



# INSWABI Progress Report

Vol 4, Issue 1

January – June 2010

## A new age for INSWABI

It gives us great pleasure to provide the 7<sup>th</sup> Progress Report for the International Network for Social Workers in Acquired Brain Injury.

In this report, we are pleased to announce that INSWABI is entering into a new age

The International Conference of SW in Health and Mental Health conference in Dublin has just passed and it was a great success. There were 14 oral presentations on many aspects of SW practice in Acquired Brain Injury – almost 8 hours of the latest research in our field. Patti and Andy Mantell provide a summary of the conference later in this report.

At the conference the inaugural INSWABI Committee was formed. This is a very exciting

development for INSWABI and will take over from Grahame and Patti to lead INSWABI over the next 3 years until the next International SW conference which will be held in Los Angeles in 2013. There is plenty more about the Conference and the Committee in this Report. We also inform members about forthcoming changes to the INSWABI website.

INSWABI member Sonia Payne asked members of the network for information about SW staffing levels in ABI services – there was a fantastic response from members and the results are also showcased in the report. Finally, a new book on Relational approaches to Neurorehabilitation is highlighted. Enjoy the read.

**Dr Grahame Simpson**  
Co-convenor

**Patti Simonson**  
Co-convenor

## 1. SW staffing levels in BI rehab services



In July of this year, INSWABI member Sonia Payne, who is Senior Social Worker at the Shenton Park ABI Rehab Unit in Perth Western Australia requested information from

**Sonia and Susi** other INSWABI members about the levels of Social Work staffing within Brain Injury services to help with the planning for an upcoming upgrade of the Shenton Park unit.

There was a fantastic response with 11 INSWABI members from 6 countries providing information about their staffing levels. Sonia and her Manager Susi Matthews have developed an Excel file with the collated information which will be available as a resource for all INSWABI members in the future.

## 2. Update on the INSWABI website

Since the inception of INSWABI, we have been able to run a webpage as part of the Brain Injury Social Work Group (BISWG) UK website.

The webpage has included information about the mission and aims of INSWABI, as well as Power Point slides and posters that have been presented at conferences around the world by INSWABI members pertaining to Social Work practice in Acquired Brain Injury.

The BISWG website was temporarily closed, but is in the process of being reopened so the INSWABI website will soon be available again. For further news,

**Watch this Space.**

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## 3. The 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health



This triennial event with the theme 'Changing Health: Acting and Reacting, Challenges for social work theory and practice' attracted over 700 abstracts from around the world. It provided a broad and rich selection of social work topics in health and mental health delivered by social workers across many and varied fields and cultures aiming to enhance and improve their work. The event sought to connect academics and practitioners together in order to stimulate ideas and work on solutions, and ultimately to raise standards in social work for the greater good of all those in need of social work interventions.



Mary McAleese President of Ireland

The official opening address was given by the President of Ireland, Mary McAleese, and centred on the rich and positive contributions that social workers make to society in so many

different ways and the willingness and ability of the profession to respond promptly and appropriately to new challenges thrown up by societies with changing demands. The President endorsed the enduring need for social workers in human services, to protect the rights of individuals and to provide support and services to people and communities on their journeys through life.

Health is a basic right and illness and harm can shatter the lives of individuals and those close to them instantly and irrevocably. Social workers are trained to respond to situations and help to provide solutions aimed at minimising, and in some circumstances preventing, the impact of physical and mental health needs and to help navigate people through systems in order to access appropriate resources.

Issues were explored through plenary sessions, presentations, workshops and posters grouped around six broad headings:

1. Service Settings
2. Client Groups
3. Health through the lifecycle
4. Promoting positive health
5. Involving service users in policy and practice
6. Education/training issues in health and mental health

The plenary sessions focused more on the macro policy issues concerning social work practice, for example, how it tackles global inequality and the challenges for social work to demonstrate and develop its knowledge base in a world concerned with evidence based practice. The presentations and poster displays which ran concurrently, offered a smorgasbord of possibilities. With such a wide choice each opportunity grasped also represented myriad opportunities lost.

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The International Network of Social Workers in Acquired Brain Injury (INSWABI) launched at the 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference in Hong Kong in 2006, has developed during the intervening years and a number of members joined together such that the contribution to the programme of events was centre stage and included a field trip and satellite workshop which was devoted to acquired brain injury (ABI).

With the solid leadership and coordination of Dr Grahame Simpson, a small committee was formed with INSWABI members from Australia, the UK and Ireland to help direct the ABI submissions and to create a working link with Anne O'Loughlin, Head of Social Work at the National Rehabilitation Hospital, Co. Dublin who helped to set up the field trip with contributions from her colleagues. The satellite workshop was presented by Grahame Simpson from Australia and Andy Mantell from the UK after a warm welcome to delegates from the Chief Executive of the National Rehabilitation Hospital.

The field day was followed by a meal hosted by Anne and her colleagues to which INSWABI representatives from Australia, the UK, Ireland, Canada, India, Sweden, and New Zealand were invited and who presented brief accounts of social work practice in their countries. The formation of the INSWABI committee was also a focus of the event.

This was a conference of ideas providing insights into other 'ways of doing' and challenging the 'taken for granted'. It left delegates with as many questions as possible solutions. In our aversion to the potential elitism of the expert, I wonder if we have allowed ourselves to become marginalised and our valuable roles discounted. The last plenary session included a call to arms from Professor Dziegielewski, for social work to lead the way in practice. It is not sufficient to do a good job, we must develop and share the knowledge base

that demonstrates what we do and what we should do.

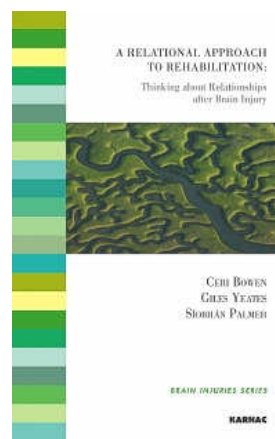


**Patti Simonson**



**Andy Mantell**

## 4. New book on a relational approach to rehabilitation



A new book entitled 'A Relational Approach to Neurorehabilitation' has just been published in the United Kingdom by Karnac books.

The book provides the most extensive exploration to date of

ways to integrate systems theories (from psychodynamic theories through to post-modernist Milan) with neurobehavioural and neuropsychological approaches to neurorehabilitation.

It sets out a rich array of empirical data, an examination of the potential contribution of different types of theories and clinical experience interspersed with case illustrations, practice models and therapeutic strategies.

This book will be of interest to INSWABI members who seek to take a systems-based approach to family work in their ABI practice.

**Dr Grahame Simpson**



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## 5. Introducing....

### The Inaugural INSWABI Committee 2010 - 2013



#### Back row (L to R):

Guru Nagarajan 🇮🇳, Grahame Simpson 🇦🇺, Thomas Strandberg 🇸🇪, Andy Mantell 🇬🇧, Daniella Pfeiffer 🇦🇺, Emma Weeks 🇦🇺

#### Front row (L to R):

Patti Simonson 🇬🇧, Karen Sasaki 🇨🇦, Cathie Percival 🇨🇦, Anne O'Loughlin 🇮🇪, Elly Nadorp 🇨🇦, Noirin Concannon (Guest)

#### Below:

Denise Young 🇦🇺, Gill East 🇬🇧, Elango Aramundam 🇮🇳

Thanks to Karen Sasaki for the photo.

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## 6. The 1<sup>st</sup> formal meeting of INSWABI

On Wednesday evening 30<sup>th</sup> June the inaugural INSWABI face to face meeting took place. The meeting started with a formal welcome from Patti Simonson and Anne O'Loughlin. This was followed by a series of national perspectives delivered by INSWABI members from India, Sweden, Canada, New Zealand, Ireland, the UK and Australia. Look out for these national perspectives in upcoming INSWABI materials.

Dr Grahame Simpson then provided a Co-Convenor's report. The formal program ended with a discussion about the goals that INSWABI should address over the next three years. This was followed by the inaugural INSWABI dinner.

The INSWABI committee was finalised at the conference. Prior to the conference we had sought Expressions of Interest from INSWABI members willing to be part of the committee. The formation of the committee was finalised at the Dublin conference. The committee will comprise 14 members representing 7 countries. At the moment we are all ordinary members of the committee with office holders yet to be appointed. Eleven of the 14 committee members were able to gather in Dublin.

## 7. Introducing the INSWABI Committee

### Dr Guru Nagarajan

Social Worker, Rehabilitation Institute, Christian Medical College, Vellore India

### Dr Grahame Simpson

Research Team Leader – Social Worker-Clinical Specialist, Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit, Liverpool Hospital, Sydney Australia

### Dr Thomas Strandberg

Senior Lecturer, Orebro University, Orebro Sweden

### Dr Andy Mantell

Senior Lecturer, School of Social Work, University of Chichester, United Kingdom

### Daniella Pfeiffer

Senior Social Worker, Brain Injury Rehabilitation Unit, Westmead Hospital, Sydney Australia

### Emma Weeks

Social Worker, ABIT Rehabilitation Service, Auckland, New Zealand

### Patti Simonson

Head of Social Work, Royal Hospital for Neuro-disability, London, United Kingdom

### Karen Sasaki

Social Worker and Ethics Facilitator, Neuro Rehabilitation Program, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, Canada

### Cathie Percival

Social Worker / Professional Practice Leader, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, Canada

### Anne O'Loughlin

Principal Social Worker, National Rehabilitation Hospital, Dublin Ireland

### Elly Nadorp

Social Worker / Professional Practice Leader, The Ottawa Hospital Rehabilitation Centre, Ontario, Canada

### Denise Young

Program Manager/Social Worker, Mid Western Brain Injury Rehabilitation Service, Bathurst Australia

### Gill East

Brain Injury Case Manager, Head First (Assessment and Case Management ) Ltd., UK

### Elango Aramundam

Senior Social Worker, Rehabilitation Institute Christian Medical College, Vellore India

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## 8. Goals of the committee over 2010-2013

The INSWABI Committee will have two main roles over the next three years:

- (i) to progress INSWABI in seeking to meet its aims and mission
- (ii) to develop options for the future organisational development of INSWABI

Some of the tasks that the committee will aim to address for role (i) include

- ◆ Establish the new website
- ◆ Assist with the Psychosocial assessment project
- ◆ Survey members about issues they would like INSWABI to address

Two of the tasks that the committee will aim to address for role (ii) include:

- ◆ Establishing the operating procedures for the committee
- ◆ Develop an options paper on the future development of INSWABI for members to review leading up to the next INSWABI meeting in Los Angeles in 2013

## 9. The 7<sup>th</sup> Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health in 2013

The 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Social Work in Health and Mental Health



A major world forum for the sharing of evidence, evidence-based research and innovative practice focused on client-centered social work that connects hope, promotes health and supports recovery. Join us on a journey of shared knowledge about groundbreaking theories, empirical research and practice-based knowledge – and how to translate it all into evidence-based practice – to promote widespread understanding and deliver the ongoing help to many.



www.usc.edu/pathways2013

Looking forward from 2010, the next conference will be held in Los Angeles in 2013, hosted by the University of Southern California.

## 10. INSWABI membership reaches 100!!!

We are excited to report another milestone that INSWABI reached at the Dublin conference which is that our membership has reached the 100 mark.

Members come from 8 countries: Australia, Canada, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Sweden, United Kingdom, and the United States.

## 11. Pass this on.

**Please circulate the progress report to any of your colleagues who might be interested.**

## 12. Interested in joining INSWABI?

Please contact

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## NOTICE OF A SPECIAL SUPPLEMENTARY PROGRESS REPORT

We are excited to announce that a special supplementary INSWABI Progress Report will be coming soon. The report will include the National Perspectives reports presented at the INSWABI dinner in Dublin addressing a SW perspective in ABI practice from Australia, Canada, India, Ireland, New Zealand, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. In addition, it will include the Patti and Grahame's Co-Convenor's report on the first 3 years of INSWABI.

**COMING SOON.....**