Impaired self-awareness into cognitive-communication problems is a common consequence of traumatic brain injury (TBI). Using cross-sectional designs, it has been shown that perceptions about the frequency of communication problems may not differ significantly between adults with TBI and their close others, when the person with TBI is more than one year post injury (Bracy & Douglas, 2005; Struchen et. al., 2008). However, this has not been explored longitudinally. The aims of this study were to investigate the nature of (a) self-perceptions of communication ability over time in adults with TBI (b) the perception of their communication skills as rated by their close others (c) the relationship between self and close other perceptions over time.

Training Workplace Communication with WoRCTER
P. Meulenbroek & L.R. Cherney

A primary reason for loss of employment in persons with traumatic brain injury (TBI) is workplace soft skills. This proposal describes and shows preliminary data for a social skills training program, the Work-Related Communication Training for Employment Readiness (WoRCTER), that targets politeness marker use in common workplace speech acts.
Ten adults with traumatic brain injury (TBI) are compared with 13 uninjured participants on a single-talker interference task with native and non-native target speakers. Participants with TBI repeated significantly fewer words overall than those without TBI, despite similar proportions of target, interfering, and other words repeated.

10:30 am break

11:00am Session 2: Cognitive-communication disorders across place and time

Social communication during post-traumatic amnesia and the post-acute period after traumatic brain injury
J. Steel, A. Ferguson, E. Spencer, & L. Togher

This research describes social communication recovery of four participants during PTA and the post-acute period after TBI. It was possible to identify early indicators of ongoing social impairments using repeated measures of standardised assessment tools. Findings add to the current limited knowledge on social communication disorder during PTA and post-acute TBI recovery.

Monitoring cognitive communication during post-traumatic amnesia and the post-acute period after TBI
J. Steel, A. Ferguson, E. Spencer, & L. Togher

There has been limited empirical SLP study of cognitive communication during the post-acute period after TBI. This paper describes the systematic cognitive communication assessment of four patients with repeated measures during PTA, and at follow-up three months after PTA emergence. Implications for SLP assessment timing and methods are discussed.
12:00pm Box Lunches provided

1:30pm Keynote Address

*Cognitive communication disorders following TBI: The path behind and the road ahead*

Dr. Leanne Togher
Professor of Communication Disorders following Traumatic Brain Injury and Senior National Health and Medical Research Fellow
The University of Sydney

3:00pm Break

3:15pm Session 3: Cognitive-communication disorders after right-hemisphere damage and in older adults

Self-Perceived Communication of Older Adults with Traumatic Brain Injury
L. Byom, M. Duff, & L. Turkstra

Self-perceived communication of older adults with TBI was measured with the La Trobe Communication Questionnaire (LCQ-S). Older adults with TBI had similar LCQ-S scores as age-matched peers and younger adults with TBI. Communication effectiveness and emotion recognition were the most frequent communication problems reported by the TBI Old group.
Social participation following a right hemisphere: Influence of a cognitive-communication impairment
R. Hewetson

This study describes social participation change, reported by people with a first onset RH stroke. The influence of a cognitive-communication impairment on social participation is explored and participant-proxy agreement presented. The Sydney Psychosocial Reintegration Scale identified changes in social participation across all three domains with greater frequency and degree where a cognitive-communication impairment is present.

Exploring how multiple mechanisms converge to explain the cognitive-communication disorder after right hemisphere damage: A preliminary investigation
P. L. Cornwell & R. Hewetson

Our understanding of what mechanisms underpin the cognitive-communication disorder that arises after right hemisphere damage remains limited. The study aims to undertake a preliminary exploration of how social cognitive, executive function and weak central coherence deficits might contribute to the presentation of cognitive-communication disorder after right hemisphere stroke.

4:45pm Day 1 Wrap-up

5:30pm All are Invited to a Dinner Reception at the Hilbert Museum
167 N Atchison Street
Orange, CA 92866
http://www.hilbertmuseum.com/-california-art
Friday, January 20

8:45am Coffee and Announcements

9:00am Session 4: Therapy for Cognitive and Cognitive-Communication Disorders

Novel Group Cognitive-Communication Treatment
L. C. Keegan, E. Hendry, & C. Sheehan

This pilot research project investigates a newly developed group treatment approach for individuals with a TBI that occurs in naturalistic social environments, promotes natural communication, is client-centered, and facilitates positive identity formation. Results indicate significant change in self-assessment of progress towards individual goals and improved pragmatic and social skills.

Web-Based Problem Solving Skills Training
L. Ehlhardt-Powell, M. R. Wild, T. M. O’Neil-Pirozzi, & A. Glang

Systematically trained problem solving strategies offer a consistent means of responding to the myriad, often unpredictable breakdowns associated with cognitive impairments following brain injury. This presentation will provide an overview of the development and evaluation of a web-based program for supporting problem solving skills in everyday environments following brain injury.

Self-regulated learning in college students with traumatic brain injury (TBI):
Strategy outcomes after dynamic coaching
K. O’Brien, S. Schellinger, & M.R.T. Kennedy

Five college students with TBI completed two semesters of intervention designed to teach self-regulation strategies. Semi-structured interviews conducted pre- and post-intervention revealed that four of the five students reported using a greater variety of strategies and strategies that were more specific after intervention.
11:00am Session 5: Therapy for Cognitive and Cognitive-Communication Disorders

Intensive Semantic Memory Training: A Comparison to Traditional Episodic Memory Therapy in TBI
L. D’Angelo, B. Ober, & G. Shenaut

Thirty-five TBI patients, 1-40 years post injury with documented moderate episodic memory deficits were randomly assigned to 8 sessions of intensive semantic memory training, traditional episodic memory therapy, or a wait-list control group. Both approaches resulted in positive change in all outcome measures and showed promise in episodic memory treatment.

A Pilot Study of Computerized Cognitive Exercise
T. M. O’Neil-Pirozzi

Results of a pilot study exploring feasibility and effects of participation in a computerized cognitive fitness exercise program by adults with chronic moderate-to-severe cognitive impairments post- acquired brain injury will be presented. While there were benefits from program participation, there are feasibility challenges to clinical implementation. Both will be discussed.

12:00 noon Buffet lunch provided

1:30pm Session 6: Technology and Cognitive Rehabilitation

Using Technology in Cognitive-Communication Rehabilitation after TBI
M. Brunner, B. Hemsley, L. Togher, & S. Palmer

An integrative literature review of communication technology in traumatic brain injury (TBI) rehabilitation and cognitive-communication was conducted. Three major types of communication technologies and multiple factors regarding use of technology were identified. A model is proposed as a framework for incorporating technology into clinical practice in TBI rehabilitation and research.
Hashtag TBI: How do Traumatic Brain Injury communities communicate and network in Twitter?
M. Brunner, B. Hemsley, L. Togher, S. Dann, & S. Palmer

This Twitter hashtag study of selected tweets tagged with #TBI or related terms included qualitative and quantitative analysis of 29199 tweets. The analysis reveals that TBI-related communication and information exchange occurred across multiple individuals and organisations interested in TBI. Implications for TBI cognitive-communication rehabilitation are discussed.

Neurocognitive Performance and Functional Connectivity in Chronic TBI: A proof of Concept Study
F. Constantinidou, N. Konstantinou, E. Pettermeridou, & Y. Seimenis

The study examined the association between cognitive performance and global functional connectivity in a group of survivors of chronic moderate-severe TBI and a group of matched controls. We implemented intrinsic connectivity contrast (ICC findings) in relationship to executive functioning, attention, and memory composites. Results indicate that neurocognitive deficits at 8 years post injury could be in part attributed to the connectivity changes in cortical and subcortical frontal and temporal networks.

3:00pm Break

3:45pm Session 7: Examining the Discourse after TBI

The Language of Remembering and Forecasting: Microstucture Analyses of Past and Future Narratives in Adults with Traumatic Brain Injuries
K. O’Brien, K. & M.R.T. Kennedy

Eight adults with severe TBI and matched healthy controls told past and future narratives. Microstructure analyses revealed that adults with TBI were less efficient than controls. Semantic diversity increased for both groups when describing the future, although controls outpaced TBI. Maze usage showed differing repair strategies across groups.
Analyzing expository discourse performance in adolescents with TBI: Are standard microstructural measures enough?
J.P. Lundine, S. M. Harnish, R. J. McCauley, D. S. Blackett, & A. Zezinka

This study compared expository summaries produced by a small group of adolescents with TBI to a larger group of students without TBI using both a scoring rubric and microstructural measures. The rubric identified more differences than microstructural measures. Findings have direct implications for discourse assessment of students with TBI.

4:45 Day 2 Wrap-up

Friday night activities
Saturday, January 21

9:00am Coffee and Announcements

9:15am Session 8: Pediatric Brain Injury

Early elementary school outcomes for children with a history of TBI before age 6
J. Haarbauer-Krupa

Children age 6 or younger have the highest rate of emergency department visits for TBI and most risk for impact on language development. This presentation will provide results from a federally funded study on cognitive, language and literacy outcomes for children ages 6-9 years with a history of TBI at age 6 or younger.

SLP referral patterns in pediatric brain injury
A. H. Ciccia, J.P. Lundine, & A. Coreno

This was a retrospective, cohort chart review study that examined patterns of SLP referral and factors impacting referral during the acute period following TBI in two, pediatric specialty hospitals. Results revealed very low SLP referral rate. Factors that predicted low referral and implications for clinical practice will be discussed.

10:15am Invited Presentation

State of the Evidence for Pediatric Brain Injury
Dr. Ann Glang
Co-Director, Center on Brain Injury Research and Training
University of Oregon, Eugene, OR
11:00am Break

11:15am Session 9: Athletes and Veterans with TBI

Self-Report of Cognitive and Anxiety Symptoms in Military Veterans and Non-Veterans with and without Mild Traumatic Brain Injury

T. Azuma & K. Gallager

This study examined self-reported cognitive symptoms in veterans and non-veterans with and without mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI). The groups had similar rates of mTBI, but veterans with mTBI were more likely to report persistent cognitive symptoms. The results reveal different cognitive consequences associated with mTBI in veterans and non-veterans.

Limiting concussion exposure: Players’ perspectives

K. Hardin

In Spring 2016, University of Colorado-Boulder implemented new safety parameters to decrease the incidence of concussion in women’s soccer. While the evidence-base for this change was sound, players opinions to the rule changes were never sought. Subsequently, a survey captured athlete’s perspectives on these changes with some surprising results.

12:15pm Day 3 and Conference Wrap-up

Conference Evaluations