



**The Canadian Concussion Centre presents**  
**12<sup>th</sup> Annual Concussion Research Symposium**  
*Update on Research and Care for the Concussion  
Spectrum of Disorders*

**Friday, May 23, 2025, 8:00 AM - 5:00 PM**

**Hybrid Event:**

Virtual via Zoom

In-Person at Toronto Western Hospital

BMO Education & Conference Centre

## **Conference Program**

This workshop is an Accredited Group Learning Activity (Section 1) as defined by the Maintenance of Certification Program of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada and approved by the Michener Institute of Education - CPD Accreditation Office. You may claim a maximum of 4 hours 55 minutes Section 1 group learning hours (credits are automatically calculated).

Research Symposium presented by:





## Program

Session Information	
7:00 – 8:00	<b>Registration and Breakfast</b>
8:00 – 8:10	<b>Canadian Concussion Centre Conference: Opening Remarks</b> <b>Dr. Charles H. Tator</b> , Professor of Neurosurgery, University of Toronto, Director, Canadian Concussion Centre
<b>Chair: Dr. Robin Green</b> Clinical Neuropsychology, Saunderson Chair in Acquired Brain Injury, Founder/Director TeleRehab Centre for Acquired Brain Injury	
8:10 – 8:45	<b>Invited Speaker: Dr. Michael Alosco</b> , Clinical Neuropsychologist, Boston University, USA <b>Title:</b> New Insights into the Detection of Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy During Life
8:45 – 9:20	<b>Invited Speaker: Dr. Allen Sills</b> (Virtual), Neurosurgeon, Vanderbilt University, NFL's Chief Medical Officer, USA <b>Title:</b> How Can We Make Sport Safer?
9:20 – 9:30	<b>Podium Presentation:</b> <u>Hidetomo Tanaka</u> , Lauren E. Black, Shelley L. Forrest, Carmela Tartaglia, Mozghan Khodadadi, Nusrat Sadia, Douglas H Smith, Charles Tator, William Stewart, Gabor Kovacs <b>Title:</b> Spinal cord quadruple misfolded proteins in chronic traumatic encephalopathy
9:30 – 9:50	<b>Invited Speaker: Prof. Hugh Scully</b> , MD, Surgeon, Toronto, Canada <b>Title:</b> The Role of Doctors in Treating Motorsport Injuries (Focus on Concussion)
9:50 – 10:00	<b>Podium Presentation:</b> <u>Hailey Mitsubata</u> , Jeffrey S. Brooks <b>Title:</b> How do repetitive head impacts in varsity football players affect brain responses?
10:00 – 10:20	<b>POSTER SESSION: Rapid Podium Presentations – (3 min/poster) Posters # 1-5</b>
10:20 – 10:45	<b>Refreshment Break and Poster Viewing</b>
10:45 – 11:20	<b>Invited Speaker: Dr. Carrie Esopenko</b> , Psychologist, Mount Sinai New York, USA <b>Title:</b> Understanding Intimate Partner Violence-Related Brain Injury as a Distinct Brain Injury Phenotype
11:20 – 11:30	<b>Podium Presentation:</b> <u>Judith Gargaro</u> , Arman Ali, Narhari Timilshina, Maria Santiago, Jiming Fang, Zhixing Hong, Dr. Mark Bayley <b>Title:</b> Does Concussion Impact Long-term Healthcare Usage in Older Adults? Examining Emergency Utilization and Fall Risk in Older Adults after mTBI/Concussion
11:30 – 12:05	<b>Invited Speaker: Dr. Paul van Donkelaar</b> , Clinical Neuroscientist, University of BC, Canada <b>Title:</b> Characterizing The Chronic Effects of a Remote History of Brain Injury in Women Who Have Experienced Intimate Partner Violence
12:05 – 12:15	<b>Podium Presentation:</b> <u>Lian Lopes Troncoso</u> , Chloe Anastassiadis, Simrika Thapa, Nusrat Sadia, Mozghan Khodadadi, Robin Green, Charles Tator, Carmela Tartaglia <b>Title:</b> Neuroinflammatory Markers in Former Athletes with Repetitive Head Impacts: Associations with Cognitive Function and White Matter Hyperintensity Volume

Link to conference website: <https://events.myconferencesuite.com/ConcussionSym2025>



## Program

Session Information	
12:15 – 1:15	<b>Lunch Break and Poster Viewing</b>
<b>Chair: Dr. Carmela Tartaglia</b> Marion and Gerald Soloway Chair in Brain Injury and Concussion Research, Professor, Tanz Centre for Research in Neurodegenerative Diseases, University of Toronto	
1:15 – 2:00	<b>Invited Speaker: Dr. John J. Leddy</b> , Sports Medicine Physician, University of Buffalo, USA <b>Title:</b> Aerobic Exercise Treatment for Sport- Related Concussion
2:00 – 2:10	<b>Podium Presentation:</b> <u>Yasmin Soliman</u> , Carmela Tartaglia, Charles Tator, Juan-Camilo Argas-Gonzalez, Chloe Anastassiadis, Vishaal Sumra, Artee Srivastava <b>Title:</b> White Matter Hyperintensities in Former Professional Contact Sports Athletes with Repetitive Head Impacts
2:10 – 2:45	<b>Invited Speaker: Dr. Gabor G. Kovacs</b> , Neuropathologist, University of Toronto, Canada <b>Title:</b> Quo Vadis CTE: Critical reappraisal of neuropathology
2:45 – 2:55	<b>Podium Presentation:</b> <u>Vishaal Sumra</u> , Shoshana Spring, Owen Botelho, Brian Nieman, Ali M Karakani, John G Sled, Gabor G. Kovacs, Carmela Tartaglia <b>Title:</b> Post-Mortem High-Resolution MRI – A Pilot Study
2:55 – 3:15	<b>POSTER SESSION: Rapid Podium Presentations – (3 min/poster) Posters # 6-10</b>
3:15 – 3:40	<b>Refreshment Break and Poster Viewing</b>
3:40 – 4:00	<b>Speaker: Dr. Carmela Tartaglia</b> , Canadian Concussion Centre (CCC) - Co-Principal Investigator <b>Title:</b> WSIB – Return to Work
4:00 – 4:10	<b>Podium Presentation (virtual):</b> <u>Tejbir Singh Deol</u> , Wyeshnavi Chitrangan, Ella Marie Bauwens <b>Title:</b> Evaluating Concussion Knowledge, Decision-Making, and the Call for Formal Education in grassroots university rugby
4:10 – 4:20	<b>Podium Presentations:</b> <u>Nicholas Moser</u> , Milos R. Popovic, Sukhvinder Kalsi-Ryan <b>Title:</b> Effectiveness of a Customized Rehabilitation Program for Adults with Post-Concussion Syndrome - A Randomized Controlled Crossover Trial
4:20 – 4:55	<b>Invited Speaker: Dr. Jennie Ponsford</b> (Virtual), Neuropsychologist, Monash University, Australia <b>Title:</b> Embracing the complexities of concussion in treatment
4:55 – 5:00	<b>Closing Remark</b> <b>Dr. Charles H. Tator</b>

Link to conference website: <https://events.myconferencesuite.com/ConcussionSym2025>

Link to conference evaluation: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2025ConcussionSympEval>





## Poster Presentations

Poster #	Presenter & Title
1	<b>Artee Srivastava</b> <b>Title:</b> Students Throwing Balls at School is a Frequent Occupational Hazard For Their Teachers
2	<b>Carmel Avitzur</b> <b>Title:</b> What affects return to driving in mTBI: Preliminary evaluation of clinical characteristics and emotional distress
3	<b>Jeremy Colangelo</b> <b>Title:</b> Concussion plus Persisting Concussion Symptoms in Occupants of Motor Vehicle Collisions: An Update
4	<b>Halina (Lin) Haag</b> <b>Title:</b> Building Awareness and Service Provider Capacity for Intimate Partner Violence Brain Injury (IPV-BI) in Canada
5	<b>Chloé Buso</b> <b>Title:</b> Evaluation of Computer Screen Intolerance, a Persisting Concussion Symptom
6	<b>Jenni Diamond and Evan Lewis</b> <b>Title:</b> Functional Neurological Disorder (FND) in the Context of Persisting Symptoms after Concussion: Time to Shift our Perspective?
7	<b>Samaneh Chaychi</b> <b>Title:</b> Sex Differences in Concussion Incidence Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Population-Based Study (2017–2021)
8	<b>Davina Premraj</b> <b>Title:</b> Sex and age differences in psychiatric and memory-based presentation of concussion and prevalence in older patients – a retrospective observational study
9	<b>Areeba Chaudhry</b> <b>Title:</b> Enhancing Interprofessional Compassionate Concussion Care: A Cultural-Historical Activity Theory Analysis
10	<b>Cathy Halovanic</b> <b>Title:</b> Simplifying Resource Needs for Persons with a Brain Injury

Link to e-Poster page:

<https://events.myconferencesuite.com/ConcussionSym2025/page/EPosters>





## Biographies - Invited Guest Speakers

### **Michael Alosco, Clinical Neuropsychologist, Boston University, USA**

Dr. Alosco is a clinical neuropsychologist and Associate Professor of Neurology at the Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine, where he serves as the Vice Chair of Research and Co-Director of Clinical Research at the BU CTE Center. His career has been devoted to study methods to detect and diagnosis neurodegenerative diseases, particularly chronic traumatic encephalopathy (CTE). He has >230 peer-reviewed publications in this field and is the PI of multiple NIH-funded grants. His research has laid the foundation for the development and validation of ways to detect pathologies from repetitive TBIs during life. He hopes his work will ultimately lead to the development of strategies to treat and prevent CTE and Alzheimer's disease.

### **Allen Sills, Neurosurgeon, NFL Chief Medical Officer, Vanderbilt University, USA**

Dr. Allen Sills, MD, FACS, FAANS is a neurosurgeon and the first ever Chief Medical Officer for the National Football League (NFL). He is also Professor of Neurological Surgery, Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation at the Vanderbilt University Medical Center in Nashville, Tennessee and is a founder of the Vanderbilt Sports Concussion Center. Dr. Sills has previously served as a neurological consultant to the NFL, the NCAA, the International Equestrian Foundation (FEI) and is a member of the Concussion In Sport Group which publishes the worldwide standards for concussion care. He has served as consulting neurosurgeon to many college and professional sports teams including those in the NFL, NBA, NHL, professional baseball, and international Olympic competitions. Dr. Sills was previously section editor for sports for the journal Neurosurgery and remains actively engaged in research on new methods of concussion assessment and treatment, along with minimally invasive spine surgery in athletes.

Dr. Sills is a fellow of the American Board of Neurological Surgery and the American College of Surgeons and is extensively involved in concussion education outreach events throughout the US and abroad. He also remains active as a surgeon and consultant for athletic teams at the youth, high school, and college level, and has served as a youth sports coach for over 25 years.

### **Hugh E. Scully, MD, Surgeon, Toronto, Canada**

Dr. Hugh E. Scully, BA, MD, MSc, FRCS(C), FACS, FRCC, FACC, FAHA, FIACS, is a distinguished surgeon, professor, and leader in medical policy and motorsport safety. He is Professor Emeritus in both Surgery and Health Policy, Management & Evaluation at the University of Toronto. His academic journey includes studies at Queen's University (Kingston), the University of Toronto, and Harvard University.

Dr. Scully has had a long and respected affiliation with the University Health Network (UHN), serving as an Honourary Member in the Division of Cardiac Surgery at Toronto General Hospital and as a member of the UHN Foundation Senate.

Beyond the field of surgery, Dr. Scully has played a pivotal role in the medical oversight of motorsports. He is the Co-Founder (1968) and President of Ontario Race Physicians at Mosport Circuit (CTMP) and serves as Medical Director for the Canadian Automobile Sport Clubs (CASC). Internationally, he co-founded both the FIA (World) Medical Commission in Paris (1981) and the FIA Institute for Motorsport Safety & Sustainability (Paris 2004). Additionally, he co-founded the International Council of Motorsport Sciences (ICMS) in 1988 and remains its Chair Emeritus, overseeing collaboration across 19 countries.

Dr. Scully's expertise has been integral to Formula 1 (Canada) from 1968 to 2009 and CART/INDYCAR Toronto (1984-2019) & Edmonton (2005-2008) as Medical & Safety Director. His contributions to motorsport safety and medical innovation have been recognized through his membership (since 2000) and tenure as Chair (2011-2022) of the Canadian Motorsport Hall of Fame.

Furthering his commitment to brain health and injury prevention, Dr. Scully is a member of the Advisory Board for the Canadian Concussion Centre (CCC), where he contributes to research and policy development on concussion-related issues.



## Biographies - Invited Guest Speakers

### **Carrie Esopenko, Psychologist, Mount Sinai New York, USA**

Dr. Carrie Esopenko is an Associate Professor in the Department of Rehabilitation and Human Performance at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City. She holds an adjunct faculty appointment at the Traumatic Brain Injury and Concussion Center at the University of Utah, as well as in the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health at Rutgers – Robert Wood Johnson Medical School. Her research focuses on understanding the effects of neurotrauma and mental health conditions across populations and developing patient-specific and community-based intervention strategies for trauma-exposed populations. She is the Lead Investigator of the ENIGMA Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) Working Group seeking to increase IPV brain injury research collaborations worldwide, and co-leads ENIGMA IPV Global Knowledge Exchange Network, which works to provide education and training supports to service providers and advocates working with IPV-related brain injury. Dr. Esopenko's work has been supported by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, Department of Defense, National Institute on Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research, and Canadian Institutes of Health Research. She was also awarded the 2024 National Neurotrauma Society's Rosalind Franklin award, recognizing her impactful scientific contributions to neurotrauma research and her work improving advocacy and education for intimate partner violence-related brain injury.

### **Paul van Donkelaar, Clinical Neuroscientist, University of BC, Canada**

Dr. Paul van Donkelaar is a Professor in the School of Health and Exercise Sciences at UBC – Okanagan. He has over 30 years of research experience investigating the sensorimotor, neurocognitive, and pathophysiological effects of brain injury. Over the last 8 years he has focused his efforts on better understanding brain injury (BI) in intimate partner violence (IPV). Together with his partner, Karen Mason, he co-founded Supporting Survivors of Abuse and Brain Injury through Research (SOAR) – Canada's only non-profit organization focusing specifically on the issue of IPV-BI. Together with colleagues in Canada and internationally, SOAR has helped raise awareness of the links between IPV and BI with the goal of better supporting survivors in their efforts to break free from abusive relationships.

### **John J. Leddy, Sports Medicine Physician, University of Buffalo, USA**

Dr. John J. Leddy is a Professor of Clinical Orthopedics and Rehabilitation Sciences at the University at Buffalo Jacobs School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, a Fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine, the American Medical Society for Sports Medicine, and of the American College of Physicians. He is the Director of Outcomes Research for the UBMD Department of Orthopaedics and Sports Medicine. He is a Division 1 team physician and Medical Director of the University at Buffalo Concussion Research and Management Center. He is a Member of the Expert Panels for the Fifth and Sixth International Consensus Conferences on Concussion in Sport. In conjunction with Dr. Barry Willer, he developed the Buffalo Concussion Treadmill Test.

### **Gabor G. Kovacs, Professor of Neuropathology and Neurology, University of Toronto**

Gabor G. Kovacs MD PhD is Professor of Neuropathology and Neurology at the University of Toronto. He is Consultant Neuropathologist and Neurologist at the University Health Network (UHN) and a Principal Investigator at the Tanz Centre for Research in Neurodegenerative Disease. Dr. Kovacs is the Co-Director of the Rossy Program for Progressive Supranuclear Palsy Research.

Dr. Kovacs completed his medical training at the Semmelweis University (Budapest, Hungary) where he specialized in Neurology and Neuropathology and obtained a PhD in Neuroscience. He was the leader of the Hungarian and Austrian Surveillance for Human Prion Diseases for more than a decade.

His major research has focused on the 1) Evaluation of the molecular pathological patterns associated with different genotypes and clinical syndromes of neurodegenerative diseases; 2) Definition of body-fluid biomarkers associated with morphologically defined phenotypes; and 3) Evaluation of selective vulnerability and pathogenesis-related proteins in the brain. Dr. Kovacs's research studies are based on bio-bank samples from individuals with neurodegenerative diseases including those with repetitive mild traumatic head injury. He has published more than 390 peer-reviewed papers, H-index 73, and edited three books on Neuropathology.



## Biographies - Invited Guest Speakers

**Carmela Tartaglia, Neurologist, MD, FRCPC (Symposium Co-Chair), Krembil Clinician Investigator, Krembil Research Institute**

Carmela Tartaglia is a professor and Clinician-Scientist at the University of Toronto. She received her medical degree from McGill University, completed her residency at the University of Western Ontario and did three years of clinical/research fellowship in cognitive /behavioral neurology at the University of California, San Francisco Memory and Aging Centre. She maintains a cognitive/behavioral clinic where she sees people with neurodegenerative disease and post-concussion syndrome within the UHN Memory Clinic. Her clinical and research interests lie in neurodegenerative diseases with a focus on frontotemporal lobar degeneration (FTLD) and possible chronic traumatic encephalopathy.

**Jennie Ponsford, Neuropsychologist, Monash University, Australia**

Jennie Ponsford, AO, BA(Hons), MA (Clin Neuropsych), PhD, MAPsS, FCCN is Sir John Monash Distinguished Professor of Neuropsychology in the School of Psychological Sciences at Monash University. She is Director of the Monash-Epworth Rehabilitation Research Centre at Epworth Healthcare. Over 44 years she has conducted clinical work and research with individuals with traumatic brain injury (TBI), investigating outcomes and the efficacy of rehabilitative interventions, with over 500 publications, including two books. She is Past-President of the International Neuropsychological Society (INS), International Association for Study of TBI and Australasian Society for the Study of Brain Impairment. She has received the Robert Moody prize for Distinguished Initiatives in Brain Injury and Rehabilitation (2013), INS Paul Satz Career Mentoring Award (2015), IBIA Jennett Plum Award for Outstanding Clinical Achievement in Brain Injury Medicine (2023) Australian Psychological Society Award of Distinction in Psychological Science. and in 2017 was made Officer of the Order of Australia for distinguished contributions to neuropsychology and diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of TBI. In 2020, 2022, 2023 and 2024 she was named as Australia's leading researcher in Rehabilitation Therapy. She serves on editorial boards of seven journals and is an Associate Editor of Journal of the International Neuropsychological Society.



## Biographies - Organizers

### **Charles Tator, MD, PhD, FRCSC, FACS (Symposium Chair), Director, Neurosurgeon - Krembil Brain Institute**

Dr. Tator graduated from the Faculty of Medicine at the University of Toronto in 1961. He performed graduate studies in Neuropathology from 1961–1965 and was awarded his Masters and PhD degrees from the University of Toronto before entering the Neurosurgery Training program in 1965. He became a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada in 1969 and joined the Neurosurgical Staff at Sunnybrook Medical Centre that year. Having served as Neurosurgeon-in-Chief at Sunnybrook from 1974-1984, he then moved to Toronto Western Hospital where he became Neurosurgeon-in-Chief from 1985-1988. He was appointed Chairman of the Division of Neurosurgery at the University of Toronto for a 10-year term beginning 1989, during which time he fostered the growth of the Surgeon-Scientist Training Program with the aim of encouraging academic surgeons to train in science at the highest level. It is largely through this vision that the University of Toronto Neurosurgery program is so highly regarded as one of the world's preeminent programs. He held the Campeau Family Foundation Chair in Brain and Spinal Cord Research at the University of Toronto and Toronto Western Hospital from 2001-2007. He is currently a Professor in the Department of Surgery at The University of Toronto. His main clinical interests are in the neurosurgery of spinal diseases and traumatic brain injury. His research laboratory focuses on the study of acute spinal injury models. He is the Project Director for the Canadian Sports Concussion Research Project at the Toronto Western Hospital.

In 1992, Dr. Tator founded ThinkFirst Canada, an organization that educates young people about safety, and served as its President until 2007. In 2012, ThinkFirst merged with three other organizations to form Parachute Canada, and he serves on the Board of this organization. He was elected to the Order of Canada in 2000 and to the Terry Fox Hall of Fame in 2003. In 2009, Dr. Tator was elected to the Canadian Medical Hall of Fame in recognition of his transformative research in spinal cord injury, his tremendous advocacy efforts in injury prevention and his legendary dedication and commitment to his patients. He continues to receive prestigious awards and honors in recognition of his distinguished career in neurosurgery, research and education.

### **Robin Green, PhD (Symposium Co-Chair), Senior Scientist, KITE, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, University Health Network; Research Division Head, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, University Health Network**

Dr. Robin Green is a professor in the department of Psychiatry, the Saunderson Family Chair in Acquired Brain Injury at UHN, and a Senior Scientist in cognitive neurosciences at KITE, Toronto Rehab. She completed her PhD at Cambridge University and her clinical training in neuropsychology at the University Health Network. Dr. Green founded and oversees a telerehabilitation centre for people in the chronic stages of acquired brain injury. Her research interests include: understanding how brain injuries unfold in the chronic stages; characterizing neurodegenerative processes in moderate and severe traumatic brain injuries; and developing cognitive interventions to prevent neurodegeneration.

### **Carmela Tartaglia, MD, FRCPC (Symposium Co-Chair), Krembil Clinician Investigator, Krembil Research Institute**

Dr. Carmela Tartaglia is a Professor and Clinician-Scientist at the University of Toronto. She received her medical degree from McGill University, completed her residency at the University of Western Ontario and did three years of clinical/research fellowship in cognitive/behavioral neurology at the University of California, San Francisco Memory and Aging Center. She maintains a cognitive/behavioral clinic where she sees people with neurodegenerative disease and post-concussion syndrome within the UHN Memory Clinic. Her clinical and research interests lie in neurodegenerative diseases with a focus on frontotemporal lobar degeneration (FTLD) and possible chronic traumatic encephalopathy.

### **Mozhgan Khodadadi, Clinical-Research Manager (Symposium Manager), MA, CCRP, PMP**

Mozhgan is the Clinical Research Manager at the Canadian Concussion Centre, where she oversees multidisciplinary research projects focused on concussion. She holds a Master's degree in Psychology with a specialization in Psychometry and is both a Certified Clinical Research Professional (CCRP) and a Project Management Professional (PMP). She has also completed multiple leadership development programs through Harvard Business School Online.



## Biographies - Organizers

In her role, Mozhgan supervises research assistants and trainees, coordinates study submissions to the Research Ethics Board, and contributes to staff recruitment. As a certified project manager and research professional, she plays a key role in developing and executing research initiatives, ensuring efficient oversight of budgets, timelines, and operations.

She also leads the preparation of grant and funding applications, helping to secure essential resources for advancing research into the diagnosis, treatment, and long-term effects of concussion.

In addition to her research and administrative responsibilities, Mozhgan has been instrumental in organizing the CCC's Annual Research Conferences and Public Forums. She currently serves on the planning committee for the 12th Annual Symposium on Concussion, contributing to the delivery of a meaningful and impactful event for both scientific and public audiences.

### **Arezou Khodadadi, Public Affair Associate (Symposium Coordinator)**

Arezou Khodadadi is the Public Affairs Associate at the Canadian Concussion Centre specializing in webinars and conferences. She oversees event coordination and manages the Continuing Professional Development (CPD) application process. She is dedicated to fostering engagement and facilitating the dissemination of knowledge to advance concussion research and education.



## Biographies - Podium Presenters

### **Hidetomo Tanaka**

*Podium Presenter: Spinal cord quadruple misfolded proteins in chronic traumatic encephalopathy*

Hidetomo Tanaka, MD, PhD, is a Japanese neuropathologist. Through training of general internal medicine and neurology, he advanced toward neuropathology, completing specific training and research to obtain a PhD (neuropathology) from Niigata University (Japan). In 2022 he joined Dr. Kovacs lab at the University of Toronto as a Research Fellow. He holds the title of councilor in the Japanese Society of Neuropathology. His main interest is neurodegenerative diseases and conditions, with a focus on tauopathies.

### **Hailey Mitsubata**

*Podium Presenter: How do repetitive head impacts in varsity football players affect brain responses?*

Hailey Mitsubata is completing her undergraduate degree in Kinesiology at Western University. Hailey's passion for research is driven by her lifelong passion for hockey, where she hopes to improve diagnosis, treatment, and long-term outcomes for individuals with sport-related brain injuries. Her research integrates machine learning and other computational methods to examine the neurological effects of repetitive head impacts. Her commitment to concussion awareness and athlete safety extends beyond academia through her role as financial coordinator with the Concussion Legacy Foundation Canada.

### **Judith Gargaro**

*Podium Presenter: Does Concussion Impact Long-term Healthcare Usage in Older Adults? Examining Emergency Utilization and Fall Risk in Older Adults after mTBI/Concussion*

Judy Gargaro is the Manager for the Neurotrauma Care Pathways Initiative. Judy has been focusing on developing, implementing and evaluating evidence-based Care Pathways for persons after brain and/or spinal cord injury with particular focus on those with comorbidities and those who have traditionally been under-served by the healthcare system. The goal of her work is to elevate the standard of care and ensure equitable care for all.

### **Lian Lopes Troncoso**

*Podium Presenter: Neuroinflammatory Markers in Former Athletes with Repetitive Head Impacts: Associations with Cognitive Function and White Matter Hyperintensity Volume*

Lian Troncoso holds a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology from the Universidade Federal do Rio Grande do Sul (UFRGS) in Porto Alegre, Brazil, with a strong focus on central nervous system inflammation and years of experience in immunogenetics and virology. His academic work includes investigating genetic susceptibility to multiple sclerosis, particularly the role of the CCR5Δ32 polymorphism and its influence on neuroinflammation. Currently, he is expanding his expertise to neurodegeneration research at the University Health Network (UHN), studying inflammatory markers in patients with a history of repetitive head impacts (RHI).

### **Yasmin Soliman**

*Podium Presenter: White Matter Hyperintensities in Former Professional Contact Sports Athletes with Repetitive Head Impacts*

Yasmin Soliman is a clinical Fellow at Toronto Western Hospital, who completed her neurology residency in Saudi Arabia.

### **Vishaal Sumra**

*Podium Presenter: Post-Mortem High-Resolution MRI – A Pilot Study*

Vishaal is a PhD student in Dr. Tartaglia's lab, who's focus is neuroimaging based biomarkers in concussion and neurodegenerative diseases. He has a background in quantitative MRI and MRI physics through his master's at UofT. His work aims to uncover and validate neuroimaging-based biomarkers for neuroinflammation, including freewater diffusion MRI, quantitative MRI and PET.



## Biographies - Podium Presenters

### **Tejbir Singh Deol**

*Podium Presenter: Evaluating Concussion Knowledge, Decision-Making, and the Call for Formal Education in grassroots university rugby*

Tejbir Singh Deol is a Fourth Year Medical Student at King's College London with an iBSc in Regenerative Medicine and Innovation Technology.

### **Nicholas Moser**

*Podium Presenter: Effectiveness of a Customized Rehabilitation Program for Adults with Post-Concussion Syndrome - A Randomized Controlled Crossover Trial*

Dr. Nicholas Moser is a practicing chiropractic specialist currently working within the KITE Research clinics. He graduated from the University of Ottawa with an Honors Bachelor of Science degree in 2011. He then attended the Canadian Memorial Chiropractic College (CMCC) and completed his degree in 2015 as well as fellowship training in 2017. Dr. Moser is undertaking his Ph.D. at the University of Toronto through the Institute of Medical Science under the supervision of Drs. Milos Popovic and Kalsi-Ryan. His research focused on understanding ways to facilitate recovery in those whose concussion symptoms persist.



## Biographies - Poster Presenters

### **Artee Srivastava**

*Poster #1: Students Throwing Balls at School is a Frequent Occupational Hazard For Their Teachers*

Artee is a Primary Health Care Nurse Practitioner. She obtained her Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Nursing at the University of Toronto. She became a Nurse Practitioner in the US. She has worked in the field of Diabetes and Multiple Sclerosis before transitioning to Concussion.

### **Carmel Avitzur**

*Poster #2: What affects return to driving in mTBI: Preliminary evaluation of clinical characteristics and emotional distress*

Carmel is an MA student in the Clinical Psychology program at Toronto Metropolitan University, under the supervision of Dr. Tisha Ornstein. She received a Bachelor of Arts with Honors in Psychology from Queen's University in 2021. Carmel's research interests lie at the intersection of cognitive and clinical psychology, with a focus on mTBI, emotional distress, and functional recovery. Carmel is passionate about conducting research in vulnerable populations to inform clinical practice and intervention strategies.

### **Jeremy Colangelo**

*Poster #3: Concussion plus Persisting Concussion Symptoms in Occupants of Motor Vehicle Collisions: An Update*

Jeremy is a Research Analyst working under the supervision of Dr. Charles Tator to improve concussion outcomes for motor vehicle occupants. With the research team at the Canadian Concussion Centre, he aims to elucidate concussion-causing mechanisms in motor vehicle collisions and advocate for the implementation of preventative safety systems.

### **Halina (Lin) Haag**

*Poster #4: Building Awareness and Service Provider Capacity for Intimate Partner Violence Brain Injury (IPV-BI) in Canada*

Dr. Haag is a CIHR Research Fellow and Contract Faculty member with the Faculty of Social Work at Wilfrid Laurier University. Her research program is focused on factors influencing mental health, return to work, and social integration for women survivors of IPV-BI. She is committed to improving outcomes through direct practice, innovative research, and professional education, believing that increased knowledge and understanding in the community is key. As someone with lived experience of brain injury, she has been a guest speaker addressing issues of disability, brain injury, and marginalization for a variety of international audiences.

### **Cholé Buso**

*Poster #5: Post-Concussive Vision Symptoms: Evaluation of Computer Screen Intolerance*

Chloé Buso completed her undergraduate degree as a Life Science major at Queen's University, where she graduated with a Bachelor of Science, Honours. She completed her Master of Science, with a specialization in neuroscience, at the Institute of Medical Science at the University of Toronto. She was supervised by Dr. Charles Tator, conducting research at the Canadian Concussion Centre, at Toronto Western Hospital. Chloé's research is primarily focused on investigating the pathophysiology and treatment of computer screen intolerance, a persisting concussion symptom.

### **Jenni Diamond**

*Poster #6: Functional Neurological Disorder (FND) in the Context of Persisting Symptoms after Concussion: Time to Shift our Perspective?*

Jenni is the founder of Jenni Diamond Occupational Therapy, dedicated to empowering clients recovering from concussion to enhance their quality of life and optimize their recovery. An Adjunct Lecturer at the University of Toronto and a Course Creator for Complete Concussion Management and the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapy (CAOT), Jenni brings expertise and innovation to her field. Her work has been honoured with the University of Toronto Occupational Therapy Alumni Achievement Award (2022) and the CAOT Award for Leadership (2025), recognizing her exceptional contributions to occupational therapy and concussion rehabilitation.



## Biographies - Poster Presenters

### **Evan Lewis**

*Poster #6: Functional Neurological Disorder (FND) in the Context of Persisting Symptoms after Concussion: Time to Shift our Perspective?*

Dr. Evan Cole Lewis is an adult and pediatric neurologist with expertise in epilepsy and a rich, clinical background treating concussion and Functional Neurological Disorder (FND). He founded the Neurology Centre of Toronto (2016–2024) and served as VP of Psychedelic Neurology at Numinus (2021–2024). He holds an academic appointment as Adjunct Assistant Professor at the University of Toronto. Dr. Lewis is recognized for his work integrating traditional neurology with innovative therapies, including medical cannabis and psychedelic-assisted treatments, including Ketamine-Assisted Therapy. He is active in clinical research and education, and also serves as a medical-legal consultant, contributing neurological expertise to complex cases involving brain injury and FND.

### **Samaneh Chaychi**

*Poster #7: Sex Differences in Concussion Incidence Before and During the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Population-Based Study (2017–2021)*

Samaneh is an Iranian medical graduate who holds a Master's in Neuroscience from McGill University. She joined UHN's memory clinical research team in 2022 coordinating Alzheimer's clinical trials. As research passionate, she volunteers with Krembil's concussion research team, contributing to understanding the role of sex/gender in concussion. She has several publications including a book chapter on the sex differences in concussion. Samaneh aims to advance concussion research, emphasizing the impact of sex/gender on incidence and outcomes of concussion.

### **Davina Premraj**

*Poster #8: Sex and age differences in psychiatric and memory-based presentation of concussion and prevalence in older patients – a retrospective observational study*

Davina Premraj is a Master's of Medical Science (Neuroscience Specialization) student at the University of Toronto. She is currently working in Dr. Carmela Tartaglia's lab and her research is focused on understanding the cognitive symptom profiles of falls and concussions in older adults. An avid neuroscience enthusiast, Davina has previous research experience in cognitive and behavioural neuroscience from McMaster University, where she earned her HBSoc in 2024.

### **Areeba Chaudhry**

*Poster #9: Enhancing Interprofessional Compassionate Concussion Care: A Cultural-Historical Activity Theory Analysis*

Areeba Chaudhry is a second-year medical student at the University of Toronto. Prior to medical school, she completed her HBSoc at York University in Biomedical Sciences. Her research spans diverse fields, from hands-on wet lab work in basic sciences during her undergraduate years to her more recent focus on health sciences and medical education research. She has held three NSERC Undergraduate Summer Research Awards and a Sunnybrook Research Institute (SRI) Summer Student Award.

### **Cathy Halovanic**

*Poster #10: Simplifying Resource Needs for Persons with a Brain Injury*

Cathy Halovanic is the ABI System Navigator for the Central Region of Ontario. She has worked in the field of brain injury since 1995 and has experience on the front-lines as well as behind the scenes. She provides education and resources to caregivers and professionals, within and outside the field of brain injury. In addition, she is involved in a number of Provincial Committees looking to improve the opportunities for individuals who have sustained a brain injury on both an individual and system level.



## Notes

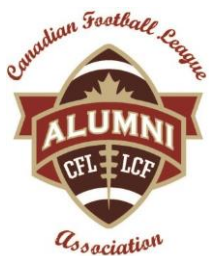
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