Introduction

The Society for Research in Rehabilitation (SRR) is the premier multidisciplinary rehabilitation research society in the UK. Its aim is to advance education and research into all aspects of the rehabilitation of people with disabilities and to disseminate the useful results of such research for the public benefit.

The Society aims to be inspiring and educational, whilst providing excellent opportunities for networking, for junior and established researchers.

The SRR runs two conferences a year, with topic specific research symposia, free scientific presentations and 'research in progress' posters.

President’s Foreword

This will be the second, and my last contribution as President to the Annual Report for the Society for Research in Rehabilitation. I hope the Annual Report provides members of the Society with an overview of our activities over the previous year. We will make the Annual report visible on our website, but please do feel free to circulate to clinical and research colleagues who may have an interest in our work, and who are may not be members.

The majority of work that preoccupies Council continues to focus on ensuring high quality research meetings that showcase some of the best rehabilitation research in the United Kingdom. I would like to take this opportunity to thank Professor Sarah Tyson and Dr Lisa Shaw for hosting our meetings in 2015, and to all those who presented papers and posters. These meetings evaluated very positively, and I am looking forward to the chance to discuss all things rehabilitation research with colleagues at our meetings in London and Coventry.

SRR Council continues to engage with our stakeholders in health and research policy to ensure a strong voice for rehabilitation research is heard. As part of our ambition to increase the authority and reach of that voice, we have begun to engage in debate with research leaders about excellence in rehabilitation research methodology. Our meetings in 2015 provided an opportunity to debate developments in research design, and in research across academic and professional discipline. We hope that the membership will continue to engage in this debate.

We recognise that there are an increasing range of opportunities for researchers to showcase their research. The publication of our research meeting abstracts in the prestigious ‘Clinical Rehabilitation’ journal continues to be a key incentive for participants. I am delighted that we will be announcing our second Distinguished Scholar Award later this year, providing us with another opportunity to celebrate the challenges and joys of rehabilitation research.

I would like to close with a personal reflection on my time with the Society, and specifically the fabulous support and encouragement I have received from colleagues and friends in the Society over the years. Of course, the Society would not run so efficiently without the support of our excellent administrator, Patricia Dziunka. I would also like to thank all members of Council who, in addition to juggling the growing demands of clinical and academic work, have actively contributed to sustaining and growing SRR over the last few years.

Professor Chris Burton SRR President
WHAT ARE THE AIMS OF SRR?

The Society for Research in Rehabilitation is a multi-disciplinary group whose members share the principal goal of: carrying out and promoting high quality research to develop effective, relevant and forward-thinking rehabilitation practices that will improve the opportunities available to people with acute and chronic disabling conditions.

SRR provides a forum for high quality rehabilitation research:

- **Raising** the profile of rehabilitation research
- **Encouraging** the evaluation of rehabilitation practice through well-designed studies
- **Fostering** a climate in which people can develop and share research skills
- **Enabling** active researchers to share the results of their research
- **Advancing** rehabilitation practice for acute and chronic disabling conditions
- **Training** - enabling junior researchers to present research

ABOUT THE SOCIETY FOR RESEARCH IN REHABILITATION

The Society for Research in Rehabilitation constitution states that "the objective of the Society shall be to advance education and research into all aspects of the rehabilitation of disabled people and to disseminate the useful results of such research for public benefit".

The benefit to individuals presenting and becoming members of the Society is in the recognition and peer review of their work. It is considered a prestigious thing to have one’s work accepted by this scholarly society.

The Charities Act (2006) includes the advancement of health as a legitimate charitable purpose. Charity Commission guidance indicates that the work of the Society for Research in Rehabilitation, namely facilitating the development of evidence for the effectiveness of rehabilitation interventions and services, and making that guidance available for patients, providers of rehabilitation services and their commissioners, complies with the requirements for public benefit outlined in the Act.

The Society for Research in Rehabilitation achieves its aims and charitable purpose in the following ways:

The Society Council, through twice yearly business meetings, play a leadership role in advocating for investment in rehabilitation research, and provide expert clinical and methodological commentary on United Kingdom rehabilitation research plans and strategies.

The website and newsletters for rehabilitation researchers provide opportunities for information sharing. The website is fully accessible to members of the public. Two scientific meetings per year which seek to provide opportunities for rehabilitation researchers to:

- Present the results of their research
- Share good practice in rehabilitation research (for example by providing updates on research methodology)
- Network and develop research collaborations
- Participate in associated development and training, including the support of new researchers
- Identify new trends in rehabilitation practice and services

The abstracts of research presentations at scientific meetings are published in a peer reviewed journal, ensuring that the findings of rehabilitation research are widely disseminated, and available for incorporation in national guidance for rehabilitation practice.
CURRENT COUNCIL MEMBERS - Honorary

**PRESIDENT**
Prof Chris Burton
Bangor University
Senior Research Fellow

**PRESIDENT ELECT**
Dr Audrey Bowen
University of Manchester
Reader in Psychology

**PAST PRESIDENT**
Dr Kate Radford
University of Nottingham
Associate Professor in Rehabilitation Research (Long Term Conditions)

**SENIOR SECRETARY**
Prof Anand Pandyan
Keele University
Professor in Rehabilitation Technology

**JUNIOR SECRETARY**
Prof Frederike van Wijck
Glasgow Caledonian University
Professor in Neuro Rehabilitation

**PAST SECRETARY**
Prof Nigel Harris
Designability - BIME
Rehabilitation Engineer

**TREASURER**
Dr Lisa Shaw
Newcastle University
Senior Research Associate

**PR OFFICER**
Dr Andrew Bateman
Oliver Zangwill Centre
Clinical Manager

**BSRM REPRESENTATIVE**
Prof Anthony B Ward
Staffordshire University
Rehabilitation Medicine

Dr Stephen Ashford
King’s College London and Northwick Park Hospitals
NIHR Clinical Lecturer and Consultant Physiotherapist

Dr Karen Hoffman
Queen Mary University London
Senior Research Occupational Therapist

Dr Praveen Kumar
University of the West of England
Senior Lecturer in Physiotherapy

Dr Rosie Kneafsey
Coventry University
Nursing

Dr Max Feltham
University of Birmingham
Research Fellow

Dr Joanna Fletcher-Smith
University of Nottingham
Research Occupational Therapist

Patricia Dziunka
SRR Central Secretariat
patricia.dziunka@srr.org.uk

If you are a full member and would like to be considered for the Council please send a short biography and covering email to srr_secretary@srr.org.uk

The Society for Research in Rehabilitation
The Society holds two scientific meetings a year, in winter and summer. Each meeting offers symposia addressing specific rehabilitation topics, sessions for presentation of scientific papers and poster sessions. First time presenting associate members are eligible for the annual Verna Wright Prize for best Oral and Poster Presentation (see www.srr.org.uk for more details).

**SOCIETY MEETINGS 2015**

**Winter 2015 University of Manchester hosted by Prof Sarah Tyson**

The meeting started on a sombre note as we remembered Prof Bipin Bhakta, a former President and great friend of SRR who passed away in December 2014.

The theme of the conference focused on “Rehabilitation Research: Time for a Radical Re-think?” It’s been just over 10 years since the advent of NIHR changed the landscape of funding for rehabilitation research and gave us the opportunity to undertake much more ambitious breadth and depth of studies. We have seized that opportunity with both hands but the results of several large definitive trials have not been as expected. This symposium aimed to reflect on why that maybe and how rehabilitation research may progress in the next 10 years or so. We had three eminent speakers.

Prof Sallie Lamb from Warwick and Oxford Universities and the NIHR HTA Programme spoke about how to run successful Phase III rehabilitation trials. Then Prof Trish Greenhalgh of Oxford University heroically joined us by Skype as she was unable to travel to Manchester. Thankfully the technology was kind and she presented an alternative paradigm for rehabilitation research taking a philosophical stance to question the primacy of randomised controlled trials to evaluate complex interventions. Finally Dr Richard Emsley from the University of Manchester presented his work within mental health research to improve fidelity in rehabilitation. After coffee there was a lively ‘question time’ session where we could explore these issues further.

The afternoon was devoted to the latest rehabilitation research with 8 platform presentations, 14 posters and 11 ‘work in progress’ posters. It was great to meet overseas delegates from Sweden, the Netherlands and India amongst the 80+ attendees. As ever at SRR, standards were high, the setting was excellent and (more unusually for a Winter meeting) the weather was kind. Some of us were even able to sit outside for lunch.

**Summer 2015 University of Newcastle hosted by Dr Lisa Shaw**

The society’s meeting in summer 2015 was held at St James Park in Newcastle upon Tyne, hosted by Dr Lisa Shaw from Newcastle University. The theme of the conference was Rehabilitation in the 21st Century: Using Robots & Computers to Promote Recovery.

The first symposia was given by Dr Igo Krebs, a leading expert in robotics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston, USA. He delivered a very interesting session on the use of robotics in rehabilitation. The second symposia covered ways in which computer based technology can be designed, used and evaluated in rehabilitation. It was delivered by Dr Madeline Balaam, Dr Thomas Ploetz and Dr Chris Price from Newcastle University. Both symposia were excellent and well received.

Professor Chris McKevitt from King’s College London delivered the biennial Philip Nichols memorial lecture giving a very thought provoking talk on patient involvement in research.

The conference also included some first rate free research paper presentations, both oral and poster, along with several very interesting exhibitor stands for delegates to visit.

And finally, just to make the event even more memorable, there was an unscheduled trip to the venue car park when the fire alarms were activated! Fortunately everyone took this in good humour and it resulted in only minimal disruption to the day.
SECRETARY REPORT

**2015 Membership**

- New Associate Members: 19
- Resignations: 1
- Membership ended: 17
- Current Total Membership: 325

**Council Membership**

No new ordinary members are required at the winter 2016 meeting (3 year term)

Lisa Shaw stepped in to take over from Louise Connell as Treasurer last year

A new Junior Secretary is required winter 2016

All new Council appointments start following the Winter AGM

Senior Officer roles have a 2 year term except Treasurer which is 4 years

*If you are a full member and would like to be considered for the Council please send a short biography and covering email to srr_secretary@srr.org.uk*

**eNewsletter**

Our quarterly eNewsletter is sent via email, please let us know if you change your email address

**Abstracts**

Abstract information for the 2015 meetings were:

- Submitted: 79
- Free Papers Presented: 37
- Work In Progress: 17
- Published: 31

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PUBLIC RELATIONS REPORT

*Social media helps us to reach members and colleagues throughout the UK and internationally. We would like to encourage all members to interact with us through our website, Facebook page and Twitter feed. This will help us to increase our strength and voice in Rehabilitation Research.*

**Website** [www.srr.org.uk](http://www.srr.org.uk)

**Facebook** — [https://www.facebook.com/SRRUK](https://www.facebook.com/SRRUK)

**Twitter** — [@rehabresearchUK](https://twitter.com/rehabresearchUK)

SRR utilises the Facebook page and Twitter feed to advertise meetings, calls for abstracts and news items. We will advertise for SRR members free with a reciprocal arrangement amongst their networks for our next meeting.

**Statistics at December 31st 2015:**

- Current Facebook likes: 224
- Twitter Stats: Followers 358, Following 301, Tweets 479

Our target for December 2016 is Facebook Likes 250 and Twitter Followers 400, please help us to achieve this by liking and following us and raising awareness amongst your colleagues and networks.

If you have any ideas on how we can raise our profile and impact please contact us: srr_secretary@srr.org.uk

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The Society for Research in Rehabilitation

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The Society for Research in Rehabilitation
EDUCATION COMMITTEE REPORT

Mission Statement

The main aim of the Education Committee is to ensure that the usual high standard of the bi-annual meetings of the Society is maintained, through supporting meeting organisers to develop a suitable programme. The Education Committee also aims to expand and develop the society’s educational activities, in consultation with members.

Verna Wright Prize 2015

The Verna Wright Prize winner 2015 for best oral presentation was Dr Lena von Koch, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden for her presentation ‘Falls in Individuals after Stroke and Predictors for Falling 6 years after Stroke: a 6 year Longitudinal Study’ and best poster presentation was Mr Cameron Lindsay, Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust, for his presentation ‘Muscle Strength at Twelve Weeks Following the Early Use of Botulinum Toxin to Treat Post Stroke Spasticity’.

Distinguished Scholar Award

The Distinguished Scholar award was introduced in 2014 and will alternate with the Philip Nichols Lecture annually at the Summer meeting.

Prof Pam Enderby University of Sheffield has been nominated for the second award unanimously by the Council and will receive her award at the Summer 2016 meeting at Coventry University. She will also present the Distinguished Scholar lecture at that meeting.

The Philip Nichols Lecture

During each President’s term of office they will be asked to invite a speaker to present the Philip Nichols Lecture at one of our meetings.

President Elect Dr Audrey Bowen will invite a speaker to present at the 14th Congress of European Forum for Rehabilitation Research which the Society for Rehabilitation in Research is co-hosting in May 2017.

Philip Nichols (1924 – 1979) was one of the founder members of SRR from Oxford University. He was a Consultant in Rehabilitation, Royal Air Force, Advisor to CMO and Advocate for health services research.
TREASURER REPORT WINTER 2016

Summary
At the end of the financial year April 14 – March 15, the SRR had total funds of £47,472. A small profit of £1,092 was made in the year. Income was very similar to the previous year but expenditure significantly less. Expenditure was less due to the substantial cost of improving the website incurred 2013-2014. The April 14 – March 15 accounts have been examined, approved, and returned to the charity commission.

Dr Louise Connell who had been SRR Treasurer since 2012, went on maternity leave in April 2015. Dr Lisa Shaw has now taken over as Treasurer.


The Society for Research in Rehabilitation’s accounts were audited by; Stables Thompson & Briscoe Ltd. Registered in England, Company number 6329610, Registered office: Crickhollow, 1 Stainbank Green, Kendal LA9 5RP. Directors: David Briscoe FCA; Chloe Chapman ACA; Phil Cottam; Helen Holmes FCA; Francis Tidmarsh BSc Econ.
Contact Details

The Society for Research in Rehabilitation

SRR Central Secretariat
University of Nottingham
Division of Ageing and Rehabilitation
Room 114, Floor B, Medical School
Queens Medical Centre
Nottingham
NG7 2UH

Email: srr_secretary@srr.org.uk
Website: www.srr.org.uk