



**Brain Injury  
Alliance**  
NEW JERSEY

## **2025 BIANJ Annual Professional Seminar**

**Wednesday, May 14, 2025**

**8:30 AM - 4:30 PM**

**The Palace at Somerset Park**

**Somerset, NJ 08873**

**Free parking is included**



# **ENHANCING UNDERSTANDING ACROSS THE BRAIN INJURY SPECTRUM**

NEW JERSEY'S PREMIER BRAIN INJURY CONFERENCE FOR:

Athletic Trainers - Behavioral Healthcare Specialists - Brain Injury Specialists - Case Managers  
Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapists - Life Care Planner Specialists - Neuropsychologists - Nurses  
Occupational Therapists - Physical Therapists - Physicians - Psychologists - Public Health Professionals  
Rehabilitation Counselors - Social Workers - Speech Language Pathologists - Vocational Counselors

## **EVENT BROCHURE**

Jointly Provided by the Office of  
Continuing Medical Education



Hackensack Meridian  
JFK University Medical Center

& The Brain Injury  
Alliance of NJ

Sponsor of Continuing Education



Hackensack Meridian  
JFK Johnson  
Rehabilitation Institute

Funding provided  
in part by



**DDS**  
NJ DIVISION OF  
DISABILITY SERVICES

# SEMINAR SNAPSHOT

The 2025 Annual Professional Seminar is funded in part by the New Jersey Division of Disability Services and the New Jersey Department of Children and Families.



The overall objective of the 2025 BIANJ Annual Seminar is to provide an educational opportunity to professionals working with individuals affected by brain injury through workshops related to research, clinical innovations and strategies, rehabilitation, and advocacy.

7:30 - 8:30	<b>Registration/Exhibits/Student Posters/Breakfast</b>
8:30 - 9:00	<b>Welcome/Opening Remarks</b>
9:00 - 10:15	<b>Keynote Address featuring Kristy B. Arbogast, Ph.D.</b> Opportunities for Reducing the Effects of Concussion Across the Prevention Spectrum
10:15 - 10:45	<b>Break/Exhibits/Student Posters</b>
10:45 - 12:00	<b>Block A Workshops</b>
<i>Workshop 1</i>	Leveraging New Disorders of Consciousness Accreditation Standards to Enhance Quality Care Across the Continuum (Bernard, Carolan, Jasey)
<i>Workshop 2</i>	Interprofessional Perspectives on TBI Rehabilitation (Peniston, Schaub, Starace)
<i>Workshop 3</i>	Ambiguous Loss After Brain Injury: The Impact of Unresolved Grief During Rehabilitation (Fallon, Teodorczyk)
12:00 - 1:30	<b>Lunch/Awards Presentation/Exhibits/Student Posters</b>
1:30 - 2:45	<b>Block B Workshops</b>
<i>Workshop 4</i>	Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapy (CRT): Developing Tools to Empower Individuals with TBI Throughout the Rehabilitation Process (Eichelberger, Share)
<i>Workshop 5</i>	Overcoming Health Disparities by Integrating AI and Technology in Stroke Rehabilitation Throughout the Care Continuum (Eriksson, Fleming, Qiu, Noce)
<i>Workshop 6</i>	Pediatric Disorders of Consciousness (Domingo, Matyas, Milozewski, Morgan, Patterson)
2:45 - 3:15	<b>Break/Exhibits/Student Posters</b>
3:15 - 4:30	<b>Block C Workshops</b>
<i>Workshop 7</i>	Rewriting Functionality: Bridging the Gap for Justice-Involved Youth with Brain Injuries in School and Work Transitions (Peña)
<i>Workshop 8</i>	Research Panel (Goodwin, McBride, Suttle)
<i>Workshop 9</i>	Visual Agnosia & The Role of Occupational Therapy (Lowenthal)

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS



## Kristy B. Arbogast, Ph.D.

Kristy Arbogast, PhD, is the Scientific Director of the Center for Injury Research and Prevention, Co-Director of the Minds Matter Concussion Frontier Program at The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and the R. Anderson Pew Endowed Chair and Professor of Pediatrics at the University of Pennsylvania. As a bioengineer, her research focuses on injury biomechanics and the effectiveness of safety products concentrating on the protection of youth in motor vehicle crashes and pediatric concussion. Dr. Arbogast's concussion research focuses on the use of head impact sensors to understand the biomechanics and bioengineering technology for objective measures of diagnosis and monitoring. She has established rigorous methods of data collection and processing to quantify repetitive head impacts across multiple sports in male and female youth, leading a consensus conference on the topic, from which best practices have been published. In parallel work, she serves a leadership role on the NFL Engineering Committee, interpreting multiple data streams for mitigation of head injuries through improved equipment, rules of the game and playing technique. Dr. Arbogast is funded by NIH, CDC and DOD to study objective measures of neurofunction in concussed youth and strategies for optimizing concussion care.

### KEYNOTE ADDRESS 9:00 - 10:15

#### **Opportunities for Reducing the Effects of Concussion Across the Prevention Spectrum**

**Kristy B. Arbogast, Ph.D.**

The presentation will discuss the spectrum of prevention on concussion – from primary prevention through protective equipment and laws, secondary prevention through accurate and timely diagnosis and tertiary prevention through effective treatments. Various mechanisms of injury will be highlighted including sports-related injuries as well as those injuries sustained in motor vehicle crashes. Existing inequities across various sociodemographic groups will be discussed, including strategies to mitigate those disparities.

**OBJECTIVES:** At the conclusion of this workshop, participants should be able to 1) Describe how primary, tertiary and secondary prevention impacts TBI incidence and related consequences. 2) Relate basic engineering principles to protective equipment design - on the sports field and in the car. 3) Evaluate the contribution of age to TBI prevention.

# FACULTY

Kristy Arbogast, PhD  
Scientific Director  
Center for Injury Research  
and Prevention;  
Co-Director of the Minds Matter  
Concussion Frontier Program  
The Children's Hospital of Philadelphia

Connie Domingo, MD, FAAP, FAAPM&R  
Medical Director  
Weisman Children's  
Rehabilitation Hospital

Arielle Fallon, MS, OTR, CBIS  
Occupational Therapist  
Hackensack Meridian JFK Johnson  
Rehabilitation Institute

Neil Jasey, MD, MMM  
Medical Director  
Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation

Daniel McBride, MD  
Brain Injury Medicine Fellow  
Hackensack Meridian JFK Johnson  
Rehabilitation Institute

Natalia Noce, OTD, OTR/L  
Assistant Professor  
Rutgers University Occupational Therapy  
Doctorate Program

Qinyin Qiu, PhD  
Co-founder and Chief Science Officer  
NeuroTechR3

Diana Starace, B.S., CPST-I  
Coordinator, Trauma &  
Injury Prevention  
Robert Wood Johnson  
University Hospital

Kate Bernard, LSW, CCM, CBIS  
Administrative Director  
Hackensack Meridian JFK Johnson  
Rehabilitation Hospital

Stefani Eichelberger, M.S.W.,  
LCSW, CBIS, CESP  
Program Director  
Community Skills Program  
Success Rehabilitation

Talya K. Fleming, MD  
Medical Director, Stroke  
Recovery Program  
Hackensack Meridian JFK Johnson  
Rehabilitation Institute

Lisa Lowenthal, OTD, OTR/L  
Occupational Therapist  
Hackensack Meridian Jersey Shore  
University Medical Center

Amy Milozewski, PT, DPT, CBIS  
Physical Therapist  
Weisman Children's  
Rehabilitation Hospital

Nicole Peniston, Psy.D.  
Licensed Clinical Psychologist  
Center for NeuroWellness

Christopher Schaub, MS, Ed, BCBA, LBA  
National Behavior Analyst  
Collage Rehabilitation Partners

Grace Suttle, MD  
Brain Injury Fellow  
Rutgers University Medical School –  
Kessler Institute for  
Rehabilitation Program

Terrence Carolan, MSPT, MBA  
Managing Director, Medical Rehabilitation and  
Aging Services  
CARF International

Mee Eriksson, MA  
CEO  
NeuroTechR3

Brandon Goodwin, DO  
Resident  
Hackensack Meridian Johnson  
Rehabilitation Institute at Ocean  
Medical Center

Nicole Matyas, MS, OTR/L, CBIS  
Occupational Therapist  
Weisman Children's  
Rehabilitation Hospital

Dawn Morgan, PT, DPT, ATC, CSCS  
Director of Inpatient  
Rehabilitation Services  
Weisman Children's  
Rehabilitation Hospital

Kelly Ann Peña  
Assistant Clinic Director, Masters  
in Speech and Language  
Pathology Program  
Rutgers University

Eric Share, BS, CBIS  
Certified Brain Injury Specialist  
Community Skills Program  
Success Rehabilitation

Anna Teodorczyk, LSW  
Rehab Care Coordinator Supervisor  
Hackensack Meridian JFK Johnson  
Rehabilitation Institute

## **Workshop 1: Leveraging New Disorders of Consciousness Accreditation Standards to Enhance Quality Care Across the Continuum**

*Kate Bernard, LSW, CCM, CBIS; Terrence Carolan, MSPT, MBA; Neil Jasey, MD, MMM*

Advances in emergency and critical care medicine have led to an increase in patient survival after severe brain injury. Yet, despite recent evidence supporting the benefits of rehabilitation and providing guidance on the care for those with Disorders of Consciousness (DoC), individuals with severe brain injury across the United States continue to face profound barriers to accessing intensive rehabilitation at the optimal time post-injury. As an accreditor of rehabilitation programs and in response to these advances, CARF International has recently created DoC rehabilitation program standards. Against this landscape, a panel of experts will discuss how DoC programs are translating these new standards into real-time practice to enhance care provided to those with DoC across the rehabilitation continuum. The future points to a world where more patients with severe brain injury and DoC survive, driving efforts to ensure access to high-quality, evidence-based clinical care that optimizes outcomes.

**OBJECTIVES:** At the conclusion of this workshop, participants should be able to 1) Discuss recent guidance regarding the care of individuals with Disorders of Consciousness across the continuum of care. 2) Summarize CARF International's Disorders of Consciousness Program Standards. 3) Assess how CARF Disorders of Consciousness Program Standards can be used to enhance care provided by rehabilitation providers across the continuum of care.

## **Workshop 2: Interprofessional Perspectives on TBI Rehabilitation (includes 3 presentations)**

**Presentation 1: The Role of Rehabilitation Psychology in Brain Injury Recovery: Empowering Patients and Families**

*Nicole C. Peniston, Psy.D*

Rehabilitation psychologists play a crucial role in brain injury recovery by addressing cognitive, emotional, and behavioral factors that significantly impact patient outcomes. Educating healthcare professionals about these interventions promotes a more comprehensive approach to rehabilitation. Furthermore, involving families in this process enhances patient recovery and improves long-term outcomes by fostering a supportive environment.

**Presentation 2: Brain Injury & Behavior: Addressing Challenging Behaviors**

*Chris M. Schaub, MS Ed, BCBA, LBA*

Skinner's science of behavior is founded on the principle that behavior is the product of the interaction between the individual and the environment. The crux of this science is understanding that, while events inside the individual influence behavior (e.g. pain or fatigue), the environment is ultimately responsible for behavior being more or less likely based on its consequences. Across all phases of recovery from brain injury, addressing challenging behaviors requires an understanding and careful examination of all involved variables and relations, and paying close attention to both the inside and outside story. This workshop will introduce a cohesive model that promotes organization and prioritization of these variables, and supports developing an individualized and integrated treatment plan. Additionally, analyzing and addressing neurobehavioral issues will be discussed in the framework of applied behavior analysis, with a focus on maximizing independence and promoting self-management.

**Presentation 3: Concussion: Are You Head Smart?**

*Diana Starace, B.S., CPST-I*

Concussions are a prevalent injury among youth, and concussion education has the potential to promote positive concussion-related behaviors. Participants will learn about the basics of concussion: recognition, management and prevention. We will discuss "Return to Life" protocols and provide examples. Participants will be exposed to age specific tools and resources, along with interactive games and activities that attendees will be able to share with youth athletes. Emphasis will be placed on creating a Safe Sports Culture, which empowers school personnel, coaches, parents and youth athletes to take steps to create a supportive, positive, and healthy environment for all.

**OBJECTIVES:** At the conclusion of this workshop, participants should be able to 1) Identify the unique contributions of rehabilitation psychologists in brain injury care. 2) Analyze behavior analytic programming elements that address both skills and motivation issues related to the treatment of challenging behaviors. 3) Construct a list of resources and tools to use when teaching youth across the lifespan about concussion recognition and management.

### **Workshop 3: Ambiguous Loss in Brain Injury Rehabilitation: The Impact of Unresolved Grief During Rehabilitation**

*Arielle Fallon, MS OTR CBIS; Anna Teodorczy, LSW*

Ambiguous Loss is a term that characterizes the uncertainty, grief, and coping difficulty experienced by families and caregivers of individuals with acquired brain injury. Acquired brain injuries due to traumatic brain injuries or stroke can have a profound and devastating impact on an individual's functioning and quality of life. Many times, survivors suffer such significant cognitive and psychological deficits that it results in grieving for the person who existed prior to the injury. As rehabilitation providers, we are charged with maximizing an individual's functional recovery while also shouldering the burden of knowing that this person's life and identity is likely forever changed. This presentation provides context and fosters empathy for families and caregivers navigating the adjustment to long term disability. It provides communication strategies for healthcare professionals to assist with having uncomfortable conversations while balancing our own compassion fatigue and acknowledging institutional barriers to our empathy.

**OBJECTIVES:** At the conclusion of this workshop, participants should be able to 1) Describe how ambiguous loss and grief is experienced by family members of individuals with acquired brain injury. 2) Recognize the impact of ambiguous loss and grief on the rehabilitation process and rehabilitation professionals. 3) Formulate strategies to support families/caregivers throughout the rehabilitation process while empathetically providing realistic information that is sensitive to caregivers' emotional needs

## **Block B Workshops**

**1:30 - 2:45**

### **Workshop 4: Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapy (CRT): Developing Tools to Empower Individuals with TBI Throughout the Rehabilitation Process**

*Stefani Eichelberger, MSW, LCSW, CBIS, CESP; Eric Share, BS, CBIS*

This session will explore how to improve cognitive skills that have been altered due to a brain injury and have presented challenges to daily living. An overview of Cognitive Rehabilitation Therapy (CRT) will be provided, including a discussion of CRT methods and strategies and the settings where CRT may be applied. We will address how to provide CRT throughout the rehabilitation process. We will highlight approaches to setting short and long-term goals, and the importance of identifying realistic goals to empower individuals with brain injury to reach desired outcomes. Through case studies and discussion, conference attendees will feel empowered to use CRT techniques.

**OBJECTIVES:** At the conclusion of this workshop, participants should be able to 1) Identify cognitive skills affected by brain injury. 2) Examine methods of cognitive rehabilitation therapy. 3) Select goal-setting approaches in cognitive rehabilitation therapy to achieve desired outcomes.

### **Workshop 5: Overcoming Health Disparities by Integrating AI and Technology in Stroke Rehabilitation Throughout the Care Continuum**

*Mee Eriksson, MA; Talya Fleming, MD; Qinyin Qiu, PhD; Natalia Noce OTD, OTR/L*

This presentation explores how technology enhances stroke rehabilitation across the care continuum, focusing on AI, VR/AR, robotics, exergames, and telerehabilitation. It examines how these innovations personalize treatment, streamline workflows, improve outcomes, and expand access to care for underserved populations. The session highlights the benefits of technology-assisted devices, such as robotics and motion capture systems, in increasing therapy effectiveness and patient engagement while addressing challenges like data bias, regulatory hurdles, and implementation barriers. Research findings from collaborations with Kessler and Rutgers clinics demonstrate the feasibility and success of hybrid rehabilitation models and technology-supported systems in improving motor function, even years post-stroke. Future trends, including AI-powered autonomous therapy, personalized rehabilitation, and predictive analytics, will also be discussed. Designed for healthcare professionals, educators, and managers, this presentation provides actionable insights into integrating advanced technologies to improve the quality of care and patient outcomes in stroke rehabilitation.

**OBJECTIVES:** At the conclusion of this workshop, participants should be able to 1) Understand the integration of technology in stroke rehabilitation. 2) Evaluate the benefits and challenges of technology-assisted devices. 3) Analyze research and future trends in stroke recovery.

## **Workshop 6: Pediatric Disorders of Consciousness**

*Connie Domingo, MD, FAAP, FAAPM&R; Nicole Matyas, MS, OTR/L, CBIS; Amy Miloszewski, PT, DPT, CBIS; Dawn Morgan, PT, DPT, ATC, CSCS*

This presentation will highlight the ways in which a pediatric inpatient rehabilitation program provides assessment and therapeutic intervention within the spectrum of Disorders of Consciousness (DoC). This program treats patients birth to 21 years in various states of cognitive and physical recovery. The goals of the program are to increase level of arousal, establish consistent responses to environmental stimuli, and regain functional losses in cognition and physical function. Both medical and therapeutic interventions help maintain medical stability, modulate arousal, and minimize agitation and pain as well as promote positioning, respiratory function, establish basic communication, and control environmental stimuli for brain healing. Care coordination and social work support the family, facilitate education and training, and assist with discharge planning. The Coma Recovery Scale -Revised (CRS-R) standardized assessment is administered by physical, occupational, and speech therapists to monitor recovery over time in the areas of cognition, language, vision and perception, communication and mobility. This presentation will discuss specific case studies to highlight and compare progress and outcomes within the spectrum of DoC.

**OBJECTIVES:** At the conclusion of this workshop, participants should be able to 1) Demonstrate understanding of levels of DoC and how they relate to emergence of cognition and recovery. 2) Describe the CRS-R and explain how it can be used to objectively measure cognitive performance, guide progression, and influence continuum of care. 3) Examine a progression of interventions through emergence of consciousness and compare varying levels of DoC patients as it applies to case studies.

## **Block C Workshops**

**3:15 - 4:30**

### **Workshop 7: Rewriting Functionality: Bridging the Gap for Justice-Involved Youth with Brain Injuries in School and Work Transitions**

*Kelly Ann Peña, M.S., CCC-SLP, CBIST*

Justice-involved youth with brain injuries face significant barriers when transitioning back to school or work due to cognitive impairments, systemic inequities, and socioeconomic disparities. This presentation explores the intersection of brain injury, executive functioning (EF), special education, and the medical system, highlighting how race and socioeconomic status (SES) influence access to services and outcomes. Cognitive challenges such as memory deficits, attention difficulties, and executive dysfunction—often worsened by trauma and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)—complicate these youths' reintegration into educational and vocational settings. We will critically examine conventional definitions of "functional" skills and consider whether current EF assessments reflect real-world needs. Current and future healthcare providers and educational teams will learn strategies for developing individualized, contextually relevant transition plans that address both cognitive and social determinants of health. Through interactive discussions and case-based learning, attendees will leave prepared to advocate for equitable, culturally responsive services that improve long-term outcomes.

**OBJECTIVES:** At the conclusion of this workshop, participants should be able to 1) Identify the cognitive challenges and barriers justice-involved youth with brain injuries face during school and work re-entry. 2) Critically examine traditional definitions of "functional" skills and question whether current executive functioning assessments meet the real-world needs of this population. 3) Analyze how interdisciplinary collaboration and targeted education among healthcare providers and educational teams can enhance the development of individualized, contextually relevant plans.



## **Workshop 8: Research Panel (includes three presentations)**

### **Presentation 1: The Efficacy of High-Dose Adjunctive Vitamin-D Supplementation in TBI Functional Outcomes**

*Brandon Goodwin, DO*

Previous research has investigated Vitamin D deficiency and negative outcomes in traumatic brain injuries (TBI). However, little research has investigated utilizing adjunctive, high-dose Vitamin D supplementation and measured potential functional outcomes. We conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis of five commonly employed databases to discern the potential benefits of Vitamin D supplements and improved functional outcomes.

### **Presentation 2: The Role of Neurostimulant Use in Functional Recovery Outcomes During Acute Inpatient Rehabilitation of Patients With Traumatic Brain Injury**

*Daniel McBride, MD*

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) is a significant cause of morbidity and mortality. In the United States each year, TBI results in more than 1 million emergency department visits, 220,000 hospitalizations, and 60,000 deaths. One method to treat the cognitive sequelae of TBI conditions is the use of neurostimulants, which may be used during acute inpatient rehabilitation. Though dysfunctional transmission of multiple neurotransmitters has been implicated in the sequelae of brain injury, two commonly targeted pathways include the dopaminergic and noradrenergic systems. This study seeks to assess differences in functional scores and recovery among patients treated with amantadine, methylphenidate, both, or neither.

### **Presentation 3: Analyzing the Outcomes of Premorbid Substance Use Disorders in Patients Experiencing Severe Brain Injury and Disorders of Consciousness**

*Grace Suttle, MD*

Individuals with severe brain injuries who are classified into the Disorders of Consciousness (DoC) spectrum are known to have decreased levels of arousal compared to healthy counterparts. It is also known that stimulants help with arousal, attention, and many other cognitive domains by modulating neurotransmitters and balancing the delicate milieu of neural architecture. Little is known regarding premorbid substance use disorders and outcomes in individuals within the spectrum of DoC. Moreover, no research to date has studied the association between premorbid substance use disorders and outcomes in individuals with the use of neuro-stimulants to augment arousal levels while in the acute inpatient rehab setting.

**OBJECTIVES:** At the conclusion of this workshop, participants should be able to 1) Identify common medications used for neurostimulation after brain injury. 2) Analyze the potential benefits provided by Vitamin D supplementation. 3) Evaluate outcomes regarding the relationship of premorbid substance use disorders and individuals with Disorders of Consciousness

## **Workshop 9: Visual Agnosia & The Role of Occupational Therapy**

*Lisa A. Lowenthal, OTD, OTR/L*

While pure forms of agnosia are rare, visual agnosia is one of the more common types of agnosia. There is limited research on visual agnosia, and given its complexity, it can be incredibly difficult to diagnosis. It is essential that practitioners working with individuals who have sustained brain injuries be aware of this diagnosis, as it can be easily missed and/or mismanaged. This presentation will provide an overview of the categories of visual agnosia, as well as highlight common subtypes with examples of clinical presentation. Given the significant functional implications of this condition, there will be a focus on the role of the occupational therapy practitioner in identification, evaluation, and evidence-based treatment of these disorders.

**OBJECTIVES:** At the conclusion of this workshop, participants should be able to 1) Differentiate between the different subtypes of visual agnosia based on their clinical presentation. 2) Identify occupational therapy screening tools and assessments for visual agnosia. 3) Evaluate occupational therapy evidence-based intervention strategies for visual agnosia.





# POSTER PRESENTATIONS

## **The Effects of a Contenance Training Program for Patients with Urinary Incontinence Secondary to Traumatic Brain Injury**

*Author: Juliana Lefano*

*Advisor: Jenna Tucker, PT, DPT, NCS, CBIS, Kean University*

## **Are Athletes of High Impact Sports With a History of Concussion More Likely to Sustain a Subsequent ACL Injury: A Literature Review**

*Author: Dennis Fernandes, Nathan Burrell, Joshua Medina*

*Advisor: Jenna Tucker, PT, DPT, NCS, CBIS, & John Lee, PT, DPT, PhD, OCS, Kean University*

## **mTBI In Older Adults: Symptom Patterns, Recovery Trajectories, and the Need for a Geriatric-Specific Care Model**

*Author: Dylan Cumella, Eden Schechter*

*Advisor: Jenna Tucker, PT, DPT, NCS, CBIS, Kean University*

## **What Did You Say?" Using TeamSTEPS® to Reduce Communication Errors in Healthcare**

*Author: Deanna Weidele, M.S*

*Advisor: Kelly Ann Peña, Rutgers University*

## **Comparative Study of Blast Induced Traumatic Brain (bTBI) Injury Across Various Animal Models**

*Author: Tulika Das, MS*

*Advisor: Bryan Pfister, Md, New Jersey Institute of Technology*

## **Interrater Reliability of the Smooth Pursuit and Saccadic Tasks of the VOMS Among Certified Athletic Trainers**

*Author: Julia Rose Duardo*

*Advisor: Luis Torres, Montclair State University*

## **Community Mobility Education and Intervention to Promote Socialization and Leisure Exploration for Clients with TBI**

*Author: Ashley Choi OTS*

*Advisor: Natalia Noce, OTD, OTR/L Rutgers University*

## **A Pilot Study: The Effects of a Telehealth Mindfulness Meditation Program on Sleep Quality and Anxiety in Acquired Brain Injury Population**

**Author: Lauren Del Giudice, OTS**

**Advisor: Nabila Enam, Saint Joseph's University**

## **Embracing Mindfulness: Positive Associations with Improved Psychological Well-Being Post TBI**

*Author: Wasayef Bsharat*

*Advisor: Jeannie Lengenfelder, PhD, Montclair State University*

## **Patient-Based Outcomes of the Rutgers 2024 Summer Head Injury Collaborative Clinic**

*Author: Sage Rivera*

*Advisor: Kelly Ann Peña, Rutgers University*

**Evaluating the Efficacy and Feasibility of a Novel Exergame Device, Rehabilitation Technologies for Hand & Arm (R3THA™), on Children with Cerebral Palsy due to Brain Injury**

*Author: Brian Hsu*

*Advisor: Natalia Noce, OTD, OTR/L Rutgers University*

# THE BIANJ EDUCATION COMMITTEE

*The Education Committee of the Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey oversees the planning and execution of seminars, workshops, and other initiatives to assist professionals in staying abreast of the latest innovations and research in Traumatic Brain Injury.*

Steven Benvenisti, Esq.,  
Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey  
President, Board of Trustees

Ryan Ahern, MS, OTR  
Allaire Rehab and Nursing

Ilana Beitscher  
Assistant Professor  
Fairleigh Dickinson University

Patricia Bonatakis, PT, DPT  
Hackensack Meridian Jersey Shore University  
Medical Center

Barbara Chabner, PsyD, MSW  
Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey

SuAnn Chen, MD, FAAPMR  
Hackensack Meridian Johnson  
Rehabilitation Institute at Ocean Medical Center  
BIANJ Board of Trustees

Georgianna Dodd  
ReMed

Allison Frederick  
Senior Speech Language Pathologist  
Encompass Health Rehabilitation Hospital  
of Vineland

Tom Grady, MPA, DTM  
Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey

Mary Sharlow-Galella, LCSW  
Hackensack Meridian JFK Johnson  
Rehabilitation Center  
for Brain Injuries

Brian D. Greenwald, MD  
Medical Director  
Rehabilitation Specialists  
BIANJ Board of Trustees

Dianne Simmons-Grab, MA, CCM, CDMS, CLCP  
Simmons Grab & Associates

Jennifer Harry, LCSW  
Opportunity Project

Rachel Ishak, MSW  
Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey

Kristine Keane, PsyD  
Center for NeuroWellness

Kirk Lercher, MD  
Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation

Lois Mishkin, MA, CCC/LDTC, ADHA-RSP  
Lois Mishkin LLC

Jacqueline Moskowitz  
NJ Department of Human Services,  
Division of Disability Services

Hilary Murphy, PhD  
Senior Neuropsychologist  
NeurAbilities

Kelly Ann Peña  
Assistant Clinic Director, Masters in Speech and Language  
Pathology Program  
Rutgers University

Bryan Pfister, PhD  
Professor and Chair  
NJ Institute of Technology

Nicole Schwartz, OTD, OTR/L, CBIS  
Rehabilitation Supervisor  
Bancroft NeuroRehab

Devon Tapp, MS, CHES  
Stockton University

Jenna Tucker, PT, DPT, NCS, CBIS  
Kean University, College of Health Professions  
and Human Services

Christine Wade, BSN, RN, CRRN  
Hackensack Meridian JFK Johnson  
Rehabilitation Institute

Katelyn Ward, MS, LAT, ATC  
United States Military Academy

Cara Yezzi, PT, DPT, NCS  
St. Luke's University Health Network

Corporate Circle offers the unique opportunity for businesses to partner with the Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey in supporting individuals affected by brain injury. Corporate Circle members are supporters of BIANJ, they are not grantors for this Annual Seminar.



# CORPORATE CIRCLE

## PLATINUM



## DIAMOND



## GOLD



## SILVER



## BRONZE

Begley Law

# REGISTRATION INFORMATION

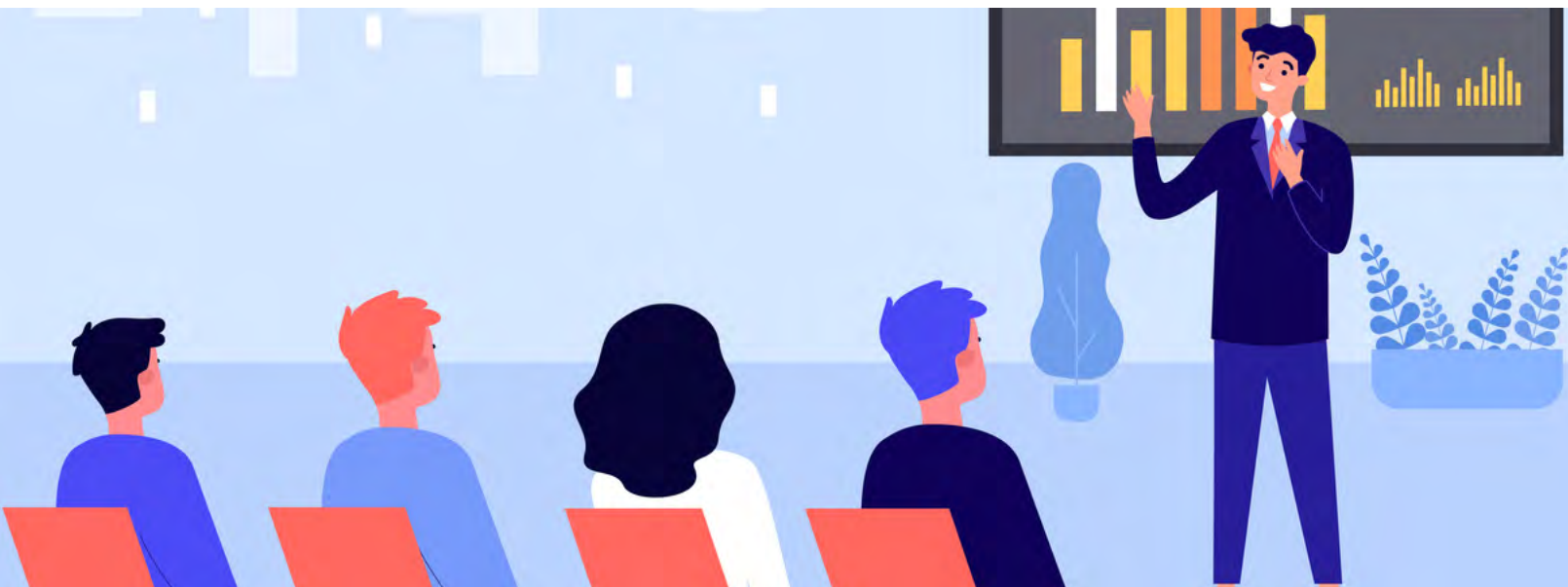
Please note that CEU/CE/CME fees are not included with registration. A \$20.00 processing fee for each CEU requested is due at registration.

If you are a BIANJ member please contact us for special pricing. Please email [bchabner@bianj.org](mailto:bchabner@bianj.org).

Type of Registration	Date of Registration	Fee
Early Bird	Now – April 15, 2025	\$250.00
Regular	April 16, 2025 – May 13, 2025	\$275.00
Day of/ On Site	May 14, 2025	\$295.00
Student	Now - May 14, 2025	\$75.00
CEUs/ CE/ CME	Now - May 14, 2025	\$20.00

## EARNING EDUCATION CREDITS

BIANJ has submitted applications with several disciplines to offer attendees the opportunity to earn educational credits. CEU hours may be obtained from the following professional organizations: ACCME, AOTA, APA, ASHA, BOC, CBIS, CCMC, CDMS, CHES, CLCP, CRCC, NASW-NJ, NJSBPT. The requirements to earn educational credits vary with each discipline. All disciplines require that you complete a sign in sheet for each workshop attended, as well as complete evaluations for the keynote address, each workshop attended and the overall evaluation. Attendees requesting APA, ASHA and NJSBPTA credits are required to complete an Attendance Verification Form. These forms are available at the registration desk on the day of the seminar. For questions about continuing education credits, contact Barbara Chabner at [bchabner@bianj.org](mailto:bchabner@bianj.org).



In compliance with the requirements of **ASHA's Continuing Education Board** concerning transparency in course planning, delivery, and marketing, please follow the link below to review information on the financial and non-financial interests of presenters relevant to the content of their presentation.

In accordance with the **American Psychological Association's Standards on Promotion and Advertising of Programs**, sponsors are required to disclose any known commercial support for the CE program or instructors and any other relationships that could be reasonably construed as a conflict of interest. Follow the link below to review information on the financial and non-financial interest of presenters relevant to the content of their presentation.

Statement of Financial and Non-Financial Disclosure for the **American Occupation Therapy Association** is pending approval for this Professional Development Activity.

# CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

## FINANCIAL AND NON-FINANCIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

### Educational Information



Accreditation: This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of Hackensack Meridian JFK University Medical Center and the Brain Injury Alliance of NJ. The Hackensack Meridian JFK University Medical Center is accredited by the ACCME to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

Credit: Hackensack Meridian JFK University Medical Center designates this live activity for a maximum of 5.0 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)*™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

In accordance with the ACCME's Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education, all persons in control of the content of an activity are required to sign disclosure/ attestation of best available evidence statements prior to CME activities. Hackensack Meridian JFK University Medical Center implements appropriate mitigation strategies for all persons with relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies. Disclosure information will be provided to learners prior to their engagement in the accredited education.



Hackensack Meridian JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Hackensack Meridian Health, JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute maintains responsibility for this program.



Hackensack Meridian Health,  
JFK Johnson Rehabilitation  
Institute

Intermediate level, 0.5 ASHA CEUs.

ASHA CE Provider approval and use of the brand block does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products, or clinical procedures.

Application for CEU's has been made to the New Jersey State Board of Physical Therapy Examiners.

# ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

## **Parking and Hotels:**

There is ample free parking at The Palace at Somerset Park. Should you need overnight accommodations there is a Courtyard by Marriott Hotel nearby. The hotel has a shuttle to The Palace. Please contact Barbara Chabner, [bchabner@bianj.org](mailto:bchabner@bianj.org) for information about booking a room.

## **Accommodations:**

The Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey (the Alliance) encourages all individuals with disabilities to attend and participate in our events. If you anticipate needing any type of accommodation or have questions about the physical access for this event, please contact us at [info@bianj.org](mailto:info@bianj.org), or by phone at 732-745-0200 prior to this program. If leaving a message, provide your name and contact information and appropriate staff will contact you to facilitate your request. Every effort will be made to provide reasonable accommodations effectively and timely.

## **Cancellations:**

Participant cancellations will be accepted via email no later than May 7, 2025. There is a \$25.00 cancellation fee. If the seminar is cancelled in part or entirely, a partial or full refund will be provided. Cancellation information will be posted at [bianj.org](http://bianj.org).

## **Changes:**

You may transfer your registration to another person with a minimum of 24-hour advance notice with no charge. To transfer your registration to another person, email [bchabner@bianj.org](mailto:bchabner@bianj.org) before May 14, 2025 with your name and contact information as well as the name and contact information of the person using your registration. There are no fees to transfer registration.

## **Complaints:**

During and after the seminar, attendees and participants may contact Barbara Chabner at [bchabner@bianj.org](mailto:bchabner@bianj.org) to report complaints or grievances. On the seminar day, please contact any BIANJ staff member. They will assist you in rectifying or explaining a problematic situation. Staff will be at registration throughout the day and will also attend workshops.





**REGISTER AT**  
**BIANJ.ORG/SEMINAR2025**  
**AND SELECT YOUR**  
**WORKSHOPS**



**825 Georges Road, 2nd Floor**  
**North Brunswick, NJ 08902**  
**Phone: 732-745-0200**  
**Helpline: 1-800-669-4323**  
**Email: [INFO@BIANJ.ORG](mailto:INFO@BIANJ.ORG)**

**Visit us at [BIANJ.ORG](http://BIANJ.ORG)**