

This issue of our newsletter contains details of the following:

1. **20-YEAR ANNIVERSARY MEETING of OPSYRIS:** Theme: Cognition and emotion after ABI: clinical and technological advances
2. **EVENT REPORT:** Closing the gaps in stroke care: A call to action for Europe
3. **WFNR CONFERENCE:** 14th World Congress for Neurorehabilitation (WCNR 2026)
4. **Join OPSYRIS**
5. **NEW NEWSLETTER SYSTEM**
6. **STUDY RECRUITMENT:** Developing CARES (Cognitive Aid for Rehabilitation in Stroke)

Warm regards, The OPSYRIS Committee, <https://opsyris.org/>

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## 1. 20-YEAR ANNIVERSARY MEETING of OPSYRIS

**Theme: Cognition and emotion after ABI: clinical and technological advances**



Join us on **FRIDAY SEPTEMBER 11<sup>TH</sup> 2026** at the **University of East Anglia, Norwich**, for the 20-year Anniversary meeting of OPSYRIS! This is an in-person hybrid meeting.

Confirmed **keynote speakers** include (more to be announced)



**Prof. Céline Gillebert** is a clinical neuropsychologist and Professor of Neuropsychology at KU Leuven (Belgium). Her research focuses on cognitive and perceptual consequences of acquired brain injury, using neuroimaging, experimental methods, and immersive VR to advance mechanistic understanding and develop validated diagnostic and rehabilitation tools. She currently co-leads major projects on (impaired) cognition and XR-based neurorehabilitation, aiming to bridge cognitive neuroscience and clinical practice.



**Prof. Niall Broomfield** is Head of the Department of Clinical Psychology and Psychological Therapies at Norwich Medical School and holds the Chair in Clinical Psychology at University of East Anglia. Niall's research interests are in neuropsychological consequences of stroke (mood and cognition), modelling and treating post-stroke emotionalism and improving understanding of psychological adjustment to stroke, and behavioural sleep medicine - determining putative mechanisms of cognitive behavioural therapeutics for insomnia disorder



Dr. Nicola Hancock is Associate Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Innovation at the University of East Anglia and an Associate Professor in Physiotherapy. As well as providing academic leadership for UEA's highly-regarded innovation and impact portfolio, her own research and evaluation work focuses on personalised approaches to stroke and brain injury rehabilitation via technological innovation, self-management strategies, and innovative clinical service initiatives. She co-chairs the European Life After Stroke Forum Scientific Committee and leads the AbiliTec Network, promoting evidence-based approaches to rehabilitation technology. Nicola is committed to fostering interdisciplinary collaboration to accelerate innovation and improve outcomes for people living with neurological conditions.



Prof. Andrew Bateman is a Professor in the School of Health and Social Care at the University of Essex and Chair of the United Kingdom Acquired Brain Injury Forum. His research spans neuropsychological rehabilitation, outcome measurement, and service quality improvement for people with acquired brain injury and related conditions, with a focus on translating evidence into rehabilitation practice and supporting holistic assessment, assistive technologies, and rehabilitation service innovation. His proposed talk concerns How the NIHR can help OPSYRIS members achieve their research objectives.

## SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT!

- Submit your abstracts by Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April 2026 – [submission portal](#)
- You can also submit symposium, talk & poster proposals for OPSYRIS26 as well as **travel award** nominations! (**Notification of decisions end of June 2026**)
- Nominate yourself or colleagues for the OPSYRIS26 **Rising Star Award**



Email nominations for the OPSYRIS26 Rising Star Award for early career researchers or clinicians with a brief (half page) justification to [info@opsyris.org](mailto:info@opsyris.org). As well as the prestige of winning a commemorative award, the winner is invited to give an oral presentation of their work at the OPSYRIS26 meeting.



## REGISTRATION:

- Register to attend in person or online via [Eventbrite](#) (Ticket prices vary £25-60).

## JOIN THE OPSYRIS 20<sup>th</sup> YEAR CELLEBRATION DINNER:

On **Thursday, September 10th** we will have our Conference dinner! Join us for dinner with the OPSYRIS keynote speakers and fellow colleagues in stroke psychology. Tickets are £45 (inclusive of booking fees). Location is [The Assembly House](#).



## TRAVEL AND ACCOMODATION INFORMATION

- **ACCOMODATION:** We have a couple of recommendations for accommodation for OPSYRIS26:
  - **Broadview Hotel (on campus):** [see details here](#)
  - **George Hotel (on bus route to campus):** [see details here](#)
- **TRAVEL TO NORWICH:** Norwich is easily accessible via public transport:
  - **Plane:** Norwich international airport is close by, offering direct flights to mainland Europe. Stansted airport has a direct train to Norwich too.
  - **Train:** Direct routes available from London Liverpool Street (1hr 45min), Stansted airport (1hr 45min), Peterborough (1hr 28m) and Cambridge (1hr 11mins). Indirect routes include Manchester (4hr 24m), Edinburgh (5hr 40m), Cardiff (4hr 21m), Birmingham (3hr 47m), and Oxford (3hr 8m).
  - **Car:** UEA is easily accessible by car via the A11 or A47, with clear signage directing drivers toward the campus as they approach Norwich. Delegates can follow signs for the University of East Anglia and use the main car parks located close to the conference venues. Parking on campus is limited, see [here](#) for accessible parking.



#OPSYRIS2026

**UEA** University of  
East Anglia

## 2. EVENT REPORT: Closing the gaps in stroke care: A call to action for Europe

In October 2025, the European Parliament in Brussels hosted an event where stakeholders (stroke survivors and their carers, healthcare professionals, stroke organisations, and stroke advocates) presented their Stroke Action Plan for Europe. The event discussed five key areas: prevention, acute care, rehabilitation, life after stroke, and research and monitoring. Next steps include responding the publication of the EU's Cardiovascular Health plan (see their submission [here](#)).

To have a deeper look at the event and the call to cation see the following links:

- [Read the news release](#)
- [Read the event report](#)
- [Watch the event highlight video](#)

## 3. CONFERENCE: 14th World Congress for Neurorehabilitation (WCNR October 2026)



### IMPORTANT DATES

1 November 2025 Abstracts submission opens	15 December 2025 Registration Opens
1 April 2026 Abstracts submission deadline	1 July 2026 Early Bird Registration Closes

**ABSTRACTS ARE NOW OPEN:** For details on the upcoming World Congress for Neurorehabilitation, or to submit an abstract go to the [WFNR website](#).

## 4. Join OPSYRIS

The Organisation for Psychological Research into Stroke (OPSYRIS) is a Special Interest Group of the World Federation for Neurorehabilitation (<https://www.wfnr.co.uk/>). Our aims are to facilitate and disseminate research on psychological aspects of stroke, inform evidence-based clinical practice in stroke psychology services, and promote consideration of psychological factors in stroke research and clinical settings. **Join OPSYRIS by completing a short membership form here:** <https://opsyris.org/about-us/membership/>



## 5. NEW NEWSLETTER SYSTEM

**JISC M@il** We have moved to a better integrated system for our newsletter mailing list using JISC and we have registered all members to this. To opt out, please contact us on [info@opsyris.org](mailto:info@opsyris.org) or see your email from [LISTSERV@JISCMAIL.AC.UK](mailto:LISTSERV@JISCMAIL.AC.UK) with options to unsubscribe.

This new newsletter system is not to be used for reply, but only to receive newsletters. Please continue to email us at [info@opsyris.org](mailto:info@opsyris.org).

## 6. STUDY RECRUITMENT:

# Developing CARES (Cognitive Aid for REhabilitation in Stroke)



We are seeking therapists and psychologists to offer their input on the design of a cognitive toolkit. The toolkit aims to enhance support during rehabilitation for those stroke survivors with cognitive impairment

## We are looking for participants who are:

- 18yrs of age and over
- Fluent in English
- Based in the UK
- Work in a stroke rehabilitation setting
- A physiotherapist, occupational therapist, psychologist or a speech and language therapist
- Attend up to 5 workshops on Teams



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**Stroke**  
Association