

Program-at-a-Glance: Day One

Day 1	Thursday October 29, 2026		
7:30	Registration & Breakfast		
8:30 – 8:45	Opening Remarks		
8:45 – 9:45	Keynote Address: Title: What If They're Not Ready Yet? Practical Approaches to Substance Use After Brain Injury <i>Dr. Carolyn Lemsy, Ph.D., C. Psych, ABPP-CN, C-CAT (MB)</i> <i>Neuropsychologist and Clinical Director, Community Head Injury Resource Services (CHIRS)</i>		
9:45 – 10:15	PIA & OBIA Awards of Excellence in Brain Injury Rehabilitation Presentation		
10:15 – 10:45	Break		
	Room A	Room B	Room C
Concurrent Sessions 10:45 – 11:30	Title: Improving Staff Comfort and Skill in Managing Challenging Behaviour after Brain Injury <i>Author: Lynn Renton, BScOT, Coordinator, Nova Scotia Health ABI Provincial Network, Nova Scotia Health Acquired Brain Injury Program</i>	Title: Can Caregiving get E.A.S.I.E.R? Recommendations from a Review of Caregiver Outcomes and Interventions <i>Authors: Arman Ali, MPH Research Associate, KITE Research Institute, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, University Health Network Judith Gargaro, BSc, Med Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, University Health Network Jackie Quemby</i>	Title: <i>Beyond the Diagnosis: Legal Perspectives on Intimate Partner Violence, Addiction and Catastrophic Impairment</i> <i>Authors: Charles Jung, Partner, Oatley Vigmond LLP William Harding, Partner, McLeish Orlando Lawyers LLP Michael Bennett, Partner, Thomson Rogers LLP</i>
11:30 – 11:40	Transition Time		
	Room A	Room B	Room C
Concurrent Sessions 11:40 – 12:25	Title: When Recovery Stalls: Identity Disruption as a Nervous System Process in ABI Rehabilitation <i>Author: Irina Valentin, PhD, C.Psych. Neuropsychologist / Clinical Psychologist / School Psychologist, Valentin Psychology Professional Corp.</i>	Title: From Survival Mode to Values-Based Living: Acceptance and Commitment Training for ABI Caregivers <i>Authors: Andrea Alves, OT (Reg ON) Occupational Therapist, Community Head Injury Resource Services (CHIRS) Benjamin Promane, MSW, RSW Registered Social Worker, CHIRS</i>	Title: The Toronto Concussion Study: Fatigue Trajectories and Vocational Recovery Following Concussion <i>Authors: Carl Froilan Leochico, MD, FPARM, MHSc, Toronto Rehab - University Health Network Mark Bayley, MD, FRCPC – University Health Network</i>
12:25 – 1:25	Lunch & Networking Brief Overview: ABI Provincial Navigators: The Missing Link – Cathy Halovanic, Julie Osbelt (12:50 – 1:00 pm)		

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1:25 – 2:20	Rapid Podium Presentations – 6 presentations (8 minutes each)		
Rapid Podium Presentations	Title: The Toronto Concussion Study: Exploring the Role of Pre-Injury Activity Levels in Non-Sports Concussion Recovery <i>Author: Alice Wang, HBSc Candidate, University of Toronto</i>		
	Title: Responding to Complexity: A System-Driven Approach to ABI Crisis Case Management <i>Authors: Julie Osbelt, Toronto ABI Network & Rene Brassard, Cota</i>		
	Title: Overdose-Related Brain Injury: Bridging Harm Reduction and Brain Injury Care through Insights from People Who Use Drugs and Caregivers <i>Author: Liam Michaud, PhD(c), York University</i>		
	Title: Examining the Final Discharge Destinations and Health Equity Characteristics of Moderate to Severe Traumatic Brain Injury Survivors <i>Authors: Kassandra Kenyon, RN, & Leslie Taylor BSc(Kin) BSc(PT), Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre</i>		
	Title: A Legally Informed Decision-Support Tool for At-Risk Discharges in Acquired Brain Injury Rehabilitation <i>Authors: Ami Li, MD, & Jordan Pelc, MD, Sinai Health</i>		
	Title: Building Awareness and Service Provider Capacity for Intimate Partner Violence Brain Injury in Canada <i>Author: Halina (Lin) Haag, MSW, RSW, PhD, Wilfrid Laurier University</i>		
2:20 – 2:30	Transition Time		
	Room A	Room B	Room C
Concurrent Sessions 2:30 – 3:15	Title: A Functional Approach to Chronic Pain Management in the ABI Population <i>Author: Calvin Leung, OT Reg (Ont). Occupational Therapist, FunctionAbility</i>	Title: Bridging the Gap After Brain Injury: Expanding the Continuum of Care for Work and Financial Wellbeing <i>Authors: Heather Nuttall, MSW Occupational Therapist, OBIA Zoe Fallis, OT Reg (Ont). Occupational Therapist</i>	Title: How Can We Better Support People with Traumatic Brain Injury after Intimate Partner Violence? Development of a clinical practice guideline and essential tools and resources. <i>Author: Parwana Akbari Researcher, University Health Network</i>
3:15 – 3:45	Break		
3:45 – 4:45	Keynote Address: Title: Project-Based Intervention: A Practical Solution for Delivering Evidence-Based Rehabilitation in Real-Life Contexts <i>Deidre (Dee) Sperry, M.Sc., S-LP Reg. CASLPO Reg. NLCHP Assistant Clinical Professor (Part Time), School of Rehabilitation Science, Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University</i>		
4:45 – 5:00	Closing Remarks		

Program-at-a-Glance: Day Two

Day 2	Friday October 30, 2026		
7:30	Breakfast		
8:45 – 9:00	Greetings		
9:00 – 10:00	Keynote Address: Title: Enhancing the Precision and Effectiveness of Cognitive Rehabilitation by Applying the RTSS Framework <i>Dr. McKay Moore Sohlberg, PhD, CCC-SLP, ASHA Fellow</i> <i>Professor of Communication Disorders and Sciences at the University of Oregon</i>		
10:00 – 10:30	Break & Last Vote for People's Choice Award		
	Room A	Room B	Room C
Concurrent Sessions 10:30 – 11:15	Title: Beyond Accessibility: Clinical Decision-Making for Housing Accommodations in Acquired Brain Injury <i>Author: Alicia Kralt, BSc, MSc (OT), OT Reg (Ont). Occupational Therapist, FunctionAbility</i>	Title: Enhancing Access to Bail Support in Ontario: a Focus on Navigation for Women with Brain Injury <i>Authors: Flora Matheson, PhD Director of Programs, Unity Health Toronto; Arthur McLuhan, MA Unity Health Toronto; Lucy Gudgeon Director of Programs, Elizabeth Fry Society Toronto</i>	Title: Beyond the Mandate: Simple Tools for Responding to Crisis and Suicidality in ABI Clients <i>Authors: Eden Dales, BA MSW RSW Eden Dales Social Work Uri Carmel-Kraiem, MSW, RSW, Registered Social Work</i>
11:15 – 12:30	Lunch		
12:30 – 12:45	Recharging Yoga Session – Angie Davis		
12:45-1:45	Keynote Address Title: The Importance of Choices <i>Dean Wardak, Motivational Speaker</i> <i>Director, Tamara Gordon Foundation</i> <i>Patient Partner, EMPaCT, Women's College Hospital</i> <i>Brain Injury Survivor and Inspirational Speaker</i>		
1:45 – 2:00	Closing Remarks, Presentation of People's Choice Award, Sponsor Prize Winners		

The conference planning committee reserves the right to modify the program if required.