



The United Kingdom  
Acquired Brain Injury Forum

NEWS REPORT | October 2019

# UKABIF Conference – Escalating neurorehabilitation as a health priority

***UKABIF's 11th Annual Conference takes place on Monday 11th November 2019 at London's Royal Society of Medicine, and will update delegates on the progress being made to escalate neurorehabilitation as a health priority. The programme will also explore issues regarding mental health, children in education, and provide a platform for survivors of Acquired Brain Injury.***

With eminent speakers such as Professor David Menon, University of Cambridge, Drs Emily Bennett and Emily Talbot, Nottingham Children's Hospital, Professor Diane Playford, Warwick University and Dr Mike Dilley from Brain and Mind, the conference promises to be a stimulating and interesting day.

Other speakers include Dr Raymond Lynch from Procter & Gamble who will be discussing a 'Return to Work' Toolkit for employees with brain injury, Trevor Sterling from Moore Blatch looking at NHS injury costs and, last but not least, the

dynamic trio of Chris Bryant MP, Liz Twist MP and Sir John Hayes MP delivering their aspirations for the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Acquired Brain Injury.

The event is CPD accredited and provides many opportunities for networking, including a drinks reception where the UKABIF awards will be presented.

UKABIF would like to thank its conference sponsors; Cygnet Health Care, Irwin Mitchell, Leigh Day and Sintons.

**To register for the conference visit: <https://ukabif.org.uk/page/Conference2019>**



## Stephen McAleese Award for Inspiration – nominations required

***Do you know an individual or clinical team that deserves to be recognised for their work in Acquired Brain Injury? Has their work inspired you or your colleagues?***

UKABIF is looking for nominations for the Stephen McAleese Award for Inspiration which will be presented at UKABIF's 11th Annual Conference.

UKABIF recognises inspirational work through its awards scheme; nominating an individual or team is very easy, simply complete and submit the form available at: <https://ukabif.org.uk/page/StephenMcAleeseAward2019>

**The deadline for nominations is 31st October 2019.**

# Can Government afford to ignore the shortfall in neurorehabilitation beds?

**The recent report from the National Clinical Audit of Specialist Rehabilitation following Major Injury (NCASRI), published in April, highlighted that meeting a shortfall of 330 neurorehabilitation beds in the UK would cost £53 million per year, but generate net savings in excess of £500 million per year in longer-term care costs.**

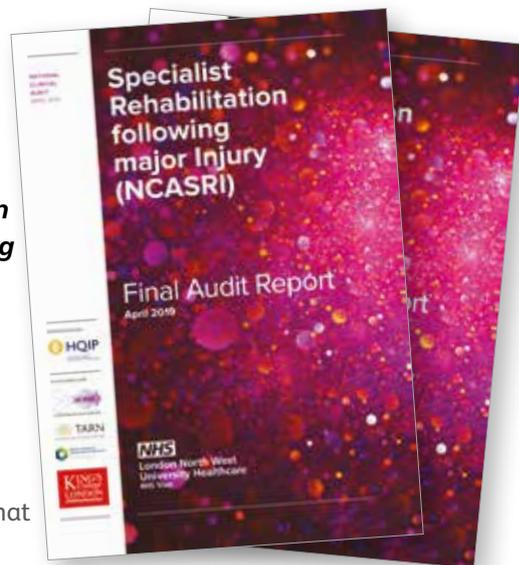
NCASRI, commissioned by the Healthcare Quality Improvement Partnership and led by London North West University Healthcare NHS Trust, which hosts the UK Rehabilitation Outcomes Collaborative (UKROC), emphasised that neurorehabilitation is one of the most cost-effective interventions available to the National Health Service (NHS).

The report found that in a group of 1381 individuals assessed as requiring specialist rehabilitation, only 40% received it. Those who did receive specialist rehabilitation did well, with 94% becoming more independent in their activities of daily living, which in turn reduced the costs of on-going care by an average of £536 per week. If the costs are extrapolated over their lifetime,

the average net life-time savings from neurorehabilitation amounted to just over £500,000 per patient, meaning that the total savings generated from this study group was £582 million.

It is no longer a question of whether Government can afford to meet the shortfall in trauma rehabilitation beds – but whether it can afford not to.

Commenting on behalf of the British Society of Rehabilitation Medicine (BSRM), and as Director of UKROC, Professor Lynne Turner-Stokes said: “There’s now substantial and robust evidence to support the clinical and cost-effectiveness of neurorehabilitation. Although individuals with complex needs following ABI may need a longer stay in hospital, the front-loaded cost of providing early specialist rehabilitation



is rapidly offset by the longer-term savings in the cost of community care, making specialist rehabilitation for these individuals one of the most cost-efficient interventions in healthcare. The benefits for patients and their families are immeasurable. The NHS can no longer ignore the mounting evidence, and the BSRM is demanding improved in-patient and community service provision.”

A copy of the report is available at: <https://www.kcl.ac.uk/cicelysaunders/about/rehabilitation/National-Clinical-Audit->

## APPG on ABI – the fight continues for improved neurorehabilitation services

**Chris Bryant MP for Rhondda, and Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Acquired Brain Injury (ABI), secured a third ABI debate in just two years in Westminster in July. An ardent campaigner for people with ABI, Chris has been extremely proactive raising the profile of ABI in Parliament via the APPG on ABI, supported by UKABIF as the secretariat.**

During the debate Chris highlighted the crucial role of neurorehabilitation, and in discussing the recent report from the National Clinical Audit of Specialist Rehabilitation following Major Injury (NCASRI) said: “The good news from the report is that the Rehabilitation Prescription is being steadily rolled out across the whole country. That means that patients and their families can say this is what we know we should be getting and we want to make sure that we are getting it.”

One of the issues highlighted in the APPG on ABI report ‘Acquired Brain Injury and Neurorehabilitation – Time



for Change’ published in September 2018, and a focus of the Westminster debate, was the impact of ABI on children and young people. Lilian Greenwood MP (Nottingham South) shared Chris’s concerns regarding the lack of neurorehabilitation for

children in the UK. Lilian commented: “There is just one option for in-patient neurorehabilitation and post-hospital discharge which is run by the Children’s Trust in Surrey. Shouldn’t every region have a paediatric neurorehabilitation pathway, rather than the patchy and underfunded set of services that we have at the moment?”

When Major Trauma Centres (MTC) were established in England the neurorehabilitation services were not integrated into the care pathways. Chris ended the debate by making a plea for South Wales where plans are underway to establish its first MTC: “Let’s not make the same mistake in Wales. When the MTC opens in Wales, I want to make sure that we have a fully functioning neurorehabilitation centre alongside it, so that every single patient who is assessed as being in need of in-patient neurorehabilitation will receive it and will continue to receive it for as long as they need it, so that they can return to full health. That should also apply to children and teenagers.”

# Celebrities turn out for fundraiser at Cardiff Football Stadium

Celebrities from the world of sport and television, including Colin Jackson and Rebecca Adlington, attended a fund raiser in September at Cardiff City Football Stadium in aid of Kyle's Goal Charity. Chris Bryant MP for Rhondda and Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Acquired Brain Injury, and Chloe Hayward, UKABIF's Executive Director joined over 300 people to raise awareness of brain injury.



The event was in aid of a charity established in the name of a young man from South Wales, Kyle Beere. In 2009 Kyle was a typical healthy, intelligent, active 12-year old boy. In November that year he had a massive brain haemorrhage, the result of a rare condition called arteriovenous malformation (AVM), which left him

fighting for his life. Kyle was taken to the accident and emergency unit at the University Hospital of Wales and over the following weeks he was in a coma and on life support following several operations to remove the AVM and associated blood clots.

Kyle defied all the odds and slowly regained consciousness but was unable

to talk or move his head and limbs. He needed urgent rehabilitation but at that time with no paediatric rehabilitation service in Wales, Kyle had to travel 160 miles away to Tadworth in Surrey for treatment.

The total amount raised from the event will go towards Kyle's Goal Charity, Kyle Beere Trust and also to UKABIF.

## Mediaplanet rehabilitation supplement available

Last month saw the publication of a Rehabilitation Supplement in The Guardian with content from leaders and industry voices in rehabilitation and Acquired Brain Injury including neurospecialists, rehabilitation doctors and nurses, to innovators in technology. Andrew Bateman, UKABIF Chair and Chris Bryant MP for Rhondda and Chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Acquired Brain Injury were both contributors to the supplement.

For further information visit:  
[www.healthawareness.co.uk/campaign/rehabilitation](http://www.healthawareness.co.uk/campaign/rehabilitation)

## Enabling change in Return-to-School practice

Two of the key recommendations in the Education section of the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) report 'Time for Change' have formed the work programme of the recently established National Acquired Brain Injury in Learning and Education Syndicate (N-ABLES).

The purpose of N-ABLES is to ensure all children and young people with an ABI receive the support they need to maximise their educational potential. The group will be raising awareness amongst policy makers and parliamentarians of the challenges of childhood ABI within the education system, identifying and sharing good practice, increasing awareness and understanding of

ABI within the education system and creating opportunities and collaborations for research.

N-ABLES is embarking on the development of a best practice Return-to-School pathway for use by all professionals involved in the education and support of children and young adults with ABI. A multidisciplinary group will be meeting in November to discuss the project.



## Who's who on the UKABIF board?

*The focus in this issue turns to Dr Michael Grey who is a Reader in Rehabilitation Neuroscience, at the University of East Anglia in Norwich. His special interests are in neuroplasticity, neurorehabilitation and sport-related neurodegeneration.*

Michael joined the UKABIF board as a Trustee over a year ago. Trustees have independent control over, and legal responsibility for, a charity's management and administration. They play a very important role and are responsible for establishing the essential purpose or mission of the organisation, as well as guarding its vision and values.

Michael's research expertise in sport-related neurodegeneration is currently being applied to the sport-related concussion recommendations in the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Acquired Brain Injury 'Time for Change' report where he will be driving change.



**Dr Michael Grey, UKABIF Trustee**

## Update from the South Wales Acquired Brain Injury Forum

*The South Wales Acquired Brain Injury Forum recently held two meetings for members.*

Tracy Ryan-Morgan, a Neuropsychologist from Talis Consulting spoke at the Forum's July meeting on the subject of fatigue following Acquired Brain Injury (ABI). Huw Davies, Physiotherapist and Beverley Holdcroft, Rehabilitation Assistant, both from the Cardiff and Vale Neuro Rehab Service, discussed their service which is less than two years old.

In September Dr Ingham Wright, Consultant Paediatric Neuropsychologist and Head of Neuropsychology at University Hospitals Bristol NHS Trust spoke at a meeting sponsored by NewLaw Solicitors, about optimism, pessimism and participation after ABI.

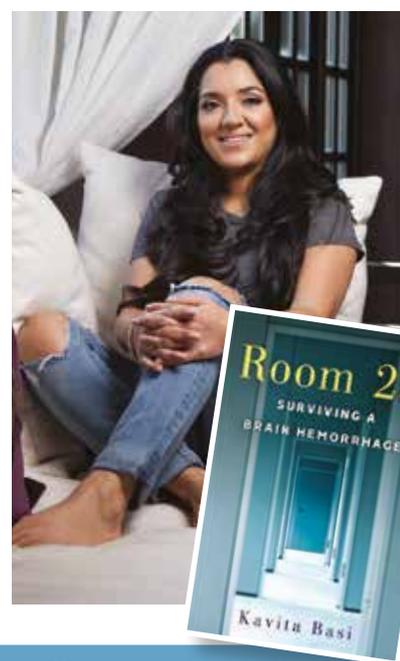
The Forum has two new committee members Rebecca Bennett of JCP Solicitors (Swansea) and Jo Darlington of NewLaw.

For more information on the Forum's future meetings and activities please contact:  
[julie@casemanagementcymru.co.uk](mailto:julie@casemanagementcymru.co.uk)

## Surviving a brain haemorrhage – new book available

*A new book entitled 'Room 23 – Surviving a Brain Haemorrhage', written by Kavita Basi, chronicles her challenging journey after a brain injury. The book was a finalist in the 2019 International Book Awards.*

Kavita will be at UKABIF's 11th Annual Conference signing her book; it costs £10.99 with 10% of the profits donated to the Brain and Spine Foundation.



To order your copy visit: [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Room-23-Surviving-Brain-Hemorrhage/dp/1631524895/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1537300566&sr=1-1&keywords=room+23](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Room-23-Surviving-Brain-Hemorrhage/dp/1631524895/ref=sr_1_1?s=books&ie=UTF8&qid=1537300566&sr=1-1&keywords=room+23)



## 11th Annual Conference Monday 11th November 2019

Royal Society of Medicine, 1 Wimpole Street, London W1G 0AE



UKABIF aims to promote better understanding of all aspects of Acquired Brain Injury; to educate, inform and provide networking opportunities for professionals, service providers, planners and policy makers and to campaign for better services in the UK. UKABIF is a membership organisation and charity, established in 1998 by a coalition of organisations working in the field of Acquired Brain Injury..

For further information, please contact Chloë Hayward, UKABIF

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UKABIF – giving a voice to Acquired Brain Injury

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