



The United Kingdom
Acquired Brain Injury Forum

NEWS REPORT | October 2015

Meet our star fundraiser...

Last month 31 year old Nick Verron took part in a team triathlon with his two physiotherapists to raise £3000 for UKABIF. This is a remarkable feat because, in 2009, Nick was left for dead in a Bournemouth alley, stabbed through the brain in an unprovoked attack.



Nick Verron was only 25 years of age when the attack left him 'weeks in a coma, months in hospital and years in hell', as he fought to recover from a severe brain injury. When he finally came out of his coma he was paralysed

down his right side, unable to control his limbs, unable to speak or swallow, and his sight was severely damaged.

Nick's aim was to try and regain as much mobility and normality as possible. Several years later, and with the support from family, friends and a team of health professionals, Nick competed in the Para-Tri triathlon, the UK's mass-participation event dedicated to people with disabilities. Nick cycled round the 20km course at Dorney Lake in Windsor with two physiotherapists Eva Sobonova and Heather Lloyd from the Royal Buckinghamshire Hospital, each doing

the 5km run and 750m swim.

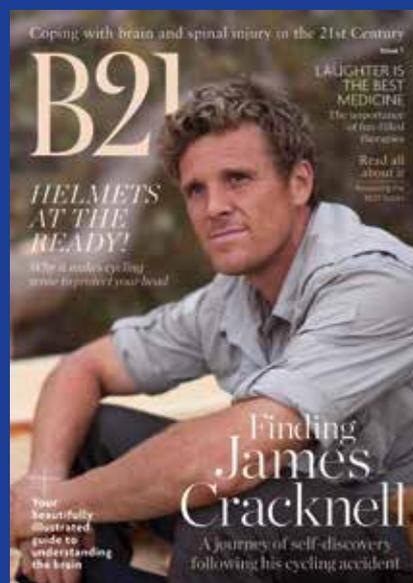
As a result of his efforts, not only has Nick raised the amazing sum of £3000 for UKABIF, he has been an inspiration to all individuals with a brain injury. He has also been interviewed far and wide raising awareness of the need for rehabilitation long after the original brain injury.

UKABIF would like to say a massive thanks to Nick and everyone who has supported him in this event.

New magazine launched – B21

A new magazine has been launched for patients, their families and everyone involved in the area of brain and spinal injury. The new title, B21 – Coping with Brain and Spinal Injury in the 21st Century, is the UK's first mainstream publication dedicated to brain and spinal injury. It covers news, research and developments, health and prevention, rehabilitation techniques, legal advice and several case studies.

For copies of the magazine, visit www.c21healthcare.com



Blood test to predict brain injury severity?

Will a new blood test help doctors predict the prognosis of Traumatic Brain Injury?

The USA-based John Hopkins University School of Medicine recently reported that a new blood test may be able to facilitate a quick diagnosis of Traumatic Brain Injury and determine its severity. A protein has now been found which plays a role in brain cell activity and healthy people have significantly higher levels of this protein than people with a brain injury.

Brain injury patients with higher levels of this protein were found to be more likely to have recovered from their injuries six months later, but patients with lower levels still had symptoms which lingered at follow-up.

Registration opens for UKABIF Annual Conference in London

Plans are well underway for UKABIF's 7th Annual Conference which takes place on the 11 November 2015 at the Royal College of General Practitioners headquarters in London.

Speakers from the medical and legal world will present on topics ranging from the future of specialised commissioning, the clinical tools required for neurobehavioural rehabilitation and the issues surrounding Acquired Brain Injury and offending behaviour.

Commissioning is the focus of the morning session and will be chaired by Professor Michael Barnes, UKABIF Chair. Over the past decade, the role of commissioning as a key driver of quality, efficiency and outcomes for patients has become increasingly important with most of the NHS commissioning budget now managed by 209 clinical commissioning groups (CCGs). NHS England is working with stakeholders to determine the outcomes expected for specialised services which will be achieved through the development of clinical strategies set out within six National Programmes of Care (NPoC). Professor Lynne

Turner-Stokes, Consultant in Rehabilitation Medicine, Director of the Regional Hyperacute Rehabilitation Unit, Northwick Park and Herbert Dunhill Chair of Rehabilitation, King's College London, will be presenting an update on current and future commissioning with special reference to Acquired Brain Injury rehabilitation.

In February this year Greater Manchester became the first English region to gain full control of its health spending, as part of an extension of devolved powers. The £6bn health and social care budget will be taken over by the region's councils and health groups in a plan to come into force in April 2016. A representative from the Manchester North, Central and South Clinical Commissioning Group, will be looking at how plans are progressing.

Amanda Swain, UKABIF Policy Lead and Independent Consultant in Brain Injury will be joined by Professor Nick Alderman, Director of Clinical Services, Partnerships in Care, Dr Sara da Silvo Ramos, Research Fellow, The Brain Injury Rehabilitation Trust and Dr Mike Dille, Consultant Neuropsychiatrist, South London and Maudesley NHS Trust to look at the treatment and management of neurobehavioural rehabilitation including the available toolbox, assessments and outcomes.

In the afternoon delegates will hear from Dr Eric Durand, Service de Médecine et



Réadaptation in Paris who will discuss the issues surrounding Acquired Brain Injury and crime.

The meeting will be of interest to all members of the rehabilitation multidisciplinary team, doctors in primary and secondary care, case managers, personal injury lawyers, social care workers, voluntary organisations, care providers and also individuals with a brain injury and carers.

UKABIF 7th Annual Conference delegate rates:

- Members £180
- Non-members £225
- NHS personnel £95

To register please visit: <http://ukabif.org.uk/event-registration>
The conference is accredited by UKABIF training.

Accreditation is pending from APIL.



2015 UKABIF Awards

The closing date for the UKABIF Awards entries is fast approaching – 16 October 2015.

This year there are four award categories;

- UKABIF Lawyer of the Year
- UKABIF Clinician of the Year
- UKABIF Care Provider of the Year
- Stephen McAleese Award for Inspiration

All nominations must be supported by a formal application and two references.

The Awards are presented at UKABIF's London Conference in November.

Please nominate or encourage your colleagues to enter for one of these prestigious awards.

For more information about entry requirements, and how to enter an Award category please visit: www.ukabif.org.uk/ukabif-awards/

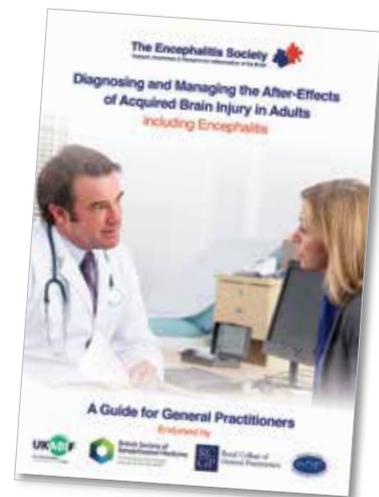


New guide for GPs on diagnosing and managing the after-effects of adult ABI

A new guide for General Practitioners entitled 'Diagnosing and managing the after-effects of Acquired Brain Injury in adults including encephalitis. A Guide For General Practitioners' was launched by the Encephalitis Society last month.

Endorsed by UKABIF, as well as the Royal College of General Practitioners, Primary Care Neurology Society and British Society of Rehabilitation Medicine, the Guide aims to support General Practitioners by providing evidence-based and up-to-date information to help with recognising and managing the acute symptoms and after-effects of Acquired Brain Injury. It also covers the unique challenges inherent in diagnosing encephalitis and managing the associated consequences.

A copy of the Guide can be downloaded via: <http://www.encephalitis.info/information/information-for-professionals/a-guide-for-general-practitioners/>



Regional group meetings

UKABIF has 21 independent regional groups around the UK. They regularly host meetings for their membership which focus on education, networking and campaigning. We hear from the North West Acquired Brain Injury Forum (NoWABIF) meeting held last month...

Over 50 delegates attended the extremely successful NoWABIF meeting, kindly hosted by the Walton Centre in Liverpool and sponsored by CFG Law (part of the Client First Group).

Brooke Trotter, an Acquired Brain Injury survivor, shared a poem with the Forum and talked about living with his injury. Brooke had a road traffic accident eight years ago and he now writes a blog to help other individuals who have suffered a brain injury <https://brooketrotter.wordpress.com/about/>

'A road to recovery without boundaries' was the message from Dr Ganesh Bavikatte, Consultant Rehabilitation in his presentation about the Cheshire and Merseyside Rehabilitation Network, and

the collaborative approach adopted between the multidisciplinary team to help individuals back on the road to recovery.

Dr Kevin Foy, Consultant Neuropsychiatrist discussed the management of depression and Acquired Brain Injury. Sylvia Moss and Lizzy Alsop, Neuro-physiotherapists from BASIC presented the latest virtual reality equipment CAREN, and looked at its role in helping individuals recover after an Acquired Brain Injury www.basiccharity.org.uk/air/

Kate Allatt of Fighting Strokes shared her emotional journey 'No promises, just possibilities' following a brain stem stroke and locked-in syndrome at

38 years of age. Through her determination, strong will and self belief she beat the odds and made a good recovery. Kate has formed her charity Fighting Strokes to help raise awareness of strokes in younger people.

www.fightingstrokes.org

For further information about the NoWABIF please contact Sabrina McCarron (NoWABIF Director) E: sabrina.mccarron@cflaw.co.uk

and the East Midlands meeting...

The East Midlands Acquired Brain Injury Forum (EMABIF) hosted a meeting with a difference. Poster presentations were used as an opportunity for attendees to learn about what was happening across the region with people talking about their work in brain injury and their organisation.

A full list of UKABIF regional groups is available at www.ukabif.org.uk/regional-groups/ and details of all regional events are available on the calendar www.ukabif.org.uk/events/

Wanted – content suggestions for UKABIF signpost

Last year, UKABIF, together with UNISON, Britain's biggest trade union, produced the 'Head and Brain Injury Information Signpost'. This 'Signpost' can be found on the UKABIF website – its aim is to point individuals and healthcare professionals to the most appropriate websites for support and services about all aspects of brain injury.

Signpost contains a number of categories ranging from general information on brain injury, education support, travel insurance and welfare.

UKABIF continues to add to this resource – if you have any suggestions for website information then please email: info@ukabif.org.uk

For further information please visit: <http://ukabif.org.uk/head-and-brain-injury-information-signpost/>



Brain Injury Care Pathway being developed for CCGs

Brain injury is slowly becoming an area of focus for Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) and it is heartening to note that UKABIF has received a number of enquiries from commissioners. UKABIF is developing a template brain injury care pathway to help CCGs plan patient services. Alongside this the organisation is also building a database of CCG contacts with a responsibility for Acquired Brain Injury. **If you have any CCG contacts please email info@ukabif.org.uk**

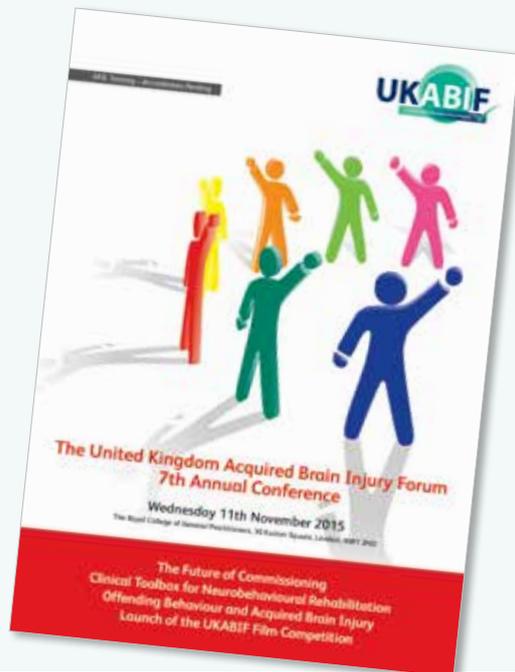
UKABIF Annual Conference

Royal College of General Practitioners, London
11 November 2015

This year's conference will address topics such as the priorities for specialised commissioning, clinical reference groups, neurobehavioural assessment and outcomes as well as crime and Acquired Brain Injury.

For more information and to register, please contact:
info@ukabif.org.uk

For further information, please visit:
www.ukabif.org.uk



DIARY DATES

30 September – 1 October 2015

The BIRT Conference

The Hilton, Deansgate,
Manchester

www.thedtgroup.org

**UKABIF'S 7TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE
11 NOVEMBER 2015**

11 November 2015

7th UKABIF Annual Conference

Royal College of General Practitioners,
London

www.ukabif.org.uk

E: info@ukabif.org.uk



10 – 13 May 2016

**9th World Congress for
Neurorehabilitation**

Philadelphia, USA

www.wcnr2016.org

E: traceymole@wfnr.co.uk

ICU technology – patient survey to steer research priorities

The National Institute for Health Research Brain Injury Healthcare Technology Cooperative, the research arm of the NHS, is conducting a survey on the needs of patients with brain injuries in intensive care units. The survey wants to hear from current and former patients, carers and relatives for their views on whether or not the patient's needs in intensive care were met by current technology.

The survey is anonymous and the results will feed into a process to decide which areas of research should have priority.

The survey can be completed online: www.brainhtc.org/getinvolved

What happens when the case is closed? 2016 seminar

The next UKABIF seminar 'What Happens When the Case is Closed?' will take place on 3 February 2016 at Exchange Chambers in Manchester. The seminar will look at long-term planning for clients with Acquired Brain Injury, costs and deputies, ongoing care over the lifetime of the brain injury survivor and how to claim costs after settlement. Speakers include Jo Clarke-Wilson who established one of the first case management companies in the UK.

The cost of the seminar is:

○ Members £180 ○ Non-members £225 ○ NHS personnel £95

For more information please email admin@ukabif.org.uk or T: 0845 6080788
or visit <http://ukabif.org.uk/events/?cid=all&month=10&yr=2015>

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:

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www.ukabif.org.uk

UKABIF – giving a voice to Acquired Brain Injury

Design: www.pandrdesign.com

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Advertising opportunities are available in the UKABIF News Report which is published biannually.

To discuss these further, please contact:

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