

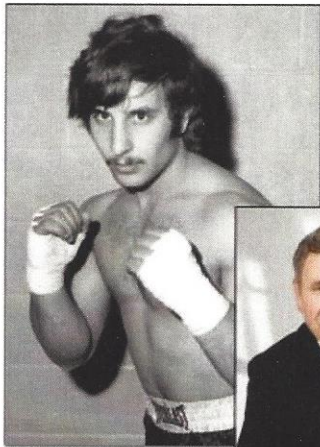
# Welcome

**32nd Annual Conference**

**June 5-6, 2014**

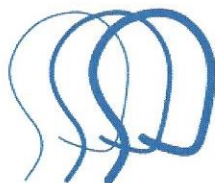
**Marriott Hotel, Albany, NY**

**Uniting as the Voice  
of Brain Injury**



**Featuring:**  
**Ray Ciancaglini**  
*Former Boxer and  
founder of The Second  
Impact*

*“The Invisible Opponent”*



**BRAIN INJURY  
ASSOCIATION**  
**OF NEW YORK STATE**

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# Conference Schedule

🌀 Thursday, June 5 🌀

12:00pm

**Registration Opens**

1:30pm - 4:00pm

***Making the Legal System Work for You***

Many individuals with brain injury and their families find themselves involved in one or multiple parts of the legal system. They are confronted by new procedures and language that seems foreign. Yet, every aspect of the legal system is important. Learn how to evaluate and choose an attorney; the legal documents that every person with a brain injury needs; the anatomy of a lawsuit and how to access to legal services and advocacy.

Presenters: Kelly Mikullitz, Esq.; Michael Ronemus, Esq.;

Andy Siegel; Esq.; Kim Verner, Esq.; Christine Waters, Esq.

***Use of the Creative Arts on the Road to Self-Healing and Recovery***

For individuals with brain injuries who have sustained a devastating loss to the self, creative arts therapy becomes a voice for feelings, emotions and memories that are difficult to verbalize. Creative self-expression through art, movement, writing, and music attempts to foster the ability to adapt and cope and provides a non-threatening, fun method for self-discovery. It also helps to improve self-esteem, stimulates intellectual and cognitive abilities, provides sensory stimulation, and helps individuals overcome feelings of isolation while promoting social interaction.

Presenters: Susan Paradise Goodman MA, ATR-BC, LCAT;

Kristi Graziano, LCAT, NCC, BC-DMT, MS

5:30pm - 6:30pm

***Dinner***

Salon  
E

Salons  
F, G, H

Salons  
E, F, G, H

🌀 Friday, June 6 🌀

12:30am

**Registration Opens**

8:00am - 9:00am

**Continental Breakfast**

8:15am - 9:00am

**BIANYS Annual Meeting**

9:00am - 9:45am

***Awards Ceremony***

9:45am - 10:45am

***Welcome: Dr. Lois Tannenbaum, Psy.D.***

***Sandy Finklestein Memorial Address***

***Ray Ciancaglini: "The Invisible Opponent"***

Ray Ciancaglini has been battling Dementia Pugilistica and Parkinson's syndrome for many years. He believes these disorders are the direct result of undiagnosed and unaddressed concussions that he sustained as a young boxer. He has been a concussion awareness and management advocate for many years and was instrumental in the passing of the Concussion Management Awareness Act. Mr. Ciancaglini has also founded the website [www.thesecondimpact.com](http://www.thesecondimpact.com), which is dedicated to concussion awareness.

11:00am - 12:15pm

***WORKSHOPS A: Choose from the Following Workshops***

***Research Trends in Brain Injury Diagnosis and Treatment***

Get caught up on the latest research in the field of brain injury.

Presenter: Steve Flanagan, MD

Salons  
E, F, G, H

Salon A



# Presenter Biographies

## **Keynote Presenter: Ray Ciancaglini**

For many years, **Ray Ciancaglini** has been battling Dementia Pugilistica and Parkinson's syndrome. These progressive disorders are the direct result of not addressing concussions properly as a young boxer and have had consequences that have so deeply affected his life. He endorses playing all sports but strongly stresses the importance of being honest about symptoms and addressing a concussion properly. Ray has been a concussion awareness and management advocate for many years and was instrumental in getting the current Concussion Management Awareness Act passed into NYS Legislation. He also founded the Second Impact website [www.thesecondimpact.com](http://www.thesecondimpact.com), which is dedicated to concussion awareness.

**Maggie Allen** has worked in the Capital Region brain injury community since 2001. She has a two year degree in Occupational Therapy and has provided Independent Living Skills Training through the TBI waiver for much of that time. She has stepped out of direct service to focus her attention on training other Independent Living Skills providers and quality assurance and compliance for Millview TBI. She is co-facilitator of the BIANYS Capital Region Support Group and loves being able to help people connect to help each other.

**Traci Allen** is the Director of Long Term Care Development for ElderChoice, Inc. For the past several years Traci has closely monitored Medicaid redesign activities in New York State. She provides advocacy, knowledge, and expertise to assist providers, beneficiaries, caregivers and other stakeholders in understanding how changes to the health care delivery system will affect their agencies, services, and family members.

**Richard Burkowicz** is the husband of Donna Burkowicz for 40 years who had postpartum psychosis following the birth of their daughter 35 years ago. Several months later was overcome by carbon monoxide poisoning resulting in full frontal brain damage. No help was available 35 years ago so Richard started a support group in the Utica area and was challenged finding head injury care locally in his area.

**Robin Cohn** is a survivor of two traumatic brain injuries, and has devoted herself as a passionate advocate for others with TBI. Starting as a volunteer for BIANYS, she ended her nine year service on the board as second Vice President. Throughout these years, Robin also taught chair yoga and guided imagery to TBI survivors, and became a mentor as part of the Mentoring Partnership Program. She created, and continues to facilitate a Living Resource's Women's Support Group for the past eleven years and also organizes and co-facilitates a quarterly Family Forum Roundtable Discussion group at the Colonie Town Library. She has participated in panel discussions and workshops at the BIANYS Annual Conference and speaks at various schools and on local news programs about TBI awareness and prevention. Robin was also a contributing writer to the published book, "If I Only Had a Brain Injury", by Laura Bruno, MA. She has tirelessly devoted herself to advocacy and awareness for individuals who are learning how to cope and live with traumatic Brain Injuries. Her motto is, "no one should have to suffer in silence."

**Michael Cognetti** is currently employed as the Director of Brain Injury and Veteran's services at Living Resources in Albany, New York. Michael earned his MS in Education from the College of Saint Rose, and he is currently completing a MBA from Northeastern University.

**Mary Daigneault, LCSW** is a clinical social worker in private practice in Albany. She has many years of experience working with people who have sustained brain injuries. Both yoga and mindfulness are practices that are an important part of Mary's life and work. Mary joins Robin Cohn in facilitating the Family Forum for the Brain Injury Association of NYS. This gathering provides an opportunity for survivors of brain injury, along with family members or friends, to share about the many ways TBI impacts their lives.

**Susan Goodman, MA, ATR-BC, LCAT** is a Licensed Creative Arts Therapist and Certified Gestalt therapist who has provided Creative Art Therapeutic services to adults and children in a variety of settings for over 25 years. She created the art therapy program at the Head Injury Association in January 2006. The sessions provide a safe, supportive and healing environment where clients can explore important issues which may be manifested as stress and anxiety, and strengthen social skills. Much of the artwork has been displayed in community exhibits in an attempt to help raise awareness about Traumatic Brain Injury through art. Ms. Goodman also maintains a private practice and is active in providing services and creative arts support groups in the community. She is on the board of the New York Art Therapy Association.