



2025

Annual Fall Conference

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 12 • LANSING CENTER



Registration Brochure



Join BIAMI for our 2025 Annual Fall Conference!

The purpose of this conference is to provide state-of-the art information about brain injury treatment and therapies, which will foster maximal rehabilitation and a better quality of life.

This conference is designed to benefit persons engaged in therapies with persons recovering from injury as well as caregivers and persons with brain injury. Learning will occur with discussion, case studies, exhibits, practicum, and lectures. The audience is intended to include all those interested in issues and trends in brain injury rehabilitation.

Questions?
Contact Nichole Shotwell
at nshotwell@biami.org

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Friday, September 12

(All times are Eastern Standard Time)

7:30 a.m. – 8:15 a.m.

Registration & Exhibits in Exhibit Hall

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.

Keynote Speaker

9:30 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

Break with Exhibitors in Exhibit Hall

10:15 a.m. – 11:15 a.m.

Session 1 Breakouts

11:15 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.

Break with Exhibitors in Exhibit Hall

11:45 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

Session 2 Breakouts

12:45 p.m. – 1:45 p.m.

Lunch Break

1:45 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.

Session 3 Breakouts

2:45 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Break with Exhibitors in Exhibit Hall

3:15 p.m. – 4:15 p.m.

Session 4 Breakouts



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7:30 am - 8:15 am

Registration & Exhibits in Exhibit Hall

8:30 am - 9:30 am

KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Brain Injury as a Chronic Condition: Why and What's Next

John Corrigan, PhD

John D. Corrigan, PhD, is a Professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at The Ohio State University and Director of the Ohio Valley Center for Brain Injury Prevention and Rehabilitation. For more than 40 years he has treated, studied and advocated for persons with traumatic brain injury.

Dr. Corrigan is Editor-in-Chief of the Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation. He has been the PI and co-PI of the Ohio Regional Traumatic Brain Injury Model System since 1997 and chaired the Executive Committee of the TBI Model Systems Project Directors from 2007-2017. Dr. Corrigan is the National Research Director for the Brain Injury Association of America and has previously served other national organizations, including CARF, the Injury Control Center at CDC, the Veterans Administration, and the U.S. Department of Defense, Defense Health Board.

Since 2013, he has served as the Director of the Ohio Brain Injury Program, which is the designated lead agency in the state of Ohio for policy and planning related to living with brain injury. He has more than 200 peer reviewed publications and has received many awards for his service and research in brain injury rehabilitation, including the Brain Injury Association of America's William Fields Caveness Award, the 2007 Robert L. Moody Prize, the Gold Key Award from the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the International Brain Injury Association.





9:30 am - 10:15 am

Break with Exhibitors in Exhibit Hall

10:15 am - 11:15 am

SESSION 1 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

1A

Pediatric Concussions: What Are They and What Can Therapists Do About It?

Presented by Carla Floyd-Slabaugh, Dr. OT, OTRL, CBIS; Arika Lanctot, BFA, CBIS

Concussions are a common type of head injury in the pediatric population, yet not well understood by rehab professionals. While the deficits can be subtle, the symptoms can be life altering for these clients. Using current evidence, this presentation will provide education about concussions plus assessments and interventions for common deficits.

1B

Guardianship and the Role of the Treatment Team

Presented by Margaret Browning, JD & National Certified Guardian

Discussion topics will focus on:

- To appoint a guardian, specific legal criteria must be met, including demonstrating the individual's incapacity.
- Required documentation typically involves medical evaluations and court petitions.
- Treatment providers play a vital role by offering assessments that inform guardianship decisions.
- The legal process includes filing petitions and attending hearings.

1C

When Everything Feels Like Too Much: The Overlap of Sensory Sensitivity, Pain and Fatigue after Brain Injury

Presented by Courtney Wang, MHS, OTRL; Lauren Linkner, PA-C, MPH; Megan Berry, LLMSW

Sensory sensitivity is a common yet often overlooked consequence of brain injury that affects daily function, emotional health, and recovery. This multidisciplinary session, led by a physician assistant with lived experience, an occupational therapist, and a clinical social worker, offers a medical, rehabilitative, and client-centered lens on this complex issue. We'll examine the neurobiological underpinnings of sensory sensitivity, its ties to fatigue and pain, and the role of psychosocial stressors. The session will cover underutilized assessment tools, common comorbidities, and practical strategies, including environmental modifications, trauma-informed care, and emerging therapies.

1D

Rehabilitation Strategies for Individuals with Severe Brain Injury:

Integrating Occupational and Physical Therapy for Optimal Patient Outcomes

Presented by Shanna Thelen, MS, OTRL, CBIS; Angie Whipple-Ellsworth, PT, MPT, CBIS, CSRS, NDT; Krista Arpi, OTR/L; Nyssa Watkins, PT, DPT, CBIS

This session will address the OT/PT role in treatment of individuals with severe TBI. It will introduce listeners to different types of brain injury, severity levels, and the OT/PT role across recovery. Next, the session will review different presentations of severe TBI, including cognitive impairments, physical impairments, vision changes, and behavioral changes.

1E

SURVIVOR TRACK

Trials, Tribulations, and Laughter after a Traumatic Brain Injury

Presented by Survivor Sam Howell & Maureen Howell, RN, BSN

This presentation includes humorous stories as Sam and Maureen tried to regain a new normal. Also shared will be an Award-Winning Public Service Announcement featuring Sam created by the Michigan State Police and the Michigan Department of Highway Safety and a slide presentation showing Sam's life including the accident and his progress toward becoming a miracle.



11:15 am - 11:45 am

Break with Exhibitors in Exhibit Hall

11:45 am - 12:45 pm

SESSION 2 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

2A

Return to Play Following Concussion

Presented by Natasha Huffine, MS, OTRL, CBIST; Arika Button, PT, DPT, CBIS

Most athletes are able to return to play within 7-10 days of their first concussion, but many return to soon or have prolonged recovery. This session covers typical symptoms of concussion, implications for multiple concussions, as well as suggested treatments. More in depth discussion will cover return to play schedules and timelines, interdisciplinary therapy recommendations, and complicated recovery suggestions.

2B

Supporting Individuals with Brain Injury through Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics

Presented by Maria Crowley, MA, CRC

Brain injury and mental health are braided together; one can contribute to or worsen the other. Understanding this connection is vital for effectively treating the whole person. This session will highlight the high rates of co-occurrence of brain injury and mental health/substance use disorders within the behavioral health system, and the need for screening for brain injury within that system. An overview of the role Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics (CCBHCs) can play in delivering comprehensive behavioral health services to individuals with brain injuries will be provided.

2C

“It’s All in Your Head” – How Psychology Can Help Patients in Rehabilitation Settings Manage Their Pain

Presented by Ashley Sangret, PsyD

Chronic pain is a persistent condition common for patients within rehabilitation settings. Three evidence-based interventions, Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT), Acceptance and Commitment Therapy (ACT), and Mindfulness Based Stress Reduction (MBSR), will be outlined here. These various treatment protocols provide a comprehensive approach to managing chronic pain and can positively enhance rehabilitation outcomes. These interventions have strong evidence to support their efficacy and are designed to help patients improve their overall quality of life and functioning.

2D

Interdisciplinary Care with Brain Injury – A Nursing and Occupational Therapy Collaboration

Presented by Kara Christy, MS, OTRL, CBIS; Sara Beck, RN, BSN

Effective collaboration between nursing and occupational therapy improves patient recovery, safety, and quality of life. This presentation explores key areas of interdisciplinary teamwork, including fall prevention, wound care, pain management, and cognitive rehabilitation. Strategies for managing co-morbidities with brain injuries such as diabetes, hypertension, and dementia will be discussed. Solutions to common challenges, including communication barriers and time constraints, will be presented.

2E

SURVIVOR TRACK

How to Make a Difference in Your Community

Presented by Miranda Grunwell, BS

Ready to "be the change you want to see in the world" but unsure where to start? Join us for a workshop designed to help put your passion into action! Created for people with disabilities, this entry-level presentation is open to all. Learn practical tools to advocate for yourself, support others, and make a real difference in your community. Let's work together toward a more inclusive world!



12:45 pm - 1:45 pm

Lunch Break

1:45 pm - 2:45 pm

SESSION 3 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

3A

Accommodations in the Classroom: From Concussion Protocols to IEPs, How to Navigate Accommodations in a School Setting

Presented by Becky Callendar, LPC, School Counselor, CBIS

Participants will gain an overview of how accommodations work in the school system, which accommodations are helpful and practical both short and long term, how a concussion protocol for students can be put in place effectively, and tips and tricks to help advocate for youth with TBI.

3B

Recidivism after TBI

Presented by Brooke Luckhardt, MS, CBIS, NIP

Recidivism after sustaining a TBI is an unrecognized community issue. This presentation explores the prevalence of TBI and recidivism in correctional populations. It discusses issues that TBI and its sequelae present within the facilities and how better screening tools and protocols are needed to manage issues within this growing population.

3C

Breathing After Brain Injury

Presented by Sara Roach, PT, DPT, NCS

Breathing and postural control are essential to every living being. Various types of brain injuries result in changes to these systems and may result in decreased stability and function. As therapists, it is important to understand, identify, and be able to manage the resulting physical deficits to allow our clients to achieve their optimal functioning after an insult to the brain. From simple to more complex interventions, we can easily and dramatically enhance our therapeutic outcomes and clients' quality of life.

3D

Longitudinal Retrospective Study of a Wearable NMES System to Determine the Effects on Arm Usage in Hemiparetic and Hemiplegic Patients

Presented by Philip Muccio, BS, Orthotics and Prosthetics

This retrospective cohort study evaluated the long-term impact of the Axiobionics BioSleeve NMES device on arm mobility in patients with hemiparesis due to TBI, stroke, cerebral palsy, or hemispherectomy. Compared to conventional therapy, BioSleeve users reported a significant increase in arm usage—from 9.9% to 43.5%—with the TBI group showing consistent annual gains. The device was well-tolerated, and findings support the use of long-term NMES to enhance functional arm use in individuals with hemiplegia.

3E

SURVIVOR TRACK

Neuroprotective Activities and Environments: Age like Wine or Age like Milk

Presented by Jared Kurdunowicz, PT, DPT, NCS; Denise Nitta, OT;

What happens after you finish the intensive rehab phase of your recovery? Survivors of brain injuries are at increased risk for accelerated aging of the brain. This risk is increased by poor sleep, diet, exercise, social isolation, and inability to return to enjoyable enriching activities. This lecture will focus on factors that might help protect or hurt your brain as it ages. We will work through real world application to help survivors take home clinical pearls.



2:45 pm - 3:15 pm

Break with Exhibitors in Exhibit Hall

3:15 pm - 4:15 pm

SESSION 4 BREAKOUT SESSIONS

4A

**Improving Outcomes of Caregivers of People with Traumatic Brain Injury:
Findings from a Randomized Control Trial of a Mobile Self-Care App**

Presented by Noelle Carozzi, PhD; Madison Fansher, PhD

Caring for an individual with traumatic brain injury (TBI) is associated with poor health outcomes (HRQOL) for care partners. To address this need, we conducted a randomized clinical trial of a mHealth intervention, the CareQOL app, to promote positive health behaviors among care partners. We found that similar proportions of care partners showed improved, similar, and worse HRQOL at the end of the 6-month intervention, with intervention engagement driving positive change. Intervention design recommendations are discussed considering these findings.

4B

Supported Communication Techniques for Person's with Aphasia and their Supports

Presented by Lindsay Hunt, MA, CCC-SLP, CBIS; April Toivonen-Truax, MA, CCC-SLP, CBIS; Rachel Carlson, LLMSW

This presentation will provide a brief overview about the various communication deficits associated with Aphasia as a result of a stroke and/or brain injury. The presentation will also review, in depth, the various communication techniques for People with Aphasia (PWA). Presenters are from an interdisciplinary team (speech and mental health) and will provide in-person modeling of these techniques.

4C

Physical Therapy for Life: Maintaining Health and Wellness After Experiencing TBI

Presented by Nicole Eddy, PT, DPT, NCS

Traumatic brain injuries (TBI) are recognized as global health issues that can affect individuals chronically in varying aspects of their life well after the onset of injury. However, efforts to receive proper care can be challenging. Physical therapy can play a vital role in, not only rehabilitation efforts, but preventative and holistic care focusing on long-term health and wellness in order for individuals with chronic TBI to stay active, engaged, and independent during meaningful activities throughout their lives.

4D

From Reflex to Response: How Hippotherapy Enhances Sensory and Reflex Integration

Presented by Sarah Miller, MSOT, OTRL, CBIS, CTRI

This presentation explores how hippotherapy—distinct from other equine therapies—enhances sensory and reflex integration through the horse's movement. Participants will learn how sensory input from riding improves motor coordination, balance, postural control, and emotional regulation. Key concepts include the role of reflexes in motor development, the impact of sensory processing, and how appropriate horse selection provides targeted therapeutic input. Real-life examples illustrate how hippotherapy transforms reflexive reactions into purposeful, functional responses across physical, cognitive, and emotional domains.

4E

SURVIVOR TRACK

Intro to Michigan Rehabilitation Services (MRS)

Presented by Jason Wilson, BAA, MBA; Julie Holmes, MA

MRS helps their customers in obtaining, maintaining, or even the gaining the necessary education needed for employment (Ages 14- retirement age). We are lucky to be able to provide and, in some cases, pay for the necessary accommodations needed, in hopes of removing any barriers that may hold our customers back in preparation of today's workforce, all of this for free for them! 1 out of 3 individuals have a disability, making this specific population the largest minority group underserved in the workforce today.



PRICING



EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION

July 8 – August 8

**Attendee Rate
\$200**

**Survivor and
Family Rate
\$25**



REGULAR BIRD REGISTRATION

August 9 – August 29

**Attendee Rate
\$235**

**Survivor and
Family Rate
\$25**



NIGHT OWL REGISTRATION

August 30 – September 5

**Attendee Rate
\$270**

**Survivor and
Family Rate
\$25**

REFUNDS/CANCELLATIONS POLICY

All requests for cancellations must be made in writing on or before **August 15, 2025**, and can be emailed to: sschannault@biami.org.

Only those requests received by **August 15, 2025** may receive a refund, less a 25% administrative fee.

Refunds will be processed post-conference.
No refund for cancellations made after **August 15, 2025**.



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CONFERENCE APP

**Register TODAY using the
BIAMI Annual Fall Conference
webpage! (See link below)**

Through this site, you can:

- Register and pay
- Choose your sessions
- Learn about the session presenters
- Check out our exhibitors and sponsors
- Then once you are registered, you can view your schedule and make changes
- Receive notifications and reminders

When we get closer to conference, you will use the site to:

- Download your session handouts (if available)
- Find your session locations

After conference you will use the site to:

- Complete session evaluations
- Receive your CE certificate



To register, scan QR code or follow this link:
<https://www.eventsquid.com/event/29020>





CE CREDITS

Up to **FIVE** Continuing Education (CE) credits/contact hours are available. We apply to the following accreditation agencies:

- National Association of Social Work (NASW) Michigan Chapter
- This continuing education activity has been submitted to the Ohio Nurses Association to award contact hours. The Ohio Nurses Association is an Ohio Board of Nursing approver of continuing education.
- CDMSC/CCMC

Certificates available for:

- CBIS
- ASHA

HOW TO OBTAIN CREDITS

All attendees will have a QR code on their conference name badge. Attendees will be scanned in and out of sessions and all CE records will be kept electronically. In order to earn CE credit you **MUST**

- Get scanned in and out of each session
- Attend one or more sessions
- Complete/submit an evaluation form for each session attended

Evaluations and certificates will be emailed to you post-conference.

RELEVANT FINANCIAL RELATIONSHIPS:

No one with the ability to control content of this activity has a relevant financial relationship with an ineligible company.



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HOTEL RESERVATIONS



- To make a room reservation, please click on [DoubleTree By Hilton Lansing](#) or scan QR code (bottom right).
- Once you select the room type, complete the Hotel Booking Form.
- For date adjustment needs, please change Check-In and Check-Out date box at the top of site.
- The booking form will ask for the guest details and email address.
- Secure payment option is the section of the booking form that holds your credit card details. Input your credit card information.
- Once you have completed this step click the “Make Reservation” button, and your reservation will be sent immediately to the Hotel.

To make room reservation by phone, call 1-833-904-2206, and reservations can assist with securing rooms.

PLEASE NOTE: It is important that identify yourself as part of the BIAMI ANNUAL FALL CONFERENCE 2025. Give Reservations the code “8UH” to receive the discounted group rate.



**Double Tree by Hilton
111 N. Grand Avenue
Lansing, Michigan 48933
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