



**Acquired
Brain Injury
Network**

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Conference Presentation Abstract ~ Podium Presentation

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Title:

Social Role Return Following Brain Injury: Sustaining Realistic Outcomes

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Summary:

Social role return following brain injury involves the individual and a complex network of relationships which include: family, friends, work life and community. Our social role is largely influenced by the value of a person which is created by society. Following brain injury, social role return is related to the effects of the disabilities on the person's ability to return to their pre-injury roles and functions and the response of others to the person and their disability. Our world of relationships produces additional factors which impact on social role reintegration. The disabilities caused by brain injury can affect many aspects of a person's ability to return to their pre-injury social roles. Following rehabilitation a person may return to their pre-injury roles within the family or require supports to function in those roles. They may experience greater difficulty in returning to social roles outside of their immediate family. Social isolation and exclusion may be caused by diverse factors related to the physical, cognitive and emotional domains as well as by difficulties in accessing the community and conducting life activities with independence.

Realistic, sustainable outcomes for social role return must include the multiple factors which are dynamic forces in the lives of individuals living with a brain injury. This presentation will draw upon long term data from the NRIO Outcome Study and other similar studies associated with sustaining social role re-entry. The presentation will include recommendations for enhancing social role return.

Outcomes/Objectives:

To identify the components of social role return and the potential barriers to effective social role reintegration

To review the issues of disability and aging as a convergent phenomena in social role reintegration

To study the impact of disparity and loss as factors in social role problems