

Message from the chair

Dear OPSYRIS members,

We have teamed up with the Australia branch of OPSYRIS, to come together under one big banner and are very keen to hear from colleagues elsewhere if they would want to set up a local OPSYRIS branch, please do get in touch! We will be revamping our website to reflect this new structure and plan to host any public recordings of talks across OPSYRIS branches.

With Stroke Awareness Month coming up this May, we would love to hear from you and amplify any of your voices. Please do tag us on twitter @opsyris1 and/or @neledemeyere !

With regards to our own meeting, we are still crossing fingers for an in-person meeting in September. Firm dates and arrangements are still not possible, but the next newsletter should bring with it a clear plan. Get thinking about abstracts you may want to present. We very much want to encourage the earliest of career talks to come forward, be that masters projects in any variety of disciplines, clinical doctorate research projects, service improvement stories of your own settings, etc. If you are planning any kind of potential avenue of stronger involvement in stroke research in any psychological topic, we want to help you on your way with a presentation at OPSYRIS !

Best wishes, Nele

Family experience of brain injury

Poppy Harding, a Trainee Clinical Psychologist, is undertaking research into a partner's grief and a child's behavioural and emotional challenges after brain injury. She is looking for adults who: their partner has experienced a brain injury of any kind, and they have a child with this partner aged 7-17. Can you please help her by spreading the word by sharing the attached poster? Her online survey should take no longer than 20 minutes to complete. The study link is: www.tinyurl.com/y6fo8jw8

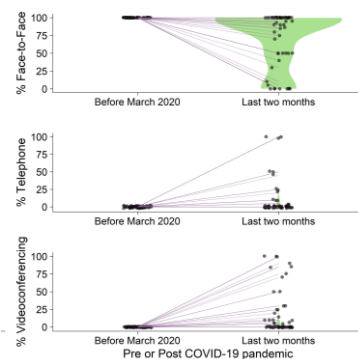


Stroke and COVID-19 vaccine

Dr Grace Turner is inviting people who have had a stroke or mini-stroke (transient ischaemic attack; TIA) to complete a survey about the COVID-19 vaccine. They want to understand how these patients feel about the COVID-19 vaccine and if they have any concerns. The survey is being conducted in collaboration with the Stroke Association and has full ethical approval. Please share this survey with any stroke/ TIA groups or contacts <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/4E25CM/>. For more information, please contact Dr Grace Turner: G.Turner.1@bham.ac.uk

Results of COVID-19 survey

We thank all OPSYRIS members who took part in our questionnaire study that investigated the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the modality of cognitive assessments (in-person versus remote-assessments) from Sept-Dec 2020. We looked at the change in modality of cognitive assessments of administration, as well as barriers, challenges, and facilitators to conducting cognitive assessments remotely. A key challenge for participants was lack of knowledge or hesitancy to use technology. Respondents also called for an increase in the availability of validated remote assessments. Respondents also said that increasing access to remote assessment software, technology, and availability of someone to physically support the participant would make remote assessment easier to complete. You can read the pre-print here <https://psyarxiv.com/zx6va/>.



Oxford Cognitive Screen

Quite a few of you have been asking us about further training resources for new members of the team starting to use the OCS, in particular not just on 'how to administer', but also on 'how to interpret'. To that end, we have added to our resources, with an introductory video on the [background to OCS and wider principles](#), as well as on [task by task scoring, interpretation and frequently asked questions](#). The last video is quite long, but you can skip to relevant sections with the timestamps in the comments. Feedback welcome to nele.demeyere@psy.ox.ac.uk