From the ABI Rehabilitation Research Office

November 2015

**What kind of research goes on at ABI Rehabilitation?**

* Testing new treatments, innovations, and approaches in rehabilitation
* Collaborating with university and industry partners on clinical trials
* Keeping up with current research literature and best evidence
* Using the outcomes in our clinical database to guide our practice
* Monitoring and benchmarking clinical trends over time
* Implementing quality improvement projects
* Communicating our findings at conferences and through publications

In coming months, we’ll go into further detail about these research areas.

**Invitation to participate in research studies**

From time to time, ABI Rehabilitation and/or their University partners conduct research about brain injury. By participating in research, clients, family members, and members of the public can have the chance to contribute to the development of new treatment options. This may help others.

Would you like ABI Rehabilitation to contact you if you may be eligible to participate in a brain injury research study?  If yes, please send an email with your name, phone number, and address to [research@abi-rehab.co.nz](mailto:research@abi-rehab.co.nz). We will contact you if and when a research study becomes available in your area.

By giving us your information, you are under no obligation to participate in any research. You can stop receiving contact from us at any time. We will not give out your information to anyone without your permission.

**Hot off the presses: recently-completed studies at ABI Rehabilitation**

In the past month, the final results from two research studies that ABI Rehabilitation contributed to have been prepared.

1. Karol Czuba (<http://www.aut.ac.nz/profiles/karol-czuba>) completed a qualitative study as part of his Master’s degree work.  He was supervised by members of the Person-Centred Research Centre at AUT University (<http://pcrc.aut.ac.nz/>).  Karol was interested in the subjective experience of stress in the workplace for people who work as caregivers in a long-term care context.  A number of ABI Rehabilitation staff were interviewed for Karol’s study, along with participants from other long-term care providers.  To read a summary of Karol’s research, click here ().
2. The Person-Centred Research Centre at AUT University (<http://pcrc.aut.ac.nz/>) recently completed an innovative research project about the value of pairing people who have recently had a brain injury with people who had a brain injury some years in the past. The researchers, led by Paula Kersten (<http://www.aut.ac.nz/profiles/paula-kersten>) and Christine Cummins (<http://www.aut.ac.nz/profiles/christine-cummins>), tested the intervention with the help of six pairs of mentors/mentees who were clients of ABI Rehabilitation. The participants’ experiences are described in this summary ().

**ABI Rehabilitation’s Rehabilitation Director leads symposium at the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine**

Jonathan Armstrong (<http://abi.captiv8.co.nz/our-people/>) was one of four international symposium presenters at the prestigious ACRM conference in Texas last month. This presentation was one of three that formed a full symposium exploring international approaches to community re-integration after brain injury.  The symposium consisted of approaches from New Zealand, the USA and Israel.  Each presentation consisted of a description of the approaches taken, the reasons for these approaches based on international best practice and cultural context, and the outcomes for clients.  There was discussion with attendees at the end of the presentations in order to explore certain aspects in more depth.

To read more, click here ().