

# Psychological Society of Ireland

## Division of Neuropsychology



Cumann Síceolaithe Éireann  
Division of Neuropsychology

Dr. Brian Waldron  
Senior Clinical Neuropsychologist  
4<sup>th</sup> March 2017

# Neurological / Neuropsychological Needs in Ireland in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

- **About 12000 - 15000 new one-off acute Acquired Brain Injuries per year in the Republic of Ireland. (But no one knows the true figure).**
- **ABI = TBI, CVA, Tumour, Hypoxia / Anoxia, Encephalitis, Meningitis.**
- **For TBI – can be rated as Very Mild, Mild\*, Moderate, Severe.**
  - **Very mild = concussion (issues with multiple concussions / ageing later on)**
  - **Mild\* TBI = a real misnomer as it involves Loss Of Consciousness**
- **About 15000 people are currently living with Multiple Sclerosis**
- **A very large issue will be the chronic onset ARBI group**
  - **Alcohol Related Brain Injury (Wernicke's Encephalopathy / Korsakoff's)**
- **The largest issue coming for public health will be Dementia**
  - **Some organisations are calling it an epidemic**

# Consequences of neurological disorders

- **Cognitive:** difficulties with memory, executive functioning, speed of processing, language, sensation and perception
- **Physical:** difficulties with balance, mobility, co-ordination, ataxia, dexterity
- **Psychological:** difficulties with anxiety, depression, anger, coping, neuropsychiatric issues
- **Behavioural:** difficulties with impulsivity, behavioural inhibition, aggression
- **Social:** difficulties with relationships, employment, finances, housing, forensic problems and the law, the built environment, community access (rural versus urban)

# Clinical Psychology

- Clinical psychology aims to reduce psychological distress and to enhance and promote psychological well-being by the systematic application of knowledge derived from psychological theory and data.
- The core skills of a clinical psychologist are (1) assessment; (2) formulation; (3) intervention; (4) evaluation of interventions.
- *BPS Division of Clinical Psychology (2001). The Core Purpose and Philosophy of the Profession. Leicester: British Psychological Society.*

# Clinical (Neuro) Psychology

- Clinical Neuropsychology is the application of the same core skills as a Clinical Psychologist, but more specifically applied to a population who have developmental or acquired neurological problems.
- These problems can be static or degenerative.
- They can have a sudden onset or a gradual one.
- It requires an advanced understanding of and lifelong learning on the brain, and its systems.

# Types of Neuropsychologist

- Academic Neuropsychologist
- Clinical Neuropsychologist
- The “Scientist Practitioner” Model
  - Importance of continuing professional development
  - Evidence based practice (read the literature)
  - Practice based evidence (publish in the literature)

# Full Member General Status - PSI DoN

- This category of membership is intended for **academic neuropsychologists** and is open to any graduate member of the Society who has completed research in the area of neuropsychology at PhD level or equivalent where the primary area of investigation was clearly related to neuropsychology.
- The applicant should provide the title and abstract of their PhD (or other research, as appropriate) together with a copy of their academic award.

# Full Member Practitioner Status - PSI DoN

- This category of membership is intended for those practicing as **clinical neuropsychologists**.
- Applicants must meet criteria in **both** Part A & Part B.
- **Part A:** A PSI accredited postgraduate professional qualification in Clinical Psychology is required.
- And
- **Part B:** The applicant must meet **either one** of the following two conditions:

# Full Member Practitioner Status - PSI DoN

- **Part B Condition 1**
- The applicant must hold a post-graduate qualification in an area directly relevant to the application of Clinical Neuropsychology (eg BPS accredited MSc/PgDip in Applied Clinical Neuropsychology/Paediatric Neuropsychology)
- **AND**
- The applicant must have completed at least one year's full time (or part time equivalent) experience since completing their clinical qualification working where clinical neuropsychology constitutes the majority of that clinical practice.

OR

# Full Member Practitioner Status - PSI DoN

- **Part B Condition 2**
- The applicant must have completed at least four years' full-time (or equivalent part-time) clinical experience, where clinical neuropsychology constitutes the **majority** of that clinical practice. This experience must have been gained **since** completion of their professional clinical qualification and must have been carried out under the supervision of a Practitioner Member of the division (or a supervisor eligible for this).
- The applicant should provide evidence of their supervised experience, including a clear statement from their supervisor confirming the nature and extent of work and of the frequency and type of supervision.

# Why Clinical Psychology First?

- Neuropsychological issues don't arise as distinct from or separate from a person's life
- Clinical Psychology training gives competency in working with children, adults, and people with disabilities, across the lifespan, and in various contexts.
- Mental Health can make people vulnerable to developing neurological problems\*\*\*
- Neurological problems can make people vulnerable to experiencing mental health issues.

# Why Clinical Psychology First?

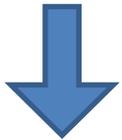
- People with Neuropsychological problems live in typical families and typical communities (the same as the rest of us) where there are...
- Child protection issues
- Vulnerable adult issues
- Relationship breakdowns
- Alcohol and Drug Abuse
- Workplace problems

# Where do Clinical Neuropsychologists Work?

- Acute Hospitals



- Post Acute Tertiary Centres



- Specialist Community Teams



- HSE / NHS Primary Care Teams

# Acute Hospitals

- Royal Victoria Hospital Belfast
  - Neurosurgical Hospital
- Beaumont Hospital Dublin
  - Neurosurgical Hospital
  - National Epilepsy Centre
- Cork University Hospital
  - Neurosurgical Hospital
- St James's Hospital
  - MIRA Clinic – Dementia

# Regional Hospitals & Other Settings

- **Regional Hospitals with Neurology Teams (and others)**
- Tallaght Hospital (Adults and Children)
- Temple Street Children's Hospital (Paediatric Neurosurgery)
- Crumlin Children's Hospital
- Cappagh Hospital
- Royal Hospital Donnybrook (Step-down Rehab)
- Peamont Hospital (Step-down Rehab)
- St. John of God's Hospital (Mental Health)
- Bloomfield Hospital (Mental Health)
- Highfield Hospital (Mental Health)
- St. Doolagh's Care Centre (+ Intellectual Disability)
- Redwood Extended Care Facility (+ Intellectual Disability)

# Post Acute Tertiary Centres

- National Rehabilitation Hospital
  - Adults
  - Children
  - Multidisciplinary Intense Specialist Rehab
  - This is the only current national centre for complex rehabilitation.
  - It covers Acquired Brain Injury, Spinal Cord Injury and Limb Loss

# Specialist Community Teams

## Acquired Brain Injury Ireland

- Geographical Coverage (Clinical Neuropsychology)
  - Dublin (2), Midlands (2), Limerick (1), Sligo (0.5), Waterford/Wexford (1)
  - A number of funded Assistant Psychology posts
- Teams
  - Multidisciplinary teams –agreed set of “Individual Rehabilitation Plan” goals
  - Clinical Psychology, Social Work, Occupational Therapy, Local Service Manager, Rehabilitation Assistant
- Services
  - Residential Rehab (about 4 residents per house – ideally transition out)
  - Community Rehab (1:1 hours with a rehab assistant)
  - Centre-Based Day Services (day activity / structure)

# Specialist Community Teams

## Headway Ireland

- Geographical Coverage (Clinical Neuropsychology)
  - Dublin (3+)
  - Cork (2+)
  - A number of funded Assistant Psychology posts
- Teams
  - Clinical Psychology (historically no Social Work or OT)
- Services
  - Stand-alone Clinical Psychology service (assessment and therapy)
  - Centre-Based Rehabilitation Training (for high-functioning clients)
  - Centre-Based Day Services (day activity / structure)

Note Headway in the UK is a separate organisation to Headway in the ROI

# Specialist Community Teams

## Quest Services (National Learning Network)

- Geographical Coverage
  - Galway (1)
- Teams
  - Clinical Psychology (historically – vacant post?)
- Services
  - Centre-Based Rehabilitation Training

## Physical & Sensory Teams (Health Service Executive)

- Clinical Psychology (Interest in Neuropsychology) posts in Donegal and Louth
- There are other “Interest in Neuropsychology” type posts on HSE adult teams

# Specialist Community Teams

- Irish Government Policy is likely to be the development of specialist community rehab teams in each of the nine new HSE Community Health Organisations.
- Each of the 9 areas has a population of about 500,000.
- There is nowhere near necessary cover for neuro-rehab needs at this level of model of rehabilitation in every geographical area in Ireland currently, even combining the community teams mentioned.
- Likely to be at least an exploration of cross-border initiatives for populations living in border counties.

# What Levels do we work at?

- The Person
- Assessment
  - Current functioning
  - Decline in functioning
  - Patterns of strengths and weaknesses
    - These patterns inform rehab plans and strategies
- Therapy
  - CBT and other talking therapies
  - Mindfulness based therapies

# What Levels do we work at?

- The Couple
- A real need for skilled couples therapy
- Provision of neuro information at various time points because people are in shock during the acute hospital stage

# What Levels do we work at?

- The Family
- Co-working with Social Workers
  
- Parents of children with neuro needs
- Children of parents with neuro needs
  
- Work against common misconceptions
  - “He’ll remember when he wants to”
  - “Problems are under his control”

# What Levels do we work at?

- The Rehab Team (which is a complex system)
- Multidisciplinary Teams
- Interdisciplinary Teams\*
- Your own organisation
- Other organisations
  - In the real world it is normal to have multiple organisations involved in the life of a person with neuro needs.
  - These organisations may be either other neuro organisations, or mental health teams, or Personal Assistant and Home Care organisations.
- Staff training and development

# What Levels do we work at?

- The Organisation (another complex system)
- Organisation's policies and procedures
- Advising various levels of management
- Importance of standards and accreditation
  - CARF – voluntary accreditation in rehab
  - HIQA – essential regulatory standards

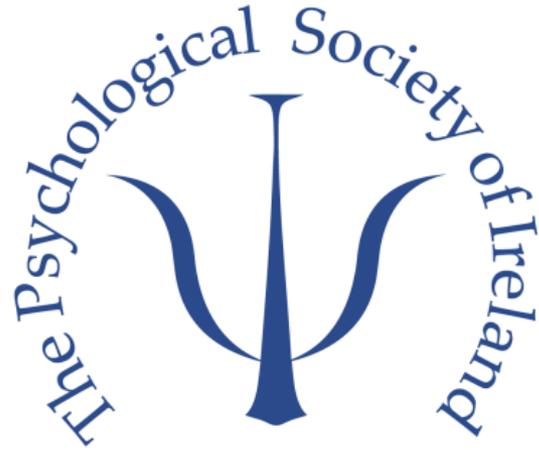
# Getting into (Clinical) Training

- BA or BSc
- MA / MSc / MLitt / PhD
  
- Experience with Adults
- Experience with Children
- Experience with Disability
  
- Present your work
- Publish your work
  
- Time as a Research Assistant
- Time as an Assistant Psychologist

# Getting into (Clinical) Training

- Queens University Belfast
- University College Galway
- Trinity College Dublin
- University College Dublin
- University of Limerick
- University College Cork
  
- Apply to UK clinical courses through Clearing House
  
- TCD / DCU (?) MSc in Neuro-psych (\*coming soon)

# Division of Neuropsychology



Cumann Síceolaithe Éireann  
Division of Neuropsychology

[www.psihq.ie/psi-division-neuropsychology](http://www.psihq.ie/psi-division-neuropsychology)  
[neuropsychology@psihq.ie](mailto:neuropsychology@psihq.ie)



**@DONPSI**