



SLDN News

The latest news, updates and announcements

ISSUE 1

July 2023

Network gets going

Public event and working groups mark start of activity phase

New faces

Project support and short-term focus group colleagues

Joining in

Contribute, share, collaborate, suggest, present...let us know and get involved



SLDN goes public at RSE event

Clear appetite for collaboration

The SLD Network's first public event at the RSE on 16 June drew a healthy audience despite blazing sun outside and its Friday tea-time scheduling.

Forty members of the public and other stakeholders attended Prof Brian Butterworth's talk on dyscalculia, its incidence and impact, and the related panel discussion with two young ambassadors from Dyslexia Scotland and Education Scotland's Senior Education Officer for Inclusion, Wellbeing and Equality; Frances Foreman. Both were informative and well received. In tandem with the public meeting, a focus group for teachers explored education resources for identifying dyslexia and yielded feedback on potential tools to aid teachers which will be used in follow-up focus groups. A video edit of the evening's content is available to view [here](#).



New MRC grant

We are delighted to have received grant funding from the Medical Research Council to support the addition of a Research Coordinator role for the SLD Network. The grant funds the part-time project support until end March 2025 and will allow the project leaders, working groups and other activities within the network to focus on technical aspects of their work by providing organisation, administrative and communications support.



Gillian Stirton took

up her post in mid-June and will be working on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Her professional background is in communications, project management and publishing. Prior to joining she spent nine years at agri-environmental research organisation the James Hutton Institute, promoting the Institute's work and building its public profile. You can contact Gillian on gks3@st-andrews.ac.uk or via the new central email for the network: SLDN@st-andrews.ac.uk

Focus group to define research priorities

Over the next few months PhD student Ailbhe McKinney from the University of Edinburgh will work with Sinead Rhodes, Silvia Paracchini, Jo Van Herwegen, and Michelle Luciano to set research priorities and develop research questions using the generic James Lind Alliance themes.

The findings from this research priority-setting exercise will use input from researchers and feedback from stakeholders to develop research questions. The project will also allow network members to get to know each other a bit more, figure out who wants to work on what and to put in place connections for collaborations. The long-term goal is to use some of this work to apply for future funding.

The focus group will likely involve one brief meeting early in the summer and a short workshop in August or early September for which minimal preparatory work is anticipated. It will involve turning up on the day and sharing potential plans for research or views on what research is needed. The project will focus on dyslexia, dyscalculia, and dysgraphia and more details will follow. To get involved, please email Ailbhe, but anyone who has already reached out to Sinead Rhodes by email does not need to email again.



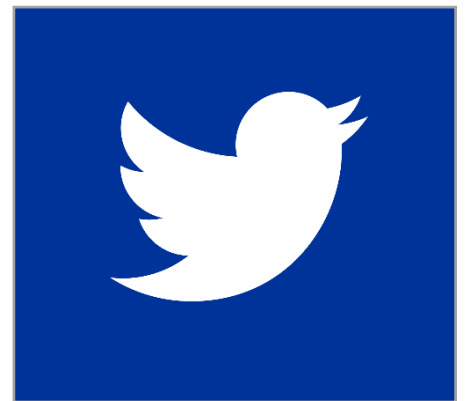


British Dyslexia Association Conference 2024 – contributions invited

In June 2024, SLDN co-lead Dr Silvia Paracchini will chair the [British Dyslexia Association international conference](#) in Surrey. The invitation for papers is already open and network stakeholders are encouraged to consider submitting abstracts for papers, or proposals for a symposium contribution for the meeting, whose theme is Dimensions of Dyslexia - Evidence and Practice. Submissions can be made via the [conference website](#) until 9 October..

Help spread the word about SLDN

Part of the remit of the SLD Network is to 'join the dots' between the various players, projects, practices and partners and so we ask that network participants share details of the network and the newsletter with colleagues and their own sector contacts in Scotland and beyond. We have recently set the network up with a Twitter account @SLDnetwork so please follow it and help build the momentum for Network work and activities.



#SLDnetwork

SHARE YOUR NEWS

WITH THE NETWORK

sldn@st-andrews.ac.uk
