

2022 BRAIN INJURY AND STROKE CONFERENCE

WEDNESDAY MAY 11, 2022

GRAPPONE CONFERENCE CENTER
CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE



*Creating A Collaborative Team
To Help You Return To Work*

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Stacia G. Bissell, M.Ed., Survivor

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Creating A Collaborative Team To Help You Return To Work

Keynote: Stacia Bissell, M.Ed., Survivor



Heartfelt and informative, this keynote presentation features Stacia G. Bissell, M.Ed. talking about unwelcome consequences from her invisible brain injury from a bicycle accident ten years ago, and how she started learning to accept, adapt, manage and eventually thrive. She will share her personal TBI story with a focus on the professional team that helped her get back to work, and the challenges she encountered when supports were removed.

A native of Berkshire County in western Massachusetts, Stacia Bissell is passionate about education and spent much of her career as a middle school math teacher and high school business teacher until taking on roles in administration and academic coaching. In 2011 Stacia became a licensed middle and high school principal with aspirations of running her own school in the near future.

However, a bicycle accident that same year left her with a traumatic brain injury and her career as a public school educator came to an end. With encouragement from her medical team, the Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts (BIA-MA), friends and family, Stacia began doing speaking engagements on topics surrounding brain injury. She was quickly recognized for providing informative, professional, and heartfelt presentations with an ability to captivate her audience by weaving in her personal TBI story. In addition to being a public speaker, Stacia has been a contributor to Brain Injury HOPE magazine and is a Program Leader for LoveYourBrain. She was a co-founder of both the Northampton, MA brain injury support group and the Berkshire Brain Injury Collaborative, designed to provide professional development to school teachers on return-to-learn strategies, now part of the BIA-MA. The insight gained through her own lived experiences as a TBI survivor, and her desire to help others make sense of their journey after brain injury, have led Stacia to establish a coaching and mentoring service designed to help promote hope, healing and forward movement for survivors and caregivers. You can learn more at TBIMentor.com. In her free time, Stacia enjoys writing, kayaking, camping (in New Hampshire!), being in the woods, and spending quality time with family and friends. She has three grown children who live in Virginia, Colorado and Vermont.

Morning COVID Specialty Track

Stroke in the COVID-19 Era

This talk provides a general introduction to the epidemiology of stroke in COVID-19, as well as the systemic and thrombotic mechanisms of stroke associated to COVID-19 and the impact of COVID-19 in the delivery of care for stroke patients.

Presented by: Diana Rojas-Soto, MD
Vascular Neurology
Medical Director Neuroscience Unit
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center

Post-Acute COVID Syndrome: “Long-Haulers”

Post-Acute COVID Syndrome (PACS), including multiple neurological sequelae, can have serious impacts on patients' previous health and their abilities to function and carry out normal activities. The cause for long COVID is still being determined and as of yet there are no specific treatments for persistent post-acute COVID symptoms. However, there are strategies for symptom management, rehabilitation, and support that requires a multidisciplinary team approach. With the right support, we are seeing that patients do slowly improve over time.

Presented by : Christina Martin, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
Department of Infectious Disease & International Health
&
Melanie Del Frari, MSN, FNP-BC
Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center
Department of Neurology
Movement Disorders Clinical Coordinator
Assistant Professor in Neurology, Geisel School of Medicine

Conference at a Glance

Level of Knowledge for Attendees: BEG - Beginner INT - Intermediate ADV - Advanced
 Topic is geared towards: PRO-Professional SUR-Survivor/Family ALL- Everyone
 Sessions approved by ASHA are highlighted in yellow

8:45	Welcome		
9:00-10:00	Keynote <i>Stacia Bissell, M.Ed., Survivor</i>		
	<i>TRACK A</i>	<i>TRACK B</i>	<i>TRACK C</i>
Session I 10:10-11:10	The Role of Vision Therapy in Brain Injury Recovery Catherine J. Radakovic, OD BEG/ALL	An Inside View: An SLP's Personal Journey After a TBI Ann O Walker, MA, CCC-SLP BEG/PRO	Stroke in the COVID-19 Era Diana Rojas-Soto, MD ADV/PRO
11:10-11:25 <i>Break-----Please visit Exhibitors -----</i>			
Session II 11:30-12:30	Visual Rehabilitation Integrated into OT, PT, & SLP Nina Hopkins, OTR/L Beth Doucet, PT, DPT Kathleen McAdams, MS, CCC-SLP BEG/ADV/ALL	Re-thinking Assessment and Treatment of Dysphagia Following Stroke Keri Vasquez Miloro, MS, CAGS, CCC-SLP, BCS-S ADV/PRO	Post-Acute COVID Syndrome: "Long-Haulers" Christina Martin, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC Melanie Del Frari, MSN, FNP-BC BEG/ALL
12:35 - 1:35 <i>Lunch---- Please visit Exhibitors-----</i>			
Session III 1:45-2:45	Attention, Effort, and Fatigue in People with Traumatic Brain Injuries: Neuroscience Drives Clinical Decision Making Donald A. Robin, PhD, CCC-SLP BEG/ADV/PRO	Survivor Panel Panel Members: Jim Scott III Kimberly Spada Facilitators: Heather Gilbert, MS, OTR/L Kelly Redwine-DePierre, MS, OTR/L, CBIS BEG/ALL	Artificial Intelligence: A Smart Move for Stroke Care? Timothy G. Lukovits, MD BEG/ADV/ALL
2:45 -3:05 <i>Break-----Please visit Exhibitors -----</i>			
Session IV 3:10-4:10	Brain Injury and Mental Health: Recognizing and Understanding the Mental Health Needs of those with ABI Chelsea Zarcone, MSW, CBIS Julie Lago, MSW, LICSW ADV/ALL	Sex & Intimacy After Brain Injury: Strategies for Communication and Participation Heather Gilbert, MS, OTR/L BEG/ALL	The Fundamentals of Neuro Rehabilitation for the SLP: From A-Z Gina England, MA, CCC-SLP BEG/PRO

Time Schedule & Session Descriptions

7:45 - 1:00 **Registration**
8:00 - 3:00 **Exhibitors**
8:45 **Welcome**

9:00-10:00 Keynote: *Creating a Collaborative Team to Help You Return to Work* ~ Stacia Bissell, M.Ed., Survivor
Disclosure: Ms. Bissell will be receiving a speaker's fee today. She has no further relevant financial or non-financial disclosures to make.

10:10 - 11:10 SESSION I

A. The Role of Vision Therapy in Brain Injury Recovery ~ Catherine J. Radakovic, OD, Neuro-Optometrist, MVC Eye-care~ Brain injury recovery is a complex and multi-faceted process that involves many treatment modalities. This presentation will try to explain the role that vision plays in brain injury and how those visual symptoms can be diagnosed and rehabilitated.

B. An Inside View: An SLP's Personal Journey After a TBI ~ Ann O. Walker, MA, CCC-SLP, Speech Language Pathologist, Private Practice ~ In April 2019, the presenter suffered a massive subarachnoid hemorrhage and was not expected to survive. Today she is working part time in her private practice once again, as a Speech and Language Pathologist. Three years post onset, she will share what it was like to "crawl back" from the abyss. It is her hope that these insights will help practitioners to further understand the challenges facing our patients and to optimally support their client's personal and professional goals.

Disclosure: Ms. Walker is not being compensated for this presentation. She has no further relevant financial or non-financial disclosures to make.

C. Stroke in the COVID-19 Era ~ Diana Rojas-Soto, MD, Vascular Neurology, Medical Director Neuroscience Unit, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center ~ This talk provides a general introduction to the epidemiology of stroke in COVID-19, as well as the systemic and thrombotic mechanisms of stroke associated to COVID-19 and the impact of COVID-19 in the delivery of care for stroke patients.

11:10 - 11:25 Morning Break – Please visit Exhibitors

11:30 - 12:30 SESSION II

A. Visual Rehabilitation Integrated into OT, PT, & SLP ~ Nina Hopkins, OTR/L, Neuro Clinical Leader, Beth Doucet, PT, DPT, Staff Physical Therapist, and Kathleen McAdams, MS, CCC-SLP, Speech Language Pathologist, CMC Out-Patient Rehabilitation Center ~ The importance of identifying and addressing impairments in an individual's visual system is a key component to successful treatment, and guiding them to a safe and more active lifestyle. This is due to the fact that our visual skills are more than just what the eye sees. A neurovision optometrist told me that it takes 62 areas of our brain to understand and use the information that the eye is seeing. Just because the eyes are moving and can read an eye chart does not mean that they are able to quickly assess what visual information is in their environment and prioritize its use. This complex network of neuron communication occurs rapidly, smoothly and without conscious awareness. So what happens when this system becomes impaired from a concussion, TBI, or CVA? This presentation will help you identify patients with visual disturbances and know what some of the options are for assessment, referrals, and treatment. Come learn strategies to use during Occupational, Physical and Speech therapy to educate the patient and their support system members on how to facilitate functional retraining and use of compensatory strategies.

B. Re-thinking Assessment and Treatment of Dysphagia Following Stroke ~ Keri Vasquez Miloro, MS, CAGS, CCC-SLP, BCS-S, Clinical Assistant Professor and Speech-Language Pathologist, University of New Hampshire and Boston Medical Center ~ Participants will learn how the sensory and motor pathways subserving the swallow mechanism are affected from stroke and how this information can be harnessed for evaluation and treatment purposes. Additionally, supplementary assessments measures and treatments for dysphagia post stroke will be discussed.

Disclosure: Ms. Miloro is not being compensated for this presentation. She has no further relevant financial or non-financial disclosures to make.

C. Post-Acute COVID Syndrome: "Long-Haulers" ~ Christina Martin, MSN, APRN, FNP-BC, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center and Melanie Del Frari, MSN, FNP-BC, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Lebanon & Geisel School of Medicine ~ Post-Acute COVID Syndrome (PACS), including multiple neurological sequelae, can have serious impacts on patients' previous health and their abilities to function and carry out normal activities. The cause for long COVID is still being determined and as of yet there are no specific treatments for persistent post-acute COVID symptoms. However, there are strategies for symptom management, rehabilitation, and support that requires a multidisciplinary team approach. With the right support, we are seeing that patients do slowly improve over time.

12:35 - 1:35 Lunch – Please visit Exhibitors

1:45 - 2:45 SESSION III

A. Attention, Effort, and Fatigue in People with Traumatic Brain Injuries: Neuroscience Drives Clinical Decision Making ~ Donald A. Robin, PhD, CCC-SLP, Professor & Chair, Dept. of Communication Sciences and Disorders, Professor Interdisciplinary Program in Neuroscience & Behavior, University of New Hampshire ~ Dr. Robin will provide an overview of his team's work over the past 35 years in the area of sustained attention and brain injury. This talk will provide a brief introduction into sustained attention and its relationship to cognitive effort and fatigue. The recent grant from the Department of Defense allowed them to collect data on active duty soldiers who had sustained a mild TBI. Brain imaging data will be shown that demonstrates what neural circuits are involved in effort/fatigue and how these changes impact recovery and long-term outcomes following a TBI. Disclosure: Dr. Robin is not being compensated for this presentation. He has no further relevant financial or non-financial disclosures to make.

B. Survivor Panel ~ Jim Scott III, Professional Speaker, Author, Business Development Professional, Brain Injury Survivor and Kimberly Spada, Retired Educator, Brain Injury Survivor ~ Experiencing a brain injury can be a lonely, isolating, and confusing experience... but you are not alone! Join us to hear the stories of Jim Scott III and Kimberly Lane Spada, who will share their personal experiences with navigating the ups and downs of life after a brain injury, finding hope and meaning, and the importance of community and social connection along the way. This panel will be facilitated by Heather Gilbert, MS, OTR/L and Kelly Redwine-DePierre, MS, OTR/L, CBIS of Krempels Center.

C. Artificial Intelligence: A Smart Move for Stroke Care? ~ Timothy G. Lukovits, MD, Medical Director, Cerebrovascular Disease and Stroke Program, Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center ~ Come to an exciting tour of artificial intelligence applications relevant for stroke survivors, rehabilitation specialists, and medical providers. Patient assessment tools, inpatient education, and imaging applications will be highlighted. Robots not welcome!

2:45 - 3:05 Afternoon Break – Please visit Exhibitors

3:10 - 4:10 SESSION IV

A. Brain Injury and Mental Health: Recognizing and Understanding the Mental Health Needs of those with ABI ~ Chelsea Zarcone, MSW, CBIS, Brain Injury Specialist Clinician and Julie Lago, MSW, LICSW, Director of Collaborative Care, Center for Life Management ~ This presentation is recommended for those living with acquired brain injury (ABI) and/or supporting those living with ABI. The presentation will examine and highlight the importance of recognizing the prevalence of mental health needs in those living with ABI, as well as necessity for appropriate collaborative diagnostic assessment in supporting dual diagnoses of ABI and mental health conditions. Through the discussion, participants will understand common overlap in symptom presentation, frequent areas of misdiagnoses, and areas in which advocacy can be provided to support clarity in the diagnostic and treatment process. Upon the completion of this presentation, participants will have increased knowledge of how to recognize presenting mental health symptoms, advocate for assessment of the dual diagnoses, and request a collaborative approach from all team members and supports, allowing for a whole person/person centered approach to care.

B. Sex & Intimacy After Brain Injury: Strategies for Communication and Participation ~ Heather Gilbert, MS, OTR/L, Program Director, Krempels Center ~ Survivors of acquired brain injuries often experience difficulties in resuming their daily activities after their injury, including activities related to sex and intimacy. Sex and intimacy are important parts of overall emotional and physical wellness for both individuals and couples. However, this aspect of life all too often goes un-addressed during the rehabilitation phase due to fear, embarrassment, and general discomfort around the topic. This session aims to provide tools to survivors, partners of survivors, and clinicians in how to start the conversation and address the most common challenges to re-engaging in sex and intimacy after brain injury.

C. The Fundamentals of Neuro Rehabilitation for the SLP: From A-Z ~ Gina England, MA, CCC-SLP, Speech Language Pathologist, Private Practice and The Pittsfield NH School District ~ After 41 years of clinical practice as a Speech Language Pathologist, the presenter has identified what she feels are the most fundamental and effective elements of a more successful neuro-rehabilitative experience for her patients and clients. Using the alphabet as a scaffold to today's presentation, the presenter will identify and discuss 26 of these fundamental elements with the hope that participants will consider including a new or different approach to their neuro-rehabilitative efforts. Disclosure: Ms. Gina England is not being compensated for this presentation. She has no further relevant financial or non-financial disclosures to make.

Conference Objectives

Participants will be able to identify advances in prevention, diagnostic assessment and rehabilitation, coping strategies, holistic approaches, recreation and leisure, and community support. They will also be able to identify ways to support collaboration and hope among participants, while developing a clearer vision of how we can better meet the needs of survivors and families in the community.

CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS

Application has been made for the following CEU's and Continuing Education Credits:
ASHA, CCM, NASW, CDMSC, CCMC, CRCC



ASHA CE
APPROVED PROVIDER

New Hampshire Speech,
Language & Hearing Association
Intermediate Level: Professional Area
.5 ASHA CEUs

Circle One:

RN SLP PT OT SW CDMSC CCMC CRCC Psych CBIS Other_____

The New Hampshire Speech-Language-Hearing Association is approved by the Continuing Education Board of the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA) to provide continuing education activities in speech-language pathology and audiology. See course information for number of ASHA CEUs, instructional level and content area. ASHA CE Provider approval does not imply endorsement of course content, specific products or clinical procedures.

This program is offered for up to 0.5 ASHA CEUs (Intermediate level; Professional area). **ASHA CEUs are available for the Keynote session and sessions I-B, II-B, III-A, IV-C.**

Psychologists: Will receive a Certificate of Attendance for 5 contact hours.

Social Workers: 5 CEUs pending approval from NASW NH

Nurses: Will receive a Certificate of Attendance for 5 contact hours.

All other healthcare and social service professionals: This program will provide 5 contact hours.

Certificates of attendance will be provided after the conference and upon receipt of your evaluation.



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