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Edition IV



Thomas Gregor Issac

**Associate Professor,
Centre for Brain Research
IISc, India**



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Neuropsychological evaluation- Basic tenets

Abstract: The need for understanding brain functions has been explored since the beginning of civilization. However, there are certain methods which can tap into the various cognitive domains and bring out the deficits if any. This is extremely important as it gives an idea into the various designated functions of the brain structures but also gives real time insight into areas requiring cognitive rehabilitation. This task focuses on the role of Neuropsychological assessments as a gold standard in understanding cognitive deficits, provide a detailed neurocognitive domain based assessment and also the need for cognitive rehabilitation utilizing the plasticity properties of the Brain in various disorders especially neurodegenerative disorders. Cognitive remediation using feedback principles would form the crux of the talk along with some demonstration on how the cognitive tests are administered in real time.

Brief Bio: Dr. Thomas Gregor Issac is currently working as an Associate Professor at the Centre for Brain Research (CBR) at Indian Institute of Science (IISc) after his DM residency (Geriatric Psychiatry) at the prestigious National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) Bengaluru.

He has finished his M.B B. S training from M.O.S.C Medical College (Mahatma Gandhi University) Kerala from 2003-2009 and subsequently selected for Ph.D. in Clinical Neurosciences Programme under the ICMR MD-PhD Talent search programme which he pursued from August 2011 till July 2016. His PhD dissertation focused on the role of "Renin-Angiotensin-Aldosterone System in Cognitive deterioration in patients with cerebral small vessel disease" wherein he had looked into the genetic, cognitive and neuroimaging profiles on a cohort of more than 200 patients across the spectrum of vascular cognitive impairment. Subsequently he was selected into MD Psychiatry course at NIMHANS (from July 2016- June 2019) and trained as a Junior resident in the Dept. of Psychiatry. His MD dissertation involved looking into the "Role of APO E4 allele in vascular cognitive impairment". He also has cleared DNB in Psychiatry. After his post-graduation in psychiatry, he got selected for DM (Geriatric psychiatry) at NIMHANS, wherein he has finished Senior Residency. His DM dissertation focussed on the "Naturalistic follow-up study on older adults with unipolar major depression after in-patient care in a tertiary centre". He has > 50 Pubmed indexed publications