



## CONFERENCE REGISTRATION PACKET

BRAIN INJURY REHABILITATION ACROSS THE LIFESPAN: ACHIEVING OUTCOMES AND STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY

An Annual Conference for Survivors, Caregivers, and Professionals

JUNE 22-23, 2026

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

# CONFERENCE INFORMATION

The Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania's 2026 Annual Conference will be held in person on Monday, June 22 through Tuesday, June 23, 2026 at the Lancaster Marriott & Lancaster County Convention Center in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

This year's annual conference theme is "Brain Injury Rehabilitation Across the Lifespan: Achieving Outcomes and Strengthening Community."

The conference brings together survivors, families, caregivers, professionals, students, and volunteers from across Pennsylvania and beyond. For more than two decades, this gathering has welcomed over 300 participants each year and is nationally recognized for its inclusive programming, opportunities to share knowledge, and lasting connections.

Highlights of the 2026 Annual Conference include:

- CEU and continuing education opportunities for professionals
- Exhibits and poster presentations featuring research and resources
- Networking and social opportunities to connect with peers and colleagues
- Silent Auction benefiting the David L. Strauss Memorial Scholarships Fund
- Coffee House & Open Mic, where attendees share poetry, music, and stories

## KEYNOTE AND PLENARY SPEAKERS



Tracy Onyekanne, BA  
**MONDAY OPENING KEYNOTE**



William Gardner, PhD, CBIS  
**MONDAY PLENARY**



Todd Lewis, PhD  
**MONDAY PLENARY**



James Wilkes, PhD, MEd, ATC, LAT  
**TUESDAY PLENARY**



Kimberly Graham, BSN, MS, RN  
**TUESDAY PLENARY**

# CONFERENCE INFORMATION

## LANCASTER MARRIOTT & CONVENTION CENTER OVERNIGHT ACCOMMODATIONS

The conference will be held at the Lancaster Marriott and Lancaster County Convention Center at Penn Square in the heart of Lancaster City.

Reservations can be made by calling 717-239-1600 or registering online. The special conference rate of \$175 per night can be obtained by requesting Brain Injury Association's room rate by 5:00 PM on Friday, May 29, 2026. Rooms are available on a first-come, first-served basis. [Reserve your room.](#)

## REGISTRATION INFORMATION THREE WAYS TO REGISTER

1. [Click here](#) to register online.
2. Mail the enclosed registration form to:  
Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania  
947 Wayne Avenue, No. 110, Chambersburg, PA 17201
3. Fax the form to: 1-833-242-7248



SCAN QR CODE TO MAKE  
HOTEL RESERVATION

## SCHOLARSHIP INFORMATION

Financial assistance may be available to cover one-day or two-day conference registrations for brain injury survivors and their families, through the David L. Strauss Memorial Scholarship Fund. This fund honors the legacy of the late David L. Strauss, PhD, one of BIAPA's founders and a clinical neuropsychologist who was dedicated to improving the lives of individuals who had experienced brain injury and to providing education and support for their families.

Complete the [scholarship application form](#) and submit it by **April 20, 2026** for consideration. Contact [schneider@biapa.org](mailto:schneider@biapa.org) or 833-242-7248 for more information.

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## MONDAY

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**Monday, June 22, 2026: 7:00 AM – 9:00 AM | *Freedom A & Heritage Prefunction***

**REGISTRATION | BREAKFAST BUFFET | EXHIBITS** *Freedom A (1st floor)*

**SILENT AUCTION | POSTERS** *Heritage Prefunction (3rd floor)*

**Monday, June 22, 2026: 7:00 AM – 7:45 AM | *Commonwealth 4 (2nd floor)***

**ADAPTIVE CHAIR YOGA** *all levels and abilities welcome*

Kelsey Palmer, MS, CTRS, CBIS

**Monday, June 22, 2026: 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM | *Heritage ABC (3rd floor)***

**WELCOME AND OPENING KEYNOTE**

**“From Pain to Purpose: The Art of Storytelling After Brain Injury”**

Speaker: Tracy Onyekanne, BA

Every brain injury survivor carries a story shaped by pain, perseverance, and purpose. In this keynote session, Tracy Onyekanne, Emmy Award-winning television host, author, brain injury survivor, and BIAPA Vice President, teaches the art of storytelling as a pathway to healing and advocacy. Through simple frameworks, guided reflection, and creative exercises, participants will learn how to share their stories with authenticity and confidence. Whether you are speaking to one person or a full audience, you will discover how your story can educate, inspire, and create lasting impact.

**Monday, June 22, 2026: 10:15 AM – 10:30 AM | *Freedom A & Heritage Prefunction***

**BREAK | EXHIBITS** *Freedom A (1st floor)*

**POSTERS** *Heritage Prefunction (3rd floor)*

**Monday, June 22, 2026: 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | *Heritage ABC (3rd floor)***

**PLENARY**

**“Assessment and Interventions for Neurobehavioral Sequelae Following Traumatic Brain Injury”**

Speakers: William Gardner, PhD, CBIS and Todd Lewis, PhD

This plenary session explores assessment and intervention strategies for neurobehavioral sequelae following traumatic brain injury. It highlights common cognitive, emotional, and behavioral changes post-injury, including impulsivity, mood disturbances, and executive dysfunction. Participants will learn ways to evaluate these symptoms using standardized tools and clinical assessments.

# 2 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## MONDAY

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**Monday, June 22, 2026: 11:30 AM – 11:45 AM | *Freedom A & Heritage Prefunction***

**BREAK | EXHIBITS** *Freedom A (1st floor)*

**POSTERS** *Heritage Prefunction (3rd floor)*

**Monday, June 22, 2026: 11:45 AM – 12:45 PM | *Heritage ABC (3rd floor)***

### **SESSION #1**

#### **“The Empowerment of Peer Connections Among Adult Brain Injury Survivors Living in the Community” (PART I)**

Speakers: Rebecca Crambert, PhD, and panelists

After discharge from formal rehabilitative care, many adult brain injury survivors need to navigate the lifetime effects of their injury on their own. In this presentation, persons with lived experience will discuss some of the social losses after a brain injury and the power of connections with other survivors. Organic peer connections offer ongoing, real-time support, positive reinforcement, and skill development. The presenters met at a retreat and will share how the natural development of their connections has enhanced their recovery journey.

**Monday, June 22, 2026: 11:45 AM – 12:45 PM | *Commonwealth 1-3 (2nd floor)***

### **SESSION #2**

#### **“Connections Online: Expanding Access and Community for Brain Injury Survivors and Caregivers”**

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

In recent years, online programs have transformed how brain injury survivors and caregivers connect, learn, and heal. This session explores a range of innovative virtual supports that promote recovery, wellness, and social connection, regardless of where participants live. Programs highlighted include virtual support groups and educational classes, including ReDiscoverU, the Strive fitness accountability program, and Love Your Brain Yoga. The session will share lessons learned from creating and sustaining online communities that address barriers to access, promote peer support, and foster resilience. The discussion includes practical strategies for engagement, technology use, and sustained participation. Attendees will leave with connections to potential resources and replicable ideas for building or expanding online brain injury programming within their own organizations.

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## MONDAY

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*Monday, June 22, 2026: 11:45 AM – 12:45 PM | [Heritage DE \(3rd floor\)](#)*

### SESSION #3

#### **“Relax, Relate, Release: Choreopoetry and Brain Injury Playful Connections”**

Speaker: Latrice Young, MFA

This interactive workshop reintroduces choreopoetry, a blend of poetry, movement, music, and storytelling, as a creative tool for healing across the lifespan. Designed for brain injury survivors, caregivers, and professionals, this session invites participants to co-create a mini choreopoem that fosters emotional expression, self-awareness, and community connections. Grounded in expressive arts therapy and Augusto Boal’s “spect-actor” model, this session emphasizes participation, play, and reflection. Attendees will leave with a flexible, no-experience-necessary practice they can use to support recovery, strengthen relationships, and promote wellness, whether in clinical settings, community programs, or personal healing journeys.

*Monday, June 22, 2026: 12:45 PM - 2:00 PM | [Freedom A & Heritage Prefunction & Founders Room](#)*

**LUNCH BUFFET | EXHIBITS**     *Freedom A (1st floor)*

**POSTERS**     *Heritage Prefunction (3rd floor)*

**CAREGIVER GATHERING**     *Founders Room (Montgomery House)*

*Monday, June 22, 2026: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM | [Heritage ABC \(3rd floor\)](#)*

### SESSION #4

#### **“Brain Injury Challenges and Achievements Across the Lifespan” (Survivor Panel)**

Speakers: Ann Marie McLaughlin, PhD and Laura Miller, PsyD

Brain injury is increasingly understood as a chronic condition, with symptoms and challenges that may improve or change across the lifespan. During this survivor panel, individuals who have sustained a brain injury will discuss their injuries, as well as their recovery processes and achievements over time. The panel will highlight the impact of developmental stage, injury severity, access to resources, family and community support, and neuropsychiatric factors on quality of life. Special issues related to awareness-building and structured activity patterns will also be discussed. Audience members are invited to share their perspectives during this interactive session.

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## MONDAY

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**Monday, June 22, 2026: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM | [Commonwealth 1-3 \(2nd floor\)](#)**

### SESSION #5

**“Brain Injury Recovery: Building the Bridge from Acute Rehabilitation to Long-Term Living”**

Speakers: Travis Slopek, MS, LPC, CRC, PCHA and Amote Garvin, BA, CBIS

What happens when active therapy ends after a brain injury? This session addresses the critical transition from short-term rehabilitation to a sustainable long-term life. Participants will gain a practical roadmap for navigating what comes next. The session explores how to build structured activity plans, master compensatory strategies, and manage long-term medical needs. It also examines diverse funding streams and community resources, including OVR, job training programs, and enrichment opportunities such as volunteering and community engagement. This session is valuable for clients and families, with a focus on education and adjustment for the journey ahead.

**Monday, June 22, 2026: 2:00 PM – 3:00 PM | [Heritage DE \(3rd floor\)](#)**

### SESSION #6

**“Using Virtual Reality and Other Technologies to Understand Driving After Brain Injury”**

Speaker: Maria Schultheis, PhD

Returning to driving is an important goal for many individuals who have experienced a brain injury. Yet, the majority do not receive a formal driver assessment, and there are only a limited number of follow-up studies. As a result, little is known about how driving changes after a brain injury. This session will present findings from a series of studies that examined return to driving using virtual reality simulation and in-vehicle video recording to better understand the driving behaviors of individuals with and without brain injury during real-world, on-road driving. These findings help inform driver assessment and rehabilitation practices.

**Monday, June 22, 2026: 3:15 PM - 4:15 PM | [Heritage ABC \(3rd floor\)](#)**

### BIAPA Overview & Presentation of 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 22, 2026: 4:15 PM – 4:30 PM | [Freedom A & Heritage Prefunction](#)**

**BREAK | EXHIBITS** [Freedom A \(1st floor\)](#)

**POSTERS** [Heritage Prefunction \(3rd floor\)](#)

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## MONDAY

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*Monday, June 22, 2026: 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM | [Heritage ABC \(3rd floor\)](#)*

### SESSION #7

#### **“An Interoception-Based Intervention: Supporting Self-Regulation in Adults with Concussion”**

Speaker: Meghan Schneider, MS, OTR/L, CBIS, CFVRS

Concussions, or mild traumatic brain injuries (mTBIs), can lead to persistent challenges in self-regulation, affecting an individual's ability to manage emotions, behaviors, and physiological responses to daily demands. These disruptions often impact cognition, mood, sleep, and overall functional performance, creating significant barriers to recovery. Interoception is the sense that allows individuals to perceive and interpret internal bodily signals, such as fatigue, hunger, or tension, and it plays a critical role in supporting self-regulation. Enhancing interoceptive awareness may provide a pathway for improving self-regulation skills in adults with post-concussion syndrome. In this session, participants will learn how interoception-based approaches can be used to support self-regulation and recovery in adults with post-concussion syndrome.

*Monday, June 22, 2026: 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM | [Commonwealth 1-3 \(2nd floor\)](#)*

### SESSION #8

#### **“From Fragmentation to Integration: The AAA Model and Role Theory in TBI Recovery”**

Speakers: Colleen Baratka, MA, TEP, CTP-3 and Deborah Karner, MSS, LCSW, TEP

Mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI) and psychological trauma often cause identity fragmentation and role disruption across family, work, and care systems. This workshop offers TBI clinicians an integrative framework using Moreno's Role Theory and the AAA Model of Recovery (Aware, Accept, Adapt) to guide trauma-informed, experiential interventions. Participants will examine how role loss and systemic strain impact post-injury functioning and will explore action-based methods that foster insight, catharsis, and adaptive role training. Neuropsychological and psychodramatic principles are interwoven to enhance clinical understanding and support holistic, brain-informed recovery planning for individuals and families navigating the aftermath of TBI.

*Monday, June 22, 2026: 4:30 PM – 5:30 PM | [Heritage DE \(3rd floor\)](#)*

### SESSION #9

#### **“Making Connections: Peer-to-Peer Relationships After Brain Injury” (PART II)**

Speakers: Rebecca Crambert, PhD, and panelists

In an active effort to address the isolation that adult brain injury survivors living in the community frequently experience, this roundtable presentation will focus on common interests among the survivors in attendance and ways to make connections. The discussants will include traumatic and acquired brain injury survivors and professionals who will share their personal and clinical perspectives. The discussion will highlight ways to expand interests and connections after brain injury. There will be a discussion of case vignettes and participant interaction.

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## MONDAY

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**Monday, June 22, 2026: 5:30 PM – 6:30 PM | *Freedom A (1st floor)***

### DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION

Enjoy a dinner buffet and annual Silent Auction benefitting the David L. Strauss Memorial Scholarship Fund, which provides scholarships for eligible conference attendees with brain injuries and their families or caregivers. For more information on how you can donate a silent auction or raffle item, [view the donation form](#).

**Monday, June 22, 2026: 6:30 PM – 7:30 PM | *Freedom A (1st floor)***

### DESSERT & SOCIAL HOUR

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

**Monday, June 22, 2026: 7:00 PM – 9:00 PM | *Commonwealth 4 (2nd floor)***

### 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.

## TUESDAY

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**Tuesday, June 23, 2026: 7:00 AM – 9:00 AM | *Freedom A (1st floor)***

### REGISTRATION | BREAKFAST BUFFET | EXHIBITS

**Tuesday, June 23, 2026: 7:00 AM – 7:45 AM | *Commonwealth 4 (2nd floor)***

### TAI CHI

Alexander Landefeld

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## TUESDAY

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*Tuesday, June 23, 2026: 9:00 AM – 10:15 AM | [Heritage ABC \(3rd floor\)](#)*

### WELCOME & PLENARY

**“Sleep and Traumatic Brain Injury Across the Lifespan: The Importance of Sleep for Prevention, Recovery, and Long-term Rehabilitation”**

Speaker: James Wilkes, PhD, MEd, ATC, LAT

This plenary session provides a foundation for understanding sleep from a biological perspective, translating scientific findings into tangible actions for providers, caregivers, and survivors. Dr. Wilkes will address differences in baseline sleep needs across age groups and how traumatic brain injury intersects with developmental changes across the lifespan. He will also describe how sleep health is essential to injury prevention, immediate prognosis and treatment, and long-term strategies to enhance outcomes. The strategies discussed are applicable to providers and caregivers, as well.

*Tuesday, June 23, 2026: 10:15 AM – 10:30 AM | [Freedom A \(1st floor\)](#)*

### BREAK | EXHIBITS

*Tuesday, June 23, 2026: 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | [Heritage ABC \(3rd floor\)](#)*

### SESSION #10

**“Phishing, Fraud, and Beyond: Care Teams and Survivors Navigating the Digital Landscape”**

Speakers: Laura Miller, PsyD and Rachel Player, CTRS, CBIS

Online and in-person scams and fraud are an unfortunate part of the ever-growing global landscape. We recognize the unique position this places on individuals with TBI and the teams that support them. In this presentation, we aim to provide basic information on what scams are, common types of scams, and key warning signs. Additionally, we will present research findings that help explain why individuals with TBI may be targeted or fall prey to scams. Through case examples and vignettes, we will highlight what care teams can do, within their different roles, to help prevent scams and minimize their impact.

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## TUESDAY

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*Tuesday, June 23, 2026: 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Commonwealth 1-3 (2nd floor)*

### SESSION #11

#### **“Supporting Student Recovery After Traumatic Brain Injury: Insights from the CDC-Funded School Transition After TBI (STATBI) Study”**

Speakers: Brenda Eagan-Johnson, EdD, CBIST-AP; Drew A Nagele, PsyD, ABPP, FACRM, CBIST-AP, CESP; and Monica Vaccaro, MS, CBIS

Childhood traumatic brain injury (TBI) can cause persistent academic, social, and health challenges. The School Transition after Traumatic Brain Injury (STATBI) study uses a mixed-methods, cohort-controlled design comparing Pennsylvania students supported by BrainSTEPS with Ohio students receiving variable services. In this session, findings from the STATBI study are presented, including quantitative outcomes measured at entry, one-year, and two-year post-enrollment that show group differences across cognitive, social, and health domains that remain below clinically-elevated ranges. However, individualized examination reveals subtler needs that are often masked by standardized scores. Findings highlight that structured return-to-school programs, such as BrainSTEPS, can promote recovery while ensuring students' needs are not overlooked within traditional special education eligibility frameworks.

*Tuesday, June 23, 2026: 10:30 AM – 11:30 AM | Heritage DE (3rd floor)*

### SESSION #12

#### **“Meditation and Mindfulness After Brain Injury: Achieving Meaningful Outcomes Throughout the Rehabilitation Journey”**

Speakers: Julie Schlauch, MA, LPC, CBIS, CESP; Ashley McDowell-Boardman, MS, CBIS; and Michael Francis Wright, MBSR, MBCT, SSP

Discover how meditation and mindfulness can be integrated into brain injury rehabilitation to support emotional regulation, cognitive skills, and overall well-being. This session offers practical, evidence-based techniques for survivors, caregivers, and professionals. Attendees will learn adaptable strategies to foster resilience and achieve meaningful rehabilitation outcomes. Real-life experiences and best practices will be shared; activities will demonstrate how these approaches can be used in rehabilitation and daily life. Join us to learn about accessible tools that empower individuals with brain injury to thrive throughout their recovery journey.

*Tuesday, June 23, 2026: 11:30 AM - 12:45 PM | Freedom A (1st floor)*

LUNCH BUFFET | EXHIBITS

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## TUESDAY

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*Tuesday, June 23, 2026: 12:45 PM - 1:45 PM | [Heritage ABC \(3rd floor\)](#)*

### SESSION #13

#### **“Vestibular Considerations in Moderate to Severe Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Rehabilitation”**

Speakers: Jasmine Edwards, PT, DPT, NCS and Regan Harrell, PT, DPT, NCS

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) often results in a wide range of symptoms and impairments, with vestibular dysfunction being a common yet complex finding. Individuals may experience dizziness, vertigo, lightheadedness, or imbalance due to peripheral or central vestibular involvement, which can significantly affect daily function and participation in life roles. While vestibular issues following mild TBI or concussion are well documented, less is known about those occurring after moderate to severe injuries. This session will explore the presentation, assessment, and treatment considerations for vestibular dysfunction in individuals with moderate to severe TBI across inpatient and outpatient rehabilitation settings.

*Tuesday, June 23, 2026: 12:45 PM - 1:45 PM | [Commonwealth 1-3 \(2nd floor\)](#)*

### SESSION #14

#### **“Beyond the Classroom: A Model for Integrating Brain Injury Rehabilitation and Transition Education”**

Speaker: Mark Heydt, BS, CBIS, WBL-C

This session will explore a model that is currently being used in a school district and can be replicated. It will focus on preparing students with intellectual and developmental disabilities and brain injuries for adult life. Attendees will discover how partnerships between schools, healthcare, vocational rehabilitation, and the community build real-world skills in self-advocacy, work, independent living, and health. Through descriptions of practical strategies and successful outcomes, participants will gain insights they can apply to create meaningful, inclusive transition programs that empower young adults to thrive beyond the classroom.

*Tuesday, June 23, 2026: 12:45 PM - 1:45 PM | [Heritage DE \(3rd floor\)](#)*

### SESSION #15

#### **“Mind in Motion: Transdisciplinary Approaches to Cognitive-Motor Recovery Across the TBI Lifespan”**

Speakers: Blake Schuck, MS-SLP, CCC-SLP/L, CBIS and Amanda Maron, MS-OT, OTR/L, CBIS

This session explores how physical therapy, occupational therapy, and speech-language pathology unite through interdisciplinary approaches to support individuals with traumatic brain injury (TBI). Focusing on cognitive-motor interference (where thinking and movement collide), we will share functional strategies that target attention, communication, mobility, and independence across the recovery continuum. Case examples and real-world tools, such as dual-task training, shared goal planning, and community integration activities, will be highlighted. Attendees will gain practical insights into collaborative techniques that improve outcomes and strengthen client progress and team communication. This session is ideal for clinicians across settings who value function-first, team-based rehabilitation.

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## TUESDAY

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*Tuesday, June 23, 2026: 1:45 PM - 2:00 PM | Freedom A (1st floor)*

**BREAK | LAST OPPORTUNITY WITH EXHIBITORS AND POSTERS**

*Tuesday, June 23, 2026: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM | Heritage ABC (3rd floor)*

### **SESSION #16**

**“Vision Dysfunction After Brain Injury: Understanding and Treating Visual Challenges”**

Speaker: Amanda Legge, OD

This session will explore the often-overlooked visual consequences of brain injury, including oculomotor, binocular, accommodative, and visual-perceptual dysfunctions. Attendees will learn how post-traumatic visual symptoms—such as double vision, light sensitivity, visual field loss, and balance disturbances—impact daily function and rehabilitation outcomes. Dr. Amanda Legge will review current neuro-optometric testing methods, evidence-based management strategies, and interdisciplinary approaches for improving visual recovery through occupational and optometric collaboration. Practical case examples and real patient outcomes will illustrate how identifying and treating visual dysfunction enhances neurorehabilitation success.

*Tuesday, June 23, 2026: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM | Commonwealth 1-3 (2nd floor)*

### **SESSION #17**

**“Planning After Brain Injury: The Role of Special Needs Trusts”**

Speaker: Christine Pontecorvo, MSS

Money is a source of stress for anyone. Planning a financial future while navigating public benefits and disability-related care can be overwhelming. One solution intended to ease these concerns is a financial vehicle called a Special Needs Trust (SNT). In this session, participants will learn what SNTs are, who they are for, and how they operate. The session will also include information on financial literacy and financial care planning. This information is intended to educate professional service providers, family caregivers, and people living with a brain injury so they are aware of options and resources available to support greater financial security.

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## TUESDAY

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*Tuesday, June 23, 2026: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM | [Heritage DE \(3rd floor\)](#)*

### SESSION #18

**“Readiness for Driving after Brain Injury: Who, What, Why, and How”**

Speaker: Brandon Levi, MS, OTR/L, CDRS, CDI

Driving often represents independence, and losing that ability after a brain injury (BI) can feel overwhelming to survivors and caregivers. This session offers a general guide to help participants understand what to expect when considering a return to driving. Attendees will learn how to navigate their care team, what legal steps to consider, and how driving evaluations and training work. We will explain the role of Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialists, the skills they assess, and how adaptive equipment—such as hand controls or steering devices—can help. Through case examples, attendees will see how driver rehabilitation can support safety, confidence, and a successful return to community participation.

*Tuesday, June 23, 2026: 3:00 PM - 3:15 PM*

### BREAK

*Tuesday, June 23, 2026: 3:15 PM - 4:15 PM | [Commonwealth 1-3 \(2nd floor\)](#)*

### CLOSING PLENARY

**“The Second Climb: Bridging the Gap for Adults with Brain Injury and Behavioral Health Needs”**

Speaker: Kimberly Graham, BSN, MS, RN

Many adults with brain injuries are placed in inappropriate settings because their behavior is misunderstood. Instead of receiving neurorehabilitation, they are often labeled with psychiatric diagnoses and referred to programs that do not meet their needs. This closing plenary session will examine what happens when individuals with brain injury lack access to essential services, particularly those with significant behavioral challenges. Real case examples and practical tools, we will illustrate how to identify red flags, clarify what is truly driving behavior, and support teams and families in advocating for appropriate care. When systems struggle to determine where someone belongs, this session highlights how informed assessment, advocacy, and intervention can help ensure individuals receive the neurorehabilitation services they need.

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

DAY & TIME	SESSION/PROGRAM
<b>MONDAY</b>	
Monday, June 22, 2026 7:00 AM-9:00 AM	REGISTRATION   BREAKFAST BUFFET   EXHIBITS   <i>Freedom A (1st floor)</i> POSTERS   SILENT AUCTION   <i>Heritage Prefunction (3rd floor)</i>
Monday, June 22, 2026 7:00 AM-7:45 AM	YOGA SESSION   <i>Commonwealth 4 (2nd floor)</i> Kelsey Palmer, MS, CTRS, CBIS
Monday, June 22, 2026 9:00 AM-10:15 AM	<b>WELCOME AND OPENING KEYNOTE</b>   <i>Heritage ABC (3rd floor)</i> “From Pain to Purpose: The Art of Storytelling After Brain Injury” Tracy Onyekanne, BA
Monday, June 22, 2026 10:15 AM-10:30 AM	BREAK   EXHIBITS   <i>Freedom A (1st floor)</i> POSTERS   <i>Heritage Prefunction (3rd floor)</i>
Monday, June 22, 2026 10:30 AM-11:30 AM	<b>PLENARY</b>   <i>Heritage ABC (3rd floor)</i> “Assessment and Interventions for Neurobehavioral Sequelae Following Traumatic Brain Injury” William Gardner, PhD, CBIS and Todd Lewis, PhD
Monday, June 22, 2026 11:30 AM-11:45 AM	BREAK   EXHIBITS   <i>Freedom A (1st floor)</i> POSTERS   <i>Heritage Prefunction (3rd floor)</i>
Monday, June 22, 2026 11:45 AM-12:45 PM	<b>SESSION #1</b>   <i>Heritage ABC (3rd floor)</i> “The Empowerment of Peer Connections Among Adult Brain Injury Survivors Living in the Community” (PART I) Rebecca Crambert, PhD, and panelists
	<b>SESSION #2</b>   <i>Commonwealth 1-3 (2nd floor)</i> “Connections Online: Expanding Access and Community for Brain Injury Survivors and Caregivers” MJ Schmidt, MA, CBIST and Scott Dillman, MBA
	<b>SESSION #3</b>   <i>Heritage DE (3rd floor)</i> “Relax, Relate, Release: Choreopoetry and Brain Injury Playful Connections” Latrice Young, MFA

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

DAY & TIME	SESSION/PROGRAM
Monday, June 22, 2026 12:45 AM-2:00 PM	LUNCH BUFFET   EXHIBITS   <i>Freedom A (1st floor)</i> POSTERS   <i>Heritage Prefunction (3rd floor)</i> CAREGIVER GATHERING   <i>Founders Room (Montgomery House)</i>
Monday, June 22, 2026 2:00 PM-3:00 PM	SESSION #4   <i>Heritage ABC (3rd floor)</i> “Brain Injury Challenges and Achievements Across the Lifespan” (Survivor Panel) Ann Marie McLaughlin, PhD and Laura Miller, PsyD
	SESSION #5   <i>Commonwealth 1-3 (2nd floor)</i> “Brain Injury Recovery: Building the Bridge from Acute Rehabilitation to Long-Term Living” Travis Slopek, MS, LPC, CRC, PCHA and Amote Garvin, BA, CBIS
	SESSION #6   <i>Heritage DE (3rd floor)</i> “Using Virtual Reality and Other Technologies to Understand Driving After Brain Injury” Maria Schultheis, PhD
Monday, June 22, 2026 3:15 PM-4:15 PM	BIAPA OVERVIEW & PRESENTATION OF AWARDS   <i>Heritage ABC (3rd floor)</i>
Monday, June 22, 2026 4:15 PM-4:30 PM	BREAK   EXHIBITS   <i>Freedom A (1st floor)</i> POSTERS   <i>Heritage Prefunction (3rd floor)</i>
Monday, June 22, 2026 4:30 PM-5:30 PM	SESSION #7   <i>Heritage ABC (3rd floor)</i> “An Interoception-Based Intervention: Supporting Self-Regulation in Adults with Concussion” Meghan Schneider, MS, OTR/L, CBIS, CFVRS
	SESSION #8   <i>Commonwealth 1-3 (2nd floor)</i> “From Fragmentation to Integration: The AAA Model and Role Theory in TBI Recovery” Colleen Baratka, MA, TEP, CTP-3 and Deborah Karner, MSS, LCSW, TEP
	SESSION #9   <i>Heritage DE (3rd floor)</i> “Making Connections: Peer-to-Peer Relationships After Brain Injury” (PART II) Rebecca Crambert, PhD, and panelists

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

DAY & TIME	SESSION/PROGRAM
<b>Monday, June 22, 2026</b> 5:30 PM-6:30 PM	DINNER AND SILENT AUCTION   <i>Freedom A (1st floor)</i>
<b>Monday, June 22, 2026</b> 6:30 PM-7:30 PM	DESSERT AND SOCIAL HOUR   <i>Freedom A (1st floor)</i>
<b>Monday, June 22, 2026</b> 7:00 PM-9:00 PM	COFFEEHOUSE WITH CRISTABELLE BRADEN   <i>Commonwealth 4 (2nd floor)</i>
<b>TUESDAY</b>	
<b>Tuesday, June 23, 2026</b> 7:00 AM-9:00 AM	REGISTRATION   BREAKFAST BUFFET   EXHIBITS   <i>Freedom A (1st floor)</i>
<b>Tuesday, June 23, 2026</b> 7:00 AM-7:45 AM	TAI CHI SESSION   <i>Commonwealth 4 (2nd floor)</i> Alexander Landefeld
<b>Tuesday, June 23, 2026</b> 9:00AM-10:15 AM	<b>WELCOME AND PLENARY</b>   <i>Heritage ABC (3rd floor)</i> “Sleep and Traumatic Brain Injury Across the Lifespan: The Importance of Sleep for Prevention, Recovery, and Long-term Rehabilitation” James Wilkes, PhD, MEd, ATC, LAT
<b>Tuesday, June 23, 2026</b> 10:15 AM-10:30 AM	BREAK   EXHIBITS   <i>Freedom A (1st floor)</i>
<b>Tuesday, June 23, 2026</b> 10:30 AM-11:30 AM	<b>SESSION #10</b>   <i>Heritage ABC (3rd floor)</i> “Phishing, Fraud, and Beyond: Care Teams and Survivors Navigating the Digital Landscape” Laura Miller, PsyD and Rachel Player, CTRS, CBIS
	<b>SESSION #11</b>   <i>Commonwealth 1-3 (2nd floor)</i> “Supporting Student Recovery After Traumatic Brain Injury: Insights from the CDC-Funded School Transition After TBI (STATBI) Study” Brenda Eagan-Johnson, EdD, CBIST-AP; Drew A NagelE, PsyD, ABPP, FACRM, CBIST-AP, CESP; and Monica Vaccaro, MS, CBIS
	<b>SESSION #12</b>   <i>Heritage DE (3rd floor)</i> “Meditation and Mindfulness After Brain Injury: Achieving Meaningful Outcomes Throughout the Rehabilitation Journey” Julie Schlauch, MA, LPC, CBIS, CESP; Ashley McDowell-Boardman, MS, CBIS; and Michael Francis Wright, MBSR, MBCT, SSP
<b>Tuesday, June 23, 2026</b> 11:30 AM-12:45 PM	LUNCH BUFFET   EXHIBITS   <i>Freedom A (1st floor)</i>

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

DAY & TIME	SESSION/PROGRAM
<b>Tuesday, June 23, 2026</b> 12:45 PM-1:45 PM	<b>SESSION #13   <i>Heritage ABC (3rd floor)</i></b> “Vestibular Considerations in Moderate to Severe Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Rehabilitation” <b>Jasmine Edwards, PT, DPT, NCS and Regan Harrell, PT, DPT, NCS</b>
	<b>SESSION #14   <i>Commonwealth 1-3 (2nd floor)</i></b> “Beyond the Classroom: A Model for Integrating Brain Injury Rehabilitation and Transition Education” <b>Mark Heydt, BS, CBIS, WBL-C</b>
	<b>SESSION #15   <i>Heritage DE (3rd floor)</i></b> “Mind in Motion: Transdisciplinary Approaches to Cognitive-Motor Recovery Across the TBI Lifespan” <b>Blake Schuck, MS-SLP, CCC-SLP/L, CBIS and Amanda Maron, MS-OT, OTR/L, CBIS</b>
<b>Tuesday, June 23, 2026</b> 1:45 PM-2:00 PM	BREAK   LAST OPPORTUNITY WITH EXHIBITORS <i>Freedom A (1st floor)</i>
<b>Tuesday, June 23, 2026</b> 2:00 PM-3:00 PM	<b>SESSION #16   <i>Heritage ABC (3rd floor)</i></b> “Vision Dysfunction After Brain Injury: Understanding and Treating Visual Challenges” <b>Amanda Legge, OD</b>
	<b>SESSION #17   <i>Commonwealth 1-3 (2nd floor)</i></b> “Planning After Brain Injury: The Role of Special Needs Trusts” <b>Christine Pontecorvo, MSS</b>
	<b>SESSION #18   <i>Heritage DE (3rd floor)</i></b> “Readiness for Driving after Brain Injury: Who, What, Why, and How” <b>Brandon Levi, MS, OTR/L, CDRS, CDI</b>
<b>Tuesday, June 23, 2026</b> 3:00 PM-3:15 PM	BREAK
<b>Tuesday, June 23, 2026</b> 3:00 PM-3:15 PM	<b>CLOSING PLENARY   <i>Commonwealth 1-3 (2nd floor)</i></b> “The Second Climb: Bridging the Gap for Adults with Brain Injury and Behavioral Health Needs” <b>Kimberly Graham, BSN, MS, RN</b>

# CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS/ CREDITS INFORMATION FOR 2026

The BIAPA Conference Committee has requested approval for a maximum of **10** contact hours of CE units/credits per attendee.

## GENERAL CERTIFICATE OF ATTENDANCE

There is no cost for a General Certificate of Attendance. Attendees and presenters who wish to receive a General Certificate of Attendance must complete the Overall Conference Evaluation, which is completed electronically. Completion of the overall conference evaluation is required to receive a General Certificate of Attendance.

## DISCIPLINES REQUESTED FOR CE/CEU CREDIT

Occupational Therapists - \$45

Physical Therapists - \$45

Psychologists - \$75 (*higher fee reflects increased CE application cost*)

- **APA Division 22 (Rehabilitation Psychology)** is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. APA Division 22 maintains responsibility for this program and its content. For more information about Division 22 or to inquire about membership, please visit [www.div22.org](http://www.div22.org).

Registered Nurses/ Rehabilitation Nurses - \$45

Social Workers & Licensed Professional Counselors - \$45

Speech Therapists - \$45

## ATTENDEES WANTING TO RECEIVE CE CREDIT FOR THEIR ATTENDANCE MUST DO THE FOLLOWING:

1. Pay the CE/CEU fee for the applicable discipline.
2. Sign in daily at the **CEU desk**.
3. **Psychologists must sign in and sign out with the session moderator to document each session attended.**
4. Complete an **electronic session evaluation** for each session attended.

**IMPORTANT:** Session evaluation QR codes will be displayed on presenter slides and available at the session moderator desk. Completion of the electronic session evaluation documents session attendance and is required for CE/CEU credit. Assistance is available from session moderators or at the CEU desk.

## PLEASE NOTE:

- **Certified Brain Injury Specialists (CBIS):** No CEU fee is required. A General Certificate of Attendance will be issued for the number of hourly sessions attended. Completion of the electronic session evaluation is required.
- Continuing education units **were not requested for yoga or tai chi sessions.**
- Conference certificates will be emailed by **September 1, 2026.**

*BIAPA is not responsible for attendees' receipt of credits. The awarding of continuing education credits is at the discretion of each governing organization. Refunds will NOT be given.*

# REGISTRATION FORM

Deadline to register is May 29, 2026.

First Name \_\_\_\_\_ Last Name \_\_\_\_\_

Company \_\_\_\_\_

If applicable, please complete:  
 Professional Organization (e.g. APA) \_\_\_\_\_  
 Credentials \_\_\_\_\_ License # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any medical dietary restrictions \_\_\_\_\_

Please list any accomodation needs \_\_\_\_\_

REGISTRATION TYPE	COST	TOTAL
Professional: Full Conference <i>I plan to attend the meals below:</i> MEALS: <input type="checkbox"/> Monday Breakfast <input type="checkbox"/> Monday Lunch <input type="checkbox"/> Monday Dinner <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday Breakfast <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday Lunch	\$495	
Professional: One Day <i>I plan to attend the meals below:</i> DAY: <input type="checkbox"/> Monday OR <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday MEALS: <input type="checkbox"/> Monday Breakfast <input type="checkbox"/> Monday Lunch <input type="checkbox"/> Monday Dinner <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday Breakfast <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday Lunch	\$370	
Survivor/Caregiver/Family Member/Student: Full Conference <i>I plan to attend the meals below:</i> MEALS: <input type="checkbox"/> Monday Breakfast <input type="checkbox"/> Monday Lunch <input type="checkbox"/> Monday Dinner <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday Breakfast <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday Lunch	\$370	
Survivor/Caregiver/Family Member/Student: One Day <i>I plan to attend the meals below:</i> DAY: <input type="checkbox"/> Monday OR <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday MEALS: <input type="checkbox"/> Monday Breakfast <input type="checkbox"/> Monday Lunch <input type="checkbox"/> Monday Dinner <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday Breakfast <input type="checkbox"/> Tuesday Lunch	\$220	
Continuing Education Credit Fee	\$45	
Psychology CEU Fee	\$75	
No CEUs Requested	\$0	
<b>TOTAL ENCLOSED</b>		

# REGISTRATION FORM

Deadline to register is May 29, 2026.

Submit registration form online (*preferred method*) by May 29, 2026.

Scan QR code or visit [biapa.org/2026conference](https://biapa.org/2026conference)



## Need to submit by mail or email?

If you are unable to submit online, you may send your form to:

BIAPA  
ATTN: Christine Schneider  
947 Wayne Avenue, No. 110  
Chambersburg, PA 17201  
[schneider@biapa.org](mailto:schneider@biapa.org)

- Check payable to BIAPA
- Credit card

If paying by credit card via the mail or email option, please fill out this information.

Card No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

## Release for the Use of Photography and Contact Information – BIAPA 2026 Conference

I, \_\_\_\_\_, hereby grant and authorize the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania (BIAPA) the right to take, edit, alter, copy, exhibit, publish, distribute, and make use of any and all pictures or videos taken of me during the 2026 Annual Conference.

*I understand it may be used in and/or for promotional materials including, but not limited to, newsletters, flyers, posters, brochures, advertisements, fundraising letters, annual reports, press kits, and submissions to journalists, websites, social networking sites, and other print and digital communications without payment or any other*

*consideration. This authorization extends to all languages, media formats and markets now known or hereafter devised. This authorization shall continue indefinitely, unless I otherwise revoke said authorization in writing.*

*I understand and agree that these photo materials shall become the property of BIAPA and will not be returned.*

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Conference Attendee

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION

Help BIAPA plan future programs/services be more inclusive

To serve the brain injury community most effectively, we are requesting basic demographic information from persons with brain injury, care partners, and care professionals. The information collected will help us to plan and deliver future programs/services in an inclusive manner. The survey is anonymous—**please do not write your name on this form.**

Age \_\_\_\_\_

**Brain Injury** (Please check)  Yes  No  Prefer Not to Say

**Race and Ethnicity** (Select all that apply)

- White
- Black or African American
- Native American or Alaska Native
- Asian
- Pacific Islander or Native Hawaiian
- Hispanic/Latino/Latina/Latinx
- Choose not to say

**Gender**

- Male
- Female
- Non-Binary
- Transgender
- Prefer Not to Say
- Other \_\_\_\_\_

**Geographic Location**

- Urban
- Suburban
- Rural

Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

**Marital Status**

- Single
- Married
- Widowed
- Living with Partner (unmarried)

**Military Status**

**Are you active military or have you ever been active military?**

- Yes  No

**Would you like to include your spouse or partner in communications?**

*BIAPA offers Support Groups that might be of interest to them.*

If yes, add email address \_\_\_\_\_

**Disability Status**

**Do you have any accessibility requirements that you'd like us to be aware of?**

- Yes  No  Choose Not to Say

If yes, please specify \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

# DONATE TO THE DAVID L. STRAUSS MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP FUND

Sponsor a brain injury survivor so they can attend the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania's 2026 Annual Conference

## DONOR INFORMATION

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Organization \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION

\$370 supports one scholarship. Any donation amount is appreciated.

I want to give \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## PAYMENT INFORMATION

Check payable to BIAPA    Credit card

Card No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CVV \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Complete and submit form by mail or scan to donate.

BIAPA  
ATTN: Christine Schneider  
947 Wayne Avenue, No. 110  
Chambersburg, PA 17201



**SCAN TO DONATE ONLINE**  
[biapa.org/2026conference](https://biapa.org/2026conference)

# APPLY FOR A SURVIVOR/CAREGIVER 2026 CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP

Return completed application no later than April 20, 2026

Need help? Contact Christine Schneider at [Schneider@biapa.org](mailto:Schneider@biapa.org) or call 717.940.0976.

THE INFORMATION MUST BE COMPLETED NEATLY & ENTIRELY

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

**Check One:**  Survivor  Family Member  Caregiver  Other

**Have you received a scholarship in the past?**  Yes  No

\*\**(If you have received multiple scholarships, you may not be eligible to receive another scholarship)\*\**

**Do you currently receive SSI or SSDI?**  Yes  No

## **Name of Additional Attendee traveling with the Applicant:**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Does the additional attendee traveling with the applicant need funding also?  Yes  No

## **Expenses Covered By the Scholarship**

- Conference registration for days you attend.
- Meals scheduled at the conference. Additional meals outside of the conference are not reimbursed.
- Scholarship may include overnight hotel accommodations, depending on available funding. Anyone receiving hotel accommodations will need to provide a credit card to the hotel for incidentals, such as parking, room service, in-room movie orders, etc. If you have questions about this, contact Christine Schneider at [schneider@biapa.org](mailto:schneider@biapa.org) or 717-940-0976.

# APPLY FOR A SURVIVOR/CAREGIVER 2026 CONFERENCE SCHOLARSHIP

## Check the days you plan to attend the conference:

- Monday, June 22, 2026       Tuesday, June 23, 2026

## Check only if you need overnight hotel accommodations:

- Sunday, June 21, 2026       Monday, June 22, 2026

**Transportation Costs:** Transportation costs to and from the conference are not included in the scholarship award and are the responsibility of the recipient.

## Special Accommodations (Accessible Overnight Room/Shower/Bathroom, Meal or Dietary, etc.) :

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## Please explain why you need this scholarship (use additional page if needed) :

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Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Complete and submit form by mail or email to [schneider@biapa.org](mailto:schneider@biapa.org) by April 20, 2026.**

BIAPA  
ATTN: Christine Schneider  
947 Wayne Avenue, No. 110  
Chambersburg, PA 17201