

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM AGENDA

January 29, 2027| BMO Education & Conference Centre, Toronto Western Hospital

TIME	SESSION DETAILS
07:30 – 08:15	**REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST**
08:15 – 08:30	**WELCOME REMARKS**
08:30 – 09:30 *(45 min presentation + 15 min Q & A)*	**THE FUTURE OF REHABILITATION** **Dr. Milos R. Popovic, Dipl. El. Eng., Ph.D., FCAE, FAIMBE, FIEEE, FCAHS, FEIC, P.Eng.** *Institute Director, KITE, Toronto Rehabilitation Institute, University Health Network, KITE@UHN; Institute of Biomedical Engineering, University of Toronto - BME@UofT* Over the next 25 years and beyond, rehabilitation will face unprecedented challenges driven by an aging population, the growing burden of chronic disease, and an increasing demand for effective, accessible, and sustainable rehabilitation services. In this lecture, I will explore the scale of these challenges, using compelling statistics to illustrate the magnitude of the problem and the urgent need for new approaches. More importantly, I will examine the most promising solutions emerging today, highlighting innovations in rehabilitation engineering, robotics, functional electrical stimulation, artificial intelligence, and other transformative technologies. By exploring these opportunities, we will consider how science, engineering, and clinical innovation can reshape rehabilitation, improve functional independence, and enhance the quality of life for millions of people worldwide. The central question is not whether rehabilitation must change, but how we can accelerate that transformation to meet the needs of the next generation.
09:30 – 10:30 *(45 min presentation + 15 min Q & A)*	**FUTURE TRENDS IN NEUROIMAGING** **Dr. Nathan Churchill** *Title, Affiliation; Title, Affiliation* *Coming Soon*
10:30 – 11:00	**BREAK**
11:00 – 12:00 *(45 min presentation + 15 min Q & A)*	**SLEEP AND WAKE DISORDERS AND TBI REHABILITATION: CURRENT KNOWLEDGE AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS FOR ASSESSMENT AND MANAGEMENT** **Catherine Wiseman-Hakes, Credentials** *TPh.D, Assistant Clinical Professor, Clinician- Scientist*

	This presentation will provide an overview of sleep and wake disorders associated with traumatic brain injury including current knowledge, as well as current trends in assessment and management. Future directions and the potential role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in diagnosis, monitoring and treatment will also be discussed.
12:00 – 13:00 *(45 min presentation + 15 min Q & A)*	**DEVELOPMENT OF THE FIRST CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINE FOR TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY AFTER INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AND ESSENTIAL TOOLS AND RESOURCES.** **Judith Gargaro, MEd, BSc** *Program Director, University Health Network* Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) frequently leads to Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI), yet frontline providers and clinicians often lack clear guidance to deliver safe, consistent, and trauma-informed care. This session introduces a novel, evidence-based best-practice guideline designed to bridge critical gaps in IPV-TBI assessment, diagnosis, and care planning across all injury severities. Co-created by researchers, healthcare providers, and individuals with lived experience, the guideline provides standardized, consensus-driven recommendations and practical implementation tools for cross-sector support. Through interactive case scenarios and a multidisciplinary panel discussion, this workshop walks participants through applying the guideline in real-world settings. Attendees will learn how to integrate core recommendations—focusing on safety, stigma, privacy, and risk factors—into their daily practice. Non-clinical versions and consolidated resource toolkits will also be highlighted to ensure accessible care across both medical and community environments.
13:00 – 14:00	Networking Lunch
14:00 – 15:00	**Concurrent Workshops – Session 1**
Workshop 1 *Room 1*	**AVATARS, ROBOTS AND AI: EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES TO ASSIST WITH ASSESSMENT AND TREATMENT OF THE PERSON WITH BRAIN INJURY** **Dr. Mark Bayley, MD, FRCPC, CCPE** *Physiatrist in Chief and Program Medical Director, UHN;* *Professor, Division of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation,* *Department of Medicine, University of Toronto* This interactive session will review examples of how emerging information technologies are being used or could be used to enhance the assessment and management of people with brain injury. Agentic AI is currently being deployed in a number of ways for standardizing and automating psychological assessments and interviews. Similarly, there are emerging ways to remotely provide treatment and monitor outcomes using similar technology. The session will conclude with discussion of potential barriers and facilitators to implementation and those that could be adopted into clinical practice now.
Workshop 2 *Room 2*	**SEVERE INJURY CARE AFTER JULY 1, 2026: WHAT ONTARIO'S ACCIDENT BENEFITS CHANGES MEAN FOR PATIENTS AND CARE** **David Himelfarb, BA, LL.B** *Managing Partner – Personal Injury & Civil Litigation, HIMPRO*

	The July 1, 2026, Ontario auto insurance reforms have changed which accident benefits are automatically included in auto insurance policies. This means those impacted by injuries because of motor vehicle accidents are facing new challenges. When the injuries include traumatic brain injury or serious impairments, the differences in available coverage can impact income, family and home supports, rehabilitation planning and ongoing recovery. This session will help clinicians and rehabilitation professionals understand the practical implications of these changes, recognize potential policy coverage gaps impacting their patients, and better support patients and their families as they navigate recovery.
Workshop 3 *Room 3*	**THE MISSING PIECE IN BRAIN INJURY REHABILITATION: BRINGING VISION INTO THE TEAM** **18 YEARS OF EXPERIENCE OF INTEGRATING NEURO-OPTOMETRIC REHABILITATION INTO AN INTERDISCIPLINARY HOSPITAL-BASED PROGRAM** **Dr. Cheryl Letheren, BSc, OD, FAAO** *Neuro-Optometrist* Brain injury can cause persistent, disruptive issues with balance, gait, reading, and daily tasks—even when standard neurological exams and routine eye tests show normal results. This interactive workshop explores where vision fits within comprehensive brain injury care, drawing on 18 years of interdisciplinary clinical experience from Parkwood Institute's neuro-optometric rehabilitation program.
15:00 – 15:30	Networking Lunch
15:30 – 16:30	**Concurrent Workshops – Session 2** *The same three workshops repeat. See descriptions provided above.*
16:30	**END OF DAY**