

Correspondence: *Federica Lucchelli, AO Salvini, Passirana di Rho - Milan, Italy, via Settembrini 1, Passirana di Rho 20017, Italy. E-mail: flucch@libero.it*

**INS Presidential Address:
It's Not Only the Injury that Matters, but the Kind of
Head**

4:00–5:00 p.m.

J. PONSFORD. It's not only the injury that matters, but the kind of head. Much neuropsychological research has focused on the effects of injury to various parts of the brain. Increasingly sophisticated neuropatholog-

ical and neuroimaging studies have identified the nature and common sites of diffuse axonal injury associated with traumatic brain injury (TBI) and neuropsychological studies have elucidated the common cognitive and behavioural changes associated with these injuries. Despite this, it remains very difficult to predict outcome in any individual case. There is a growing body of research which has identified that significance of the make-up of the injured person in determining their recovery trajectory from TBI across the spectrum of injury severity. In this address I will discuss studies which have identified the influence of factors such as pre-injury ability, education, psychiatric history, social support, cultural background and other factors on outcome following TBI. In order to improve outcomes, it is vital that clinicians understand and embrace these influences and address them as part of the rehabilitation process. Correspondence: *Jennie Ponsford,, NSW, Australia. E-mail: jennie.ponsford@monash.edu*