

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE

Jo Hurford BSc (Hons)

Since graduating from Exeter University in 1997, Jo has worked primarily with people with complex neurological impairments. She is currently working at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, London as a highly specialised occupational therapist. In recent years her experiences and interests have included working in; inpatient rehabilitation, providing intensive goal directed rehabilitation outpatient services; assessing patients who present with a wide range of neurological conditions and providing goal orientated treatment programmes, such as fatigue management and vocational rehabilitation. Prior to this she worked for two years within an inpatient neuropsychiatry unit; this involved delivering a structured multidisciplinary rehabilitation programme for people with Non-organic neurological conditions. In addition to this Jo has worked in a number of other clinical settings within this tertiary centre including; acute brain injury unit, neuromedicine and neurosurgery.

Jo is actively involved with teaching within the NHNN, and has contributed to a number of external studies days from this setting. She has also contributed to a variety London based study days.

A current member of the College of Occupational Therapy Specialist Section Neurological Practice (SSNP), Jo is a committee member on the SSNP Long term Conditions forum. In addition to this Jo has contributed to the development of OT guides for charitable publication with the Progressive Supranuclea Palsy Association and Ataxia UK.

Jo is now in her final year of studies for an MSc in Occupational Therapy at Brunell University. She is currently in the process of conducting a qualitative research project to explore "Occupational Therapists' experiences of working with people with Progressive Ataxia" and hopes to be able to publish in the near future.

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