

Dr Deborah Snell, PhD

BSc *Canty*, MSc *Canty*, DipClinPsych, DipRehab, PhD *Otago*,
MNZCCP, MINS, MNAN

Neuropsychologist, Burwood Concussion Service & Habit
 Rehabilitation

Senior Research Fellow, Department of Orthopaedic Surgery
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 Christchurch

HRC Clinical Practitioner Research Fellow



Research specialisation: Understanding and managing recovery from concussion and traumatic brain injury, neuropsychological rehabilitation (traumatic brain injury, stroke, particularly concussion/mild traumatic brain injury). Disability issues and independent living outcomes, patient reported outcomes and knowledge translation, use of clinical practice guidelines, measurement in rehabilitation.

Experience: Registered clinical and neuropsychologist who has been conducting research into concussion/traumatic brain injury for >10 years. Involved in concussion service provision (e.g. for the Canterbury District Health Board (Burwood Concussion Service) and Habit Rehabilitation) for >20 years.

Attracted \$1.5million in research funding. Published >40 peer -reviewed articles in high impact journals including the Journal of Neurotrauma, Neuropsychological Rehabilitation, Brain Injury, Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation and Brain.

Received an HRC Clinical Practitioner Research Fellowship in 2018.

Research overview: Focus on exploring the experience and impact of neurological illness and injury on people's lives and developing novel ways to improve how people adjust. Experienced in both qualitative and quantitative and mixed methods research approaches.

Postgraduate supervision: I am keen to be involved in supervision of post graduate student projects. Topics I have been involved in have ranged from understanding impacts of exercise on mood and outcomes after concussion, disability and disaster issues (e.g. following the Christchurch earthquakes), experiences of living with neurological conditions.

Research Dissemination: >40 publications in journals, book chapters (2), conference paper/abstract proceedings (40). Here are some examples:

- 1) Snell, D.L., Martin, R.M., Macleod, A.D., Surgenor, L.J., Siegert, R.J., Hay-Smith, E.J.C., Hooper, G.J., Melzer, T., Anderson, T. (2018). Untangling chronic pain and post-concussion symptoms: the significance of depression. *Brain Injury*, Feb 1:1-10. doi: 10.1080/02699052.2018.1432894. [Epub ahead of print]. PMID: 29388838
- 2) Snell, D.L., Martin, R.M., Macleod, A.D., Surgenor, L.J., Siegert, R.J., Hay-Smith, E.J.C., Hooper, G.J., Melzer, T., Anderson, T. (2018). Wrestling with uncertainty and recovery after mild traumatic brain injury: a mixed methods study. *Disability and Rehabilitation*, in press.
- 3) Snell, D. L., Iverson, G. L., Panenka, W. J., & Silverberg, N. D. (2017). Preliminary validation of the WHODAS 2.0 for mild traumatic brain injury. *Journal of Neurotrauma*. Advance online publication. 2017 Dec 1;34(23):3256-3261. doi: 10.1089/neu.2017.5234. PMID: 28895491



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- 4) Snell, D.L., Martin, R.M., Surgenor, L.J., Siegert, R.J., Hay-Smith, E.J.C. (2017). What's wrong with me? Seeking a coherent understanding of recovery after mild traumatic brain injury. *Disability and Rehabilitation*, 39(19): 1968-1975. PMID: 27626509
- 5) Snell, D. L., MacLeod, S. A. D., & Anderson, T. (2016). Post-concussion syndrome after a mild traumatic brain injury: A minefield for clinical practice. *Journal of Behavioral & Brain Science*, 6(6), 227-232. doi: 10.4236/jbbs.2016.66023
- 6) Snell, D.L., Hay-Smith, E.J.C., Surgenor, L.J., Williman, J., Siegert, R.J. (2015) The contribution of psychological factors to recovery after mild traumatic brain injury: Is cluster analysis a useful approach? *Brain Injury*, 29(3): 291-299. PMID: 25409487
- 7) Snell, D.L., Hay-Smith, E.J.C., Surgenor, L.J., Siegert, R.J. (2013). Predicting long-term outcome after mild traumatic brain injury: The contribution of injury beliefs and Leventhal's Common Sense Model. *Neuropsychological Rehabilitation: An International Journal*, 23(3), 333-362. PMID: 23336822
- 8) Snell, D.L., Siegert, R.J., Hay-Smith, E.J.C., Surgenor, L.J. (2010). An examination of the factor structure of the revised illness perception questionnaire in adults with mild traumatic brain injury. *Brain Injury*, 24 (13-14):1595-605. PMID: 20973
- 9) Snell, D.L., Siegert, R.J., Hay-Smith, E.J.C., Surgenor, L.J. (2011). Factor structure of the Brief COPE in people with mild traumatic brain injury. *Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation*, 26(6), 468-477. PMID: 21245767
- 10) Snell, D., Surgenor, L., Hay-Smith, J., Siegert, R. (2009). A systematic review of psychological treatments for mild traumatic brain injury: an update on the evidence. *Journal of Clinical and Experimental Neuropsychology*, 31(1), 20-38. PMID: 186086
- 11) Heitger, M.H., Jones, R.D., Macleod, A.D., Snell, D.L., Frampton, C.M. & Anderson, T.J. (2009). Impaired eye movements in post-concussion syndrome indicate sub-optimal brain function beyond the influence of depression, malingering or intellectual ability. *Brain*, 132:2850-70. PMID: 19617197