39th ANNUAL
BRAIN INJURY CONFERENCE
MARCH 25 & 26, 2020
REGISTRATION BROCHURE
Welcome and Continuing Education

Nicole M. Godaire, CBIS, BIA-MA Chief Executive Officer

Thank you so much for your interest in BIA-MA’s 39th Annual Brain Injury Conference. This year we are pleased to announce our Half-Day Pre-Conference on Wednesday, March 25, 2020 and the Full-Day Conference on Thursday, March 26, 2020. This conference provides a platform for those affected by brain injury to learn about new developments in the field of brain injury, including professionals, family members, caregivers, and survivors. On behalf of the Annual Conference Committee, we hope you enjoy this year’s conference.

The Venue:
Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel and Trade Center, 181 Boston Post Road West, Marlborough, MA 01752, 508-460-0700, www.rplazahotels.com A block of discount rooms are available for conference attendees at $142, if booked by March 15, 2020. Quiet rooms are available on both days of conference.

Continuing Education Credits:

- Participants MUST SIGN IN AND OUT to receive credit hours.
- Participants seeking CE credit (CEUs) will receive an email from Expressive Evaluations several days before the conference with information on how to access CES (CEUs).
- Credits are included in the registration price for: Audiologists, Case Managers, Certified Brain Injury Specialists and Trainers, Licensed Mental Health Counselors, Nurses, Occupational Therapists, Physical Therapists, Psychologists, Recreational Therapists, Rehabilitation Counselors, Social Workers, and Speech-Language Pathologists.
- This program has been submitted to The Commission for Case Manager Certification for approval to provide board certified case managers with 3.0 clock hour(s) for the Half-Day Pre-Conference and 6.0 clock hour(s) for the Full-Day Conference.
- Questions about this beginning level continuing education program (APA) and Continuing Education Credits: Please reach out to BIA-MA Education and Program Coordinator, Laura MacFeeley at education@biama.org.
- Grievance Policy: Commonwealth Educational Seminars (CES) seeks to ensure equitable treatment of every person and to make every attempt to resolve grievances in a fair manner. Please submit a written grievance to Laura MacFeeley at education@biama.org or CALL 508-475-0032. Grievances will receive, to the best of our ability, corrective action in order to prevent further problems.
- Accommodations for the Differently Abled: Best Western Royal Plaza Hotel facilities are handicap accessible. Individuals needing special accommodations please contact Laura MacFeeley at education@biama.org or 508-475-0032.
- It is the participant’s responsibility to check with their individual state boards to verify Continuing Education Credit requirements for their state.
- Continuing Education Credit is pending for 3 CEs for the Half-Day Pre-Conference and 6 CEs for the Full-Day Conference through Commonwealth Educational Seminars for the following professions:
  - Psychologists: Commonwealth Educational Seminars is approved by the American Psychological Association to sponsor continuing education for psychologists. Commonwealth Educational Seminars maintains responsibility for these programs and content.
  - Social Workers: Commonwealth Educational Seminars (CES) is entitled to award continuing education credit for Social Workers. Please visit CES CE CREDIT to see all states that are covered for Social Workers. CES maintains responsibility for this program and content.
  - Nurses: As an American Psychological Association (APA) approved provider, CES programs are accepted by the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC). These courses can be utilized by nurses to renew their certification and will be accepted by the ANCC. Every state Board of Nursing accepts ANCC approved programs except California and Iowa, however CES is also an approved Continuing Education provider by the California Board of Registered Nursing (Provider # CEP15567) which is also accepted by the Iowa Board of Nursing.
  - Licensed Mental Health Counselors (LMHC): Commonwealth Educational Seminars (CES) is entitled to award continuing education credit for Licensed Professional Counselors/Licensed Mental Health Counselors. Please visit CES CE CREDIT to see all states that are covered for LPCs/LMHCs. CES maintains responsibility for this program and content.
  - Application for CTRS has been submitted. Please contact education@biama.org for status and any other questions on continuing education credits.
  - Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists: This Pre-Conference and Full-Day Conference are offered for up to 0.9 ASHA CEUs (Various Levels, Professional Area).
  - For detailed information on continuing education credits, speaker’s financial and nonfinancial relationships, and agenda, visit www.biama.org/annualconference.
Registration, Pricing, and Membership

Registration and Pricing

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Register online at [www.biama.org/annualconference](http://www.biama.org/annualconference)

- ALL REGISTRATIONS MUST BE PAID PRIOR TO CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE. PAYMENTS ARE DUE BY MARCH 1ST.
- Registration is based on a first come, first served basis. No walk-in registrations will be accepted. Printed registration forms are available upon request.
- Cancellations on or before March 1st will receive a full refund. Cancellations between March 2nd and 18th will be charged a 35% administrative fee deducted from the refund. Cancellations after March 18th will not receive a refund.
- The Half-Day Pre-Conference registration includes refreshments, workshops, poster displays, and CEs (CEUs)
- The Full-Day Conference registration includes breakfast, lunch, refreshments, workshops, and CEs (CEUs).
- Scholarships are available for survivors of brain injury: Half-Day Pre-Conference $5; Full-Day Conference $10; Half-Day Pre-Conference AND Full-Day Conference $15.

Membership Benefits

- ALL MEMBERS receive: discounts to Annual Brain Injury Conference, advocacy alerts, event invitations, and news updates; hardcopy subscriptions to BIA-MA’s newsletter ([Heads Up Headlines](#)) and BIAA’s magazine ([The Challenge](#)). The FAMILY/CAREGIVER MEMBERSHIP includes the above for up to 4 members. The PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP includes the above AND discounts to professional events such as ABI Clinical Continuing Education Series and ACBIS. The PROFESSIONAL PLUS MEMBERSHIP includes the above plus a subscription to [The Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation](#).

Membership Pricing

- Professional Plus $125
- Professional $75
- Individual $35
- Brain Injury Survivor $5
- Family/Caregiver $50

Join or renew your membership on the Annual Conference registration form or on [www.biama.org/annualconference](http://www.biama.org/annualconference)

Thank you to our conference committee!

**Cynthia Cardeli, (Co-Chair)**
Justine Cote
Ruth Crowley, MS, CCC-SLP
Danna Delaney-Young, CBIS
Michelle Demore-Taber, Sc.D, L.R.C.
Catherine Dennehy, MSPT, CBIS
Nicole M. Godaire, CBIS
Dana Harthorne
Stephanie Hennequin, CBIS
Kenneth Hughes
Tara Johnson, MS, CCC-SLP
Jennette Lewis, CTRS
Laura MacFeeley
Karla McAuliffe, SLP, CBIS
**Janet McBride-Roy, CTRS, CBIS, (Co-Chair)**
Daniel Meninger, MSPT
Valarie Whiting, PhD
Zelinda Pereira, CBIS
Rebecca Pritchard, MS, OTR/L, CSRS
Joseph Ricciardi, PsyD, ABPP, BCBA-D, CBIS-T
Stacey Sirota, MS, DPT, CBIS
Helen Stewart, RN, CBIS
Half-Day Pre-Conference Schedule

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tr>
<td>12:00pm - 1:00pm</td>
<td>Registration; Professionals Sign In for CEs (CEUs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1:00pm - 2:30pm</td>
<td>Session A: Workshops 1-3</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:30pm - 3:00pm</td>
<td>Break: Networking, Visit Exhibitors &amp; Poster Displays</td>
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<tr>
<td>3:00pm - 4:30pm</td>
<td>Session B: Workshops 4-6</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30pm - 5:00pm</td>
<td>Professionals Sign Out for CEs (CEUs) and Network</td>
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Session A (1:00pm - 2:30pm): Workshops 1-3

1. Motivational Interviewing and Brain Injury Rehabilitation: An Overview and Implications for Practice
   - James L. Soldner, PhD, CRC, BCBA-D and Dimity Peter, PhD, CRC; both Associate Professors from the University of Massachusetts Boston

   Evidence-based rehabilitation following acquired brain injury (ABI) can be disrupted by a lack of consumer engagement in the process and self-awareness of deficits. Motivational interviewing (MI) has been shown to effectively address treatment adherence in ABI rehabilitation. The following workshop will provide attendees with an overview of the key concepts of MI applied to ABI rehabilitation service providers, consumers, and others.

2. Pioneering Integrated Wellness for Acquired Brain Injury
   - Kara Lavertu, MS, CGFI, Supportive Living Inc.; Stacey Aaron, PhD, Spaulding Rehabilitation; Allison May, MS, OTR/L, CBIS, Community Rehab Care; Urvashi Chogle, DPT

   This workshop will review the implementation and outcome of various therapeutic programs for those affected by brain injury. The different therapies provide a holistic approach to the health and wellness of the recipients. The therapies reviewed will address: neuro-wellness fitness programming, community reintegration with long-term functional gains, improving cognition with yoga, and the effect of interval aerobic training for stroke survivors.

5. Sonata for Piano: A Stroke Survivor’s Story
   - Patricia Mulholland, MA, MT-BC, NMT, Be Your Note Music Therapy Services

   ‘Sonata for Piano’ is an original composition created by stroke survivor Tina Callahan and music therapist Patricia Mulholland. The piece consists of eleven short compositions within five movements and is performed as a duet on two pianos by Ms. Callahan and Ms. Mulholland. Tom Callahan, husband of Tina, provides background and a brief narration between the movements. The presentation includes a small number of slides to complement the storytelling, as well as offering a brief overview of the rationale for music therapy in the neuro-rehabilitation setting. The Sonata chronicles Ms. Callahan’s experience of stroke from the onset to her current state of recovery.
3. Behavioral Strategies for the Non-Behaviorists: Caregivers, Families and Other Specialties
Joseph N Ricciardi, PsyD, ABPP, BCBA-D, CBIST, Director of Clinical Services, Seven Hills NeuroCare, Seven Hills Foundation

Research indicates that behavioral challenges can be a debilitating complication of an acquired brain injury. Behavioral challenges interfere with engagement in rehabilitation, strain important relationships, and can impede community participation. This session is intended for the non-behaviorist as an orientation to the behavioral approach, its principles, and select strategies that can lead to improvements in challenging behaviors. While not a substitute for comprehensive consultation, participants will leave better able to understand behavioral challenges, and if necessary, work more efficiently with behavioral consultants.

4. Applied Behavior Analysis in Application: A Hands on Approach to Assessing Preferences for Individuals with Brain Injury - Jennifer Derderian MS, MEd, BCBA, LABA, Clinical Director and Amanda Brousseau MA, BCBA, LABA, Assistant Clinical Director; both from The May Center School for Brain Injury and Neurobehavioral Disorders

In order to address the complex behavioral needs of individuals with brain injury and other neurobehavioral disorders, comprehensive assessments to evaluate preferences are essential. This workshop will provide a hands-on approach to learning and understanding the use of preference assessments in a private school setting. Participants will practice running preference assessments and learn how to score and graph results. In addition, barriers to implementation and modifications for use for individuals with complex profiles will be discussed. This will be an interactive presentation with audience participation encouraged.

6. Trauma-Informed Yoga - Sarah Hoffman, E-RYT

In this workshop, attendees will learn about trauma-informed yoga principles, participate in a trauma-informed yoga chair practice, and leave with a handful of practices that can be used with clients.

To join BIA-MA at our Annual Meeting directly following the Pre-Conference at 5:00 p.m.
Learn more and RSVP at www.biama.org/annualmeeting
**Keynote Speakers: Pat and Tammy McLeod**

**Hit Hard: One Family’s Journey of Letting Go of What Was and Learning to Live Well with What Is.**

In 2008, Pat & Tammy McLeod received a phone call informing them that their son, Zach, had suffered an injury while playing football and was being airlifted to Boston Medical to undergo emergency brain surgery. Zach survived that surgery, but a portion of his brain did not. The McLeod’s marriage, family and faith also survived, but everything changed. Their story reveals many of the physical, emotional, and relational challenges of living with an ambiguous loss - the experience of both having and not having someone the way you once had them.

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**Full-Day Conference Schedule**

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>7:00am - 8:00am</td>
<td>Registration, Continental Breakfast and Networking, Professionals Sign In for CEs (CEUs)</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:00am - 8:30am</td>
<td>Welcome: Nicole Godaire, CBIS, BIA-MA Chief Executive Officer Cynthia Cardeli, BIA-MA Director of Programs &amp; Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>8:30am - 10:00am</td>
<td>Keynote: Pat and Tammy McLeod</td>
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<td>10:00am - 10:30am</td>
<td>Break: Networking &amp; Refreshments</td>
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<td>10:30am - 12:00pm</td>
<td>Session I: Workshops 7-15</td>
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<td>12:00pm - 12:15pm</td>
<td>Break: Networking</td>
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<td>12:15pm - 1:15pm</td>
<td>Lunch: Main Ballroom &amp; Zachary’s Restaurant</td>
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<td>1:15pm - 2:45pm</td>
<td>Session II: Workshops 16-23</td>
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<tr>
<td>2:45pm - 3:00pm</td>
<td>Break: Networking &amp; Refreshments</td>
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<td>3:00pm - 4:30pm</td>
<td>Session III: Workshops 24-31</td>
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<tr>
<td>4:30pm - end</td>
<td>Professionals Sign Out for CEs (CEUs)</td>
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Session I (10:30am - 12:00pm): Workshops 7-15

7. Artistic Expression: Expressive Healing - Philip Hasouris, Poet
A group experience that hits the hearts and minds of both the survivor of brain injury and the brain injury caregiver. The use of individuality, insight, inspiration through poetry, tactile sculptures evoking emotions and other art forms. This workshop will allow participants to express themselves and connect with their inner gift of expression.

8. Bottom Up Approach to Cognitive Recovery: The Body-Brain Connection - Karla McAuliffe MA, CCC-SLP, CBIS and Julia Krasheninin MS, CCC-SLP; both Speech-Language Pathologists, Fairlawn Rehabilitation Hospital
This workshop will illustrate the anatomy and physiology of attentional control and the impact of injury on these neural mechanisms. The workshop will then elucidate strategies to identify and manage common symptoms following mTBI.

9. Successful Caregiver Involvement in Supporting Rehab Outcomes and Functional Gains - Allison May, MS, OTR/L CBIS, Gwendolyn Larsen, PT, MSPT, NCS, and Ann Gillespie, MBA, Recreation Therapist; all from Community Rehab Care
This presentation will highlight how recovery trends after ABI are impacted by the level of caregiver involvement and how to maximize a successful bridge to home and community environments utilizing supports effectively. Through outpatient case studies, we will examine the attributes of a strong “team” and strategies for communication to facilitate carryover of rehabilitation recommendations. Caregiver/client surveys will be reviewed for direct input and insights. Results will include a “report card”/checklist format on positive skills when choosing an outside caregiver, ways to implement education and training on how to foster carryover within all settings, as well as identification of optimal balance to reduce burnout in all parties.

10. Clinical Trials: Are they right for me? - Lynne Becker, MSPH
How do you know if you should participate in a clinical trial? They are complex, time consuming, they do not guarantee results, and they may not work. It is a personal decision, one that should be taken with extreme seriousness. It is your life, your loved one’s life, your reputation. Explore the dynamics behind designing, recruiting and managing a clinical trial and learn how it may help you.

11. Limited Guardianship, Supported Decision Making, and ABLE Accounts Offer New Possibilities and Greater Independence for Survivors - Stephen J. Spano, MBA, JD, CELA, Board Certified Elder Law Attorney and Adjunct Professor of Special Needs Law, Andrea A.J. Witt, Esq., both from Spano & Dawicki, LLC
When a loved one suffers from a traumatic brain injury capacity may be limited but not entirely diminished, and the process of securing an appropriate Guardianship or Conservatorship can be overwhelming. The trend toward limiting the authority of the Guardian allows your loved one to maintain as much independence as safely possible. Learn how limited Guardianship and Conservatorship work, what the alternative of “Supported Decision Making” means, and how such an arrangement would be a perfect compromise for a survivor of brain injury. Finally, discover the benefits of ABLE Accounts and how they can operate in different and similar ways from the more commonly recognized Supplemental Needs Trusts, to nurture the quality of life for survivors of brain injury.
12. From Darkness to Light: One Man’s Journey - Glenn Hartmann, Assistant Controller, UMass Amherst

While still in high school, a tragic motor vehicle accident left me a quadriplegic. It seemed as if severe depression and darkness were my only companions. I felt as if I had lost everything and life was not worth living. Then a drunk driver killed my younger brother, and my perspective began to change. I was determined to get myself out of the dark, defeated place I inhabited, and life began to open up for me. This workshop is about that journey.

13. Providing Functional Treatment and Effective Documentation to Memory Impairments After ABI - Stephanie Gilbert MS, CCC-SLP CBIS, Speech-Language Pathologist, Community Rehab Care

Therapists can often recognize an individual’s memory deficits yet have difficulty applying functional treatment and/or writing documentation to support ongoing skilled intervention. This workshop will identify assessments and successful memory techniques as well as share common mistakes observed in an outpaitent setting when working with individuals with memory impairments. This workshop will also explore ways to enhance documentation to support ongoing medical necessity with therapy.

14. Relationships That Work: From Common Factors to Positive Behavior Support - Anthony J Giuliano, PhD, Clinical Neuropsychologist, CBIST, QBISPT, Psychologist IV, MA Department of Mental Health

What do you think clients with ABI and family members find most helpful about their services? In the context of evidence-based practice, this workshop will focus corrective attention on the substantial research behind the crucial (but too often overlooked) client-care provider/clinician relationship. While the professional relationship is not the only important influence on rehabilitation outcomes, specific professional behaviors that are most likely to improve client engagement, reduce challenging behavior, and enhance rehabilitation care and recovery outcomes will be highlighted. Client characteristics by which clinicians/providers can effectively tailor their work will also be identified, and implications for program managers and clinical supervisors working to improve quality of care and program success will be summarized.

15. Diagnosis, Prognosis and Rehabilitation of Persons With Severe TBI: What Should We Do? - Douglas Katz, MD, Professor of Neurology, Boston University, Medical Director ABI, Braintree Rehabilitation

This workshop will focus on understanding the natural history of recovery after severe TBI and improving diagnosis, prognosis and treatment planning for persons with severe TBI. The presentation will include discussion of disorders of consciousness and recently published practice guidelines.

16. Putting the Marriage Back Together After an ABI - Christopher Carter, PsyD, CBIST, Director of Continuity for Brain Injury and Spinal Cord Services, Spaulding Rehabilitation Network

After an ABI the marriage often needs repair work. The workshop, geared for survivors and their partners, will present an overview of the ways in which marriages can be impacted by brain injury followed by a discussion of strategies for navigating a return to a more balanced and sustainable relationship with case examples.

17. Love Yourself Now - Maria Milagros Vazquez, Speaker, Coach, Author, Personal Growth & Development Expert

Loving ourselves is one of the most important things we can do. A lot of people don’t know that they have permission to truly love and accept themselves, where they are right now in life, or where to even begin. This workshop begins the process by taking attendees step by step through the four main blocks that hinder self-love and self-acceptance. Taking these steps and doing this work will lead to healthier and happier relationships with oneself, with others, at home, at work and in all areas of life.
18. QPR (Question, Persuade, Refer) Suicide Prevention - Arianna Setzco, Program Director, Vinfen

QPR stands for Question, Persuade, and Refer - the three simple steps anyone can learn to help save a life from suicide. Just as people trained in CPR and the Heimlich Maneuver, both of which help save thousands of lives each year, people trained in QPR learn how to recognize the warning signs of a suicide crisis and how to question, persuade, and refer someone to help.

19. Opioid Use Disorders and Brain Injury: New Opportunities for Referral Pathways - Lisa Blanchard, MA, LMHC, VP of Clinical Services and Romas D. Buivydas, PhD, LMHC, VP of Clinical Development; both from Spectrum Health Systems

This presentation will include a review of assessment of opiate use disorder and substance use and the impact on the brain injury community. A review of the levels of care and ways to access treatment will be reviewed. A detailed discussion on several new initiatives emerging to improve access to treatment and service will be reviewed including rapid access to all forms of Medication Assisted Treatment via new settings like emergency departments, nursing homes and primary care. Referral pathways from acute care settings to hub and spoke models, and opiate treatment programs will be discussed. Case examples will be reviewed to enhance learning and application to practice.

20. Understanding Survival and Meaning after Brain Injury: The Value of Narrative and Public Sharing for Brain Injury Survivors - Andrea Snow, MS, CCC-SLP, CBIS, Seven Hills NeuroCare; Mark Borselli, Dana Pearson, and Ronald Montgomery; both Survivors

Personal narrative storytelling has been shown to assist in identity construction. Qualitative research shows that personal, narrative storytelling of an experience such as a brain injury can help build a strengths-based identity and develop skills for expressing and communicating to others, feeling validated, learning about oneself, and being productive. Brief presentations will be made by brain injury survivors sharing their account of their brain injury and its meaning in their lives now. Following the presentations, caregivers who supported the process of developing narratives and preparing for public presentation will summarize the support strategies they used so attendees may offer similar support to other survivors.

21. Enabling Functional Outcomes Through Educational Rehabilitation - Christianna Gilbert, MA, CCC-SLP and Co-Author Natalie Gilmore, MS, CCC-SLP; both from Boston University

This workshop will provide an overview of the principles of neuroplasticity and cognitive rehabilitation, examine prior and current quantitative data from Boston University’s Intensive Cognitive Communication Rehabilitation (ICCR) Program, and utilize case studies to discuss and analyze the impact of an intensive cognitive and communication rehabilitative program for educational rehabilitation on overall functional outcomes for young adults with brain injury. Functional outcomes examined will include quality of life, daily independence (including transportation, scheduling, and medication/ADL management), and social impact. Finally, the workshop will summarize cognitive-linguistic methods and strategies employed in the classroom that facilitate student participation and engagement. These are strategies that attendees can apply in their environment.

22. Barriers to Accessing the Community-Based Yoga Programs for People with Traumatic Brain Injury and Caregivers - Kyla Pearce, PhD, MPH, CBIS, RYT-200 and Kaitlyn Cashman, PT, DPT, RYT; both from LoveYourBrain Foundation

This engaging presentation will describe the evidence-based benefits of yoga and meditation for brain injury rehabilitation and guide participants through practices specific to brain injury. People with traumatic brain injury (TBI) often face significant barriers to community integration, which can lead to poor quality of life (QOL). Yoga has been shown to improve physical, cognitive, and psychosocial outcomes in a range of clinical populations, yet has not been used widely among the brain injury population. Research will demonstrate how program participants experience significant improvements in quality of life from baseline to post-series, as well as in resilience, positive affect and well-being, and cognition.
23. Think Outside the Facility: Home and Community-Based Long-Term Services and Supports Available Through MassHealth - Amy Bernstein, LSW, MMHS, Erica Menz, MPA, Susan Ciccariello, MSPA and Dorothee Alsentzer, JD; all from the Executive Office of Health and Human Services

MassHealth covers a wide array of home and community-based services - from specialized Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) waiver services, designed for adults who transition from nursing facilities or long-stay hospitals to the community, to long-term services and supports such as Physical, Occupational, and Speech Therapies, Home Health, Adult Foster Care, Group Adult Foster Care, and self-directed Personal Care Attendant services. This workshop will cover what services are available and will provide an overview of MassHealth eligibility requirements.

Session III (3:00pm - 4:30pm): Workshops 24-31

24. The Need to Address Behavioral Health after Brain Injury - Emily Navetta, Director, Managed Care Partnerships, Caregiver Homes

Studies indicate a higher prevalence of behavioral health needs in patients with brain injury than in the general population. Because of the strong association behavioral health has on physical health, and the suffering caused by unaddressed behavioral health needs, it is critical for patients to be assessed for mental health disorders as part of their rehabilitation treatment, and throughout their recovery process. Studies have shown therapeutic and pharmacological treatments can yield positive results, if patients are accurately screened and aware of their options.

25. Healthy Eating: One of the Most Powerful Tools for Preventing Chronic Disease - Scherrie Keating, RN, CDCES, CDP, CDC, NDPP, Lifestyle Coach, Ageless Grace Educator, Diabetes Kare Consulting, LLC

According to the latest research, “about half of American adults have one or more preventable, diet-related chronic diseases and healthy eating is one of the most powerful tools for prevention.” This workshop provides an opportunity for attendees to improve their understanding of the most recent dietary guidelines and healthy eating pattern recommendations. Learn how to incorporate the use of MyPlate for planning and enjoying healthy, balanced meals decreasing risks of developing preventable, diet-related chronic diseases. Leave ready to apply and share this valuable information.

26. Cognitive Exercise and Neuroplasticity - Therese M. O’Neil-Pirozzi, ScD, CCC-SLP, Associate Professor, Northeastern University and Clinician/Researcher, Spaulding/Harvard TBI Model System; Co-Presenters Lauryn Armstrong, Olivia Cantin, Zehra Husnain

People exercise their bodies. Can people exercise their brains? What is exercise? And, how might exercise be helpful? This workshop will address the “who/what/where/when/why” of brain exercise and how it may help with neuroplasticity. Some workshop time will be spent engaging attendees in exercise activities that they may continue with at home.

27. Estate Planning is a Reality for Survivors of Brain Injury and a Necessity for Loving Caretakers - Stephen J. Spano, MBA, JD, CELA, Board Certified Elder Law Attorney and Adjunct Professor of Special Needs Law and Andrea A.J. Witt, Esq.; both from Spano & Dawicki, LLC

Every individual is presumed to have capacity unless a Court declares otherwise. Discover what capacity is and what degree of capacity is required to execute estate planning documents such as a Health Care Proxy, HIPAA, Power of Attorney or Will, and how the required capacity might be different for each document. Learn exactly what these documents are and how they operate. Don't rule out the empowering ability of a survivor to execute their own documents! And of equal importance, caretakers and family members must commit to executing their own estate plan. Discover how to successfully plan for a survivor of brain injury when you are no longer here to care for them.
28. Assessment and Treatment of Neuropsychiatric Symptoms Following Traumatic and Acquired Brain Injury - Julie Brody Magid, PsyD, Clinical Neuropsychologist, Director of McLean Hospital Memory Disorders As Panelists, Miles Cunningham, MD, PhD and Bruce Price, MD

Our panel consists of a Harvard-affiliated neuropsychologist, neuropsychiatrist, and a behavioral neurologist experienced working as a team with TBI/ABI. We will review best practices in assessing and treating individuals with brain injury who present with behavioral and psychological symptoms. The benefits of the interdisciplinary model will be discussed. Common neuropsychiatric symptoms observed in mild to severe TBI/ABI will be covered. We will focus on diagnostic workups as well as pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions.

29. The Power of Friendships-Celebrating the Ordinary and Making connections through Pathways to Friendship - Katie Driscoll and Meg Gayydos, Friendship Facilitator Consultants, Pathways to Friendship Arc of Massachusetts

Pathways to Friendship consultants will share stories of connecting people, the benefits of inclusive friendships, and what to do when efforts are distracted and misled, which even when well-intended, can be terrible barriers to relationships. Making connections is exactly what we plan to occur when we are looking at enriching people’s lives and our communities. This workshop will emphasize the opportunity for people to build relationships within their communities, naturally wherever they live, learn, work, and play.

30. At the Intersection: Bridges Between Brain Injury and Substance Use Disorder - Gabriela Lawrence-Soto and Sandy Biber, LMHC, LRC; both from Massachusetts Rehabilitation Commission

This workshop will provide an introduction to the treatment, accommodation and support needs of individuals with both brain injury and substance use disorder and describe the activities of the “Bridges Between” grant.

31. Understanding the Role of Healthcare Professionals Along the Path to Recovery - Mel B. Glenn, MD, Gwendolyn Larsen, PT, MSPT, NCS, and Robert Mendel, CTRS, CBIS; all from Community Rehab Care

Managing the healthcare world can be challenging for people with brain injury and their families. This symposium will discuss the role of the physiatrist, other medical professionals, rehabilitation therapists, and case managers in recovery from brain injury and maintenance of health. This workshop will identify ways to collaborate effectively with healthcare professionals.
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www.biama.org/annualconference

March 25 & 26, 2020