

REPORT ON RTA EEG SEMINAR

EDINBURGH, 5 and 6 OCTOBER 2007

**KATHERINE ALLEN, RTA AND WHIPLASH EEG GROUP SECRETARY/
PARTNER, IRWIN MITCHELL SOLICITORS**

The RTA and Whiplash EEG continued their tradition of annual Seminars on relevant topics with a Seminar in the beautiful Scottish city of Edinburgh.

The first day of the Seminar was held at the Signet Library in Parliament Square on Edinburgh's historic Royal Mile. The Signet Library was right next to the Scottish Supreme Court building and the Seminar coincided with a jury trial in relation to a personal injury claim, which a number of the Seminar delegates had the opportunity to go and view. This gave a lot of our European colleagues a chance to see a Scottish Jury Trial in action and was enjoyed immensely by those who went to witness it.

The Agenda for the Seminar was just as exciting and began with a lecture from Dr Scott Wiley, a Consultant Psychiatrist, who provided information on psychological injuries commonly sustained after involvement in road traffic accidents. Oskar Riedmeyer and Andrew Hajducki QC gave lectures on personal injury compensation from both the German and Scottish perspectives, including information on the thorny issue of compensation for psychological injuries in each jurisdiction. Mike Handy, a Road Traffic Accident Investigator, then discussed the importance of road traffic accident investigation reports in litigated cases, and gave some helpful advice as to evidence to look out for which may assist an expert in coming to a conclusion as to the cause of the accident, illustrated very cleverly with footage from previous road traffic accidents. Delegate and PEOPIL Board Member Bruno Paris then enlightened us as to how liability of drivers is approached in France before Matthew Avery from the Thatcham Institute demonstrated some of the research his Institute had done in relation to whiplash and in particular the development of a whiplash tool kit, available from 2010, which will enable insurers to evaluate the injury risk in given scenarios. This led to an interesting debate as to whether or not this would be used by insurers as a means of excluding claims for compensation on the basis that they did not meet the criteria established by the toolkit. Mr Avery assured the delegates that this was not the purpose of the toolkit. However, lawyers representing Claimants in road traffic accident claims will need to be alive to this possibility in the future.

The first day of lectures was rounded off very nicely with a Whisky tasting at the Scotch Malt Whisky Society which was kindly sponsored by Digby Brown and Lawford Kidd. Whisky was not the only thing on offer although many a wee dram was downed by the delegates and the

whisky was certainly free flowing. Thankfully the tasting was followed by a lovely meal which helped to alleviate any overindulgence of the Scottish tippie!

The second day began with a lecture by Professor David Rowley, Director of Education at the Royal College of Surgeons of Edinburgh, which gave a very helpful insight into orthopaedic injuries and how to understand them. The opportunity to view the magnificent surroundings of the Royal College could not be missed, and the Seminar concluded with a tour of the College which involved many of the delegates taking part in various role plays to illustrate the rather brutal surgical methods of days gone by!

Thanks to the excellent organisational skills of Wolfgang Resch and Angus Logan the Seminar was very well balanced and informative. The Seminar also brought the news that Oskar Riedmeyer, Chairman of the RTA and Whiplash EEG had been elected as the German member of the PEOPIIL Board and therefore could not continue as Chairman of our Group. Hanneke Comans-Diesfeldt was elected as his successor and all of the members wish Hanneke all the best in her future role. To Oskar, who has been a staunch member of the RTA and Whiplash EEG over the last five years and who has done a sterling job as Chairman, we pass on our thanks and our best wishes for his elevated role!!