

2025 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

CELEBRATING AN EMPOWERED BRAIN INJURY COMMUNITY

A CONFERENCE FOR SURVIVORS, CARE PARTNERS, AND PROFESSIONALS

JUNE 30-JULY 1, 2025

LANCASTER MARRIOTT AT PENN SQUARE LANCASTER COUNTY CONVENTION CENTER LANCASTER, PA

WELCOME TO THE 23rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE

OF THE BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF PENNSYLVANIA

Dear Attendees,

On behalf of the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania, our board of directors, and our conference committee, it is our great pleasure to welcome you to the 2025 Annual Conference, Celebrating an Empowered Brain Injury Community. Whether you are a survivor, care partner, professional, or advocate, your presence here strengthens the vibrant and resilient community we are proud to serve. Please take time to visit the exhibits from brain injury rehabilitation providers and Pennsylvania support agencies. Please also visit the poster presentations and meet their authors.

This year's conference promises two days of learning, networking and connecting with others. Along with a wide variety of workshops being offered during our two days together, we are thrilled to feature an outstanding lineup of a Keynote and Plenary speakers:

- Monday's Opening Keynote: *Jennifer Lynn Robinson, Esq.* will share her powerful journey in "Navigating Life After Brain Injury," offering insight and encouragement from her lived experience.
- Monday Plenary: *Dr. Thomas Watanabe and Dr. Rosalie Ellis* will explore the autonomic nervous system's role in post-TBI symptoms.
- **Tuesday Plenaries:** *Dr. Mary Daley, Dr. James Wilkes, and Roni Robinson, MSN, RN, CRNP-BC* will each bring their expertise to the forefront, addressing critical topics in brain injury care and recovery.

Continuing education units and contact hours have been approved for a wide variety of professional disciplines. We're also excited to offer **wellness sessions** that nourish both body and mind. Start your mornings with **Yoga led by Kelsey Palmer** and **Tai Chi with Alexander Landefeld**, designed to promote balance, relaxation, and healing.

The BIAPA Annual Meeting will be held after our Monday lunch and will provide a summary of our activities and advocacy, as well as an election of new officers and directors. Please join us and meet the dedicated team that supports the work of BIAPA. During this time, with our annual Awards Presentations, we'll honor and recognize individuals and organizations who demonstrate their commitment to the brain injury community.



A highlight of our community spirit is the beloved **Coffeehouse and Open Mic**, where survivors take the stage to share their poetry, music, and stories. This is more than a performance; it's a celebration of voice, creativity, and courage.

For our youngest community members and those who support them, Tuesday will offer specialized sessions focused on the unique challenges and triumphs of children and adolescents with brain injuries. We are proud to provide a space where pediatric professionals, families, caregivers, and advocates can learn and grow together.

On behalf of the Board of Directors, Association Staff, and the Conference Committee, we welcome you to YOUR BIAPA 23rd Annual Conference, **Celebrating an Empowered Brain Injury Community!** We're so glad you're here!

Thank you for joining us in Lancaster for this meaningful gathering. Together, we celebrate empowerment, resilience, and the shared journey toward further healing and hope.

Warm regards,

CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS

Stefanie Bauman & Madeline DiPasquale

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

Deborah Cerra-Tyl	Susie Pina
Becky Crambert	Sandra Powell
Sally Kneipp	Christine Schneider
Ann Marie McLaughlin	Kate Turner
Laura Miller	Meghan Walsh-Farrell
Drew Nagele	č

HAVE QUESTIONS OR NEED HELP? Contact Christine Schneider, Conference Coordinator, at 717.940.0976

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2025 SURVIVOR SCHOLARSHIP SPONSORS

Thank you to these individuals and organizations whose generous gifts have provided scholarships for brain injury survivors and caregivers to attend the 2025 BIAPA Conference.

Jessica Arnold, Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Mechanicsburg Stefanie Bauman Nora Blumberg Jamie & Marc Burick Carter4Life Company, in memory of Carter J. Huzinec Amy Casarella Madeline DiPasquale Duquesne University's Student Occupational Therapy Association Jean Hurd **Robin Joyce** Patricia L. Kautz, in honor of Jessica Kautz Dearddorff Jackie Lithgow Foundation Martin Lohr The McCann Family, in honor of care partners and caregivers who serve Ann Marie McLaughlin Timothy Muller Mary Mutschler, LLM Counseling and Psychotherapy Elizabethtown Elijah Olson Tracy Onyekanne Kathy Peter, in honor of Anne Sears Victoria Robinson Mary & Robin Schott Anne Sears, in memory of John Sears Noah Sideman Ashley Sosnowsky, Universal Institute Joan Steinberg, in honor of Andrew Steinberg Amy Stormer Amy Szalinski Padraig Tangney, Success Rehabilitation, Inc., in memory of David Morrison Kate Turner Monica Vaccaro Laura VanArsdale **Bradley Woodbury** * *Donations as of June 18, 2025*

CONFERENCE MAP







DAY & TIME	SESSION/PROGRAM			
MONDAY				
Monday, June 30, 2025 7:00 AM-9:00 AM	REGISTRATION BREAKFAST BUFFET EXHIBITS FREEDOM A POSTERS HERITAGE PREFUNCTION			
Monday, June 30, 2025 7:00 AM-7:45 AM	YOGA SESSION COMMONWEALTH 4 Kelsey Palmer, MS, CTRS, CBIS			
Monday, June 30, 2025 9:00 AM-10:15 AM	WELCOME AND OPENING KEYNOTE HERITAGE ABC "Navigating Life After Brain Injury" Jennifer Lynn Robinson, Esq			
Monday, June 30, 2025 10:15 AM-10:30 AM	BREAK EXHIBITS FREEDOM A POSTERS HERITAGE PREFUNCTION			
Monday, June 30, 2025 10:30 AM-11:30 AM	PLENARY HERITAGE ABC "Getting to the Heart of the Matter: The Autonomic Nervous System in PTSD, Dizziness and Other Symptoms After TBI" Thomas Watanabe, MD and Rosalie Ellis, DO			
Monday, June 30, 2025 11:30 AM-11:45 AM	BREAK EXHIBITS FREEDOM A POSTERS HERITAGE PREFUNCTION			
Monday, June 30, 2025 11:45 AM-12:45 PM	SESSION #1 HERITAGE ABC "Moving From Depression to Adjustment After Brain Injury" William Gardner, PhD and Rebecca Crambert, PhD			
	SESSION #2 COMMONWEALTH 1-3 "The Impact of a Peer Mentoring Program on the Mentor and Mentee in an Inpatient Rehabilitation Brain Injury Program" Catherine Pickard, MS, CCC/SLP and Katherine Turner, MS, CCC/SLP			
	SESSION #3 HERITAGE DE "Updates on Ethical Practices in 2025: Implications for TBI Rehabilitation" (PART I) Maximillian Shmidheiser, PsyD, ABPP-CN, MBE, CBIST			
	TAI CHI SESSION COMMONWEALTH 4 Alexander Landefeld			

DAY & TIME	SESSION/PROGRAM	
Monday, June 30, 2025	LUNCH BUFFET & EXHIBITS FREEDOM A	
12:45 PM-2:00 PM	POSTERS HERITAGE PREFUNCTION	
Monday, June 30, 2025 2:00 PM-3:00 PM	HERITAGE ABC Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania Annual Meeting & Special Awards	
	SESSION #4 HERITAGE ABC "Relax, Relate, Release—An Interdisciplinary Arts Wellness Workshop (Following Brain Injury)" Latrice Young, MFA	
Monday, June 30, 2025 3:15 PM-4:15 PM	SESSION #5 COMMONWEALTH 1-3 "Return to Work: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Successful Reintegration Following Brain Injury" Brian McDonald, DO; Paige Smith, MSS, LSW; Rebecca Carr, MS, OTR/L; and Julianna Tatum, MS, OTR/L	
	SESSION #6 HERITAGE DE "Updates on Ethical Practices in 2025: Implications for TBI Rehabilitation" (PART II) Maximillian Shmidheiser, PsyD, ABPP-CN, MBE, CBIST	
Monday, June 30, 2025 4:15 PM-4:30 PM	BREAK EXHIBITS FREEDOM A POSTERS HERITAGE PREFUNCTION	
Monday, June 30, 2025 4:30 PM-5:30 PM	SESSION #7 COMMONWEALTH 1-3 "Adaptive Gardening and Horticultural Therapy Interventions Following Brain Injury" Haley Smith, CTRS, CBIS	
	SESSION #8 HERITAGE ABC "COVID-19, Traumatic Brain Injury, and the Role of Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapy" Erica Ferraiolo-Shearn, MA, CCC/SLP and Alyssa Tarantino, MA, CCC/SLP, CBIS	
	SESSION #9 HERITAGE DE "Updates on Ethical Practices in 2025: Implications for TBI Rehabilitation" (PART III) Maximillian Shmidheiser, PsyD, ABPP-CN, MBE, CBIST	

DAY & TIME	SESSION/PROGRAM	
Monday, June 30, 2025 5:30 PM-6:30 PM	FREEDOM A DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION	
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Monday, June 30, 2025 7:00 PM-9:00 PM	COMMONWEALTH 4 COFFEEHOUSE WITH CRISTABELLE BRADEN	
	TUESDAY	
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	SESSION #10 HERITAGE ABC "Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapy (CRT): Developing Tools to Empower Individuals with TBI Throughout the Rehabilitation Process" Stefani Eichelberger, MSW, LCSW, CBIS, CESP and Krista Compas, BS, CBIS	
Tuesday, July 1, 2025 10:30 AM-11:30 AM	SESSION #11 COMMONWEALTH 1-3 "The Impact of Brain Injury on Siblings" Joshua Reinsburrow, MBA, BSN, BS, NREMT; Danelle Reinsburrow, MSW, LSW; and Lily Reinsburrow	
	SESSION #12 HERITAGE DE "Planning After Brain Injury: The Role of Special Needs Trusts" Christine Pontecorvo, LSW	
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DAY & TIME	SESSION/PROGRAM	
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Tuesday, July 1, 2025 12:45 PM-1:45 PM	SESSION #14 HERITAGE ABC "Empowered for the Future: Returning to Post-secondary Learning and Work After Brain Injury" (PART I) Madeline DiPasquale, PhD; Kaitlin Salvati, MS, CRC; Katie Daniels; Dennis DeSalme; David Berger; and Michael Wright	
	SESSION #15 HERITAGE DE "Deconstructing a Diagnosis of Abusive Head Trauma/Shaken Baby Syndrome: Parallels with Traumatic Brain Injury Evaluations" Lori Frasier, MD	
Tuesday, July 1, 2025 1:45 PM-2:00 PM	BREAK LAST OPPORTUNITY WITH EXHIBITORS AND POSTERS EXHIBITS FREEDOM A POSTERS HERITAGE PREFUNCTION	
Tuesday, July 1, 2025 2:00 PM-3:00 PM	SESSION #16 COMMONWEALTH 1-3 " Survivor Panel: Substance Abuse and Brain Injury—Seeking Resilience and Mastery One Day at a Time" Ann Marie McLaughlin, PhD	
	SESSION #17 HERITAGE ABC "Empowered for the Future: Returning to Post-secondary Learning and Work After Brain Injury" (PART II) Madeline DiPasquale, PhD; Kaitlin Salvati, MS, CRC; Katie Daniels; Dennis DeSalme;	
	David Berger; and Michael Wright SESSION #18 HERITAGE DE "A Journey Shared: A Mother and Daughter's Brain Injury Experience" Kelly Lang, BA and Olivia Lang	
Tuesday, July 1, 2025 3:00 PM-3:15 PM	BREAK	

DAY & TIME	SESSION/PROGRAM	
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	SESSION #20 COMMONWEALTH 1-3 "Empowering Parents of Children and Adolescents Living with Traumatic Brain Injury: Cognitive Strategies, Advocacy, and Support" Jean Miksch, EdS, NCSP and Meaghan Wright, BA, CBIST	
	SESSION #21 HERITAGE DE "A Multidisciplinary Team Approach to Concussion Management for College Students" Julie Kobak, MA, CCC/SLP	
	YOGA SESSION COMMONWEALTH 4 Kelsey Palmer, MS, CTRS, CBIS	
Tuesday, July 1, 2025 4:15 PM-4:30 PM	BREAK	
Tuesday, July 1, 2025 4:30 PM-5:30 PM	SESSION #22 HERITAGE ABC "Improving Cognition: Environmental Adaptations and Proactive Approaches for Cognitive Deficits after Traumatic Brain Injury" Thomas McCurnin, BS, CBIST; Kayla Joseph, MS, BS; and Amber Ramos	
	SESSION #23 COMMONWEALTH 1-3 "Thriving after Brain Injury: Mind-Body Strategies for Wellness" Mary Daley, MD, FAAP, CAQSM; James Wilkes, PhD, MEd, ATC; and Roni Robinson, MSN, RN, CRNP-BC	
	SESSION #24 MONTGOMERY HOUSE 2ND FLOOR—FOUNDERS ROOM "Family/Caregiver Support Group Gathering" Madeline DiPasquale, PhD	
	SESSION #25 HERITAGE DE "Fitness after Brain Injury: Tools to Create Momentum in Your Life" MJ Schmidt, MA, CBIST and Scott Dillman, MBA	

MONDAY

Monday, June 30, 2025: 7:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Freedom A & Heritage Prefunction REGISTRATION | BREAKFAST BUFFET | EXHIBITS | POSTERS

BREAKFAST SPONSORED BY



Monday, June 30, 2025: 7:00 AM – 7:45 AM | Commonwealth 4 YOGA SESSION Kelsey Palmer, MS, CTRS, CBIS

Monday, June 30, 2025: 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM | Heritage ABC WELCOME AND OPENING KEYNOTE

"Navigating Life After Brain Injury"

Speaker: Jennifer Lynn Robinson, Esq

The journey after a brain injury can be prolonged and often is not straightforward. However, it can be a significant opportunity for finding a new purpose in life. Jennifer will share her perspectives as a survivor and advice for other individuals who have experienced brain injury and for those who interact with them.

Monday, June 30, 2025: 10:15 AM – 10:30 AM | Freedom A & Heritage Prefunction BREAK | EXHIBITS | POSTERS

Monday, June 30, 2025: 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Heritage ABC PLENARY

"Getting to the Heart of the Matter: The Autonomic Nervous System in PTSD, Dizziness and Other Symptoms After TBI"

Speakers: Thomas Watanabe, MD and Rosalie Ellis, DO

There is increasing awareness of the role of the heart in many problems after mild to severe traumatic brain injury (TBI). The changes in cardiac control have been linked to numerous problems after TBI, including dizziness, headaches, PTSD, disrupted sleep, and cognitive difficulties. New research suggests that interventions aimed at restoring more normal heart rate control can decrease these problems. The goals of this presentation include a description of how TBI can affect control of heart rate, how this loss of control can lead to specific problems after TBI, and how these problems can be identified and treated.

Monday, June 30, 2025: 11:30 AM – 11:45 AM | *Freedom A & Heritage Prefunction* BREAK | EXHIBITS | POSTERS

MONDAY —

Monday, June 30, 2025: 11:45 AM – 12:45 PM | Heritage ABC SESSION #1

"Moving From Depression to Adjustment After Brain Injury"

Speakers: William Gardner, PhD and Rebecca Crambert, PhD

Depression is a common sequela of brain injury of any cause or severity. Depression following a brain injury may persist for years or even decades. In this presentation, various reasons why this occurs will be discussed, and clinical approaches will be described that can be used as part of one's own recovery or when providing services to this population. The presentation will be provided jointly by a neuropsychologist with extensive experience in assisting brain injury survivors to manage and reduce post-injury depression and by a traumatic brain injury survivor who will share her real-life experiences post injury and her long-term depression journey.

Monday, June 30, 2025: 11:45 AM – 12:45 PM | Commonwealth 1-3 SESSION #2

"The Impact of a Peer Mentoring Program on the Mentor and Mentee in an Inpatient Rehabilitation Brain Injury Program"

Speakers: Catherine Pickard, MS, CCC/SLP and Katherine Turner, MS, CCC/SLP

Peer mentoring is a one-on-one relationship where new survivors of brain injuries connect with fellow survivors who are further along in their recovery journey. This session will describe the structure of a successful peer mentor program in an inpatient rehabilitation facility, outline the training involved for mentors, and identify benefits for new survivors of brain injury, their caregivers, and the mentors.

Monday, June 30, 2025: 11:45 AM – 12:45 PM | Heritage DE SESSION #3

"Updates on Ethical Practices in 2025: Implications for TBI Rehabilitation" (PART I)

Speaker: Maximillian Shmidheiser, PsyD, ABPP-CN, MBE, CBIST

In their day-to-day work, clinicians have to make ethical decisions and help patients/clients think through their own ethical choices as well. This program will review recent scientific developments in the science of morality, such as Haidt's moral foundations theory, Greene's dual process theory and notions of moral tribes, relevant considerations from affective neuroscience, and other theories dealing with how people make moral evaluations. The audience will then consider how these thinking patterns can influence how clinicians (and our patients/clients) think through and resolve ethical issues. There will be a discussion of case vignettes and participant interaction.

Monday, June 30, 2025: 11:45 AM – 12:45 PM | Commonwealth 4

TAI CHI SESSION

Alexander Landefeld

MONDAY -

Monday, June 30, 2025: 12:45 PM - 2:00 PM | *Freedom A & Heritage Prefunction* LUNCH BUFFET | EXHIBITS | POSTERS

Monday, June 30, 2025: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM | Heritage ABC Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania Annual Meeting & Special Awards

Join us to review BIAPA's exciting programs and opportunities and help celebrate people receiving special recognition. BIAPA leadership will review this past year's accomplishments and our collective mission to foster a community of education, advocacy, services, supports and research to maximize the quality of life for those with brain injuries and their families.

Monday, June 30, 2025: 3:15 PM – 4:15 PM | Heritage ABC SESSION #4

"Relax, Relate, Release—An Interdisciplinary Arts Wellness Workshop (Following Brain Injury)" Speaker: Latrice Young, MFA

Attendees in this session (those with and without brain injuries) will be encouraged to relax, relate, and release. The workshop uses multiple art forms, games/activities, and storytelling to connect with oneself and others. There is a strong emphasis on individual and collective identity/narrative, restorative healing theatre, and community play. All are welcome to participate and no experience is necessary. Just come with an open mind, open heart, and willingness to participate as suits you.

SESSION #4 THE BAUMAN SPONSORED BY FAMILY

Monday, June 30, 2025: 3:15 PM – 4:15 PM | Commonwealth 1-3

SESSION #5

"Return to Work: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Successful Reintegration Following Brain Injury"

Speakers: Brian McDonald, DO; Paige Smith, MSS, LSW; Rebecca Carr, MS, OTR/L; and Julianna Tatum, MS, OTR/L

In this session, designed for rehabilitation professionals, the presenters will address some of the complexities of returning to work after a brain injury, even for some survivors with a mild traumatic brain injury. The critical roles of occupational and physical therapists, speech-language pathologists, case managers and physicians will be discussed. Collaborative, multidisciplinary strategies to facilitate successful work reentry will be described. Attendees will gain knowledge of work hardening programs, job-specific accommodations, and functional rehabilitation techniques. Case studies will illustrate best practices, emphasizing the importance of teamwork.

MONDAY

Monday, June 30, 2025: 3:15 PM – 4:15 PM | Heritage DE SESSION #6

"Updates on Ethical Practices in 2025: Implications for TBI Rehabilitation" (PART II) Speaker: Maximillian Shmidheiser, PsyD, ABPP-CN, MBE, CBIST

In their day-to-day work, clinicians have to make ethical decisions and help patients/clients think through their own ethical choices as well. This program will review recent scientific developments in the science of morality, such as Haidt's moralfoundations theory, Greene's dual process theory and notions of moral tribes, relevant considerations from affective neuroscience, and other theories dealing with how people make moral evaluations. The audience will then consider how these thinking patterns can influence how clinicians (and our patients/clients) think through and resolve ethical issues. There will be a discussion of case vignettes and participant interaction.

Monday, June 30, 2025: 4:15 PM – 4:30 PM | Freedom A & Heritage Prefunction BREAK | EXHIBITS | POSTERS

Monday, June 30, 2025: 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM | Commonwealth 1-3 SESSION #7

"Adaptive Gardening and Horticultural Therapy Interventions Following Brain Injury" Speaker: Haley Smith, CTRS, CBIS

This session will give participants the opportunity to learn about an inpatient rehabilitation facility's adaptive gardening program, adaptive gardening and horticultural therapy interventions, and adaptive gardening tools. They will have the opportunity to observe several demonstrations of how adaptive gardening can address a variety of post-injury challenges, such as reduced hand strength and function, cognitive impairments, and low self-esteem. These observations will provide helpful information for participants who may choose to create their own horticultural project. Safety interventions and adaptations to ensure optimal independence will be discussed. Leisure engagement will be emphasized to promote lifelong wellness despite injury or illness.

Monday, June 30, 2025: 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM | Heritage ABC SESSION #8

"COVID-19, Traumatic Brain Injury, and the Role of Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapy"

Speakers: Erica Ferraiolo-Shearn, MA, CCC/SLP and Alyssa Tarantino, MA, CCC/SLP, CBIS

This session will explore the role of cognitive rehabilitation therapy for individuals experiencing long COVID symptoms. We will examine how cognitive fatigue and linguistic changes may be exacerbated in those with mild traumatic brain injury/concussion following an infection. Led by speech-language pathologists, this session will equip clinicians and individuals affected by TBI and long COVID with practical strategies to enhance cognitive-linguistic skills. Evidence-based treatment protocols aimed at improving attention, memory, and word-finding skills will be summarized. Similarities between cognitive rehabilitation therapy for mild TBI and long COVID will be discussed, emphasizing their functional applications.

MONDAY

Monday, June 30, 2025: 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM | Heritage DE

SESSION #9

"Updates on Ethical Practices in 2025: Implications for TBI Rehabilitation" (PART III)

Speaker: Maximillian Shmidheiser, PsyD, ABPP-CN, MBE, CBIST

In their day-to-day work, clinicians have to make ethical decisions and help patients/clients think through their own ethical choices as well. This program will review recent scientific developments in the science of morality, such as Haidt's moral foundations theory, Greene's dual process theory and notions of moral tribes, relevant considerations from affective neuroscience, and other theories dealing with how people make moral evaluations. The audience will then consider how these thinking patterns can influence how clinicians (and our patients/clients) think through and resolve ethical issues. There will be a discussion of case vignettes and participant interaction.

Monday, June 30, 2025: 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM | Freedom A DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION

Enjoy a dinner buffet and annual Silent Auction benefitting the David L. Strauss Memorial Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships for conference attendees with brain injuries and their families or caregivers.

Monday, June 30, 2025: 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM | Freedom A DESSERT & SOCIAL HOUR

Network and enjoy dessert with conference attendees, sponsors and exhibitors.

Monday, June 30, 2025: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM | Commonwealth 4 COFFEEHOUSE WITH CRISTABELLE BRADEN

Following dinner there will be a performance and open mic night hosted by Cristabelle Braden, singer/songwriter, speaker, author, podcast host and TBI survivor/advocate. Cristabelle will share her musical talents with the audience while they enjoy coffee and refreshments. An open mic will enable attendees to share their poetry, music or stories with the audience.

COFFEEHOUSE SPONSORED BY



TUESDAY

Tuesday, July 1, 2025: 7:00 AM – 9:00 AM | Freedom A & Heritage Prefunction REGISTRATION | BREAKFAST BUFFET | EXHIBITS | POSTERS

Tuesday, July 1, 2025: 7:00 AM – 7:45 AM | Commonwealth 4 TAI CHI SESSION Alexander Landefeld

Tuesday, July 1, 2025: 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM | Heritage ABC WELCOME AND PLENARY

"Updates in Pediatric and Adolescent Concussion Evaluation and Management" Speakers: Mary Daley MD FAAP CAOSM: James Wilkes PhD, MEd, ATC: and Roni Robinson

Speakers: Mary Daley, MD, FAAP, CAQSM; James Wilkes, PhD, MEd, ATC; and Roni Robinson, MSN, RN, CRNP-BC

In this session, the presenters will discuss recent updates on the evaluation and management of pediatric and adolescent concussions. They will describe how a concussion diagnosis is made and then summarize the latest evidence-based research into how to manage a concussion as soon as a diagnosis has been made. Best practices for Return-to-Learn and Return-to-Play Plans will be reviewed, emphasizing practical strategies the audience can use in their daily practice.

Tuesday, July 1, 2025: 10:15 AM – 10:30 AM | Freedom A & Heritage Prefunction BREAK | EXHIBITS | POSTERS | CHECK OUT OF HOTEL BEFORE 12 NOON

Tuesday, July 1, 2025: 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Heritage ABC SESSION #10

"Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapy (CRT): Developing Tools to Empower Individuals with TBI Throughout the Rehabilitation Process"

Speakers: Stefani Eichelberger, MSW, LCSW, CBIS, CESP and Krista Compas, BS, CBIS

This session will explore how to improve cognitive skills that have been altered due to a brain injury and have presented challenges to daily living. An overview of CRT will be provided, including a discussion of CRT methods and strategies, and the settings where CRT may be applied. The presenters will address how to provide CRT throughout the rehabilitation process. They will also highlight approaches to setting short- and long-term goals and the importance of identifying realistic goals to empower individuals with brain injury to reach desired outcomes. Through case studies and discussion, conference attendees will feel empowered to use CRT techniques.

SESSION #10 SALLY KNEIPP, SPONSORED BY PhD, CRC

TUESDAY

Tuesday, July 1, 2025: 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Commonwealth 1-3 SESSION #11

"The Impact of Brain Injury on Siblings"

Speakers: Joshua Reinsburrow, MBA, BSN, BS, NREMT; Danelle Reinsburrow, MSW, LSW; and Lily Reinsburrow

Children are affected differently by trauma and may have unique reactions to the sudden change of circumstances that a traumatic brain injury of a sibling causes. Siblings of TBI survivors are at heightened risk of emotional and behavioral difficulties compared to their peers, throughout childhood and adolescence. Children may need additional support and services in the early days following a sibling's TBI, and in the long run. In this session, Joshua and Danelle Reinsburrow will discuss the impact on siblings overall, and their 12-year-old daughter, Lily, will share her experiences and insights over the last eight years following her older brother's severe traumatic brain injury.

Tuesday, July 1, 2025: 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Heritage DE SESSION #12

"Planning After Brain Injury: The Role of Special Needs Trusts"

Speaker: Christine Pontecorvo, LSW

In this session, you will learn what Special Needs Trusts (SNTs) are for, who they are for, and how they operate. This session will include information on strategies for planning a well-resourced and documented future, for yourself or your loved ones.

Tuesday, July 1, 2025: 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM | *Freedom A & Heritage Prefunction* LUNCH BUFFET | EXHIBITS | POSTERS

Tuesday, July 1, 2025: 12:45 PM - 1:45 PM | *Commonwealth 1-3* SESSION #13

"Music Therapy After Brain Injury: Empowerment Through Song and Reflection"

Speaker: Linda Marston-Burk, MT-BC, LPC

Following a brain injury, music therapy can be used effectively to enhance self-expression, cognitive abilities and socialization. Music therapy can involve a variety of experiences, such as listening to music, singing, and learning to play a musical instrument. Songs have been used throughout history to promote a sense of community and to empower individuals and/or groups to work toward a goal. In this session, a board-certified music therapist will engage the participants in sharing stories about songs, singing and discussing the lyrics of familiar songs, and identifying songs that are empowering. The presenter will also make suggestions for creating a personal playlist and playing music at home to reflect on goals and gain a sense of empowerment.

TUESDAY

Tuesday, July 1, 2025: 12:45 PM - 1:45 PM | Heritage ABC

SESSION #14

"Empowered for the Future: Returning to Post-secondary Learning and Work After Brain Injury" (PART I)

Speakers: Madeline DiPasquale, PhD; Kaitlin Salvati, MS, CRC; Katie Daniels; Dennis DeSalme; David Berger and Michael Wright

Persons with brain injury deserve to live a life with dignity, which may include a return to learning or to work. The cognitive and psychosocial skills required to pursue the goals of returning to post-secondary education or employment will be addressed in this session. Ideas for an emotional and cognitive tool kit will be discussed, in addition to reasonable accommodations for school and/or work and funding resources. Persons with lived experiences will share their stories, ideas, and strategies that helped them reach their goals.

Tuesday, July 1, 2025: 12:45 PM - 1:45 PM | Heritage DE SESSION #15

"Deconstructing a Diagnosis of Abusive Head Trauma/Shaken Baby Syndrome: Parallels with Traumatic Brain Injury Evaluations"

Speaker: Lori Frasier, MD

Abusive head trauma/shaken baby syndrome (AHT/SBS) is a form of traumatic brain injury (TBI) that can result in lifetime health consequences. This form of TBI occurs in the very youngest of our population; it can be the result of abusive acts such as shaking, shaking with impact, or even pure impact. The legal process can result in the separation of families or the incarceration of perpetrators. This presentation will discuss how a diagnosis of AHT/SBS is made and supported medically, and how it is often reported in the media and legal communities.

Tuesday, July 1, 2025: 1:45 PM - 2:00 PM | *Freedom A & Heritage Prefunction* BREAK | LAST OPPORTUNITY WITH EXHIBITORS AND POSTERS

TUESDAY —

Tuesday, July 1, 2025: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM | Commonwealth 1-3 SESSION #16

"Survivor Panel: Substance Abuse and Brain Injury—Seeking Resilience and Mastery One Day at a Time"

Speaker: Ann Marie McLaughlin, PhD

Research indicates that 44% to 79% of individuals who have a TBI have a history of alcohol abuse, and 21% to 37% have a history of drug abuse (Taylor, Kreutzer, Demm & Meade, 2003). Pre-injury or post-injury history of substance abuse can contribute to negative rehabilitation outcomes, including unemployment, damaged relationships, and health issues. This panel will describe variables that can impact recovery and the factors that will contribute to positive outcomes. Brain injury survivors who are able to make a commitment to sobriety can become empowered and reset their rehabilitation pathway toward emotional, social, and vocational goals. Complications caused by medical marijuana will also be discussed. Interventions that have supported success will be reviewed, including the use of the stages of change model, medication-assisted treatment, and fellowship support and sponsorship.

Tuesday, July 1, 2025: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM | Heritage ABC SESSION #17

"Empowered for the Future: Returning to Post-secondary Learning and Work After Brain Injury" (PART II)

Speakers: Madeline DiPasquale, PhD; Kaitlin Salvati, MS, CRC; Katie Daniels; Dennis DeSalme; David Berger; and Michael Wright

Persons with brain injury deserve to live a life with dignity, which may include a return to learning or to work. The cognitive and psychosocial skills required to pursue the goals of returning to post-secondary education or employment will be addressed in this session. Ideas for an emotional and cognitive tool kit will be discussed, in addition to reasonable accommodations for school and/or work and funding resources. Persons with lived experiences will share their stories, ideas, and strategies that helped them reach their goals.

Tuesday, July 1, 2025: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM | Heritage DE SESSION #18

"A Journey Shared: A Mother and Daughter's Brain Injury Experience"

Speaker: Kelly Lang, BA and Olivia Lang

This presentation chronicles the shared journey of a mother and daughter who both sustained brain injuries in a car accident. They will describe the initial impact of the injuries, the challenges of recovery, and the profound effect on family dynamics. They will discuss shared challenges, including cognitive impairments and emotional difficulties, while highlighting the resilience and adaptability demonstrated by both individuals. Finally, they will share how this experience has led to a renewed sense of purpose, including advocacy for brain injury survivors and a commitment to making a positive contribution to the community.

TUESDAY

Tuesday, July 1, 2025: 3:00 PM - 3:15 PM BREAK

Tuesday, July 1, 2025: 3:15 PM - 4:15 PM | Heritage ABC SESSION #19

"Maximizing Communication by Preventing or Repairing Communication Breakdowns After Brain Injury"

Speaker: Roberta Brooks, MA, CCC/SLP, CBIS

This presentation will focus on the functions of communication in our lives and the roles each of us plays during interactions. Communication breakdowns can occur for various reasons, and they may be more frequent and diverse among individuals living with brain injuries. We will explore how communication can be disrupted and discuss strategies to prevent or repair the breakdowns.

Tuesday, July 1, 2025: 3:15 PM - 4:15 PM | Commonwealth 1-3 SESSION #20

"Empowering Parents of Children and Adolescents Living with Traumatic Brain Injury: Cognitive Strategies, Advocacy, and Support"

Speakers: Jean Miksch, EdS, NCSP and Meaghan Wright, BA, CBIST

Brain injuries that occur during childhood and adolescence can result in significant negative impacts because the brain is developing during that period. The individuals and their parents often face barriers to accessing supports because the resources are not well known; they may struggle to obtain services and supports needed for recovery. These issues will be addressed in this session and specific resources in Pennsylvania will be described.

Tuesday, July 1, 2025: 3:15 PM - 4:15 PM | Heritage DE SESSION #21

"A Multidisciplinary Team Approach to Concussion Management for College Students" Speakers: Julie Kobak, MA, CCC/SLP

In this session, presenters will describe the multidisciplinary approach implemented by The Thiel College Concussion Management Team, which enables the safe and successful return of students with concussions to athletic and academic activities. The presentation will include details on three key initiatives of this team: research conducted to understand perceptions and knowledge surrounding concussions; evidence-based educational activities; and awareness campaigns led by Concussion Awareness Now. Additionally, it will cover ongoing cooperative efforts to manage Return-to-Play and Return-to-Learn guidelines as defined by the NCAA. Examples of practical strategies for addressing barriers and challenges all stakeholders face will also be discussed. Attendees will leave with ideas and resources that can be implemented or adapted across various educational settings.

TUESDAY -

Tuesday, July 1, 2025: 3:15 PM - 4:15 PM | *Commonwealth 4* YOGA SESSION Kelsey Palmer, MS, CTRS, CBIS

Tuesday, July 1, 2025: 4:15 PM - 4:30 PM BREAK

Tuesday, July 1, 2025: 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM | *Heritage ABC* SESSION #22

"Improving Cognition: Environmental Adaptations and Proactive Approaches for Cognitive Deficits after Traumatic Brain Injury"

Speakers: Thomas McCurnin, BS, CBIST; Kayla Joseph, MS, BS; and Amber Ramos

Deficits in cognition can greatly impact an individual's ability to reintegrate into everyday life. This presentation will identify seven specific cognitive domains: attention, concentration, processing and understanding information, reasoning, decision-making, problem-solving, and impulse control. The presenters will discuss common functional challenges due to these cognitive deficits, and the environmental adjustments and proactive practices that will assist individuals to implement compensatory strategies following traumatic brain injury.

SESSION #22 SPONSORED BY



Tuesday, July 1, 2025: 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM | Commonwealth 1-3 SESSION #23

"Thriving after Brain Injury: Mind-Body Strategies for Wellness"

Speakers: Mary Daley, MD, FAAP, CAQSM; James Wilkes, PhD, MEd, ATC; and Roni Robinson, MSN, RN, CRNP-BC

It is well known that traumatic brain injury (TBI) has a significant impact on one's quality of life overall and can lead to difficulties in physical, cognitive, and emotional functioning. These difficulties also have a considerable impact on the lives of family members and caregivers of the patient/client. Although much attention is focused on healing the physical and cognitive sequelae of TBI, less attention is often spent on the emotional effects of TBI. In this session, the presenters will provide an overview of the connection between physical and emotional health following TBI; how to address, with the health care team, issues related to emotional functioning; and how to access resources for additional emotional support. Several concrete strategies will be discussed that people can use in their daily lives to support their emotional health and overall well-being.

TUESDAY

Tuesday, July 1, 2025: 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM | Montgomery House 2nd Floor—Founders Room SESSION #24

"Family/Caregiver Support Group Gathering" Speaker: Madeline DiPasquale, PhD

Tuesday, July 1, 2025: 4:30 PM - 5:30 PM | Heritage DE SESSION #25

"Fitness after Brain Injury: Tools to Create Momentum in Your Life"

Speakers: MJ Schmidt, MA, CBIST and Scott Dillman, MBA

This presentation will offer the why and the how of exercise and fitness after brain injury. The presenters will discuss how exercise improves physical health, cognition, and emotional well-being. The concepts of behavioral activation and SMART goals will be shared, as will practical tools to improve the likelihood of making progress on fitness goals. These include fitness trackers, apps, fitness classes, adapted sports, and community-based supports. Ultimately, the presenters will explain how pursuing a fitness goal can enhance confidence, foster community connections, and create lasting momentum in people's lives.

EXHIBITORS

Acadia NeuroRehab

A Division of Success Rehabilitation, Inc. 1813 Olde Homestead Lane, Suite 105 Lancaster, PA 17601 Sheree Cessna 717-394-3466 scessna@successrehab.com successrehab.com/acadianeurorehab

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200 Stevens Drive Suite 100 Philadelphia, PA 19113 Nguyen Nguyen 717-919-0331 nnguyen1@amerihealthcaritas.com amerihealthcaritasshc.com

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BIOOKIIaven Hospital

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Disability Rights Pennsylvania

1800 John F. Kennedy Blvd., Suite 900 Philadelphia, PA 19103 Sherrie Shade INTAKE (800) 692-7443 sshade@disabilityrightspa.org disabilityrightspa.org

Fighting Back Scholarship Program

P.O. Box 141 Malvern, PA 19355 MJ Schmidt mj@fightingbacksp.org 215-672-2799 fightingbacksp.org

GSPP Rehabilitation Official Therapy Provider for Penn Medicine

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Home Instead

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Hope Survives

P.O. Box 254 Center Valley, PA 18034 Cristabelle Braden hi@hopesurvives.org hopesurvives.org

Jackie Lithgow Foundation

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Jefferson Moss-Magee Rehabilitation Hospital-Elkins Park

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Pennsylvania Brain Injury Coalition

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Rehab Without Walls® Pennsylvania Home & Community Services

610 Freedom Business Center Drive, Suite 100 King of Prussia, PA 19406 Michele Pierry 484-224-7913 michele.pierry@rehabwithoutwalls. com

ReMed, A Collage Rehabilitation Partner

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Success Rehabilitation, Inc.

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Synapse TBI Retreats

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Tri-State Advocacy Project

345 Beverly Drive Collegeville, PA 19426 Cynthia Clark 877-774-6380 tsap4u@gmail.com tristateadvocacy.com

Universal Rehabilitation and Fitness Institute, Inc.

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WellSpan Surgery and Rehabilitation Hospital WellSpan Neurosciences

55 Monument Road York, PA 17403 Lauren Ruth 717-812-6475 Iruth2@wellspan.org wellspan.org

POSTER PRESENTATIONS

Benefits of Alternative Therapies for Veterans After Traumatic Brain Injury

Maggie Kleber, MS, CBIS Katy Axtell, CBIS April Petit, CBIS Rachel Francis, OTR/L, CBIS Mike Tobias, CBIS

Educating High-Risk Individuals on Fall Prevention Strategies

Megan Crawford, PT, DPT, NCS, CBIS Tessa Golder, COTA/L, CBIS, c/LSVT

Empowering Individuals through Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapy (CRT) in One's Own Home and Community

Julie Schlauch, MA, LPC, CBIS, CESP

Empowering Minds: Meditation and Mindfulness After Brain Injury Ashley McDowell-Boarman, MS, CBIS

Impact of an Interoception-Based Intervention on Self-Regulation and Executive Functioning in Adults with Mild Traumatic Brain Injuries (mTBIs)

Meghan Chemidlin, OTD, OTR/L

Improving Walking Ability in Children and Adolescents After Moderate to Severe Traumatic Brain Injury: A Systematic Review

Daniel Jordan, SPT Samuelle Mierley, SPT Leo Radziwon, SPT Robin Joyce, PT, DPT, NCS Jamie Chichy, PT, DPT, DEd

Making Time for Leisure Activities after a Brain Injury

Laura VanArsdale, PT, DPT, NCS, CBIS Katrina Pidstawski, BS, CTRS Samantha Weinstein, MS, OTR/L Daniel Nunnemaker, COTA/L

The Intersection of Traumatic Brain Injury, Bipolar Disorder, and the Elderly Population: Clinical Considerations and Neuropsychological Implications

Kristen Smith, PsyD, MEd

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Structured Day Services Information and Referrals Bridget Lowery, MS, CBIST

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MISSION

The Mission of the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania is to prevent brain injuries and to foster an inclusive community of education, advocacy, supports, and research to maximize the quality of life for those with brain injuries and their families.

An affiliate of the Brain Injury Association of America, BIAPA is directed by a group of committed volunteers and a staff of part-time professionals.

VISION

The Vision of the Brain Injury Association is a world in which all people with brain injuries and their supporters are leading fulfilling lives and are empowered to participate in their communities.

DIVERSITY STATEMENT

To promote an inclusive community, the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania commits to an atmosphere that includes and fully utilizes the talents of individuals with diverse backgrounds including those from historically underrepresented groups including; abilities, gender, age, race, color, national origin, religious preference, or other beliefs, language, disabilities, sexual orientation, marital, family or military statuses, education, social-economic status, background, and culture. The Brain Injury Association recognizes the benefits of a diverse workforce and serving the needs of a diverse community.

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