

# Toronto **abi** Network conference

2024

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December 5 & 6, 2024

Beanfield Centre, Exhibition Grounds, Toronto

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— 2024 —

Connecting • Learning • Inspiring

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## Table of Contents

Welcome and Introduction .....	6
Planning Committee .....	7
Provincial ABI Navigators Contact Information .....	9
Peoples Choice Award / Handout Information / Delegate List.....	10
Program at-a-Glance (Day One) .....	11
Program at-a-Glance (Day One continued & Day Two).....	12
Day 1: Session Information .....	13
Day 2: Session Information.....	27
Conference Sponsors .....	34

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## Welcome and Introduction

### Toronto ABI Network Conference 2024

It is our pleasure to welcome you to our 12th biennial conference!

We are very grateful you could join us in person this year – we’ve been amazed by the level of enthusiasm and support for this year’s event! Our conference provides an opportunity for all of us to establish and maintain links across the ABI community, and to share the work accomplished. We encourage you to use these two days to meet with colleagues, clients and family members, our various conference sponsors and make new connections.

Our conference features sessions that appeal to the many professionals working with individuals who have sustained a brain injury, as well as survivors and family members living with the effects of brain injury. Our aim is to provide you, the delegate, with opportunities to reflect on the advances that have benefited the lives of individuals living with a brain injury and to look towards the future direction of research, resources, clinical practice and personal journeys.

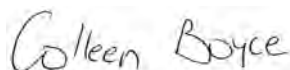
The success of this conference could not be possible without the amazing support of our sponsors; both returning and new – thank you very much for your support! We ask all delegates to please take advantage of the networking opportunities provided throughout the conference to connect with our sponsors, view their informative exhibits and learn about the variety of services available across the system. We are also extremely grateful for the valuable contributions of our Conference Planning Committee. Refer to page 7 for our full volunteer committee list.

Proceeds from this conference support the ongoing work of the Toronto ABI Network. Since 1995, the ABI Network has and continues to address issues of fragmentation in the system and inequitable access to service for individuals with an acquired brain injury. The Network is the central and recognized voice in advocating for the needs of those living with the effects of acquired brain injury. Clients, families, ABI stakeholders, Ontario Health and the Ministry of Health and others rely on the Toronto ABI Network as a resource for information and advice, and a forum for the identification and resolution of issues affecting ABI services across the Greater Toronto Area and beyond.

We hope you find this conference informative, inspiring and enjoyable. Thank you for sharing these two days with us.

Sincerely,

Colleen Boyce  
Chair  
Conference Planning Committee



Charissa Levy  
Executive Director  
Toronto ABI Network



## Planning Committee for Toronto ABI Network Conference 2022

The Toronto ABI Network would like to thank the following individuals who participated on the 2024 conference planning committee for this event:

### Volunteer Committee Members:

Colleen Boyce, Bayshore Integrated Care Solutions NRIO (Planning Committee Chair)

Akriti Agrawal, Sinai Health System/Bridgepoint Hospital

Galyn Baptist, Community Head Injury Resource Services

Monica Cassin, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

Eden Dales, Eden Dales Social Work

Nicole Galeotalanza, Tristar Health

Nesamet Girma, University Health Network –Toronto Western Hospital

Miranda Hong, University Health Network – Toronto Rehab Institute

Bob Murphy, Community Volunteer

Leanne Shapiro, FunctionAbility Rehabilitation Services

Johanna Skippon, Unity Health Toronto – Providence Healthcare

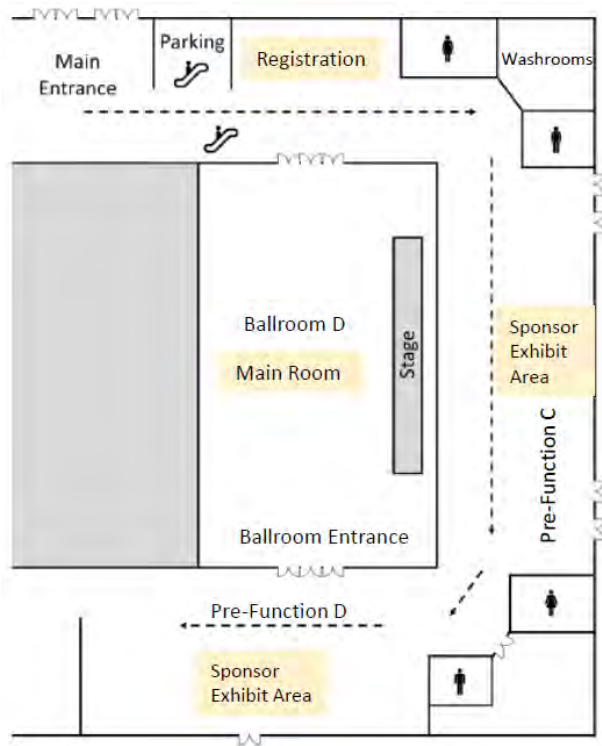
Lindsay Witiuk, Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre

Charissa Levy, Executive Director, Toronto ABI Network

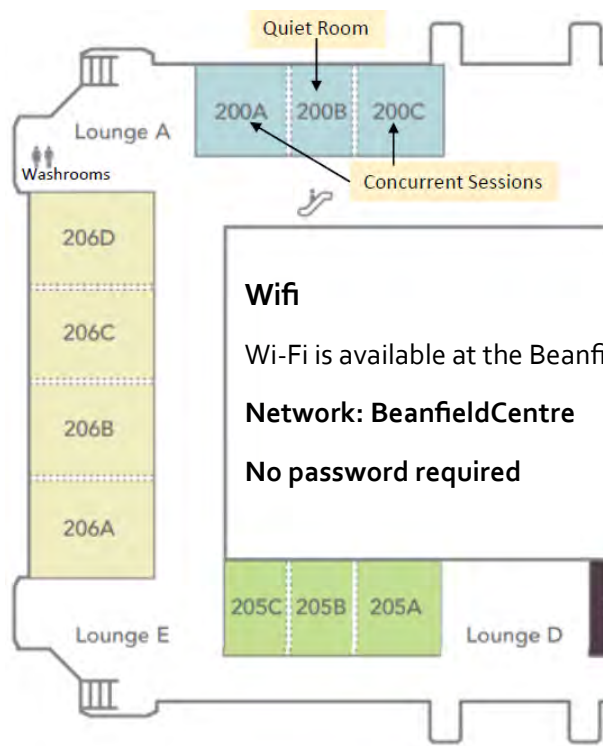
The planning committee would also like to extend our thanks to the Conference Services team of UHN Education for providing conference management services for this event.

### Conference Venue Details

#### Beanfield Centre, Main Floor



#### Beanfield Centre, Second Floor



#### Wifi

Wi-Fi is available at the Beanfield Centre.

**Network: BeanfieldCentre**

**No password required**

Toronto **abi** Network

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## Provincial ABI Navigators Contact Information

### Region #1 - Erie St. Clair

ABI & Exceptional Supports Manager  
 Assisted Living Southwestern Ontario  
 1100 University Ave. W.  
 Windsor, ON N9A 5S7  
 (519) 969-8188 x343

### Region #2 - South West

Regional ABI Navigator, St Joseph's Health Care London  
 Parkwood Institute, Acquired Brain Injury Program  
 P. O. Box 5777, Station B  
 London ON N6A 4V2  
 (519) 685-4292 x42988

### Region #3 - Waterloo Wellington

ABI Intensive Care Coordinator & System Navigator  
 Traverse Independence  
 1-1382 Weber St E, Unit 1  
 Kitchener, ON N2A 1C4  
 (519) 741-5845, or Direct: (519) 580-9206

### Region #4 - Hamilton Niagara Haldimand Brant

HNHB ABI Service & System Navigator  
 HNHB ABI Network  
 225 King William St. Suite 508  
 Hamilton, ON L8R 1B1  
 (905) 523-8852

### Region #5 - Central West | #6 - Mississauga Halton

Clinical Services Manager & System Navigator  
 Mind Forward  
 176 Robert Speck Pkwy  
 Mississauga, ON L4Z 3G1  
 (905) 949-4411 x240

### Region #7 - Toronto Central

ABI Referral Coordinator & System Navigator  
 Toronto ABI Network  
 550 University Ave. Rm. 3-102-11  
 Toronto, ON M5G 2A2  
 (416) 340-4800 x8660

### Region #8 - Central

ABI System Navigator  
 Central ABI Collaborative  
 62 Finch Ave. W.  
 Toronto, ON M2N 7G1  
 (416) 240-8000 x755

### Region #9 - Central East

CE ABI System Navigator  
 Brain Injury Association of Peterborough Region  
 158 Charlotte St.  
 Peterborough, ON K9J 2T8  
 (705) 741-1172 | Toll Free: 1 (800) 854-9738

### Region #10 - South East

SEO ABI System Navigator  
 Community Brain Injury Services  
 401-303 Bagot St. Lasalle Mews  
 Kingston, ON K7K 5W7  
 (613) 547-6969 x37165

### Region #11 - Champlain

Champlain System Navigator for ABI  
 Champlain - Ontario Health at Home  
 100-4200 Labelle St.  
 Ottawa, ON K1J 1J8  
 (613) 310-2222 x5963 | Toll Free: 1 (800) 538-0520 x5963

### Region #12 - North Simcoe Muskoka

North Simcoe Muskoka ABI Navigator  
 North Simcoe Muskoka ABI Collaborative  
 21 Essa Rd. Unit 1  
 Barrie, ON L4N 3K4  
 (705) 734-2178 x228 | Toll Free: 1 (800) 320-1950

### Region #13 - North East

Regional ABI System Navigator  
 March of Dimes Canada  
 96 Larch St. Unit 400  
 Sudbury, ON P3E 1C1  
 (705) 671-3188

### Region #14 - North West

Intake Coordinator & ABI System Navigator  
 Brain Injury Services of Northern Ontario  
 426 Balmoral St.  
 Thunder Bay, ON P78 5G8  
 (807) 623-1188



## **People's Choice Award Vote for Your Favourite Rapid Podium Presentation**

To acknowledge the incredible amount of work that goes into rapid podium presentations, the conference planning committee is requesting all registrants to vote for their favourite presentation via the online survey!

Criteria:

- Originality and innovativeness
- Relevance to previous work
- Building on and relevance to body of knowledge
- Evidence and objectivity
- Clarity and presentation
- Quality and logical progression of argument
- Theoretical and practical implications

The URL to vote will be posted on the screens in the Main Room immediately following the Rapid Podium Presentations, during the Q&A session. There will also be an email sent out on Thursday morning to all delegates with the link included.

You can either click on the link to access the survey or type in the URL that will be displayed on the screen into your smart phone / tablet / laptop.

If you do not have a smart phone / tablet / laptop, we will have a limited number of paper ballots available at registration.

**Voting will close at 10:30 am on Day 2, at the end of the Morning Break.**

The award winner will be announced during the closing remarks on December 6, 2024.

### **Presentation for Toronto ABI Network Conference 2024**

The presentation slides that we receive consent to post online will be available on the conference website and will be password protected. The password will be ABI2024 (case sensitive). We will send a notification when the presentations are ready for viewing. Please allow us at least 2 weeks to post all the content. <https://events.myconferencesuite.com/abi2024/page/program>

### **Delegate Directory**

A full list of attendees can be found at:

<https://bit.ly/2024ABIDelegateList>

The list for conference delegates is based on information provided by registrants who registered before December 2, 2024. This list excludes those registrants who requested not to have their information included. We apologize in advance for any errors or omissions to this list.

## Day 1: Thursday December 5, 2024

7:30	Registration & Breakfast	
8:30	Opening Remarks	Ballroom D
9:00	<b>Keynote Address</b>	
	<b>Cognitive-Communication Rehabilitation: Best Practices</b> <i>Dr. Therese M. O'Neil-Pirozzi, ScD, CCC-SLP; ASHA Fellow, Northeastern University   Bouvé College of Health Sciences</i>	Ballroom D
10:00	Morning Break and Sponsor Exhibit Viewing; Transition to Concurrent Sessions	
10:45	<b>Concurrent Sessions – both sessions will run at the same time; select 1 to attend</b>	
A	<b>Impact - an Accidental Meditation. A Short Film Screening and Discussion on the Significance of Incorporating art and Mindfulness into the Brain Injury Recovery Process</b> <i>Jewels Krauss, Actor, Writer, Director and Editor</i>	Ballroom D
B	<b>Beyond the ABI: Sara Baker's Fight for Justice</b> <i>Sara Baker, Plaintiff – Baker vs. Blue Cross; Stephen Birman, Thomson Rogers; Robert Ben, Thomson Rogers; Lucy Jackson, Thomson Rogers</i>	Room 200A
11:30	Transition Time	
11:40	<b>Concurrent Sessions – all 3 sessions will run at the same time; select 1 to attend</b>	
A	<b>Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and the Minimally Conscious – The Impact and Benefits of a Multidisciplinary Sensory Stimulation Program</b> <i>Deborah Tang, PhD, Bayshore Integrated Care Solutions NRIO; Melanie Hay, MSc (OT), OT Reg (Ont), Bayshore Integrated Care Solutions NRIO</i>	Room 200C
B	<b>The Rainbow Pacing Program: How Brain Injury Survivors Helped Shape and Develop a new Approach to Symptom Management.</b> <i>Shannon McGuire, BHSc (PT), St. Joseph's Health Care – Parkwood Institute</i>	Ballroom D
C	<b>Managing Legal and Regulatory Issues for Healthcare Providers in the Brain Injury Field</b> <i>Lonny Rosen C.S, Rosen Sunshine LLP; Sari Feferman, Rosen Sunshine LLP</i>	Room 200A
12:25	Lunch, Sponsor Exhibit Viewing & Networking	
1:25	<b>Rapid Podium Presentations 5 presentations (8 minutes each)</b>	Ballroom D
RPP 1	<b>Supporting Individuals with ABI or Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Through the Justice System</b> <i>Melissa McMillan, BA (Hons), Downtown East Justice Centre, Surrey Place</i>	
RPP 2	<b>Toronto (Maybe GTA? What about Ontario?) Concussion Navigator v2.0: The evolution and Next Steps of a Concussion Navigation Tool Seeking to Expand Care Pathways Beyond Toronto</b> <i>Evan Foster, MHSc, Hull-Ellis Concussion and Research Clinic, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute – University Health Network</i>	
RPP 3	<b>Relationship Between Cause of Concussion and Long-Term Recovery in a Longitudinal Cohort of 600 Patients</b> <i>Chloé Buso, BScH, Institute of Medical Science, Neuroscience Specialization, University of Toronto; Canadian Concussion Center, Toronto Western Hospital – University Health Network</i>	
RPP 4	<b>How to Evaluate Brain Injury Care Quality and Equity? Connecting the Silos in a Disconnected Healthcare System</b> <i>Arman Ali, MPH, BSc, KITE Research Institute, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute – University Health Network</i>	
RPP 5	<b>Process Map for Navigating Challenges Faced by Clinicians and Individuals Seeking Housing – Solutions, Success Stories, and Next Steps</b> <i>Meeta Gugnani, MSc (OT), Mind Connections Inc.; University of Toronto, Department of occupational Science and Occupational Therapy</i> <i>Alison Foo, MSc, PMP, Seneca College</i> <i>Laura Pazzano, Master of Health Policy, University of Sydney; Faculty of Medicine &amp; Health; Bachelor of Arts (Honours Specialization in Sociology of Health and Ageing, Minor in Thanatology), Western University</i> <i>Colleen Worsley, MSW RSW - Services provided in Toronto &amp; GTA, Peterborough &amp; Kawartha East, Barrie</i>	
2:20	Transition Time	

## Day 1: Thursday December 5, 2024

2:30	<b>Concurrent Sessions – all 3 sessions will run at the same time; select 1 to attend</b>	
A	<b>Are You Providing Optimal Care for Persons post-TBI? Discover how Living Clinical Practice Guidelines are an Accessible way to Elevate your Clinical Practice.</b> <i>Parwana Akbari, HBA, KITE Research Institute, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute - University Health Network</i> <i>Judith Gargaro, MEd, KITE Research Institute, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute - University Health Network</i>	Room 200A
B	<b>From Both Sides Now: Lessons from Life as a Family Care Partner</b> <i>J. Bronwen Moore, BScOT, MA, OT Reg (Ont) Toronto Rehabilitation Institute – University Health Network, Adjunct lecturer with University of Toronto</i>	Room 200C
C	<b>Trauma Informed Care: What It Means and How It Is Delivered</b> <i>Eden Dales, BA, MSW, RSW, Eden Dales Social Work</i>	Ballroom D
3:15	Afternoon Break and Sponsor Exhibit Viewing	
3:45	<b>Keynote Address</b>	
	<i>Jane Enright, brain injury survivor, inspiring award-winning Canadian author, wellness expert, and inspirational speaker</i>	Ballroom D
4:45	<b>Industry Update from Oatley Vigmond Personal Injury Lawyers &amp; McLeish Orlando Lawyers LLP</b> <i>Adam Little, Oatley Vigmond &amp; Lindsay Charles, McLeish Orlando</i>	Ballroom D
5:25	Closing Remarks	
7:00 to 9:00	<b>Networking Social – sponsored by Personal Injury Alliance (PIA)</b> <i>Open to all who registered to attend the networking event. RSVP is required.</i>	

## Day 2: Friday December 6, 2024

7:30	Breakfast	
8:45	Greetings	Ballroom D
9:00	<b>Keynote Address</b>	
	<b>Evidence-based Treatment Approaches for Teaching Emotion Recognition after Brain Injury</b> <i>Dr. Dawn Neumann, PhD, FACRM, University of Florida Morsani College of Medicine - Department of Neurosurgery and Brain Repair</i>	Ballroom D
10:00	Break & Last Vote for People's Choice Award	
10:30	<b>Concurrent Sessions – all 3 sessions will run at the same time; select 1 to attend</b>	
A	<b>Characterizing Sleep and Wakefulness Post-Concussion in the General Population: Consideration of Precipitating Factors to Inform Prevention and Treatment of Sleep-Wake Disorders</b> <i>Catherine Wiseman-Hakes, PhD, School of Rehabilitation Science, McMaster University, and Hull Ellis Concussion and Research Clinic, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute – University Health Network</i> <i>Evan Foster, MHSc, Hull-Ellis Concussion and Research Clinic, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute – University Health Network</i>	Ballroom D
B	<b>What is the Impact of a Pain Management Group for People with Neurological Conditions and Persistent Pain? A Pilot Study</b> <i>J. Bronwen Moore, BScOT, MA, OT Reg (Ont) Toronto Rehabilitation Institute – University Health Network, University of Toronto</i> <i>Sarah Sheffe, BA, MScOT, OT Reg (Ont), Toronto Academic Pain Medicine Institute</i>	Room 200C
C	<b>Weathering the Perfect Storm: Building Capacity to Address Co-Occurring Brain Injury, Substance use, and Serious Mental Health Disorders</b> <i>Carolyn Lemsky, PhD, CPsych, CHIRS and TABIRS - Toronto Acquired Brain Injury Rehab Specialists</i>	Room 200A
11:30	Lunch & Networking	
12:30	<b>Keynote Address</b>	
	<b>Sharing Scars: Sharing My Personal Journey of Challenges, Traumas, and Triumphs with TBI and PTSD</b> <i>Adrienne Patterson Brain injury survivor and inspirational speaker</i>	Ballroom D
1:30	<i>Hilary Pearson, MEd, PhD Candidate - Dept. of Social Justice Education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, Brain Injury Society Toronto</i>	Ballroom D
1:40	Closing Remarks, Presentation of People's Choice Award, Sponsor Prize Winners	

**Day 1: Thursday December 5, 2024**

**Keynote Address: 9:00 am - 10:00 am**

**Location: Ballroom D**

Title:

**Cognitive-Communication Rehabilitation: Best Practices**

Presenter:

**Dr. Therese M. O'Neil-Pirozzi, ScD, CCC-SLP; ASHA Fellow** *Associate Professor, Department of Communication Sciences & Disorders; Director, Cognitive-Community Integration Lab; Northeastern University | Bouvé College of Health Sciences*

Presentation Synopsis:

Post-acquired brain injury (ABI), individuals participate in rehabilitation to improve their cognitive-communication functioning and maximize life participation, productivity, and quality of life. This keynote presentation will focus on evidence-supported cognitive-communication therapeutic approaches and practical strategies, with an emphasis on attention, memory, executive function, and social communication domains.

Learning Objectives:

- To identify recommended therapeutic approaches and strategies to treat attention, memory, executive function, and social communication deficits post-ABI
- To distinguish among recommended approaches and strategies to treat attention, memory, executive function, and social communication deficits based on severity of cognitive- communication deficits
- To describe how use of attention, memory, executive function, and social communication therapeutic approaches and strategies may improve life participation, productivity, and quality of life post-ABI .

Presenter Biography:

Dr. Therese O'Neil-Pirozzi is an Associate Professor in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders at Northeastern University and is research faculty in the Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital/Harvard Medical School Traumatic Brain Injury Model System in Boston Massachusetts. Dr. O'Neil-Pirozzi is a skilled and experienced speech-language pathologist and clinical researcher who has worked with individuals with neurological disorders for more than 25 years. She is known internationally as the author/co-author of numerous peer-reviewed publications, spanning a broad range of topic areas including assessment and treatment of cognitive-communication deficits post-acquired brain injury, care for caregivers, neuroplasticity, and brain health. Dr. O'Neil-Pirozzi has contributed to a number of evidence-based practice guidelines supported by the Academy of Neurologic Communication Disorders & Sciences, is a frequent collaborator of the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts, and is a Commonwealth of Massachusetts Brain Injury Council member.

**Day 1: Thursday December 5, 2024**

**Concurrent Session 1A: 10:45 am - 11:30 am**

**Location: Ballroom D**

Title:

**Impact - an Accidental Meditation. A Short Film Screening and Discussion on the Significance of Incorporating art and Mindfulness into the Brain Injury Recovery Process**

Presenter:

**Jewels Krauss, Actor, Writer, Director and Editor**

Presentation Synopsis:

Jewels Krauss will share therapeutic techniques and mindfulness practices learned through her journey of self-discovery after sustaining a severe concussion due to a bicycle accident. Participants will watch a 15-minute short film, Impact - An Accidental Meditation. The film offers a sensory exploration of the protagonist's post-concussion world, delving into the heightened physical and emotional experiences of life after impact. It aims to shed light on how trauma is stored, processed, and released within the body, as well as the triggers and resilience inherent within our physical being. The presentation will also explore how art and mindfulness can facilitate the healing process.

Learning Objectives:

- Gain greater awareness of an often overlooked injury
- Discuss the complex process of concussion recovery and trauma following an accident
- Understand the significance of incorporating art into the healing process .

Presenter Biography:

Jewels is an actor and director based in Toronto, ON. Selected credits include: Amal (The MT Space); Thousand Beginnings (Under the Umbrella Collective); Breath in Between (Crow's Theatre). As an Assistant Director, Jewels worked on Nathan The Wise at the Stratford Festival and on Nora oder Ein Puppenhaus at the Vorarlberger Landestheater in Bregenz, Austria. For TV/ Film, she appeared in Titans (Netflix) and starred in Steve Lukas' short film Eigengrau. Jewels is also the co-host on the Food show City Girl Eats the Country currently streaming on Bell Fibe. Impact - An Accidental Meditation is Jewels' short film directorial debut.

Impact - An Accidental Meditation is a highly visual, sensorial exploration of the protagonist's concussed world after a bike accident based on Jewels' personal experience. The film provides an intimate look into the elevated physical and emotional experience of navigating life post impact. The film aims to give insight into how our bodies store, process, and release trauma; when and how old trauma might get triggered; and highlight what a world of resiliency lies deep within our physical structure.

Day 1: Thursday December 5, 2024

Concurrent Session 1B: 10:45 am - 11:30 am

Location: Room 200A

Title:**Beyond the ABI: Sara Baker's Fight for Justice**Presenters:**Sara Baker**, *Plaintiff – Baker vs. Blue Cross***Stephen Birman**, *Partner, Thomson Rogers***Robert Ben**, *Partner, Thomson Rogers***Lucy Jackson**, *Partner, Thomson Rogers*Presentation Synopsis:

Sara Baker, a dedicated mom, wife, and Director at Humber River Hospital, suffered a life-altering brain bleed in 2013, which forced her to stop working. Initially, Blue Cross approved her long-term disability benefits, but later reversed their decision, despite overwhelming medical evidence supporting her disability. She was unfairly subjected to improper conduct, which included 375 hours of surveillance.

Thomson Rogers' Partners Stephen Birman, Robert Ben, and Lucy Jackson were instrumental in the Baker vs. Blue Cross case. After a five-week trial, the jury awarded Sara past benefits, mental distress damages, and an unprecedented \$1.5 million in punitive damages. The Ontario Court of Appeal upheld this award, emphasizing the need for good faith and fair treatment by insurance companies.

Sara's case led to the largest penalty ever against a Canadian insurance company for an individual claim, a win made possible by her persistence and stamina. For the first time, she will publicly share her experience and the impact of this landmark verdict.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the personal, professional, and legal challenges Sara Baker faced, including the role of surveillance in disability claims
- The importance of a client-centered approach and skilled legal representation
- Learn how the court's decision emphasizes good faith in the insurance industry

Presenter Biographies:

Sara Baker was the Plaintiff in the precedent-setting Baker v. Blue Cross case. A former Director at Humber River Hospital in Toronto, she suffered a brain bleed in 2013, which prevented her from working. Initially, her claim for disability benefits was approved by Blue Cross, recognizing that she could no longer work. However, the insurance company later reversed this decision, leading to a lengthy trial and subsequent Court of Appeal for Ontario case. Alongside the Thomson Rogers team that represented her, this is the first time she's publicly talking about her ordeal & the landmark decision that led to the largest punitive damages award against an insurer in Canadian history.

Stephen Birman is a Partner at Thomson Rogers. His practice focuses on personal injury litigation, long-term disability and class action litigation. He prides himself on his ability to help clients understand and feel informed and in control throughout the various stages of the litigation process. Stephen is a Certified Litigation Specialist by the Law Society of Ontario. He's recognized as a leading lawyer in the Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory, Best Lawyers and was recently nominated among Canadian Lawyer Magazine's Top 25 Most Influential Lawyers. Stephen has earned the highest peer rating of AV Preeminent® in Martindale-Hubbell® for his legal expertise, communication skills, and ethical standards.

Robert Ben is a Partner at Thomson Rogers. He represents victims of traumatic brain injury, spinal cord injury, serious orthopedic injury, and those who have suffered wrongful death in their claims for compensation. He's appeared as counsel in the Ontario Superior Court of Justice, Divisional Court, the Court of Appeal for Ontario, and the Supreme Court of Canada. As a Martindale-Hubbell Ranked Lawyer, Rob is also recognized in the Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory and Best Lawyers in Canada 2024 for Personal Injury Litigation. In the early part of his career, Robert was an insurance defense lawyer, and a social worker, which makes him a highly effective advocate for his clients.

**Day 1: Thursday December 5, 2024**

**Concurrent Session 1B: 10:45 am - 11:30 am**

**Location: Room 200A**

Presenter Biographies:

Lucy Jackson is a Partner at Thomson Rogers. Her practice involves helping people who have been seriously injured in motor vehicle collisions, fall accidents, assault and battery, as well as medical device and product liability claims. Her class action practice involves claims of institutional abuse, negligent misrepresentation, and breach of the Consumer Protection Act. She also represents individuals whose claims for Long-Term Disability benefits have been denied by their insurer. Lucy has successfully appeared as co-counsel before the Ontario Superior Court of Justice. She was recently recognized in Best Lawyers Ones to Watch in Canada™ 2024 for her work in Personal Injury Litigation.

**Day 1: Thursday December 5, 2024****Concurrent Session 2A: 11:40 am - 12:25 pm****Location: Room 200C**Title:**Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and the Minimally Conscious – The Impact and Benefits of a Multidisciplinary Sensory Stimulation Program**Presenters:**Deborah Tang, PhD, Clinical Director, Clinical Psychologist with specializations in Neuropsychology and Rehabilitation, Bayshore Integrated Care Solutions NRIO****Melanie Hay, MSc (OT), OT Reg (Ont) Occupational Therapist, Bayshore Integrated Care Solutions NRIO**Presentation Synopsis:

When we think of persons with severe traumatic brain injury (TBI) in a coma, or minimally conscious state, many assume patients are non-responsive and rehabilitative treatments are not necessary or beneficial.

Hospitals have limited resources to provide rehabilitative care and often minimally conscious individuals do not meet the criteria to access rehabilitative services. Emerging research, however, shows that sensory stimulation programs can contribute to the development of neuroplasticity following TBI. Understanding and developing treatments for the person in an altered state of consciousness can facilitate recovery to higher levels of consciousness, and improve physical and communicative functioning, which can lead to an overall improved quality of life. The multidisciplinary approach used at Bayshore Integrated Care Solutions NRIO will be explored and data will be presented that will show client progress in areas of physical, cognitive and communicative functioning. A case study will highlight the journey with the client and family and the challenges, strategies and successes.

Learning Objectives:

- Understand what constitutes a minimally conscious state in traumatic brain injury, and the rehabilitative options available to individuals in these states
- Explore a potential model for a multidisciplinary, sensory stimulation program, from assessment to intervention along with data demonstrating improved responsiveness, cognitive, communicative functioning and physical improvements following implementation of the program
- Gain a toolbox of research, best practice and outcome based, multi-disciplinary interventions for the minimally conscious client

Presenter Biographies:

Deborah Tang is a Clinical Psychologist. She received her PhD from McGill University. She has specializations in Neuropsychology and Rehabilitation and has extensive experience working with clients with acquired brain injury (ABI) in the community. At present she is Clinical Director at Bayshore ICS Neurological Rehabilitation Institute of Ontario (NRIO) and oversees programming and residential care for individuals with ABI. In her work with NRIO, she works hard with her multidisciplinary team to develop focused and intensive brain rehabilitation programs. Previously Dr. Tang was Clinical Director at Mind Forward Brain Injury Services. She has also worked at Hamilton Health Sciences in the outpatient ABI program, Baycrest Hospital and Toronto Rehab.

Melanie Hay is an Occupational Therapist who graduated from McMaster University in 2009. She has spent the last 15 years working as an OT with NRIO, a private, community-based, residential rehabilitation program which is now a division of Bayshore Healthcare's Integrated Care Services. She has extensive experience assisting individuals with complex, catastrophic injuries (primarily including brain and spinal cord injury), to safely maximize their independence and quality of life. Melanie has a keen interest in assessing and treating clients with disorders of consciousness and has played an integral role in developing NRIO's Sensory Stimulation Program.



Day 1: Thursday December 5, 2024

Concurrent Session 2B: 11:40 am - 12:25 pm

Location: Ballroom D

Title:

**The Rainbow Pacing Program: How Brain Injury Survivors Helped Shape and Develop a new Approach to Symptom Management**

Presenter:

**Shannon McGuire, BHSc (PT), Outpatient Acquired Brain Injury Program; Post-Acute COVID Rehab Program, St. Joseph's Health Care – Parkwood Institute**

Presentation Synopsis:

This presentation will discuss the development and implementation of the Rainbow Pacing Program and will highlight the role that survivors had in the development. It will outline how to use the Rainbow Pacing Program tools in clinical practice.

Learning Objectives:

- Learn how to educate their patients about the different zones of the Rainbow Pacing Program and the importance of spending time in the Target Activity Zone to allow for recovery over time
- Identify specific, targeted and consistent language to use with patients to describe their symptom levels, difficulty of tasks and help with goal setting and education about pacing
- Understand the importance of language and terminology, pacing activities and how tracking activity and graphing symptoms helps reinforce pacing, reduced symptoms and increased function.
- Appreciate the value and creativity that individuals with lived experience have to offer and the importance of soliciting feedback, either formally or informally, from survivors early and often when developing tools and resources

Presenter Biography:

Shannon McGuire graduated from McMaster University as a physiotherapist and currently works on the Post-Acute Covid Rehabilitation Program and Outpatient Acquired Brain Injury Program at Parkwood Institute. Shannon is Clinical Associate for the School of Physiotherapy at the University of Western Ontario and does her best to leverage student placement and practicums to help innovate and do unfunded clinical research and program evaluation. She has spent the majority of her career working in rehabilitation with clients with neurological injuries including acquired brain injury and spinal cord injury and has particular interest in recovery of walking and balance, and the role of the vision system in rehabilitation as well as managing individuals with persistent symptoms after mild traumatic brain injury. She teaches courses on Concussion Management to Allied Health professionals nationally and internationally.

**Day 1: Thursday December 5, 2024**

**Concurrent Session 2C: 11:40 am - 12:25 pm**

**Location: Room 200A**

Title:

**Managing Legal and Regulatory Issues for Healthcare Providers in the Brain Injury Field**

Presenters

**Lonny Rosen C.S, Partner, Rosen Sunshine LLP**

**Sari Feferman, Partner, Rosen Sunshine LLP**

Presentation Synopsis:

This presentation will review some of the most common legal and regulatory issues faced by health care providers supporting clients with acquired brain injuries, and how to manage these issues in a way that has the highest likelihood of resolving the issue while protecting the professional's reputation, relationships and business.

Learning Objectives:

- Acquire tips on preparing reports and giving evidence in legal proceedings – not just for how best to help their clients (which the client's personal injury lawyer will address) but in a manner that will be most protective of and least stressful for the health professional, from a lawyer with expertise in regulatory and health law
- Get tips on surviving insurance audits and dealing with billing issues that arise, from a lawyer with experience representing professionals in such disputes and in the regulatory proceedings that may arise from insurers' billing concerns
- Review some of the most frequent issues faced by professionals working in this area, and the complaints, investigations and other proceedings that can result from privacy breaches, inadequate security, recordkeeping shortcomings and other challenges
- Learn about the regulatory process and how to respond to complaints and investigations without making the situation worse

Presenter Biographies:

Lonny Rosen, C.S. is a founding partner of Rosen Sunshine LLP, a regulatory and health law firm. Certified as a Specialist in Health Law, he advises health professionals and other service providers, regulators, professional associations, and individuals. Lonny assists clients with policies and procedures, managing privacy breaches, and responding to investigations and complaints. He represents clients in adjudications, civil and other administrative proceedings. Lonny teaches health law at Osgoode Hall Law School and is included in numerous directories, including the Canadian Legal Lexpert Directory, "Best Lawyers in Canada", Who's Who Legal and Chambers Canada. He has been working with rehabilitation and related service providers for over 20 years.

Sari Feferman joined Rosen Sunshine LLP in August 2017 after practicing litigation in Toronto. Sari advises and represents health care professionals in regulatory, administrative and civil matters. She also provides opinions and general advice to professionals, organizations, and individuals with for a variety of regulatory, administrative and other legal matters.

**Day 1: Thursday December 5, 2024**

**Rapid Podium Presentations: 1:25 pm - 2:20 pm**

**Location: Ballroom D**

*Rapid Podium Presentations are unique, 8 minute-long presentations on an initiative or research with a focus on the key 'take-away' messages for the audience. There will be five presentations made during this session.*

**Rapid Podium Presentation Title #1:**

**Supporting Individuals with ABI or Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IDD) Through the Justice System**

Presenter:

**Melissa McMillan**, BA (Hons), Developmental Justice Case Manager at the Downtown East Justice Centre, Surrey Place

Presenter Biography:

Melissa has nearly a decade of experience working with individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities, mental health and addictions, and is passionate about supporting individuals on their journey through the criminal justice system. Currently, she works as a Developmental Justice Case Manager at the Downtown East Justice Centre court, where she supports individuals with charges to build a goal focused plan which addresses their criminogenic needs. Her overarching goal is to ensure the individual receives the support they require to succeed, and to reduce their recidivism.

**Rapid Podium Presentation Title #2:**

**Toronto (Maybe GTA? What about Ontario?) Concussion Navigator v2.0: The evolution and Next Steps of a Concussion Navigation Tool Seeking to Expand Care Pathways Beyond Toronto**

Presenter:

**Evan Foster**, MHSc, Hull-Ellis Concussion and Research Clinic, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute – University Health Network

Presenter Biography:

Evan has a Master's of Health Science in translational research. His background is in concussion and stroke rehabilitation research. He has worked at the Hull-Ellis Concussion and Research Clinic for over 7 years, and has been involved in the coordination and conduct of qualitative research, observational studies, and clinical trials.

**Rapid Podium Presentation Title #3:**

**Relationship Between Cause of Concussion and Long-Term Recovery in a Longitudinal Cohort of 600 Patients**

Presenter:

**Chloé Buso**, BScH, Institute of Medical Science, Neuroscience Specialization, University of Toronto; Canadian Concussion Center, Toronto Western Hospital – University Health Network

Presenter Biography:

Chloé Buso completed her undergrad as a Life Science major at Queen's University, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science, Honours. She is now a Master of Science (MSc) candidate at the Institute of Medical Science at the University of Toronto, specializing in neuroscience. She is working under the supervision of Dr. Charles Tator, conducting research at the Canadian Concussion Centre, at Toronto Western Hospital. Chloé's MSc research is primarily focused on investigating the pathophysiology and treatment of computer screen intolerance (CSI), a persisting concussion symptom. She hopes to determine appropriate measures to elucidate and treat CSI.

**Rapid Podium Presentation Title #4:**

**How to Evaluate Brain Injury Care Quality and Equity? Connecting the Silos in a Disconnected Healthcare System**

Presenter:

**Arman Ali**, MPH, BSc, KITE Research Institute, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute – University Health Network

Presenter Biography:

As an Implementation Coordinator at the KITE Research Institute, Arman has undertaken many knowledge translation and implementation activities related to traumatic brain injury (TBI) and spinal cord injury (SCI). Currently, he leads the implementation of the Data Prioritization Initiative, a data integration initiative embedded within the Neurotrauma Care Pathways Project.

**Day 1: Thursday December 5, 2024****Rapid Podium Presentations: 1:25 pm - 2:20 pm****Location: Ballroom D**

*Rapid Podium Presentations are unique, 8 minute-long presentations on an initiative or research with a focus on the key 'take-away' messages for the audience. There will be five presentations made during this session.*

**Rapid Podium Presentation Title #5:**

**Process Map for Navigating Challenges Faced by Clinicians and Individuals Seeking Housing – Solutions, Success Stories, and Next Steps**

**Presenters:**

**Meeta Gugnani, MSc (OT), Owner/ Director, Mind Connections Inc.; Adjunct Lecturer at University of Toronto, Department of occupational Science and Occupational Therapy**

**Alison Foo, MSc, PMP, Clinical Research Professor at Seneca College**

**Laura Pazzano, Master of Health Policy, University of Sydney; Faculty of Medicine & Health, Bachelor of Arts (Honours Specialization in Sociology of Health and Ageing, Minor in Thanatology), Western University**

**Colleen Worsley, MSW RSW - Clinical Supervisor, Services provided in Toronto & GTA, Peterborough & Kawartha East, Barrie**

**Presenter Biographies:**

Meeta Gugnani graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Occupational therapy in 1993 and received a Master of Science in Occupational therapy from Tufts University in Massachusetts in 1999. She focused most of her graduate coursework and research on neurological rehabilitation. She has worked for the last thirty years in several rehabilitation hospitals and community settings providing occupational therapy services to clients with orthopaedic and neurological conditions. She has held several management and program development positions in the US and Canada. She is involved in several research studies involving clients with Stroke and ABI. She is the owner and Director at Mind Connection, which is a multidisciplinary rehabilitation company providing services to clients with neurological impairments in the community. She holds a status appointment as a Lecturer at the University of Toronto in the Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy.

Alison Foo, MSc, PMP, is the Brain Injury Society of Toronto's Board Director, Advocacy Committee Co-Chair, and Blogger. She is also a Clinical Research Professor and teaches at Seneca College and McMaster University Continuing Education. When she's not grading (or dreading grading), she's offering career, communication, and leadership coaching through her sole proprietorship. She has worked with professionals, students, newcomers, neurodivergent people, and people with disabilities. In her spare time, she enjoys watching Asian TV, taking naps with her rescue dog, and doom scrolling on TikTok.

Laura holds an Honours Bachelor of Sociology specialized in health and ageing with a minor in Thanatology, as well as a Masters of Health Policy degree. Her career has focused on strategic planning and performance management. Laura is currently a policy Lead at Ontario Health, driving quality and innovation in the province's cancer care system.

Colleen Worsley, MSW RSW, is a registered social worker, (OCSWSSW Reg #829920), with a master's degree from Dalhousie University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. Colleen has more than 20 years of experience in the rehabilitation healthcare field providing direct care and management support in both clinical and community settings for individuals with traumatic brain injury.

Colleen combines her interest in neuropsychology with her studies in social work, cognitive science, and wellness building, to identify client strengths and challenges in the development of individualized and comprehensive rehabilitation and recovery programs. In her current practice within the Eden Dales Social Work team, Colleen provides social work support inclusive of strategies of "Heartmath," (meditative and heart-centered breath work), ACT (acceptance and commitment therapy), CBT (cognitive behaviour therapy), and utilizes a variety of emotional wellness building strategies.

Colleen sits as a committee member for the Brain Injury Society of Toronto where she is proud to be part of an organization that fosters community connections and integration for survivors of brain injury. She is a lifelong learner and when not attending courses or conferences to enhance her skills, she spends time with her boys visiting the farm or 'running' to keep up with their fun.

**Day 1: Thursday December 5, 2024****Concurrent Session 3A: 2:30 pm - 3:15 pm****Location: Room 200A**Title:

**Are You Providing Optimal Care for Persons post-TBI? Discover how Living Clinical Practice Guidelines are an Accessible way to Elevate your Clinical Practice**

Presenters:

**Parwana Akbari**, HBA, KITE Research Institute, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute - University Health Network

**Judith Gargaro**, MEd, KITE Research Institute, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute - University Health Network

Presentation Synopsis:

Through an ongoing comprehensive review of research and clinical evidence, the Canadian Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG) for the Rehabilitation of Adults with Moderate-Severe Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) provides healthcare professionals with best-practice recommendations, resources, and tools to make clinical decisions that will improve the quality and consistency of TBI care. The CPG's benefits, however, are contingent on successful knowledge translation (KT) and the implementation of the CPG into professional practice. This presentation will show clinicians how to use and integrate online Canadian Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPG) and associated Care Pathways using the principles of adult learning.

Learning Objectives:

While healthcare professionals welcome evidence-based practical support to help them make informed and up-to-date TBI clinical care decisions, awareness of the value and ease of using such supports and resources is limited. The session will review key clinical actions, strategies, and resources used to bring the evidence into practice .

Presenter Biographies:

Parwana Akbari is a Research Analyst at the KITE Research Institute at University Health Network, where she coordinates, implements, and supports multiple projects related to traumatic brain injury (TBI) and spinal cord injury (SCI). Her work primarily supports the Neurotrauma Care Pathways Initiative and the Canadian Clinical Practice Guideline for TBI. Driven by a passion for improving care through health promotion, Parwana has led and implemented numerous knowledge translation and mobilization activities. Her efforts and collaborations with her team help ensure persons with lived experience receive the most current, evidence-based care available.

Judy Gargaro has extensive experience working in the fields of brain and spinal cord injury as a clinician, researcher, and quality improvement and implementation expert. She has worked at the local, regional and provincial level with a particular focus on ensuring that persons after brain and spinal cord injuries receive equitable, best-practice care and the needed services and supports to optimize long-term living in the community. Currently, she is the director of the Neurotrauma Care Pathways initiative for traumatic brain and spinal cord injuries in Ontario.

**Day 1: Thursday December 5, 2024**

**Concurrent Session 3B: 2:30 pm - 3:15 pm**

**Location: Room 200C**

Title:

**From Both Sides Now: Lessons from Life as a Family Care Partner**

Presenter:

**J. Bronwen Moore, BScOT, MA, OT Reg (Ont)** Toronto Rehabilitation Institute – University Health Network, Adjunct lecturer with University of Toronto

Presentation Synopsis:

After working for 20 years as an occupational therapist in outpatient Neuro Rehab, life took an unexpected turn when Bronwen found herself helping a close family member navigate the difficult months that followed a significant traumatic brain injury. This health journey offered a new perspective on the world of brain injury survivors and their family care partners. This presentation will offer insights drawn from this experience, together with practical strategies for those working with brain injury survivors and their families.

Learning Objectives:

- Participants learn through personal examples as well as research-based evidence
- Explore practical strategies around the following ideas: health literacy, working with delirium, recognizing and supporting pain, trauma informed practice, communication, meaningful occupation, self-efficacy, infection control, personal emergency preparedness and gratitude practices.

Presenter Biography:

J. Bronwen Moore, B.Sc.O.T., M.A., has been working since 2002 as an occupational therapist in the field of neurological rehabilitation and pain management in Toronto, Ontario. She has a master's degree in adult education. In her work with the Toronto Rehab Brain and Spinal Cord LEAP (Living Engaged and Actively with Pain) Service at the University Health Network, Bronwen supports clients living with acquired brain injury and other neurological conditions to learn skills to self-manage their pain. She holds an Adjunct Lecturer appointment with the University of Toronto Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. She has presented at numerous conferences about topics related to neurological rehabilitation and pain management. Bronwen's professional interests include pain self-management, resilience, authenticity in practice, and the role of the arts in healthcare.

**Day 1: Thursday December 5, 2024**

**Concurrent Session 3C: 2:30 pm - 3:15 pm**

**Location: Ballroom D**

Title:

**Trauma Informed Care: What It Means and How It Is Delivered**

Presenter:

**Eden Dales, BA, MSW, RSW, Practice Director, Eden Dales Social Work**

Presentation Synopsis:

This presentation will review Trauma Informed Care, specifically for working with those with Acquired Brain Injuries and their support network. This training, geared to health care providers and allied health practitioners, will provide a comprehensive review of the core concepts of trauma informed care, the impact of trauma on daily functioning, and specific ways to implement this model into practice immediately.

Trauma informed care is applicable for all levels of service providers and is effective for enhancing leadership competency, team collaboration, client management skills, self-regulation skills and empathy. Case studies will be reviewed for demonstrating how to implement a trauma informed approach. Evidence supporting the benefits of trauma informed care will be discussed, and a literature review will be provided.

Learning Objectives:

- Learn how to transition to a trauma informed practice model and initiate change in your organization and with ABI/ Concussion clients
- Learn creative ways to identify signs of trauma in clients, address challenges differently, recognize neurodiversity and different learning styles and approach colleagues, clients and others with a trauma informed lens
- Learn to implement trauma informed care practices into your daily roles and initiate changes within your organization
- Learn to educate clients and family members on the impact of trauma on daily functioning and learn unique ways of addressing these challenges with new insights
- Learn grounding strategies for emotional regulation to use with clients and colleagues

Presenter Biography:

Eden Dales is a highly experienced and dedicated registered social worker, currently serving as the owner and director of Eden Dales Social Work (EDSW) in Toronto, Ontario. With a Master's Degree in Social Work from Yeshiva University in New York City, Eden has over twenty years of clinical experience, specializing in post-trauma recovery and providing comprehensive social work assessment reports and counselling services to individuals and families across Ontario. Her expertise spans cognitive behavioural therapy, dialectical behavioural therapy, mindfulness-based stress reduction, and trauma-informed care, among other therapeutic approaches.

Throughout her career, Eden has been an educator and presenter at provincial, national, and international conferences on various social work-related topics, including trauma-informed care for healthcare professionals, lawyers, and support staff. Her trainings have been integral to projects such as the Gender-Based Violence Project and have provided essential education to numerous organizations, including the Consent and Capacity Board, Costi Agency, and the Brain Injury Society of Toronto. Eden's dedication to her field has been recognized with the Volunteer of the Year Award from the Brain Injury Society of Toronto in 2021.

Eden's commitment to social work extends beyond her practice. She has continually contributed to the professional development of her peers through workshops and training sessions focused on trauma recovery, emotional intelligence, and effective communication. Her role as an educator for the mental health staff at various agencies highlights her commitment to fostering a trauma-informed approach within the community.

Eden's passion for helping others and her extensive knowledge make her a standout professional in the field of social work. Her ability to provide compassionate, evidence-based care has made a significant impact on the lives of her clients, and her contributions to the field have helped to advance the understanding and implementation of trauma-informed care practices.

**Day 1: Thursday December 5, 2024**

**Keynote Address: 3:45 pm - 4:45 pm**

**Location: Ballroom D**

Title:

**O.M.G What's Next? Tips to initiate Positive Change, Transform Trials into Triumphs, and Land Butter Side Up with a Healthy Outlook**

Presenter:

**Jane Enright**, *brain injury survivor, inspiring award-winning Canadian author, wellness expert, and inspirational speaker*

Presentation Synopsis:

Jane Enright has survived and thrived after living through three life-altering events, including a life-threatening traumatic brain injury. This began an incredible transformational journey of resilience, courage, and triumph over tragedy. Jane's message of empowerment and resilience will astound and inspire you.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify strategies for resilience, strength and creativity
- Learn about empowerment and avoid the "Why me?" syndrome
- Actionable ideas to overcome adversity, cultivate positive outcomes, and initiate new beginnings with a healthy outlook

Presenter Biography:

Meet award winning inspirational author Jane Enright—an ordinary person, who has survived, and thrived after experiencing extraordinary things.

In 2017 Jane Enright lived through three unforeseen traumatic events in 365 days including an unforeseen traumatic brain injury that left her almost speechless. Today she is a respected, empowering, and humorous creator, award-winning Canadian author, wellness expert, inspirational speaker, and Director on the Board of Governors, for the Brain Canada Foundation. Jane's transformational journey has been described as elevating, extraordinary, moving, inspiring, and food for the soul.

Jane is the winner of the 2022 Canadian Book Club Award for Best Book, Spirituality, Health & Wellness, the 2022 Silver Medal from Living Now Evergreen Book Awards, to commemorate world-changing books for her memoir *Butter Side Up: How I Survived My Most Terrible Year & Created My Super Awesome Life*. Her second book, *Jane's Jam: Inspiration to Create Your Super Awesome Life* was shortlisted as one of the top 100 books, for the 2023 Eric Hoffer International Grand Prize for Literature and is a finalist for the 2024 Canadian Book Club Award for Best Book, Spirituality, Health & Wellness. Jane recently launched a short animated digital series for children #chergoeseverywhere and is currently completing her next book; a fun, interactive story for children and their grownups to learn about the superpower of mindfulness entitled *Hi I'm Cher—I Go Everywhere*, arriving in February 2025.

Jane is helping children and grownups worldwide "land butter-side up," dynamically lead and manage change with resiliency, revitalize their brain health, and cultivate joyful new beginnings after the unexpected through her writing, speaking, and partnership with the Brain Canada foundation. To find out more about Jane and how to work together visit [janeenrightauthor.com](http://janeenrightauthor.com).



**Day 1: Thursday December 5, 2024**

**Industry Update: 4:45 pm - 5:25 pm**

**Location: Ballroom D**

Title:

**Accident Benefits Reform: Embracing the Change**

Presenters:

**Lindsay Charles**, *Partner, McLeish Orlando*

**Adam Little**, *Partner, Oatley Vigmond*

Presentation Synopsis:

This presentation will provide an overview of the recent changes in accident benefits reform. Attendees will gain insights into the implications of these reforms and how to navigate the new regulations effectively.

Learning Objectives:

- At the end of the session, participants will be able to identify the key changes and determine modifications to their practice to navigate the changes successfully.

Presenter Biographies:

Lindsay Charles, Partner at McLeish Orlando, joined the firm after completing her law degree at Queen's University. Her practice focuses on plaintiffs' personal injury and wrongful death cases, including motor vehicle collisions, medical negligence, and disability claims. Lindsay regularly appears at the Superior Court of Justice and the License Appeal Tribunal and has co-counseled precedent-setting cases. She frequently speaks at conferences for the Law Society of Ontario, Ontario Bar Association, and healthcare professionals. Lindsay also contributes to legal publications, co-editing the Oatley-McLeish Guide to Personal Injury Practice and writing for Lexis Nexis and other guides.

Adam R. Little is a distinguished personal injury lawyer at Oatley Vigmond. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Toronto in 1996 and graduated from Queen's University Faculty of Law in 2000. Called to the bar in 2002, Adam initially practiced on Bay Street, representing doctors in medical malpractice claims. He later transitioned to personal injury law, driven by a passion for helping individuals navigate complex legal challenges. Adam is a frequent presenter at industry conferences and co-authors chapters on "Catastrophic Impairment" in the Oatley, McLeish Guide to Personal Injury Practice in Motor Vehicle Cases<sup>3</sup>.

**Day 2: Friday December 6, 2024**

**Keynote Address: 9:00 am - 10:00 am**

**Location: Ballroom D**

Title:

**Evidence-based Treatment Approaches for Teaching Emotion Recognition after Brain Injury**

Presenter:

**Dawn Neumann, PhD, FACRM Associate Professor, University of Florida Morsani College of Medicine - Department of Neurosurgery and Brain Repair**

Presentation Synopsis:

Many patients with brain injury often have trouble recognizing others' feelings. This can make it more challenging to empathize and emotionally connect with others, contributing to relationship problems and loneliness. Unfortunately, this deficit often goes untreated. This presentation will provide a brief overview of the evidence behind a clinical intervention that has been classified as a practice standard for treating emotion recognition deficits after brain injury. The majority of the presentation will be spent reviewing the intervention components, which has been developed into a freely available electronic App. The presentation will conclude with current research efforts to address past limitations and further advance the treatment of emotion recognition and empathy deficits after brain injury.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the evidence of an emotion recognition training program
- Describe the treatment approaches for training emotion recognition after brain injury and how to access the free treatment App
- Discuss new research efforts to improve emotion recognition and empathy after brain injury

Presenter Biography:

Dr. Neumann is a tenured Associate Professor at University of South Florida Morsani College of Medicine in the Department of Neurosurgery and Brain Repair. She has her PhD in Rehabilitation Science from the University at Buffalo, SUNY, and a Masters in Cognitive Psychology from Rutgers, NJ. Dr. Neumann's research aims to understand and treat problems with social cognition and emotion dysregulation after traumatic brain injury (TBI). She has received several recognitions from the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine for her work, including the Deborah L. Wilkerson Early Career Award, Mitchell Rosenthal Mid-Career Award in 2018, and the Joshua Cantor Scholar Award. Finally, Dr. Neumann serves on the Editorial review board for the Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation.

Day 2: Friday December 6, 2024

Concurrent Session 4A: 10:30 am - 11:30 am

Location: Ballroom D

Title:

**Characterizing Sleep and Wakefulness Post-Concussion in the General Population: Consideration of Precipitating Factors to Inform Prevention and Treatment of Sleep-Wake Disorders**

Presenters:

**Catherine Wiseman-Hakes**, PhD, School of Rehabilitation Science, McMaster University, and Hull Ellis Concussion and Research Clinic, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute – University Health Network

**Evan Foster**, MHSc, Hull-Ellis Concussion and Research Clinic, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute – University Health Network

Presentation Synopsis:

'Good' sleep, concurrent with daytime alertness, is crucial for physical and mental health, cognitive function, emotional well-being, and overall quality of life, regardless of age or life stage. This becomes even more important during recovery from a concussion or mild traumatic brain injury as sleep plays a critical role in recovery and neuroplasticity. Sleep disturbances, such as trouble falling or staying asleep, or lack of restorative sleep, are common post-concussion. Left untreated this may prolong recovery and is associated with comorbidities e.g., mental health issues. Understanding the underlying factors driving sleep disruptions is essential for effective intervention. Our understanding of sleep in the acute stage of concussion, its role in recovery, and associated risk factors for the development of chronic sleep disturbance, especially in non-athlete and non-military populations is emerging. This presentation will provide an overview of sleep and its role in brain health across the lifespan, describe the changes in sleep in response to concussion, and discuss strategies to identify, assess, and treat sleep disturbances to prevent chronic sleep disturbances and persisting symptoms after concussion

Learning Objectives:

- Understand the importance of sleep in concussion recovery: Participants will describe the 'typical' trajectory of sleep following concussion, and explain the critical role of sleep in physical, cognitive, and emotional recovery following a concussion or mild traumatic brain injury (mTBI).
- Identify common sleep disturbances post-concussion: Participants will be able to recognize and differentiate between various sleep disturbances commonly experienced after concussion, including hypersomnia (too much sleep), insomnia (too little sleep), and a lack of restorative or restful sleep; including at what time points individuals commonly experience these difficulties.
- Explore underlying factors contributing to sleep disruptions: Participants will gain insight into the multifactorial nature of sleep disturbances post-concussion, including neurobiological changes, psychological factors, and environmental influences.
- Discuss strategies for effective intervention: Participants will learn about evidence-based strategies for assessing and treating sleep disturbances post-concussion, including education about sleep hygiene practices, non-pharmacological therapies, and pharmacological interventions (only when appropriate!).
- Address challenges in non-athlete and non-military populations: Participants will recognize the unique challenges and considerations in identifying and managing sleep disturbances post-concussion in non-athlete and non-military populations, including low-resource screening techniques for sleep disturbances post-concussion.
- Preventing chronic sleep issues: Participants will be able to apply strategies aimed at preventing the development of chronic sleep issues through early identification, targeted interventions, and ongoing monitoring of sleep quality and recovery.

**Day 2: Friday December 6, 2024**  
**Continued...**

**Concurrent Session 4A: 10:30 am - 11:30 am**  
**Location: Ballroom D**

Presenter Biographies:

Catherine Wiseman-Hakes, Ph.D., is a clinical neuroscientist and registered speech language pathologist. She is a Clinician-Scientist with the Hull Ellis Concussion and Research Clinic at UHN-Toronto Rehab Institute, an Assistant Professor in the School of Rehabilitation Science, McMaster University in Hamilton and Affiliate Scientist with the KITE Research Institute, University Health Network-Toronto Rehabilitation Institute. Catherine has devoted her clinical and research career toward a better understanding of the factors which impact recovery from acquired and traumatic brain injury (TBI) as well as developing interventions to support positive outcomes and quality of life. She has been internationally recognized for her pioneering work in examining the relationship between sleep, neuroplasticity and neuro-recovery following TBI. She has authored and co-authored numerous research publications, provincial and international practice guidelines, a textbook, several book chapters and contributed to a rehabilitation manual on Sleep and TBI. She is also the recipient of awards for teaching and research excellence, outstanding mentorship and community service.

Evan has a Master's of Health Science in translational research. His background is in concussion and stroke rehabilitation research. He has worked at the Hull-Ellis Concussion and Research Clinic for over 7 years, and has been involved in the coordination and conduct of qualitative research, observational studies, and clinical trials.

Day 2: Friday December 6, 2024

Concurrent Session 4B: 10:30 am - 11:30 am

Location: Room 200C

Title:

**What is the Impact of a Pain Management Group for People with Neurological Conditions and Persistent Pain? A Pilot Study**

Presenters:

**J. Bronwen Moore**, BScOT, MA, OT Reg (Ont) Toronto Rehabilitation Institute – University Health Network, Adjunct lecturer with University of Toronto

**Sarah Sheffe**, BA, MScOT, OT Reg (Ont) - Occupational Therapist, Toronto Academic Pain Medicine Institute

Presentation Synopsis:

This mixed methods pilot study explored psychological and functional outcomes of a Pain Management Group (PMG) for clients with persistent pain and neurological conditions including brain injury.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify the connection between brain injury and pain
- Explore evidence for the effectiveness of pain self-management education for clients with brain injury
- Learn about a Pain Management Group designed specifically for clients with brain injury and other neurological conditions
- Review results of a research project that evaluates the effectiveness of this treatment program
- Get practice tips for working with pain and brain injury

Presenter Biographies:

J. Bronwen Moore, B.Sc.O.T., M.A., has been working since 2002 as an occupational therapist in the field of neurological rehabilitation and pain management in Toronto, Ontario. She has a master's degree in adult education. In her work with the Toronto Rehab Brain and Spinal Cord LEAP (Living Engaged and Actively with Pain) Service at the University Health Network, Bronwen supports clients living with acquired brain injury and other neurological conditions to learn skills to self-manage their pain. She holds an Adjunct Lecturer appointment with the University of Toronto Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. She has presented at numerous conferences about topics related to neurological rehabilitation and pain management. Bronwen's professional interests include pain self-management, resilience, authenticity in practice, and the role of the arts in healthcare.

Sarah Sheffe is an Occupational Therapist at the Toronto Academic Pain Medicine Institute (TAPMI) at Women's College Hospital. She holds an Adjunct Lecturer appointment with the University of Toronto Department of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy. She leads the TAPMI Young Adult Clinic for pain and has published research on transition success and discharge success in young adult chronic pain care. Sarah is a co-author of the workbook, "Changing your pain pathways: Ways to cope with pain in daily life" for people with neurological conditions and pain.

Day 2: Friday December 6, 2024

Concurrent Session 4C: 10:30 am - 11:30 am

Location: Room 200A

Title:

**Weathering the Perfect Storm: Building Capacity to Address Co-Occurring Brain Injury, Substance use, and Serious Mental Health Disorders**

Presenter:

**Carolyn Lemsky, PhD, CPsych Clinical Neuropsychologist and Clinical Director at CHIRS and TABIRS - Toronto Acquired Brain Injury Rehab Specialists**

Presentation Synopsis:

We know that each day, thousands of Canadians find their lives upended by brain injury, serious mental health disorders and/or problematic substance use. Each condition on its own can wreak havoc in the lives of our clients and their families. The focus of this presentation will be on ways to build capacity to address the perfect storm that develops when these conditions occur together. This presentation will include a discussion of long-term outcomes of a small cohort of clients to illustrate the benefits of sustained intervention in the community. Essential skills for brain injury providers will be discussed with an emphasis on the common strategies used in psychosocial rehabilitation across diagnostic categories. Resources for supporting a continuum of care across service sectors will be introduced.

Learning Objectives:

- Attendees will be able to identify skills and strategies commonly used in brain injury rehabilitation which may also be applied when addressing substance use disorders.
- Attendees will be able to recognize the value of long-term community supports that reduce harms and support families.
- Attendees will know how to access free resources to build their own capacity and to establish effective in partnerships with mental health and addiction providers.

Presenter Biography:

Dr. Carolyn Lemsky is a board-certified neuropsychologist with over 25 years of experience working in rehabilitation settings in the U.S. and Canada. She is the Clinical Director at Community Head Injury Resource Services (CHIRS) of Toronto—a Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care funded agency designed to promote community re-integration of persons living with the effects of acquired brain injury. She is also an adjunct professor in the Department of Psychiatry at the University of Toronto

Dr. Lemsky is the director of the Substance Use and Brain Injury Bridging Project, a research and knowledge transfer initiative funded by the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation. Along with her partners at the Center for Addictions and Mental Health (CAMH), she has provided over 70 workshops and webinars for addictions and ABI providers across the US and Canada. Products of the SUBI project include the Brain Injury Tool Kit, a resource funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration Technology Transfer Centers. A second edition of the SUBI manual, new for 2022 was released in January.

In addition to frequent conference presentations, Dr. Lemsky has contributed book chapters and articles to the neuropsychology and brain injury literature. She receives frequent invitations to provide training and conference and conference presentations on the SUBI project across Canada and the US.

Day 2: Friday December 6, 2024

Survivor Keynote Address: 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm

Location: Ballroom D

Title:**Sharing Scars: Sharing My Personal Journey of Challenges, Traumas, and Triumphs with TBI and PTSD**Presenter:**Adrienne Patterson, BES, BEd – Ontario Educator**Presentation Synopsis:

"The scars you share become lighthouses for other people who are headed to the same rocks you hit", a quote by author Jon Acuff, has become a way of being for Adrienne. After a number of professional events, stresses, traumas, and injuries, that have impacted her physical and psychological health, she has been on a recovery journey for a number of years. She will share her story of injury and trauma and how she had to fight and advocate for appropriate care, support, strategies, and treatments. Her story will illuminate the importance of support from a wide variety of providers and the importance of thinking outside the box for ways to support the ABI client in their quest for healing.

Learning Objectives:

- Participants will hear the story of Adrienne's personal journey and understand the importance having proficient health care providers who can collaborate with other disciplines and advocate for their clients.
- Participants will take away a greater understanding of the vulnerabilities ABI clients face when they interface with healthcare systems and providers and the need for support systems and advocates to help protect the patient and manage daily care.
- Participants will take away a range of strategies, skills, and approaches that will help them manage their ABI clients and be an effective part of the advocacy team

Presenter Biography:

Adrienne Patterson has been and Ontario Educator for over 25 years with experience as an Elementary School Teacher, Consultant, and Administrator. Her career centered on adolescent aged students, vulnerable student populations, with specialization in Special Education and Behavioural Supports. In the course of her work, she was assaulted repeatedly over a period of time by special needs' students and sustained 2 head injuries a few months apart from each other which led to a number of diagnoses as the symptoms did not resolve. This has resulted in Adrienne being on long term disability where her emphasis is on managing all aspects of her health on a daily basis. Having been on an extensive healing recovery journey through Traumatic Brain Injuries and PTSD for the last decade, she has gained a great deal of insight into how difficult recovery can be and what enormous resilience, dedication, work, and support it takes to achieve even small gains.

Over the years, Adrienne's determination, tenacity, and adhering to treatments and strategies has led to improvements in her recovery. She has learned a great deal through this arduous journey of pain and trauma and the number of years it took to find what works best for her. Utilizing support, information and treatments from medical providers, Adrienne uses these to research and dig for links, commonalities, and treatments and strategies that enhance wellness and management of her daily physical and psychological care. Her current research and advocacy are in the areas of Brain Injury and Trauma, Neuroplasticity, PTSD, Empathic Stress (Compassion Fatigue), Self-Care, strategies to manage chronic illnesses and injuries, invisible disabilities, and trauma informed and supported medical care.

Day 2: Friday December 6, 2024

Survivor Presentation: 1:30 pm - 1:40 pm

Location: Ballroom D

Title:

**“We Exist”: Culturally Constructed ABI (Acquired Brain Injury) Narratives from a Disability Studies Perspective**

Presenter:

**Hilary Pearson, MEd, PhD Candidate** - Dept. of Social Justice Education at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, Brain Injury Society Toronto

Presenter Biography:

Hilary Pearson, MEd, is a doctoral student at the University of Toronto, Social Justice Education Department. Hilary’s research makes use of an interpretive disability studies perspective to explore cultural perceptions of disability through critical narrative inquiry.

Hilary’s articles appear in the following publications: Disability & Society, the Canadian Journal of Disability Studies, Brain Injury Society Toronto, and the Ontario Brain Injury Association (OBIA) Review.



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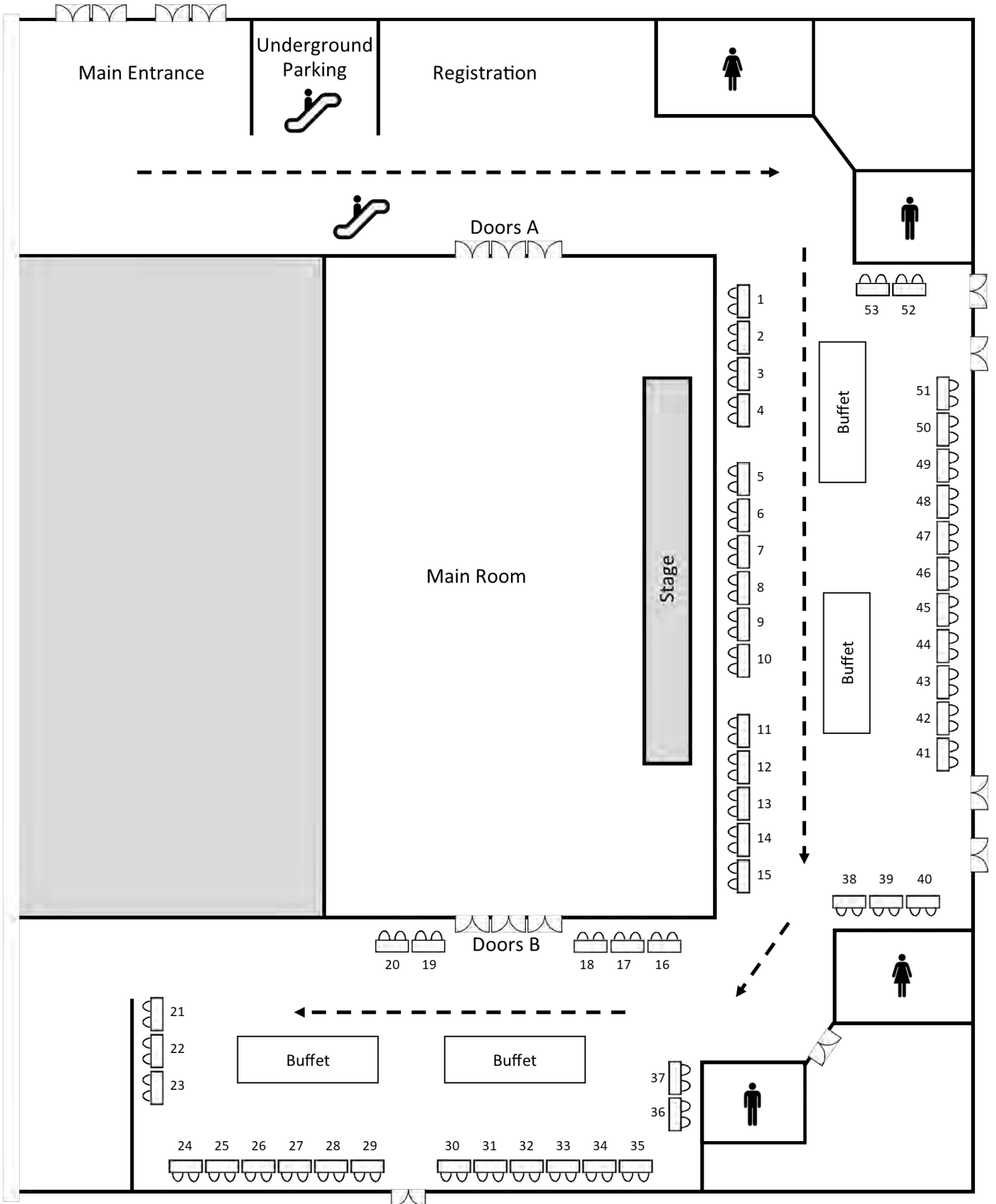
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