Brain Injury Alliance NEW JERSEY

ANNUAL Professional Seminar 2026

Cultivating Resilience in Brain Injury: Advancing Insight, Prevention, and Rehabilitation

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2026 | THE PALACE AT SOMERSET PARK, SOMERSET, NJ

NEW JERSEY'S PREMIER BRAIN INJURY CONFERENCE

Jointly provided by the Office of Continuing Medical Education

Hackensack Meridian JFK University Medical Center

Sponsor of Continuing Education

Hackensack Meridian JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute

Funding provided in part by

DDS NJ DIVISION OF DISABILITY SERVICES

Seminar Snapshot

The overall objective of the 2026 BIANJ Annual Professional 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.

ATTENDED BY | 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

The 2026 BIANJ Annual Professional Seminar is funded in part by the New Jersey Division of Disability Services and the New Jersey Department of Children and Families.

DAY AT-A-GLANCE

7:30-8:30 a.m.	**Registration/Exhibits/Student Posters/Breakfast**
8:30-8:45 a.m.	**Welcome/Opening Remarks**
8:45-10 a.m.	**Keynote Address Featuring Dawn Neumann, PhD, FACRM** *Unlocking Resilience: A New Hope for Well-being after Brain Injury*
10-10:30 a.m.	**Break/Exhibits/Student Posters**
10:30-11:45 a.m.	**Block A Workshops**
Workshop 1	*Breaking the Trauma Cycle: The Two-Way Link Between Interpersonal Violence and Brain Injury (Kurdyla)*
Workshop 2	*Sowing Recovery: A Community-Based Traumatic Brain Injury Program Integrating the Symbolism of Floriography and Cognitive Rehabilitation (Tremaine)*
Workshop 3	*Managing the Implications of Aging for Individuals with Long-Term Brain Injury (Beitscher, Levatino)*
11:45 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	**Lunch**
12:30-1:30 p.m.	**Plenary Session** *Data, Detection, and Decisions: Reframing Traumatic Brain Injury in the Age of AI (Etienne)*
1:30-1:45 p.m.	**Break/Exhibits/Student Posters**
1:45-3 p.m.	**Block B Workshops**
Workshop 4	*Promoting Wellness and Adapted Fitness for Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury (Tassini, Williams)*
Workshop 5	*Sleep and Brain Injury: From A to Zzz (Fults, Spariosu)*
Workshop 6	*More Than a Bump on the Head: A Multidisciplinary Approach to Pediatric Concussion Management (Ginart, Giorello, Mazzola, Sikorskyj)*
3-3:15 p.m.	**Break/Exhibits/Student Posters**
3:15-4:30 p.m.	**Block C Workshops**
Workshop 7	*From Impact to Integration: A Collaborative Approach to Concussion Management in Aging Populations (Kleban, Tucker)*
Workshop 8	*Integrating Holistic Health and Nature-Based Strategies for Chronic Brain Injury Recovery (Wilson)*
Workshop 9	*Creating Environments Conducive to Growth (Alvino, DeRitter)*

Keynote Address

DAWN NEUMANN, PhD, FACRM

Unlocking Resilience:
A New Hope for Well-Being After Brain Injury

8:45-10 a.m.

Dawn Neumann, PhD, FACRM is a Research Scientist and Manager of Brain Injury Research at Hackensack Meridian JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute. She has a PhD in Rehabilitation Science from SUNY Buffalo, NY and her MA in Psychology from Rutgers, NJ. Her research aims to advance the understanding and treatment of social cognition and emotion dysregulation deficits after traumatic brain injury. She serves on the Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation editorial review board, and is an active member of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine (ACRM), where she has been honored as Fellow for her contributions to the organization. She has received several awards for her research in brain injury from ACRM, including the Deborah Wilkerson Award, Mitchell Rosenthal Award, and the Joshua Cantor Scholar Award.

KEYNOTE ADDRESS | 8:45-10 A.M.

Unlocking Resilience: A New Hope for Well-Being After Brain Injury

Dawn Neumann, PhD, FACRM

A brain injury (BI) can result in an array of sequelae that differ across individuals in terms of symptom type, severity, and persistence, as well as the degree of impact on daily functioning and participation. Across all treating disciplines, understanding modifiable risk factors that influence function is critical to informing necessary screening and post-injury care to optimize recovery. Recovery of symptoms after a BI, including concussion, is often influenced by resilience. As such, it is critical to identify factors that contribute to resilience. New research shows one such factor is alexithymia (impaired emotional insight). This keynote presentation will cover clinical characteristics of alexithymia, its relevance to resilience and outcomes after BI, and share evidence of a structured training program that targets alexithymia in people who have had a BI and its outcomes on resilience. Recognizing and treating alexithymia has the potential to improve outcomes from concussion to severe BI.

OBJECTIVES: At the conclusion of this workshop, participants should be able to:

1. Discuss what alexithymia is and its clinical characteristics.
2. Summarize alexithymia's relevance to brain injury recovery and well-being.
3. Describe evidence and core components of a training program for people with brain injury who have alexithymia.

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Workshops

BLOCK A | 10:30-11:45 A.M.
Choose 1, 2, or 3

BLOCK A | WORKSHOP 1

Breaking the Trauma Cycle:
The Two-Way Link Between Interpersonal Violence and Brain Injury
Jennifer Kurdyla, MSW

Interpersonal violence, including intimate partner violence and sexual violence, is a public health issue. For example, about 40% of women and 25% of men experience contact sexual violence, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner. There is a bi-directional connection between experiencing interpersonal violence and brain injury, as interpersonal violence can (directly and indirectly) lead to brain injury, while having a brain injury may make someone more likely to be exploited by abusers. It is important for those who are serving individuals with brain injuries to understand the trauma of experiencing interpersonal violence and to be able to fully support survivors/victims. This workshop aims to help participants: define interpersonal violence, specifically intimate partner violence and sexual violence; recognize the two-way link between the issue of interpersonal violence and brain injury; identify resources for helping survivors/victims; and feel prepared to respond to a disclosure from a survivor/victim.

OBJECTIVES: At the conclusion of this workshop, participants should be able to:

1. Discuss the issues of sexual violence and intimate partner violence, as well as their two-way connection with brain injury.
2. Identify resources for helping survivors/victims of sexual violence and intimate partner violence.
3. Explain how best to respond to disclosures from survivors/victims of sexual violence and intimate partner violence.

BLOCK A | WORKSHOP 2

Sowing Recovery: A Community-Based Traumatic Brain Injury Program Integrating the Symbolism of Floriography and Cognitive Rehabilitation
Monique Tremaine, PhD, MSCP

The presentation describes a model for the therapeutic use of floriography (the Victorian language of flowers) as a structured metaphorical and creative framework for cognitive rehabilitation in individuals recovering from acquired brain injury (ABI). Grounded in Prigatano's seven stage model of neuropsychological recovery, the program integrates evidence-based neuropsychological strategies with symbolic representation, multi-sensory activities, and storytelling to support emotional adjustment, cognitive growth, and resilience. Activities inspired by horticulture and art-based media support executive functioning, self-awareness, and identity reconstruction through experiential learning. This innovative approach has potential to reduce motivational barriers to rehabilitation, enhance patient engagement, and foster meaningful participation in community life. The primary objective is to evaluate feasibility, engagement, and preliminary outcomes to inform larger scale implementation and research.

OBJECTIVES: At the conclusion of this workshop, participants should be able to:

1. Describe how Prigatano's seven-stage model of neuropsychological recovery can be mapped onto a horticultural growth framework to support emotional and identity based recovery following acquired brain injury.
2. Apply principles of cognitive rehabilitation (e.g., attention, sequencing, planning, cognitive flexibility) within symbolic and horticultural activities to enhance patient engagement and emotional regulation after ABI.
3. Evaluate the clinical utility of floriography-based tools (symbolic card decks and structured activities) for integrating emotional meaning-making into interdisciplinary brain injury rehabilitation programs.

Workshops

BLOCK A | 10:30-11:45 A.M.
Choose 1, 2, or 3

BLOCK A | WORKSHOP 3

Managing the Implications of Aging for Individuals with Long-Term Brain Injury
Ilana Beitscher, PhD, OTR/L; Christie Levatino, PT, DPT, CSRS, CBIS

Brain injury (BI) has been recognized as a chronic condition that impacts the functioning and health status of individuals as they age. To continue to provide specialized care for this population, it is important to recognize the effects of aging and how to modify a plan of care. Literature supports that aging individuals with chronic BI present with increased disability, cognitive impairments and overall decreased functional independence and social participation in later years as the aging process intensifies (Ayton et al., 2025; Rabinowitz et al., 2021; Thuss et al., 2025). Self-care, mobility and fine motor skills required for daily functioning are impacted the greatest with aging (Hammond et al., 2021). Aging individuals with BIs are also at increased risk for neuro-degenerative conditions such as Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's disease, and dementia (Barker et al., 2023). While these barriers to independence and health exist, interdisciplinary strategies to combat them can be integrated to help preserve functioning in the least restrictive environment for as long as possible. Early communication amongst team members, prompt response to medical needs and functional changes, and integration of proactive therapeutic approaches can all help facilitate ongoing preservation of functioning. This presentation will explore clinical strategies to help meet the needs of the aging BI population to maintain the highest level of independence for as long as possible.

OBJECTIVES: At the conclusion of this workshop, participants should be able to:

1. Summarize current literature on the effects of aging and individuals with chronic BI.
2. Demonstrate understanding of functional implication of the aging BI population based on the literature review and community-based setting.
3. Apply clinical strategies to promote interdisciplinary treatment to preserve function and promote quality of life within the least restrictive environment.

PLENARY SESSION | 12:30-1:30 P.M.

Data, Detection, and Decisions: Reframing Traumatic Brain Injury in the Age of AI
Mill Etienne, MD, MPH, FAAN, FANA, FAES

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) remains a leading cause of morbidity worldwide, yet clinical assessment, prognostication, and management continue to rely on tools that incompletely capture injury heterogeneity and recovery trajectories. Advances in artificial intelligence (AI) offer new opportunities to integrate complex, high-dimensional data—including neuroimaging, physiologic signals, biomarkers, and longitudinal clinical measures—to improve detection, characterization, and decision-making across the continuum of TBI care. This lecture explores how AI-driven approaches can enhance early injury detection, refine severity stratification, and support more accurate outcome prediction, while complementing—not replacing—clinical judgment. Drawing on examples spanning civilian, military, and athletic contexts, the talk highlights how machine learning models can move TBI care beyond static snapshots toward dynamic, data-informed insights. Emphasis is placed on practical applications, current limitations, and the translational challenges of implementing AI in real-world clinical environments. Ultimately, the session reframes TBI as a condition increasingly understood through integrated data and intelligent systems, with the potential to inform more timely, precise, and personalized clinical decisions

OBJECTIVES: At the conclusion of this workshop, participants should be able to:

1. Analyze how artificial intelligence models synthesize multimodal data to improve detection, severity stratification, and outcome prediction in traumatic brain injury.
2. Evaluate the strengths, limitations, and clinical readiness of current AI-driven tools across the acute, subacute, and recovery phases of traumatic brain injury care.
3. Design a conceptual framework for integrating artificial intelligence–supported insights into clinical decision-making while preserving clinician oversight and contextual judgment.

Workshops

BLOCK B | 1:45-3 P.M.
Choose 4, 5, or 6

BLOCK B | WORKSHOP 4

Promoting Wellness and Adapted Fitness for Individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury
Carolyn Tassini, PT, DPT, NCS, CBIS, CEEAA
Jamie Williams, PT, DPT, NCS

Individuals living with the long-term effects of moderate to severe traumatic brain injury (TBI) frequently experience decreased levels of physical activity and reduced participation in fitness or wellness routines. This inactivity often contributes to the development of chronic secondary health conditions—such as cardiovascular disease, obesity, and metabolic disorders—and can further exacerbate cognitive, social and emotional challenges. As a result, these individuals face compounded barriers to healthy aging and quality of life. The primary objective of this presentation is to synthesize current literature on the benefits of structured exercise, fitness, and wellness programs for individuals with chronic TBI and to explore evidence-based strategies for improving access and participation in such programs. In doing so, we aim to highlight how tailored physical activity interventions can enhance not only physical outcomes but also cognitive functioning, mood, and overall community integration.

OBJECTIVES: At the conclusion of this workshop, participants should be able to:

1. Describe the evidence supporting physical activity as a vital component of long-term recovery for individuals with TBI.
2. Demonstrate insight into an innovative and adaptable program model addressing wellness for individuals with TBI.
3. Formulate actionable strategies to enhance client participation, promote wellness, and improve overall quality of life.

BLOCK B | WORKSHOP 5

Sleep and Brain Injury: From A to Zzz
Erin Fults, PsyD
Magdalena Spariosu, MD, FAPA

Sleep disturbance is a common occurrence following brain injury. Poor sleep can have adverse effects on cognition, mood, injury recovery, and overall functioning and wellbeing. In this presentation, a neuropsychologist and neuropsychiatrist discuss the impact of brain injury on sleep, ways for providers at different levels of care to assess sleep quality/quantity, referral options, and behavioral and pharmacological treatment options to address sleep disturbance. Dr. Fults will focus on behavioral factors and sleep hygiene practices particularly in an outpatient setting. Dr. Spariosu will delve into biological and psychiatric factors and evidence-based pharmacologic strategies, including insights from the inpatient perspective. This presentation highlights the benefits of interdisciplinary coordination for effective sleep management following brain injury.

OBJECTIVES: At the conclusion of this workshop, participants should be able to:

1. Distinguish common sleep disturbances following brain injury and the potential negative impact on cognition, mood, and recovery.
2. Demonstrate knowledge of general sleep hygiene practices and how to tailor to the brain injury population.
3. Identify pharmacologic treatment strategies for sleep disturbances after traumatic brain injury based on the underlying sleep presentation, while considering cognitive vulnerability, delirium risk, and seizure threshold.

Workshops

BLOCK B | 1:45-3 P.M.
Choose 4, 5, or 6

BLOCK C | 3:15-4:30 P.M.
Choose 7, 8, or 9

BLOCK B | WORKSHOP 6

More Than a Bump on the Head:
A Multidisciplinary Approach to Pediatric Concussion Management
Susanne Ginart, RN, MS, APN-C; Giana Giorello, PT, DPT,
Catherine Mazzola, MD, FAANS; Tatiana Sikorskyj, APN, RNFA

Concussions in the pediatric population require management strategies distinct from adult care due to developmental vulnerability, age-specific symptom expression, and unique recovery trajectories. This session provides a comprehensive overview of pediatric concussion management, emphasizing a coordinated, multidisciplinary approach that may include neurologists, physicians, nurse practitioners, physical therapists, nutritionists, mental health providers, and other allied health professionals. Participants will explore why pediatric concussions are not "mini adult" injuries and review age-appropriate evaluation tools, interventions, and communication strategies. The presentation highlights interdisciplinary collaboration across the continuum of care, from diagnosis through return-to-learn and return-to-play. Special consideration is given to cases with symptoms persisting past 2-4 weeks, addressing the multifaceted symptom domains that contribute to prolonged recovery. Using an established concussion pathway as a model, attendees will engage in an interactive exercise to develop or refine a concussion care pathway that adapts to the needs of their practice at any size.

OBJECTIVES: At the conclusion of this workshop, participants should be able to:

1. Identify the unique aspects of pediatric concussion and its implications for assessment and treatment.
2. Explain how a multidisciplinary model improves coordination of care and recovery outcomes.
3. Develop or refine a concussion pathway within their own practice to ensure timely, coordinated, and age-appropriate care.

BLOCK C | WORKSHOP 7

From Impact to Integration:
A Collaborative Approach to Concussion Management in Aging Populations
Mary Kleban, PT, DPT, PhD, GCS; Jenna Tucker, PT, DPT, NCS, CBIS

This session explores the critical need for early screening and individualized care for older adults post-concussion, particularly those resulting from falls, a leading cause of injury among this population. Rooted in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Healthy People 2030 initiative, the presentation emphasizes the importance of efficient referral pathways for dizziness and balance impairments to reduce fall risk and associated long-term health consequences. Older adults are more likely to experience severe and prolonged concussion symptoms including cognitive, behavioral, balance, vestibular, and visual deficits. These symptoms are frequently underdiagnosed and poorly managed due to gaps in current care models, which often fail to account for baseline function, comorbidities, and fragility. The presentation outlines a multidomain, adaptable framework that, while not geriatric specific, has shown promise in addressing the complex needs of older adults. The framework includes evaluation techniques and treatment strategies to address the needs of this underserved population.

OBJECTIVES: At the conclusion of this workshop, participants should be able to:

1. Explain the rationale for a geriatric-specific concussion care model including falls screening and early evaluation/treatment.
2. Evaluate symptom patterns and recovery trajectories for older adults with persistent post-concussion symptoms.
3. Select, adapt, and sequence evidence-based interventions to address multi-system dysfunction (musculoskeletal, visual, vestibular, autonomic) in older adults with persistent post-concussion symptoms.

Workshops

BLOCK C | 3:15-4:30 P.M.
Choose 7, 8 or, 9

BLOCK C | WORKSHOP 8

Integrating Holistic Health and Nature-Based Strategies for Chronic Brain Injury Recovery

Kristen Wilson RN, BSN, CSN, HNB-BC

Recovery from Acquired and Traumatic Brain Injury (ABI/TBI) is as unique as a fingerprint, necessitating a transition from acute clinical intervention to sustainable, holistic self-management. This session addresses chronic recovery by introducing ecotherapy as a powerful, holistic supplement to traditional rehabilitation. Drawing on extensive clinical experience and the profound insights of a caregiver, the presenter explores how nature-based strategies mitigate persistent challenges like mental fatigue, attentional deficits, and social withdrawal. Participants will examine the neurophysiological benefits of nature through Attention Restoration Theory (ART) and learn to integrate practical modalities—including mindfulness, aromatherapy, and sensory integration—into existing practice models. Through a blend of experiential learning, neuroscience-based lecture, and collaborative program design, clinicians will gain the tools to create accessible, low-cost interventions. This session empowers professionals to bridge the gap between formal therapy and long-term well-being, maximizing holistic resilience for survivors.

OBJECTIVES: At the conclusion of this workshop, participants should be able to:

1. Describe the neurophysiological and psychological benefits of ecotherapy (nature-based interventions) specific to the challenges of chronic brain injury recovery.
2. Identify at least three practical, low-cost strategies for integrating biophilic design and green care principles into clinical, community, and home settings.
3. Analyze the role of sensory regulation and mindfulness practices within natural environments to mitigate chronic brain injury symptoms.

BLOCK C | WORKSHOP 9

Creating Environments Conducive to Growth

Erin Alvino MS, CCC-SLP, CBIS
Donna DeRitter, BA

Creating environments that support growth is a critical yet, often overlooked component of effective treatment. This interactive workshop explores how evidence-based clinical practices and intentional physical space design can work together to improve client engagement, therapeutic outcomes, and overall quality of life. Participants will review research linking environmental factors—such as lighting, layout, acoustics, sensory input, and accessibility—to emotional regulation, participation, and functional performance. Through case studies and guided application activities, attendees will learn to evaluate existing environments, identify barriers to growth, and implement practical, cost-effective modifications that align with clinical goals. Emphasis will be placed on client-centered care and accessible design strategies that promote autonomy, safety, and dignity. Participants will leave with practical tools to intentionally shape therapeutic environments that foster meaningful growth and enhance quality of life.

OBJECTIVES: At the conclusion of this workshop, participants should be able to:

1. Recognize key disconnects between current treatment environments and optimal healing spaces.
2. Examine current research supporting client-centric approaches in post-brain injury care.
3. Apply practical strategies, at both personal and organizational levels, for treatment approaches and environmental design that positively affect client outcomes.

Student Poster Presentations

EFFECTIVENESS OF TARGETED INTERVENTIONS FOR OLDER ADULTS WITH CONCUSSION: A RETROSPECTIVE CASE SERIES
Dylan Cumella, SPT; Eden Schechter, SPT; Haley D'Angelo, SPT; Thomas Koc, Jr., PT, DPT, PhD, OCS; Mary Kleban, PT, DPT, Ph.D, GCS; Lauren Ziaks PT, DPT, NCS, ATC; Jenna Tucker, PT, DPT, NCS, CBIS
Advisor: Jenna Tucker, PT, DPT, NCS, CBIS | School: Kean University

THE ROLE OF IRON DEFICIENCY ANEMIA IN ISCHEMIC VERSUS HEMORRHAGIC CEREBROVASCULAR ACCIDENTS (CVA) IN FEMALES
Saira Khan, SPT; Brianna Wynne, SPT
Advisor: Jenna Tucker, PT, DPT, NCS, CBIS | School: Kean University

INTERDISCIPLINARY GAPS IN SPATIAL NEGLECT ASSESSMENT AND COMMUNICATION: A SYSTEMATIC SYNTHESIS OF CURRENT LITERATURE
Andrea Oliva Dole, OTD/S
Advisor: Natalia Noce | School: Rutgers School of Health Professionals

NEUROTICA: RELCAIMING INTIMACY AFTER BRAIN INJURY
Kimberly Schwarz, OTS
Advisor: Marianne H. Mortera, PhD, OTR/L | School: Rutgers School of Health Professionals

PHYSIOLOGICAL AND COGNITIVE BENEFITS OF SALAT IN BRAIN INJURY REHABILITATION
Ali Tejaoglu, SPT
Advisor: Jenna Tucker, PT, DPT, NCS, CBIS | School: Kean University

EXPLORING VERB USE IN CONVERSATIONAL DISCOURSE PRODUCED BY INDIVIDUALS WITH RIGHT HEMISPHERE DISORDER
Nicholas Giunta, MM, BM; Erin Smith, B.A.
Advisor: Christa Akers, PhD, CCC-SLP | School: Kean University

THE EFFECT OF VISUAL SUPPORTS ON NARRATIVE DISCOURSE IN ADULTS WITH TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY: A QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS OF MAIN CONCEPTS
Lauren Fragoso; Camryn Voehl
Advisor: Christa Akers, PhD, CCC-SLP | School: Kean University

EXPLORING PICTURE-DESCRIPTION TASKS USING GLOBAL COHERENCE ACROSS APHASIA SUBTYPES
Talia Miller; Alanna Bosco
Advisor: Christa Akers, PhD, CCC-SLP | School: Kean University

"WHOSE WORDS ARE THEY?" AI-ASSISTED WRITING SUPPORT AFTER BRAIN INJURY: PARTICIPATION GAINS VS AUTHORSHIP RISK/PRIVACY CONCERNS
Jessica Rostron, BS; Jessica Weintraub, BS; Ashley McCarthy, MS, CCC-SLP
Advisor: Ashley McCarthy | School: Monmouth University

THE EFFECT OF TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY ON THE GASTROINTESTINAL SYSTEM: A COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW
Justin J Lin, BA, MA; Ruhi K. Shah, BS; Tejaswi Makkapati, MD; Arielle A. Berkowitz, DO; Brian D. Greenwald, MD
Advisor: Brian D. Greenwald, MD | School: Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine

Student Poster Presentations

ACUTE POST-TRAUMATIC STRESS PREDICTS NONVERBAL COGNITIVE DEFICITS IN MILD TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY
Amelia Bermudez, BS
Advisor: Gerald Voelbel, PhD | School: New York University

PARTICIPATION AND QUALITY OF LIFE AFTER TBI: THE ADDED VALUE OF SUBJECTIVE EXECUTIVE FUNCTION MEASURES
Mariana Costa
Advisor: Jeannie Lengenfelder | School: Montclair State University

DEVELOPMENT OF A TRANSPORTATION SAFETY TRAINING MODULE ON TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY FOR FIRST RESPONDERS
Caleb Lee, BA
Advisor: Brian D. Greenwald, MD | School: Hackensack Meridian School of Medicine

HOUSEHOLD-BASED VS. EXERGAME VISUOMOTOR INTERVENTIONS FOR UPPER LIMB RECOVERY AFTER ACQUIRED BRAIN INJURY
Andrea Dole, OTD/S; Hayejin Kim, PhD, OTR/L; Manuela Soto Restrepo, BA; Peii Chen, PhD
Advisor: Natalia Noce | School: Rutgers School of Health Professions

COMBINED MEMORY-ANCHORED GESTURES AND AUGMENTED SENSORY FEEDBACK ENHANCE HAND MOTOR PERFORMANCE IN VIRTUAL REALITY FOR NEUROREHABILITATION
Zachary Marvin, MS; Sophie Dewil, MS; Yu Shi, MS; Noam Y. Harel, MD, PhD; Raviraj Nataraj, PhD
Advisor: Raviraj Nataraj | School: Stevens Institute of Technology

DIFFUSION MRI CORRELATES OF PROCESSING SPEED AND EXECUTIVE CONTROL AFTER TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY
Allison Shea
Advisor: Vikram Shenoy | School: Montclair State University

USE OF A MODIFIED PACED AUDITORY SERIAL ADDITION TEST (MPASAT) TO ASSESS THE EFFECTS OF PROCESSING SPEED AND WORKING MEMORY ON COGNITIVE ABILITIES
Heather Bransfield, BS
Advisor: Gerald Voelbel, PhD | School: New York University

DEPRESSION, ANXIETY, AND SUBJECTIVE COGNITIVE FUNCTION FOLLOWING COGNITIVE TRAINING
Ingrid Anna Yu
Advisor: Gerald Voelbel, PhD | School: New York University

ROLE OF BLOOD BRAIN BARRIER DISRUPTION AND NEUROINFLAMMATION FOLLOWING REPEATED LOW-LEVEL BLAST TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY IN DEVELOPMENT OF POST INJURY BEHAVIORAL DEFICITS
Tulika Das; Juan P. Bautista; James John; Harry Feng; Bhavesh Manne; Ying Li, MD, PhD; Bryan Pfister, PhD
Advisor: Bryan Pfister, PhD | School: New Jersey Institute of Technology

STRENGTH-BASED APPROACHES IN PEDIATRIC TBI REHABILITATION: PRELIMINARY FINDINGS OF AN INTEGRATIVE REVIEW
Wasayef Bsharat, BA; Maria Camilla Estelle-Sandmann, MA; Sally Grapin, PhD
Advisor: Sally Grapin, PhD | School: Montclair State University

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 brain injury.

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Hackensack Meridian JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute

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Clinical Liaison
Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation

Registration

DEADLINES AND FEES

Please note that CEU/CE/CME fees are not included with registration.
A $20 processing fee is due at registration.

If you are a BIANJ member please contact
Barbara Chabner at bchabner@bianj.org for special pricing.

REGISTRATION TYPE	DEADLINES	FEE
Early Bird	March 31, 2026	$260
Regular	April 1-May 5, 2026	$285
Day Of/On Site	May 6, 2026	$305
Student	Through May 6, 2026	$100
CEUs/CE	Through May 6, 2026	$20

REGISTER AND SELECT YOUR WORKSHOPS:
SUPPORT.BIANJ.ORG/SEMINAR2026

EARNING EDUCATION CREDITS
SATISFACTORY COMPLETION REQUIREMENTS

BIANJ has submitted applications with several accrediting organizations to offer attendees the opportunity to earn educational credits. CME/CE hours may be obtained for the following accrediting organizations: ACCME, AOTA, APA, ASHA, BOC, CBIS, CCMC, CDMS, CHES, CLCP, CRCC, NASW-NJ, NJSBPTE. The requirements to earn educational credits vary with each accrediting organization. All accrediting organizations 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. To receive ACCME, APA, ASHA, and NJSBPTE credit, you are required to fill out 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.

Education Information

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

In accordance with the **ACCME's** Standards for Integrity and Independence in Accredited Continuing Education, all faculty and planning committee members or anyone else in a position to control content are required to disclose relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies. Hackensack Meridian JFK University Medical Center implements appropriate mitigation strategies for all persons with relevant financial relationships with ineligible companies.

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.

FINANCIAL AND NON-FINANCIAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE

ACCREDITATION

ACCME ACCREDITED WITH COMMENDATION

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 6.0 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)™. Physicians should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

APA APPROVED SPONSOR

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.

ASHA CE APPROVED PROVIDER | Hackensack Meridian Health, JFK Johnson Rehabilitation Institute

Intermediate level, 0.6 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 Details

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
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, 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 1, 2026.
There is a $25 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.

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 before May 6, 2026, 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 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.

For More Information

For sponsorship/exhibitor questions contact Debbie Aidelman at debbie.aidelman@bianj.org

For general questions about the seminar, contact Barbara Chabner at bchabner@bianj.org

IMPORTANT DATES

March 31, 2026
Early-Bird Registration Deadline

April 1, 2026
Deadline for Sponsors and Exhibitors

April 1, 2026
Student Poster Proposals Due

REGISTRATION

VISIT
support.bianj.org/seminar2026

OR SCAN QR CODE
to register and select your workshops.

SEMINAR UPDATES LIVE AT: WWW.BIANJ.ORG/SEMINAR2026

Brain Injury Alliance NEW JERSEY

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