Program-at-a-Glance: Day One

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

Day 1	Thursday October 29, 2026
12:25 – 1:25	Lunch & Networking Brief Overview: ABI Provincial Navigators: The Missing Link – Cathy Halovanic, Julie Osbelt (12:50 – 1:00 pm)

Program-at-a-Glance: Day One (continued)

Day 1	Thursday October 29, 2026		
1:25 – 2:20 **Rapid Podium Presentations**	**Rapid Podium Presentations – 6 presentations, 8 minutes each with a group Q & A at the end (Grand Ballroom)**		
	The Toronto Concussion Study: Exploring the Role of Pre-Injury Activity Levels in Non-Sports Concussion Recovery *Alice Wang, HBSc Candidate, University of Toronto*		
	Responding to Complexity: A System-Driven Approach to ABI Crisis Case Management *Julie Osbelt, Toronto ABI Network & Renee Brassard, Cota*		
	Overdose-Related Brain Injury: Bridging Harm Reduction and Brain Injury Care through Insights from People Who Use Drugs and Caregivers *Liam Michaud, PhD(c), York University*		
	Examining the Final Discharge Destinations and Health Equity Characteristics of Moderate to Severe Traumatic Brain Injury Survivors *Kassandra Kenyon, RN, & Lynne Downey, Occupational Therapist, MSc. OT, OT Reg (Ont), Sunnybrook Health Sciences Centre*		
	A Legally Informed Decision-Support Tool for At-Risk Discharges in Acquired Brain Injury Rehabilitation *Ami Li, MD, & Jordan Pelc, MD, Sinai Health*		
	Building Awareness and Service Provider Capacity for Intimate Partner Violence Brain Injury in Canada *Halina (Lin) Haag, MSW, RSW, PhD, Wilfrid Laurier University*		
2:20 – 2:30	Transition Time		
	Session A: Grand Ballroom	**Session B: York AB**	**Session C: Bay**
Concurrent Sessions **2:30 – 3:15**	**A Functional Approach to Chronic Pain Management in the ABI Population** *Author: **Calvin Leung**, OT Reg (Ont). Occupational Therapist, FunctionAbility*	**Bridging the Gap After Brain Injury: Expanding the Continuum of Care for Work and Financial Wellbeing** *Authors: **Heather Nuttall**, MSW, RSW, Registered Social Worker, OBIA* ***Zoe Fallis**, Occupational Therapist, OT Reg (Ont.), OBIA*	**How Can We Better Support People with Traumatic Brain Injury after Intimate Partner Violence? Development of a Clinical Practice Guideline and Essential Tools and Resources.** *Authors: **Judith Gargaro**, BSc, Med Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, University Health Network* ***Danielle Toccalino**, PhD, PMP, University of Toronto* ***Halina (Lin) Haag**, MSW, RSW, PhD, Wilfrid Laurier University*

3:15 – 3:45	*Break (Grand Ballroom Foyer)*
3:45 – 4:45	**Keynote Address:** **Project-Based Intervention: A Practical Solution for Delivering Evidence-Based Rehabilitation in Real-Life Contexts (Grand Ballroom)** *Deidre (Dee) Sperry, M.Sc., S-LP Reg. CASLPO Reg. NLCHP* *Assistant Clinical Professor (Part Time), School of Rehabilitation Science, Faculty of Health Sciences, McMaster University*
4:45 – 5:00	Closing Remarks

Program-at-a-Glance: Day Two

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

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