Dear All,

We hope you have been keeping well and safe!

**COVID and stroke resources**

During this time of the COVID-19 pandemic, which introduces so much change and uncertainty to both our personal and professional lives, we are all trying to keep a close eye on how the situation is evolving.  There is a real danger of information overload and not everything that is being circulated in the public domain is useful or even true.  With this in mind, you might find some useful resources following these links and/or might like to contribute to the information being posted.

We would especially commend the resources collated by the British Association of Stroke Physicians (BASP) – which are relevant to all clinicians working in stroke care and not just medics.

<https://basp.ac.uk/covid-19-basp-resouce-hub/>

Keeping up to date with COVID is a challenge.  Yvonne Chun (previous winner of the OPSYRIS Rising Star award), Terry Quinn and others are working to keep the BASP pages regularly updated. Even if you are not a physician you may want to follow BASP on Twitter @british\_stroke

Below are also some useful and aphasia-friendly resources for people living with stroke:

<https://www.stroke.org.uk/finding-support/information-coronavirus-stroke-survivors>

<http://speakeasy-aphasia.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/The-Coronavirus.pdf>

In the constantly changing COVID landscape knowledge is power.  If you are aware of other useful resources or have developed local guidance that could be shared nationally via BASP then email Terry ([terry.quinn@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:terry.quinn@glasgow.ac.uk)).

Other materials:

https://www.ahajournals.org/doi/pdf/10.1161/STROKEAHA.120.029701

https://eso-stroke.org/eso/stroke-care-during-covid-19-pandemic/

<https://www.world-stroke.org/news-and-blog/news/words-from-the-president-of-wso-on-covid-19>

<https://www.bps.org.uk/sites/www.bps.org.uk/files/News/News%20-%20Files/Psychological%20needs%20of%20healthcare%20staff.pdf>

<https://www.bps.org.uk/sites/www.bps.org.uk/files/Policy/Policy%20-%20Files/Effective%20therapy%20via%20video%20-%20top%20tips.pdf>

<https://www.bps.org.uk/sites/www.bps.org.uk/files/Policy/Policy%20-%20Files/Responding%20to%20the%20coronavirus%20-%20psychological%20impact%20on%20older%20people.pdf>

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScQQIapbl0Z72Vh5txQI3UGJbdUWEKh_b_d-nuxscIR2MjDKw/viewform>

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/50a3e393e4b07025e1a4f0d0/t/5e8260be9a64587cfd3a9832/1585602750557/Recommendations-Guidance+for+Teleneuropsychology-COVID-19-4.pdf>

**COVID Psychology Research**

You may be interested in some of the ongoing research on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic from a psychological perspective. Many of these projects are using snowball sampling, so you may wish to share via your networks:

https://thepsychologist.bps.org.uk/volume-33/april-2020/coronavirus-psychological-perspectives

https://digest.bps.org.uk/2020/03/26/how-psychology-researchers-are-responding-to-the-covid-19-pandemic/

https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/news/nr/psychologists-study-mental-health-social-impacts-covid-19-coronavirus-epidemic-1.884797

https://www.ucl.ac.uk/news/2020/mar/new-study-psychological-and-social-effects-covid-19

Our parent body, the World Federation for Neurorehabilitation, is planning a special COVID themed issue of the Neuropsychological Rehabilitation journal. Plans are still at an early stage, but if any OPSYRIS members would want to contribute something around stroke then let us know and we can make the necessary connections.

**OPSYRIS Annual Meeting**

The Annual OPSYRIS Meeting is scheduled for the **18th of September**. Our plan is to still have a 2020 meeting if possible, so we are pleased to open our call for abstracts. We would like you to be involved in any major decisions and will keep you updated with any changes.

Please find the submission form attached. Once completed, please email to: OPSYRISabstracts@gmail.com. Assuming the meeting will go ahead as planned, we have provisionally set a submission deadline for the **22nd of June**.

As you may remember, we are still accepting nominations (including self-nominations) for the next OPSYRIS Chair. If anyone wants to know more about the position, they can email Terry.

We are also open for nominations towards the Rising Star Award 2020. This prize is intended for an outstanding early career researcher or clinician, with the recipient invited to present their work at the annual meeting. Please email the name of your suggested candidate to b.drozdowska.1@research.gla.ac.uk. We request that the email specify whether the nominee is an early career researcher or clinician, as well as a brief account (no more than 150 words) of why you think they should receive the award.

**New opportunities**

Candidates with qualifications at Master’s Degree level to Postdoctoral Fellows in areas such as epidemiology, biostatistics, and quantitative psychology are sought to join the DEPRESsion Screening Data (DEPRESSD) Project. Two types of positions are available – for Postdoctoral Fellows and an Analytical Research Coordinator. Please see the attached leaflets for further information.

**A couple of reminders:**

1.  If you haven't had an opportunity to complete it yet, the survey for the Stroke Priority Setting initiative is still open:  www.stroke.org.uk/jla

2.  Applications are still being accepted for a PhD studentship opportunity at the University of Glasgow on the topic of improving sleep after stroke: Bit.ly/2P6TzeU. Application deadline is midday on the **8th April**. For any enquiries, please contact maria.gardani@glasgow.ac.uk or satu.baylan@glasgow.ac.uk.

Please also remember that our team is always happy to receive any questions and suggestions from our OPSYRIS Members!

We wish you all the very best in these difficult times,

OPSYRIS Team