

SUE PADDISON M.C.S.P  
Clinical Specialist Lead Physiotherapist in Spinal Cord Injuries

Sue graduated as a Physiotherapist in 1986. She commenced her current NHS post as Clinical Specialist Lead Physiotherapist, in the London Spinal Cord Injury Centre (LSCIC) at the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital Trust (RNOH), Stanmore in 1993. The LSCIC is one of the national specialist Spinal Cord Injury Centres, offering comprehensive experience working with adults and children with spinal cord injury, from the acute stage immediately post injury through the early rehabilitation and onto reintegration back into the community.

The patients at RNOH include complex trauma and respiratory management of spinal cord injury patients. She has extensive experience in the management of peripheral nerve injury and brachial plexus injuries, as well as diverse skills in the management of associated trauma, metastatic cord compression and musculo-skeletal conditions.

She is Honorary Clinical Teaching Fellow for University College London. She currently lectures on three Masters courses for multidisciplinary professionals. She has lectured nationally and internationally to diverse professional groups, as well as presenting papers and posters at conferences and meetings relevant to her specialist field. She lectures on national study days organised by the Spinal Injuries Association and LSCIC.

The LSCIC teams and Therapy services benefit from links in research, development and academic links with University of Hertfordshire and University College, London. Research departments at Stanmore include the Institute of Orthopaedics, the Centre for Disability Research and Innovation, the Institute of Human Performance and the Centre for Biomedical Engineering.

The therapy team have regular commitments to teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level.

Sue has contributed to and published several chapters in various Neurological Physiotherapy textbooks. Her area of specialist interest is in Functional Electrical Stimulation in neurological rehabilitation. She just completed a research study as primary investigator involving this technology and won a gold award for a scientific poster related to this work.

Over the last three years, Sue and a colleague have developed a training package on behalf of Handicap International and UK Aid. They devised practical skills training days and core theory teaching presentations and patient information leaflets. This forms part of a comprehensive programme of training for UK professionals who will work in humanitarian settings following conflict and disaster.

She was one of NEURAM team involved in scoping and assessing the neuro-rehabilitation services provided in Mauritius in 2016. The team provided clinical support and lectures to the hospital teams and made domiciliary visits to patients.

Sue is an independent consultant physiotherapist working with the England Rugby Football Union Injured Players Foundation charity to support spinal cord injured players

in their on-going management in the community. She works privately in her consulting capacity assisting in the ongoing management of SCI patients in the community.

She acts as an expert witness in the medico-legal context, providing reports in the physiotherapy management of spinal cord injuries and peripheral nerve injuries.

Sue is the Chair of the UK & Eire Spinal Cord Injury Therapy Leads (SCITLs) and sits on invitation on the Spinal Cord Injury UK Alliance committee.

She is a member of several clinical interest groups to support her specialist role including the Association of Chartered Physiotherapists in Neurology (ACPIN), Multi-Disciplinary Association of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals (MASCIP), Association of Orthopaedic Chartered Physiotherapists (AOCP) and The International Spinal Cord Injury Physiotherapists Network (ISCIPT Network).