



Dr Jessica Kwok, Associate Professor in Neuroscience at the University of Leeds (United Kingdom). She is also the Chair of the Scientific Committee for NeuroSolv. She has strong connections with Europe, as demonstrated by her many collaborators in Europe and visiting scientist positions in France and Czech Republic. She completed her PhD in Biochemistry at the University of Hong Kong (Hong Kong), where she studied the roles of proteoglycans in neuro-regeneration. In 2005, she moved to the University of Cambridge (United Kingdom) and pursued her postdoctoral studies at the Centre for Brain Repair, Department of Clinical Neuroscience where she has worked for 9 years. She applied her biochemical knowledge on proteoglycans to study their functions in regulating development and adult neuroplasticity through an extracellular matrix structure called perineuronal nets (PNNs). Her work at Cambridge has helped consolidating the basic structural components of PNNs and provided information of how to modulate them for plasticity enhancement. Her work was supported under two EU programmes from Framework 7 and Framework 9, allowing her to strengthen collaborations with other EU countries. It was during this time she attended the first ISN meeting in Busan, South Korea (2009) from an ISN Travel Award. In 2012, she obtained a research fellowship from an international charity Wings for Life to develop small inhibitors for enhancing recovery after spinal cord injury. In 2015, she moved to the University of Leeds, first as a lecturer and then promoted to Associate Professor in 2019, where she continued the development of the small molecules and has since applied these to plasticity enhancement for spinal cord injury and memory improvement. Her passion in science has transpired in her teaching and supervision. She has been nominated for the Faculty's Best Supervisor every year since 2017 and been awarded twice. In addition, she is also active in contributing her enthusiasm in the development of the field. She sits on the advisory boards of the International Spinal Research Trust and the International Neurotrauma Society, and has organised multiple conferences in both the UK and Europe, including topic sessions in two ISN/ESN meetings (in Paris 2017 and Porto 2023).