

Draft Programme

9:00 – 9:45 Registration

9:45 – 9:50 Address from the Chair (TBC)

9:50 – 10:25

Getting It Right From The Start

Jill Greenfield, Partner, Fieldfisher

The uniqueness of brain injury means that cases never fail to surprise. The nuance of its impact on the individual and their family is critical to highlight for both treatment and litigation. Underestimating the consequences of a brain injury at an early stage is an easy mistake to make. How can the Claimant's team best assess and access treatment and care in those early days for the injured victim. What is the law in relation to private v NHS provision and why are agreements being made to accept local authority funding with the defence simply topping up.

10:25 – 11:10

A focus on Radiology in a Medico Legal context

Emer MacSweeney, CEO Re:Cognition Health & Consultant Neuro-radiologist

11:10 – 11:40

Tea/Coffee, Networking & Exhibition Stands

11:40 – 12:20

Are we missing subtle brain injuries?

Marcus Grant, Barrister at Temple Garden Chambers, London

The answer to these cases always lies in the medicine. Rigorous clinical methodology from the lawyers and the medical experts always prevails at trial. Early identification of the possibility of diffuse axonal injury is critical to setting up the optimal rehabilitation package that will best insulate clients from the inevitable secondary psychological response to their awareness that they have sustained lasting cognitive damage.

12:20 – 13:05

Managing the Impact of the Auditory and Vestibular contributions to Traumatic Brain Injury

Dr Peter Savundra, Consultant Audiovestibular Physician, The Portland Hospital

Dizziness, imbalance and falls, tinnitus, hyperacusis and hearing loss complicate the presentation of traumatic brain injury and cause increased suffering and compromise participation in normal life. There are neurocognitive, mood, behavioural, social and economic complications of such injuries, but such injuries can be diagnosed and treated. It is in the best interests of all parties to define such injuries and their complications, to optimise their management to reduce handicap, and to enhance participation and the possibility of employment.

13:05 – 14:05 Lunch, Networking & Exhibition Stands

14:05 – 14:50

Medical and Legal Issues relating to Subtle Brain Injury

Dr Steven Allder, Consultant Neurologist, Re:Cognition Health

This presentation will provide an update on the latest scientific thinking on subtle brain injury and how to conduct a structured clinical assessment to support the litigation process.

14:50 – 15:10

Tea/Coffee, Networking & Exhibition Stands

15:10 – 15:55

Patients who don't see with their eyes

Dr Matthew Starr MD MB BChir, Ophthalmologist, London Eye Clinic

An introduction to how we see and how brain injuries change our ability to see. This presentation will discuss the relative role played by the eyes and brain in vision. It will also look at the brain disorders which can affect vision, particularly after trauma.

Delegates will gain an understanding of the effect vision impairment plays in the lives of patients with brain injuries and how to guide people with brain injury towards appropriate diagnosis and treatment.

15:55 – 16:35

Presentation TBC

**Laura Slader, Independent Neurological Occupational Therapist,
Laura Slader Independent Occupational Therapy Services Ltd.**

16:35 – 16:40

Close

Fieldfisher would like to cordially invite delegates to a drinks reception on the City Hall balcony overlooking the Thames River



Biographies

Jill Greenfield Partner, Fieldfisher



Jill is a partner at London law firm Fieldfisher and heads up the specialist catastrophic personal injury unit. Jill is recognised by Headway and the Spinal Injuries Association as a Specialist Injury Lawyer. In the legal directories (Chambers/Legal 500) she is recognised as a leader in the field. Jill is also a member of the Association of Personal Injury lawyers (APIL) and is a committee member of Headway North London.

She is committed to achieving excellent results for her clients, ensuring the right type of essential care and support is provided; rehabilitation is a real focus. Her cases are generally worth several million pounds and are usually the result of road traffic accidents, occupiers liability claims or accidents at work. She is currently the lead solicitor in the 2009 Godstone Farm outbreak, acting for over 30 children who were exposed to E Coli 0157, some of which now suffer lifelong risks of renal failure.

Alongside her main practice she has successfully campaigned for victims of terrorist atrocities such as Sharm-el Sheik, Kusadasi, Bali and Mumbai. She was one of the key lawyers who persuaded the Government to introduce a Scheme to Support British Victims of Terrorism abroad, providing financial support for such victims where previously none had been available. She also obtained the highest award for damages for pain and suffering through the civil courts for a victim of rape.

Jill's cases have regularly hit the headlines and she has appeared on BBC News, ITV, Channel 4, Sky News, BBC Radio 4, Trevor McDonald Tonight, Fiona Bruce, Real Lives and has been quoted in various broadsheets.

Dr Emer MacSweeney CEO, Re:Cognition Health & Consultant Neuro-radiologist



Dr MacSweeney is CEO and Medical Director for Re:Cognition Health. As a Consultant Neuroradiologist, she was previously Director of Neuroradiology at Atkinson Morley's Hospital, St George's Healthcare Trust. Dr MacSweeney has extensive experience in both the NHS and independent sector. Dr MacSweeney trained in neuroradiology at The National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, Queen Square, specialising in interventional vascular neuroradiology. Dr MacSweeney has a special interest in neuroradiology of cognitive impairment disorders, imaging of neurovascular diseases and traumatic brain injury. She has extensive experience of providing medicolegal neuroradiology reports, instructed by both claimants, defendants and in response to joint instructions.

Dr MacSweeney has published many articles in many leading medical publications such as the British Medical Journal and the Journal of the Royal Society of Medicine.

She frequently lectures and advises on key developments and advancements in brain imaging to members of the legal profession.

Marcus Grant Barrister at Temple Garden Chambers, London



Marcus specialises in Personal Injury and Insurance litigation. He has 22 years of experience at the Bar. He is consistently highly-rated by the independent legal directories, categorised as a Band 1 Personal Injury Junior by Chambers & Partners 2016 which stated: 'A leading personal injury junior with substantial expertise in chronic pain, brain injury and insurance fraud cases. He is noted by solicitors for his ready understanding of complex medical evidence. Strengths: "He is becoming one of the leading barristers in subtle brain injury case." "He is able to present complex medical principles in a way that the court can easily grasp and understand." "He is able to understand the injuries and the medicine to ensure that such cases do result in the right level of damages." Recent work: Counsel for the claimant in Siegel v Pummell, where a head injury after a car accident resulted in an award of £1.59 million. He is also categorised as a Band 1 Personal Injury Junior by Legal 500 2015 which stated: "A barrister with no faults at all, and the hardest working member of the Bar".

He is known especially for his expertise in subtle brain injury, having litigated more cases at trial than any other junior. His cases include: Siegel v. Pummell [2014] EWHC Civ 4309 (QB), Mann v. Bahri [2012] Lawtel 02.04.12, Vaile v. London Borough of Havering [2011] EWCA Civ 246, Clarke v. Maltby [2010] EWHC Civ 1201 (QB), Williams v. Jervis [2008] EWHC Civ 2346 (QB) & Van Wees v. Kharkour [2007] EWHC Civ 165 (QB)

Dr Peter Savundra

Consultant Audiovestibular Physician, The Portland Hospital, London



Peter is a Consultant Audiovestibular Physician at the Portland Hospital, London. His career interest has been adult rehabilitation and paediatric habilitation to exploit neuroscience, education, social services and technology to optimise outcome.

He has a background in Neurology and Neurosurgery with specialist training in Audiovestibular Medicine at Great Ormond Street, Queen Square and the Royal National Throat Nose Ear Hospital. He was Consultant Audiovestibular Physician at Northwick Park Hospital.

His clinical interest is to develop precise diagnostic formulations and to work with therapeutic connectomes and the individual to empower the individual to have a fulfilled life.

Dr Matthew Starr MD MB BChir

Ophthalmologist, London Eye Clinic



Qualifications: BA Hons (Medical Sciences Tripos), St Catharine's College Cambridge 1989; MA MB BChir Cambridge 1993; MD (Connecticut, USA) 1995; Diplomate of American Board of Ophthalmology and Fellow of American Academy of Ophthalmology 2000., Member of European Neuro -Ophthalmological Society

Dr Starr studied at Haberdashers' Aske's School and then read medicine at St Catharine's College Cambridge. He specialised in ophthalmology at the New York Eye & Ear Infirmary and did a Fellowship in neuro-ophthalmology in Detroit, studying the relationship between the eyes and the brain. He takes a keen professional interest in the effect of brain disorders on vision and enjoys discussing ophthalmology with a captive audience.

Dr Steven Alder

Consultant Neurologist, Re:Cognition Health



Dr Steven Alder trained in Nottingham in general medicine and carried out his specialist neurology training at Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust; this included three years of research at Nottingham University using the very latest MRI technology to understand acute stroke.

Steve is currently working at Re:Cognition Health, using his clinical expertise to focus on the assessment of patients with traumatic brain injury. He has also established the first emotion focused service for medically unexplained neurological symptoms. Alongside this clinical work, Steve is embarking on a research project looking at the long term impact of autonomic responses provoked by acute traumatic injuries; specifically, how certain autonomic responses to acute trauma set up changes in underlying brain networks that create and maintain long term neurological and pain syndromes.

Steve worked most recently within the NHS for Hampshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust. He previously worked at Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust from 2004 – 2015, where he held a series of clinical leadership positions, including Assistant Medical Director, in addition to his clinical workload.

Laura Slader

Independent Neurological Occupational Therapist, Laura Slader Independent Occupational Therapy Services Ltd.



Laura Slader is an occupational therapist (OT) registered with the Health and Care Professions Council and the College of Occupational Therapists. She graduated from Brunel University in 1993. Laura has worked for fourteen years in the NHS in the fields of accident and emergency, general medicine and Neurology including acute brain injury, neuro-rehabilitation, community rehabilitation and vocational rehabilitation before moving into operational and strategic management of community rehabilitation services in Kensington and Chelsea and Westminster PCTs. Spending 4 years abroad working in Australia, South Africa and Saudi Arabia, Laura developed a unique and eclectic approach to her assessment and rehabilitation and has an enthusiastic and engaging approach to meeting the needs of the individuals she is referred and works with.

She is a clinical expert in cognitive rehabilitation and enjoys working in a comprehensive holistic rehabilitation multi-disciplinary framework. Laura works actively with Headway and facilitates the Richmond Headway group.