

Clinical Profile

Since qualifying in clinical psychology in 2008, my professional development has been in the area of neuropsychology and neuro-rehabilitation. Clinical skills include neuropsychological assessments aimed at developing a clinical picture (formulation) used to guide patient-centered, goal-focused interventions aimed at improved wellbeing and quality of life. I have been fortunate to consistently work within multi-disciplinary teams (MDT) supporting a holistic rehabilitation approach, with frequent positive clinical outcomes.

As a psychologist, I am keenly aware of the threat to self-identify and role many patients experience post-injury, and the heightened risk of secondary mental health or substance disorders. In addition to existing evidence-based therapeutic approaches (e.g. Cognitive behavioral therapy, systemic therapy), I am developing skills in positive psychological approaches. Although a relatively new field, its efficacy in the field of brain injury rehabilitation is very encouraging and with its focus on strength and resilience, I find clients respond very positively.

Over the years, I have enjoyed responsibility for providing clinical leadership, training and supervision to both MDT members and trainee psychologists. I have a special interest in Mental Capacity Assessments.

Education

2017	Qualification in Clinical Neuropsychology (QICN), British Psychological Society
2009 – 2011	Post-graduate Diploma in Clinical Neuropsychology, University of Glasgow
2005 – 2008	Doctorate in Clinical Psychology, University of Newcastle, United Kingdom
2003 – 2004	B.A. Honours in Criminology, University of South Africa
2000 - 2001	B.A. Honours in Clinical Psychology, Rand Afrikaans University
1996 - 1999	Bachelor of Arts (B.A) in Psychology and Criminology, University of South Africa

Work Experience

June 2013 – current.	Neuro-oncology Team, Royal Victoria Infirmary (RVI): Assessment and intervention to support rehabilitation of adults with Brain Tumours.
2008 – 2013.	Northumberland Head Injury Service: Assessment and intervention to support rehabilitation of adults who have suffered a traumatic brain injury,
2008 - 2010.	Multiple Sclerosis Team and Regional Disability Team, Walkergate Park Neuro-rehabilitation Unit, Newcastle: Supporting adults with a broad range of neurological conditions (This was a split-post with the position detailed above).

Publications

- Williams, S., Dagnan, D., Rodgers, J., Freeston, M. (2015). Exploring Carers' Judgments of Responsibility and Control in Response to the Challenging Behaviour of People with Intellectual Disabilities. Journal of Applied Research into Intellectual Disabilities
- Williams, S, Dagnan, D (2011). Changes in Attributions as a Consequence of Training for Challenging and Complex Behaviour for Carers of People with Learning Disabilities: A Systematic review. Journal of Applied Research into Intellectual Disabilities

Ongoing research

- Co-applicant on research entitled: "Developing a supported self-management programme to improve quality of life in adult primary brain tumour survivors". This is being led by Professor Linda Sharp, Newcastle University and funded by the Brain Tumour Charity.
- Primary neuropsychologist on a national randomised control trial named the ROAM trial, aimed at assessing the affects of radiation treatment of patients with Atypical Meningioma following surgical resection of the tumour.

Affiliations/Memberships

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| • Health and Care Professions Council (PYL22085) | 2008 onwards |
| • British Psychological Society (109480) | 2004 onwards |