 20 years as a physiotherapist and has overseen the development and delivery of therapeutic services across Headway London since 2015. Nora is enrolled on a three-year NIHR funded Developing Research Leaders AHP Programme, and is Practice Lead for an NIHR School for Social Care (SSCR) Practice Evaluation of the outcomes and impact of Headway London's Day Service provision.

Her research interests are in physical health, mental health and neurology, with a special interest in the intersectional health inequalities faced by those living with a brain injury. She is passionate about meaningful, socially impactful research that is co-produced with under represented communities.



Nicholas Behn

Senior Research Fellow and speech and language therapist, City St Georges, University of London

Nicholas is an NIHR Senior Research Fellow, a registered speech and language therapist and Senior Lecturer at City St Georges, University of London, UK. He has over 25+ years' clinical experience in the field of brain injury and over 15+ years' research experience. His research has focused on the assessment and management of communication problems after brain injury using behavioural medicine and implementation methodologies. These methods have been used to explore treatments for people with brain injury and their families including, dating and sexuality. His research is cited in both national and international clinical guidelines. He has published more than 35 peer-reviewed papers, been awarded grants of more than £1.4M and been invited to sit on committees for NICE, RCSLT and the World Health Organisation.

Nicholas is Associate Editor for the journal Brain Impairment and on the Editorial board for Disability and Rehabilitation. He has a firm commitment to working with health professionals including, speech and language therapists to best support the management of people with brain injury and their families.

BOOK NOW

Organised by ABI Solutions

Sponsored by irwinmitchell

5 pending CPD/APIL points
CPD AFFILIATE The CPD Certification Service
APIL Accreditation Pending

Thursday 8th July 2027

One Great George Street
Westminster, London

Sex in Relation
Following Brain Injury

Rippling Minds
A Ripple in Mind

Biographies



Jill Hwang

Research Fellow and Clinical Neuropsychologist, Monash-Epworth Rehabilitation Research Centre, Monash University

Dr Jill Hwang is a Research Fellow at the Monash–Epworth Rehabilitation Research Centre and a Clinical Neuropsychologist in Melbourne, Australia. She completed her PhD at Monash University in 2024, using co-design and implementation approaches to facilitate and improve how clinicians can support sexual wellbeing following acquired brain injury (ABI). Her research has involved translating the perspectives and priorities of people affected by brain injury and healthcare professionals into practical resources. These include e-learning modules on sexual wellbeing after ABI, which has been released at Epworth Healthcare.

Alongside her research, Jill works clinically across adult mental health, neurodivergence and ABI rehabilitation, with experience in neuropsychological assessment and individual and group-based interventions. Her work brings together clinical practice and research to support more inclusive, meaningful and practical approaches to sexual wellbeing in rehabilitation settings.

BOOK NOW

Organised by ABI Solutions

Sponsored by irwinmitchell

5 pending CPD/APIL points
CPD AFFILIATE The CPD Certification Service
APIL Accreditation Pending

irwinmitchell

SERIOUS INJURY

What if you can get the right help, right now?



Liam, our client

When your patient's world is turned upside down by a traumatic brain injury, they may be left with more questions than answers.

Our serious injury legal experts will be by their side to help them find a way forward.

Excellent Trustpilot

irwinmitchell.com