

## **Specialist Section – Neurological Practice Member handbook**



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## Introduction from the Chair

Dear Member

A warm welcome and thank you for joining the Specialist Section – Neurological Practice.

We are made up of a dynamic group of members who are all passionate about helping individuals living with neurological conditions and raising our profile in this broad specialist area.

Through our combined efforts we seek to develop, promote, and influence the occupational therapist's role in neurological rehabilitation and condition management. We do this by supporting clinical best practice, shining a light on the most up to date evidence and research, and commenting on and influencing national policy.

Membership gives you access to an active network of occupational therapists, working across the UK in statutory, voluntary and private sectors. Providing the opportunity to share ideas, reflect and develop clinical practice and contribute to the specialist sections activities. Information, resources and learning opportunities are available via our monthly newsletter, local and national study events held in person or virtually and at our conference.

I would personally like to encourage you to participate in members' activities and contact us with any queries, comments, and suggestions for things we can do to facilitate your practice and improve membership experience.

I look forward to hopefully speaking to you or meeting you at one of our events in the future.

**Samantha Turner**

Chair of the National Executive Committee  
Specialist Section – Neurological Practice

## National Executive Committee

Role	Name	Description of role and contact
Chair	Samantha Turner	Lead the Specialist Section National Executive Committee (NEC), ensuring that it fulfils its core business and responsibilities in line with our governance. Work collaboratively with the committee, helping them achieve the aims of the Specialist Section.  <a href="mailto:rcotssnpchair@gmail.com">rcotssnpchair@gmail.com</a>
Vice Chair	Elizabeth Jackson	Support the Chair and the National Executive Committee (NEC), ensuring that it fulfils its core business and responsibilities in line with our governance. Take responsibility for NEC in the absence of the chair. Work collaboratively with the committee, helping them achieve the aims of the Specialist Section.  <a href="mailto:rcotssnpchair@gmail.com">rcotssnpchair@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Sara Goldstone	Support the management of the NEC with their communication; to collate and circulate agenda items, record and collate minutes distributing them to the NEC and RCOT.  <a href="mailto:ssnpsecretary@gmail.com">ssnpsecretary@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Susan Hughes	Ensure that the Specialist Sections financial affairs are managed in compliance with the current RCOT Standing Financial Instructions and Financial Guidelines. Act as the main point of contact regarding financial matters for the Specialist Section.  <a href="mailto:ssnptreasurer@gmail.com">ssnptreasurer@gmail.com</a>
Newsletter Editor	Laura Henderson	Produce the Specialist Section newsletter with support from the NEC. Encourage members to submit news and articles for inclusion in the newsletter.  <a href="mailto:ssnpnewsandmedia@gmail.com">ssnpnewsandmedia@gmail.com</a>
Research and Development lead	Dr Vanessa Abrahamson	Lead and support research and development within the Specialist Section and lead on research and development enquiries. Assist in the running of events and CPD activities.  <a href="mailto:ssnpresearch@gmail.com">ssnpresearch@gmail.com</a>

Communications lead	Alex Scordis-Hutchinson	Maintain the website and encourage members to submit news and articles for inclusion in the newsletter. Support the NEC to communicate with the SSNP members  <a href="mailto:ssnpcomms@gmail.com">ssnpcomms@gmail.com</a>
Social Media Lead	Carla Freitas	Engage with social media accounts on behalf of the Specialist Section and be the first point of contact with members on social media  <a href="mailto:ssnpnewsandmedia@gmail.com">ssnpnewsandmedia@gmail.com</a>
CPD lead	Amber Murray - Smith	Take responsibility to lead, facilitate, support, and have an overview on all the Specialist Section CPD events.  <a href="mailto:ssnpcpd@gmail.com">ssnpcpd@gmail.com</a>
Regions lead	Susan Wills	To be a link between the regions and the NEC providing an overview of activities and member engagement within the regions and supporting these activities.  <a href="mailto:ssnpregions@gmail.com">ssnpregions@gmail.com</a>

### Clinical Forums

Clinical forums are run by a committee of up to six members lead by the Chair. Please see below for the Chair and contact details for each forum.

Clinical Forum	Name	Description of role and contact
Brain Injury	Sarah De Charentenay	Support the activities of the clinical forum including member engagement and events and act as a link between the clinical forum and the NEC.  <a href="mailto:ssnpbif@gmail.com">ssnpbif@gmail.com</a>
Long Term Conditions	Gillian Thomson	Support the activities of the clinical forum including member engagement and events and act as a link between the clinical forum and the NEC.  <a href="mailto:ssnpltcforum@gmail.com">ssnpltcforum@gmail.com</a>
Stroke	Nicole Walmsley	Support the activities of the clinical forum including member engagement and events and act as a link between the clinical forum and the NEC.  <a href="mailto:ssnp.strokeforum@gmail.com">ssnp.strokeforum@gmail.com</a>

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## Region Representatives

The region lead a link between the National Executive Committee's (NEC) Regions lead and the members based in that region and to support and coordinate the role and work of the region. Below are a list of region leads and their contact details.

Region	Name	Contact
Eastern	Emma Marx	<a href="mailto:eastangliacommittee.ssnp@gmail.com">eastangliacommittee.ssnp@gmail.com</a>
London	Emma Playfair	<a href="mailto:ssnplondon@gmail.com">ssnplondon@gmail.com</a>
North West	Anne James	<a href="mailto:northwestcommittee.ssnp@gmail.com">northwestcommittee.ssnp@gmail.com</a>
Northern Ireland	vacant	
Northern and Yorkshire	Becky Plant	<a href="mailto:northandyorkshirecommittee.ssnp@gmail.com">northandyorkshirecommittee.ssnp@gmail.com</a>
Scottish East	Lynne Main	<a href="mailto:eastscotcommittee@gmail.com">eastscotcommittee@gmail.com</a>
Scottish North	Amy Rogers	<a href="mailto:northscotcommittee.ssnp@gmail.com">northscotcommittee.ssnp@gmail.com</a>
Scottish West	Paula Gribben	
South West	Helen Ellis	<a href="mailto:southwestcommittee.ssnp@gmail.com">southwestcommittee.ssnp@gmail.com</a>
South East	Jane McKinnon	<a href="mailto:southeastcommittee.ssnp@gmail.com">southeastcommittee.ssnp@gmail.com</a>
Trent	Gemma French	<a href="mailto:trentssnp@gmail.com">trentssnp@gmail.com</a>
Wales	Helen Hak	<a href="mailto:wales.ssnp@gmail.com">wales.ssnp@gmail.com</a>
Midlands	Clare Pearsall	<a href="mailto:midlandscommittee.ssnp@gmail.com">midlandscommittee.ssnp@gmail.com</a>

## Aims

The Specialist Section aims to share and improve knowledge, assessment, and rehabilitation of neurological conditions.

Our aims are to:

- raise awareness and promote the development of knowledge and skills
- promote and enable Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and networking
- promote research and support the use of evidence to inform practice
- support members within their area of practice
- function as a resource to provide expertise at a national level
- act as advisors and influencers for and on behalf of the profession and RCOT



## Member benefits

As part of our Specialist Section, you can access a range of benefits including:

### Monthly newsletter

You'll receive a newsletter at the end of each month. This will contain information on upcoming events along with information and resources relevant to members working in neurological practice. We encourage you to get involved and send us information on work you are doing, any emerging areas or share your skills and expertise. You can also let us know if you have a query that the wider membership can help with. The newsletter will also contain information on policy and practice relevant to your work. If you would like to contribute to the newsletter or to provide any feedback or comments, please contact our [newsletter editor](#).

### Social media

Please follow us if you are on social media. You will be able to keep up to date between newsletters with information relevant to you. Follow us on Twitter [@RCOT\\_NP](#)

### Specialist Section webpages

We have [dedicated pages on the RCOT website](#). As a member of a Specialist Section, you can access information including member resources, useful links and contact details for NEC members. You should be logged into your RCOT account to access these resources.

### Free CPD events

We host free webinars and events relevant to our members. All events are available for booking through our events webpage. All events hosted by our regions are available to members from across the UK.

### Reduced costs for our conference

As a member, you benefit from a reduced cost for attending our Specialist Section conference. More information on this will be included in your monthly newsletter.

### Connect with members local to you

Our regions allow you to connect with members local to you. Whilst most events are now online for all members, our region leads can arrange in-person meetings within their geographical area for you to meet and connect with members who live near you.

### Clinical forums

Specialist Section clinical forums are a way of bringing occupational therapists with a common specialist interest together to share expertise, learn and network. You can join as many clinical forums as you want to. They are free as part of your membership.

### Awards

The Specialist Section have awards that are available to members through the year. Details of these will be available in the monthly newsletter when they are available to members.

### Opportunities to be part of your professional community

There are lots of ways to get involved with policy, practice, strategy, briefings, develop practice guidelines and leadership skills. We share these opportunities widely within our newsletters and on social media and in dedicated communications.

## Clinical forums

Clinical forums facilitate debate, networking, innovation and news in a specific domain of practice.

The Specialist Section has the following clinical forums:

- Brain Injury
- Long Term Conditions
- Stroke

Members can join a clinical forum in the 'My Specialist Section' area of the member portal. You can join as many clinical forums as you want, these are part of your specialist section membership.

Any clinical forum events are available for booking on the RCOT website. Events are also advertised in our monthly newsletter and in OTnews.

### **Clinical Forum – Brain Injury**

The brain injury forum supports delivery of best practice in occupational therapy across the UK for people working with adults with acquired brain injury. The forum is open to members who have an interest in, or work with individuals with a brain injury.

### **Clinical Forum – Long term conditions**

The long-term conditions forum supports delivery of best practice for occupational therapy across the UK for people working with adults with long term neurological conditions (LTNC). The forum is open to members who have an interest in, or work with people with long term or progressive neurological conditions.

### **Clinical Forum - Stroke**

The Stroke clinical forum supports delivery of best practice for occupational therapy across the UK for people working with adults living with stroke. This forum is open to members who have an interest in, or work in stroke.

## Research and development

Research participant requests can be included within the newsletter for members to in subject to approval from the Research and Development lead. All requests to share a research project should have ethical approval in place before submitting. Anyone who has any queries or would like to share a research project, please contact our [research and education lead](#).