



SANRA UPDATE

SOUTHERN AFRICAN NEUROLOGICAL REHABILITATION ASSOCIATION
PO BOX 673, MONDEOR, 2110

Volume 11, May 2009

SANRA CONFERENCE 2009 “Neurorehabilitation 2009: Bridging the Divide”

As you may be aware by now, SANRA is hosting a stand-alone conference in August this year. The conference will be held at the Indaba Hotel in Fourways Johannesburg from Wednesday 26th August – Friday 28th August. In addition, there will be a Neurology Workshop on Tuesday evening 25th August. The programme promises 6 exciting international keynote speakers and 1 renowned local keynote speaker. In addition to the oral and poster presentations, there will be a wide range of exhibitors present for the duration of the conference.

This quarter's newsletter includes profiles on each keynote speaker, as well as a list of the exhibitors and information about an exciting prize offer. Please be reminded that SANRA members qualify for a discounted registration fee. For details on dates, costs, and bookings, and to register for the conference, please go to www.sanra.org and submit your registration form online.

Discovery Health

Not only will Discovery Health be registering the CPD Points at the conference, they are also offering a Clinical Excellence Award of R5 000 which will be awarded for the best poster presentation to be judged by the committee. The prize money will be dedicated to furthering the winner's education.

Exhibitors to date:

We are delighted to announce that the following organisations and companies will be exhibiting at the conference:

1. Clayton House Pty Ltd
2. Genop Healthcare (BOTOX)
3. Pharmaplan (Pty) Ltd
4. Life Rehabilitation
5. Headway
6. Stroke Aid Society
7. South African Speech-Language-Hearing Association (SASLHA)
8. Southern African Neurological Rehabilitation Association (SANRA)

Sponsors to date:

1. Life Rehabilitation
2. University of the Witwatersrand
3. Pharmaplan (Pty) Ltd.
4. Retha Nienaber
5. Discovery Health



Life Rehabilitation: A key provider of rehabilitation services

Operating almost 50 percent of all private and public acute rehabilitation beds in the country (207 beds in total), Life Rehabilitation constitutes a significant portion of the private rehabilitation service in South Africa, and employs a considerable number of rehabilitation professionals, constituted as comprehensive interdisciplinary teams in six acute adult rehabilitation units around the country. We are very excited to be launching paediatric rehabilitation in Durban and Johannesburg during 2009.

With units in Durban, East and Northwest Johannesburg, Pretoria, Bloemfontein and East London, Life Rehabilitation provides extensive access to cost-effective rehabilitation, and is in a position to contribute significantly to the development of the field of rehabilitation medicine as part of the national and international rehabilitation community.

Life Rehabilitation provides quality, outcomes driven rehabilitation for patients affected by a range of acute disabling conditions, with a strong focus on neurological disability, and believes that the delivery of world class healthcare is achieved through the combined delivery of quality and clinical excellence, along with a true focus on the personal needs of patients and their families. Individual rehabilitation programmes are custom developed for patients afflicted by illness or injury such as stroke, spinal cord injury and brain injury as well as a range of other disabling conditions. Treatment is rendered by our interdisciplinary teams of dedicated medical, nursing and therapy rehabilitation professionals, with the aim of facilitating optimal functional independence and restoring quality of life.

International Keynote Speakers

Dr. Steven Small

Professor of Neurology and Psychology at the University of Chicago, USA.

Dr. Steven Small's interests involve the evaluation and treatment of patients with motor disorders from stroke. The goal is both to help patients with the subacute and chronic manifestations of stroke and to understand better the processes involved in their recovery. Dr. Small's research also focuses on neurobiological



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changes that take place as people recover from a stroke. The laboratory uses functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to study the organization of the normal human cerebral cortex and the changes that it undergoes after neurological injury, particularly stroke. Dr Small's current projects are in the areas of language and motor function, and are concerned with both the normal anatomy of these functions and their recovery after stroke.

Dr. Derek Wade

Honorary part-time chair of rehabilitation at Kings College, London

Dr. Wade trained in several specialities related to his current posts including neurology, neurosurgery, psychiatry and neurophysiology. Dr. Wade has extensive experience and expertise in several clinical areas including stroke, head injury rehabilitation, management of multiple sclerosis and motor neuron disease, assessment of patients in the Permanent Vegetative State, and the management of patients who have disability without any underlying disease. Dr Wade's research activities cover a wide area and he has published over 170 papers in peer reviewed journals in addition to editing 'Clinical Rehabilitation' since 1994. Dr. Wade supervises and examines higher degrees and is involved in training doctors and other professions. .. Furthermore, he has been involved in many national groups such as writing the Health Care Needs Assessment chapter on Stroke, and the National Clinical Guidelines for Stroke and a similar set of guidelines for Multiple Sclerosis. He has been involved in WHO groups and also advised national groups in the USA, and New Zealand. In June 2002 Dr. Wade was made an honorary fellow of the College of Occupational Therapists.

Michèle Gerber

Senior Bobath Instructor recognized by the International BOBATH Instructors Training Association

Michele Gerber has more than 25 years experience in the fields of rehabilitation, neurology and rheumatology/orthopaedics as a Physical Therapist. She treats neurological patients on a private basis all over the world and collaborates with several rehabilitation centres in Europe. Since 1985, Michele has taught post-graduate courses and workshops on the concept of Bobath-based Rehabilitation for Physical

Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Medical doctors, Nurses and Speech Therapists.

Dr. Leigh Ann Hale

Associate Dean of Research, Centre for Physiotherapy Research and School of Physiotherapy, University of Otago, New Zealand

Dr. Hale completed her PhD at the University of the Witwatersrand before moving to New Zealand in 2000. Dr. Hale's research expertise include neurological rehabilitation and community-based rehabilitation; falls prevention; qualitative and quantitative research (primarily with people with multiple sclerosis, stroke, intellectual disability, older adults). She also supervises and examines higher degrees has extensive record of articles published in refereed journals.

Professor Oliver Turnbull

Head of School of Psychology at the University of Bangor, Wales.

Professor Turnbull's research interests include the neuropsychology of emotion, intuition and emotion-based learning; decision-making, and especially false belief states such as anosognosia and confabulation. Professor Turnbull was a keynote speaker at the SANRA/SASCA conference in 2007 and his presentations were so well-received that he agreed to make a return appearance at the 2009 SANRA conference.

Dr. Ray Wilkinson

Clinical Reader in Language and Communication Science

Economic and Social Research Council Research Fellow, Neuroscience and Aphasia Research Unit (NARU), School of Psychological Sciences, University of Manchester UK.

Local Keynote Speaker

Professor Claire Penn



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Chair of Speech Pathology and Audiology, University of Witwatersrand, South Africa

Prof. Claire Penn has been at Wits for over 35 years and is widely regarded as a world leader for her research in linguistics, sign language, child language and aphasia, and her latest project is the Health Communication Project (HCP). Over the years Professor Penn has served on advisory committees for stroke rehabilitation in South Africa, policy and procedure for the victims of road traffic accidents, and formulation of language policy for education and sign language in the new South African constitution. She is the founder member of the Stroke Aid Society and has also taught courses for community based rehabilitation workers and community speech and hearing workers in the Alexandra Health Clinic and Tinswalo Hospital.

Professor Penn recently won the 2008 Shoprite Checkers/SABC 2 Woman of the Year Award in the category of Science and Technology. She was awarded the Order of Mapungubwe - Silver by former President Thabo Mbeki at the end of 2007 for her contribution to the field of speech and language pathology, especially in the areas of linguistics, sign language, child language, and aphasia as well as for her groundbreaking research in understanding the complexities of human communication.

Awareness Days For 2009

For your information and the interest of your clients, students and colleagues, here are the relevant dates for awareness days, weeks and months related to neurological rehabilitation:

- 15-21 June:** National Epilepsy Week
- 21 June:** National Epilepsy Day
- September:** Muscular Dystrophy Awareness Month
- 7-11 September:** Back Week
- 14-18 September:** Stroke Week
- 21 September:** World Alzheimer's Day
- 1 October:** International Day for Older Persons
- 3 December:** International Day of Disabled Persons
- 5 December:** International Volunteers Day
- 9 December:** World Patient Safety Day

For more information, go to www.doh.gov.za

News About Support Groups

Conversation Groups for Individuals Living with Cognitive-Communication Problems and Aphasia, Department of Communication Pathology at the University of Pretoria:

6 final year student facilitators run 2 groups for individuals who have communication difficulties resulting from either a Traumatic Brain Injury or a stroke. These groups have been running under Dr. Goldblum's supervision for the past 13 years. They meet on a Thursday from 1.30 - 3.00 p.m. during the University term. All group projects aim to reduce obstacles and enhance participation in everyday life. The department holds an annual open evening where professionals, their clients and students are invited to meet the conversation groups, facilitators and supervisor. Interested individuals are invited to contact Dr. Goldblum for further information.

Department of Communication Pathology, University of Pretoria

Supervisor and Coordinator: Dr Glenn

Goldblum Contact: 082 412 0136

Journal Offers

1. Have you heard about Seminars in Neurology?

- ✓ High quality original research and review articles from leading specialists in neurology.
- ✓ Full online access to all current and back issues via thieme-connect.com/ejournals.
- ✓ 35% discount for all new individual subscribers in 2009.

Free Article Downloads

Once you're registered you'll be able to read the full text of all published articles. In the meantime why not check out three of the most frequently downloaded articles from last six months for FREE!:

1. *Treatment of Status Epilepticus* (Hiba Arif, Lawrence J. Hirsch)
2. *Inflammatory Myopathies: Evaluation and Management* (Steven A. Greenberg)
3. *Magnetic Resonance Imaging Techniques: fMRI, DWI, and PWI* (Samantha J. Holdsworth, Roland Bammer)

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Research

**Disability & Rehabilitation: Volume 31 Issue 1
Special Issue: Realising the Rights of Persons with
Disability in Africa.**

(http://www.informaworld.com/openurl?genre=issue&issn=09638288&volume=31&issue=1&uno_jumptype=alert&uno_alerttype=new_issue_alert,email) is now available online at informaworld (<http://www.informaworld.com>).

1. Realising the rights of disabled people in Africa: an introduction to the special issue, Pages 1 - 6

Authors: Gubela Mji; Malcolm MacLachlan; Natalie Melling-Williams; Siphokazi Gcaza

Link:http://www.informaworld.com/openurl?genre=article&issn=09638288&volume=31&issue=1&spage=1&uno_jumptype=alert&uno_alerttype=new_issue_alert,email

2. The impact of community based rehabilitation as implemented by community rehabilitation facilitators on people with disabilities, their families and communities within South Africa, Pages 7 - 13

Authors: Paul Chappell; Christa Johannsmeier

Link:http://www.informaworld.com/openurl?genre=article&issn=09638288&volume=31&issue=1&spage=7&uno_jumptype=alert&uno_alerttype=new_issue_alert,email

3. Translating disability-related research into evidence-based advocacy: the role of people with disabilities, Pages 14 - 22

Author: Tlamele O. Mmatli

Link:http://www.informaworld.com/openurl?genre=article&issn=09638288&volume=31&issue=1&spage=14&uno_jumptype=alert&uno_alerttype=new_issue_alert,email

4. The functioning of primary school learners with paraplegia/paraparesis in mainstream schools in the Western Cape, South Africa. An exploratory study, Pages 23 - 31

Author: San-Marie Vosloo

Link:http://www.informaworld.com/openurl?genre=article&issn=09638288&volume=31&issue=1&spage=23&uno_jumptype=alert&uno_alerttype=new_issue_alert,email

5. Should issues of sexuality and HIV and AIDS be a rehabilitation concern? The voices of young South Africans with physical disabilities, Pages 32 - 41

Authors: M. Wazakili; R. Mpfu; P. Devlieger

Link:http://www.informaworld.com/openurl?genre=article&issn=09638288&volume=31&issue=1&spage=32&uno_jumptype=alert&uno_alerttype=new_issue_alert,email

6. The difference a word makes: responding to questions on 'disability' and 'difficulty' in South Africa, Pages 42 - 50

Author: Marguerite Schneider

Link:http://www.informaworld.com/openurl?genre=article&issn=09638288&volume=31&issue=1&spage=42&uno_jumptype=alert&uno_alerttype=new_issue_alert,email

7. HIV/AIDS and disability in Southern Africa: a review of relevant literature, Pages 51 - 59

Authors: Poul Rohleder; Stine Hellum Braathen; Leslie Swartz; Arne Henning

Eide

Link:http://www.informaworld.com/openurl?genre=article&issn=09638288&volume=31&issue=1&spage=51&uno_jumptype=alert&uno_alerttype=new_issue_alert,email

SANRA Website

Our website is continuously updated and can be found at www.sanra.org. Up to date information concerning the 2009 conference and other events can be found on the website. There is also a list of rehabilitation-related resources, and links to other sites which may be of interest. There is a variety of offers available for organizations, hospital units and groups to be advertised on our website and to have reciprocal website links. Our website traffic has significantly increased throughout this year, which is good news for anyone wanting to advertise on the website! Please visit the website and email any queries or feedback to tamsyn.bernath@wits.ac.za.

Contact Us

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A Final Thought

"I and others like me have proved it [starting life after brain injury] can be done just so long as it is remembered that where there is life there is hope and there is definitely life after brain injury"

Philip L. Fairclough, author of 'Living with Brain Injury'