

## SRR Presidents Report February 2014 – London

Well it's been another busy year – particularly the past 6 months!

### What did we do?

- **Held two successful meetings** – in Bath and Nottingham

**Nottingham was** our first *one day* summer meeting - success with the soirée the night before people journeyed far and wide to enjoy a night in the new Orchard Hotel and it seems our members like 'swanky hotels' and our Council like to be spoiled a little!

**In Bath we held our first Rehabilitation Research School which appears to have been a hit** and last night, Steve Ashford kindly hosted the second, 'International Research in Rehabilitation. Experience from the field'. We had two excellent speakers from the International Centre for Evidence in Disability. We learned about work in Cameroon and India using the key informant method to gather disability statistics. Please keep the ideas coming for these Research Schools.

We have introduced a new award '**Distinguished Scholar**' this annual award is intended to attract cutting edge rehabilitation research findings to be presented (first) to SRR at Summer Meetings and this will alternate with the Philip Nichols lecture.

We received our first nomination for the new '**Distinguished Scholar**' award – which was **unanimously approved by Council and will be presented at our next Summer meeting in Glasgow to Professor Cath Sackley.**

Professor Sackley will present at the Summer meeting in Glasgow and will draw on findings from her most significant studies, hopefully providing some insight into some of the successes which have led to this recognition of excellence in rehabilitation research. Her lecture title will be 'Thirty years on and still relying on plan B'.

If you have a distinguished scholar in mind – you can nominate them to Council (see the web for details). We would like to receive nominations now for discussion at the next council meeting in June.

- **Developed and launched a new website**

Much of the work leading up to the development of the new website was done by our outstanding Secretariat Patricia Dziunka in consultation with Anand and Nigel. We then opted for a local Derby based company 'Out of the Blue' who maintain and host the site for us.

The new all singing and dancing site is bang up to date and includes on line payment and conference booking and the facility to select between different types of abstract submission amongst other additions. We are now receiving 200 unique hits per month.

With this we are now in a position to be able to consider ways of engaging existing and new members and hosting blogs and even webinars - suggestions needed.

- At the next Winter Meeting in Manchester – We propose a '**Rehabilitation Summit**' This will be hosted by former past president Sarah Tyson – we want to explore the, 'who did it well' and the 'why it didn't work' of the rehab trials and think about where we are at in Rehabilitation Research.  
'Rehabilitation Research: Time for a Rethink? Hosted by Prof Sarah Tyson on the 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2015 at the Chancellors Hotel & Conference Centre, Manchester. Symposia speakers include Prof Sallie Lamb, University of Warwick; Prof Trish Greenhalgh,

Barts and London School of medicine and Dentistry and Prof Martin Gibson,  
University of Manchester.

**Responded to a number of invited consultations from NICE and others with help from experts amongst our members.**

Including:

- NICE Stroke Rehabilitation guidelines
- RCP Prolonged Disorders of Consciousness (PDOC) Guidelines = our representative on the GDG was Prof Derick Wade (Derick is also both SRR and BSRM representative on the Intercollegiate stroke working party)
- Anand Pandyan NICE Medical Technologies Evaluation Programme-expert reviewer/adviser representing SRR
- NICE Quality Standard Stakeholder Engagement Exercise – Head Injury
- Workshop and consultation on Trauma Service Delivery
- We also thank Adrian Robinson for his comments on the scope for MND management

WE received 35 invitations to respond to consultations last year alone, some much more time consuming than others. We continue to bring these opportunities to your attention but can't respond to them all. We discussed at Council last night how to cope with the many requests and to identify the most pertinent ones.

In particular our concerns about both workload and whether we are set up (e.g. quality assurance wise) to be commenting on consultations as a 'representative' body or as individuals. If you feel strongly that SRR should comment on any, you need to tell us.

**We submitted two suggestions one on 'Presenting Research in 140 characters' and another on 'Promoting participation and work outcomes' for workshops at the forthcoming World Federation for Neurological Rehabilitation conference in Istanbul in April -both of which were rejected outright!!**

However, these efforts have not been wasted and the one on presenting research in 140 characters has been re-submitted as a suggestion to UKSF, along with the two that were submitted by OPsyris on post-stroke aphasia management and one on post stroke fatigue.

**We also spend a fair bit of time contributing to the scientific quality of rehabilitation research elsewhere**

**Stroke Forum-** Kate Radford will now take over as representative Council member from Prof Sarah Tyson to promote rehabilitation research in the scientific programme at UK Stroke Forum. A number of Council members review abstracts for this and the **NIMAST Stroke Forum.**

**EFRR** – Dr Nigel Harris is our representative on the European Forum for Rehabilitation Research committee. He and I went to the EFRR in Istanbul, Turkey in September. I was impressed by the wealth and breath of research. Fred van Wijck at Glasgow Caledonian is considering hosting their 2017 meeting.

We've submitted a letter of intent to submit joint bid to co- host the WCNR in 2018 with the BSRM and have been invited to submit a full bid by 21 February – we are currently considering venues.

**Council News** - It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to our past president Professor Sarah Tyson who has been a stalwart of Council for the past 12 years and has made us laugh, kept us on our toes with an occasional rant and steered the Society successfully in her

presidential and past presidential terms, hosting not one but two excellent meetings and being a true gluten for punishment Sarah has offered to host a third next winter!

We also say goodbye to Ailie Turton as she leaves Council after 9 years. Ailie has raised the bar as Secretary, guiding Anand and Nigel who have followed in her footsteps. Our new secretary will be Fred van Wijck. Dr Chris Burton takes over as President from this meeting.

I'm also delighted to tell you that Dr Audrey Bowen will re-join Council as President Elect. Audrey is a former Council member and Secretary who has remained a member and regular at the Society's meetings and brings this insider knowledge plus wider links with the WFNR as Chair of OPSYRIS and also chair of the Stroke Research Network Rehabilitation Research Group.

Sadly Prof Bipin Bhakta formally retired from Council due to illness in the Autumn. Bipin a former president was also our BSRM rep. This role will now be assumed temporarily by myself.

Ordinary Council members Ali Gibson and Roshan das Nair also retire this time, leaving us with two Council places to fill.

We have had two expressions of interest, both regular attenders but sadly neither of whom can make the meeting today. The first is Max Feltham and the second Praveen Kumar. (Biographies read out).

#### **Forthcoming Meetings:**

**Summer 2014:** Glasgow, Professor Marion Brady and Prof Frederike van Wijck – Free Research School 'Capturing & Reporting the Complexity of Rehabilitation Interventions' on the 9<sup>th</sup> and Conference 'Enriching Rehabilitation through Technology and the Arts' on 10<sup>th</sup> June 2014

**Winter 2015:** Manchester, Dr Sarah Tyson – 'Rehabilitation Research: Time for a Rethink' 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2015

**Summer 2015: Dr Lisa Shaw and Helen Rodgers in Newcastle - - TBC**