



Professional Profile

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name	Alison Claire Smith Graduate Diploma Phys. MCSP.SRP	
Position	Director, Consultant and Lead Neurodevelopmental Physiotherapist for the NPP Paediatrics Clinical Lead for Paediatric Spasticity Management, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust	
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PROFILE

Alison is the director of the paediatric branch of NPP Neuro Group and works with children in their family home, nursery and schools/colleges, as well as in hydrotherapy and hippo-therapy environments. As an experienced expert, Alison holds a formidable reputation having produced integral evidence within medico legal cases involving substantial settlements. Defendant/Claimant split is approximately 35%/65% and Alison has performed numerous joint instructions

Alison qualified as a physiotherapist in 1990 and began to specialise in the field of Paediatrics in 1991. Her experiences of working within acute NHS hospitals has furnished her with experience in most paediatric therapeutic specialisms including acute and chronic respiratory care, acute and chronic trauma and orthopaedics including congenital musculoskeletal pathologies as well as acute and chronic neurological disorders.

Since 1994 Alison has worked in the field of neonatal medicine treating babies with extreme prematurity, extremely low birth weight, as well as those with congenital and neurological problems. Specifically, Alison has become an expert in treating term babies who have required therapeutic cooling as a result of neonatal anoxia. She works closely with these children until they reach school age when they graduate to the community setting.

Alison has primarily focused the last 10 years of her career on managing children with spasticity usually as a result of them having a diagnosis of Cerebral Palsy. Alison was co-founder of the highly regarded Paediatric Spasticity Management Service at UHB over 12 years ago. Her knowledge and skills in the assessment of children with spasticity and the use of focal spasticity agents (Botulinum Toxin Type A) have led her to become one of a small group of Neuro Physiotherapists that lead in the field of spasticity management.

Alison continues to work part time in the NHS and is responsible for delivering spasticity management services for the Trust as well as teaching and mentoring other therapists and medics from across the UK and Europe in the use of ultrasound guided injection techniques.

Until 2017 Alison was the Clinical Lead for all Paediatric Therapy Services for UHB NHS Foundation Trust and was responsible for the delivery of a high quality therapy service over four hospital sites. She managed a team of over 40 clinicians and undertook key teaching roles to under and postgraduate therapists and doctors. Alison relinquished this role after 25 years to focus on her clinical career.

Most of Alison's time is now spent working in the independent therapy sector. Here she provides assessment, recommendation and intervention to children with neurological disorders. She has a large case load of children who are case managed as part of medicolegal processes. Alison acts as an expert witness in tribunals (school placement, therapeutic requirements and Education & Health Care Plans) and in Court (quantum, safeguarding). She is proud to have received successful outcomes for all cases undertaken to date (upwards of 20 cases).

Alison is very proud to be part of the NPP Neuro Group and the development of the Paediatric branch. NPP Neuro Group is a collegium of independent companies providing the very best professional MDT rehabilitation in its widest context; including neuro & MSK physiotherapy, hydrotherapy, occupational therapy, speech and language, custom-made orthotics, and psychology (clients and relatives).

Alison was one of the first physiotherapists to undertake the MSc Module in "Neurotoxin injection therapy" at Coventry University. Alison now lectures at Coventry University, and teaches doctors, physiotherapists and allied health care professionals to inject with Botulinum Toxin-A in adult, adolescent and paediatric patients. Alison often speaks at UK and European conferences and runs regular teaching programmes, workshops and mentors other clinicians looking to acquire skills and set up their own services. We are at the forefront of clinical best practice which includes using ultrasound guided techniques. Alison has been injecting for nine years.

PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND MEMBERSHIPS

- Chartered Physiotherapist (MCSP) Certificate No: 50106
- HCPC Registered Certificate No: PH42373
- Member of the Association of Paediatric Chartered Physiotherapist membership number 104074
- Member of the British Association of Bobath trained therapists
- Member of the Neonatal Clinical Interest Group
- Member of the Medico Legal Association of Chartered Physiotherapists (MLACP)
- Member of the British Neurotoxin Association

EDUCATION

- Queen Elizabeth School of Physiotherapy, Birmingham University (Grad. Dip. Phys) 1987-1990
- Coventry University Masters Module Neurotoxin Injection Therapy 2010-2011

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- Lead Paediatric Neurodevelopmental Physiotherapist for the NPP Neuro Group 2011 to present day
- Consultant and Director of NPP Paediatrics 2015 to date
- 1990 – 1992 Junior (band 5) and subsequently senior II(band 6) Rotational Physiotherapist Central Birmingham Health Authority (General Hospital, Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Children's Hospital and Moseley Hall Young Rehabilitation Unit)
- 1991-1994 Senior 2 (band 6) Paediatric Physiotherapist (acute intensivist out of hours service), Birmingham Children's Hospital

- 1992 - 1997 Senior 1 (band 7) Paediatric Physiotherapist (service lead) , Heart of England Foundation Trust, Birmingham
- 1997 – 2017 Clinical Team Leader for Paediatric Therapies, University Hospitals Birmingham NHS Trust
- Current – Clinical Lead for Paediatric Spasticity Management and Consultant Lead for assessing Neonatal neurological outcomes

KEY DEVELOPMENTS

- Service Level Agreement with the Royal Orthopaedic Hospital, Birmingham, providing the Transition Clinic for Spasticity Management for Cerebral Palsy patients. This clinic now runs twice a month treating up to 56 patients/month.
- Provision of training for Ultrasound Guided Injections of Botulinum Toxin-A in adults with spasticity. Sponsored by three major drug companies and delivered regularly throughout each year.
- Toxins Nordic Congress September 2018 – delivering the keynote speech and running workshops on setting up and running a world class spasticity management service.
- Service Level agreement with the Dudley Hospitals Group to provide spasticity management interventions for children with Cerebral Palsy from 2 to 18 years.
- Member of expert panel for major drug company working towards paediatric licensing for neurotoxin use in paediatrics.
- Working in collaboration with Peter to produce an injection therapy manual for paediatric patients for a major drug company (due to be published summer 2019) Mentor for Medical Consultants, nurses and AHP's for the management of spasticity.
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OTHER RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL INFORMATION AND COURSES

- Enhanced DBS Clearance number 001608889961
- All NHS Mandatory training completed and up to date including adult and paediatric BLS and resuscitation, level 3 safeguarding
- Continuing Professional Development portfolio complete and up to date
- Qualified member of Bobath management of children with Cerebral Palsy – full paediatric course, advanced course and baby courses passed
- Completion of neonatal assessment and management of extreme prematurity (Lacey, Prechtel and Brazelton)
- Qualified in the Bayley III global developmental screening tool – used on determining the neurological outcome for extremely premature, extremely low birthweight and term hypoxic babies
- Used Bayley III tool, as part of an international study into the understanding of neurological outcome for babies with congenital CMV
- Qualified in the Ponseti management of congenital talipes equinovarus
- Qualified to use Ultrasound scanning techniques to assess and diagnose developmental hip dysplasia, then to execute conservative management (Graf 2008)
- Undertaken training and updates into the management of congenital anomalies such as Erb's palsy, torticollis, plaioccephaly and a broad spectrum of musculoskeletal anomalies
- Extensive experience, training and teaching in the field of chronic and acute respiratory illnesses (include intensive and high dependency care). Have spoken internationally at conferences on the topic of Cystic Fibrosis
- Qualified in the use of ultrasound guided injection techniques using Botulinum Toxin-A 2011
- Functional Electrical Stimulation (FES) Bilateral Stimulator Course: Birmingham Children's Hospital
- Qualified GMFCS assessor

KEY SKILLS

- Serial casting
- Dynamic thermoplastic splinting for trauma, spasticity or hypotonia and congenital abnormalities
- Constraint Induced Movement Therapy
- Functional Electrical Stimulation
- Hydrotherapy
- Hippo-therapy
- Rebound therapy
- Postural management of babies and children with complex needs
- Highly motivated, passionate and committed to enabling patients to achieve their full potential and have the very best quality of life
- Dedicated to supporting families whose child has complex needs, illness and /or learning disabilities