

**2023 Brain Injury Conference**  
**Life After Brain Injury: Recovery, Relationships and Intimacy**  
**Agenda and Presentation Descriptions**  
**June 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**8:00am**

**Exhibitor set up**

**8:30am – 9:00am**

**Registration, Networking and Exhibits**

**\*9:00am – 9:15am**

**Welcome**

**9:15am – 9:30am**

**Brain Injury Support Around the Counties**

Presented by: Nicole Ferreria

**9:30am – 10:00am**

**Survivor Story - For 20 Years, My Unsung Hero**

Presented by: Lila Holmen and Leah Armes

**10:00am – 11:00am (50min, 10min Q&A)**

**Are you Afraid of the Dark Light?**

Presented by: Dr. Riyadh Khamis

**11:00am – 11:15am**

**BREAK**

**11:15am – 11:45 (25min, 5min Q&A)**

**Sexual Activity Following Concussion – Pilot Study to Determine Scope of the Problem**

Presented by: Dr. Michael Robinson and Dr. Darryl Putzer

**11:45am – 12:45am (50min, 10min Q&A)**

**Sexual Health Practice Across the Continuum of Acquired Brain Injury**

Presented by: Jill Robinson, Alyssa Prangle, Jill Bowen

**12:45pm – 1:45pm**

**LUNCH**

**1:45pm – 2:15pm (25min, 5min Q&A)**

**Presenting Evidence in Brain Injury Trials**

Presented by: David Isaac

**2:15pm – 2:45pm (25min, 5min Q&A)**

**Igniting HOPE Within**

Presented by: Samantha Hudson

**2:45pm – 3:00pm**

**Exhibitor prizes awarded**

**3:00pm**

**END**

## Presentation Descriptions and Speaker Bios

### My Unsung Heroes

**Presented by:** Lila Holmen

**Speaker Bio:** Lila acquired a severe brain injury in an auto wreck in 2003 leaving her hospitalized for 6 1/2 months. Her 19-year-old daughter Leah received her 2nd brain injury as the passenger in that wreck. Leah's first ABI occurred 18 years earlier as an infant when she suffered febrile convulsions. Lila & her daughter are very changed people today and still struggle with the aftereffects of this very complicated disorder. Before her injuries, Lila supplemented her salaried income by painting commissioned oil portraits. No longer a working artist, she enjoys painting from her home in Stratford when her disability allows.

**Presentation Description:** This speech will discuss the necessity for professional care and how love, although more complicated, nurtures the survivors' relationships.

**Learning Objectives:** By the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

1. Know that the seemingly impossible is possible in new and adapted ways.
  2. Recognize a support hero.
  3. Have hope.
- 

**Are You Afraid of the Dark Light?** - Current hypotheses for pathophysiology of photophobia, and treatment options for post-traumatic light sensitivity after a brain injury, migraine and more.

**Presented by:** Dr. Riyadh Khamis

**Presentation Description:** This presentation will discuss the hypotheses for pathophysiology of photophobia including the connection between short wavelength light, ipRGC cells and visual pathways in the brain. It will discuss the effect of blue light and electronic devices on our eyes, and treatment option for post-traumatic light sensitivity after a brain injury and migraine by going over the evidence of tinted filters, binocular vision therapy and dry eye treatment.

**Learning Objectives:** By the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

1. understand the proposed hypotheses of light sensitivity
2. Understand the effect of blue light on our eyes
3. Learn about treatment options available for light sensitivity after a concussion/migraine

**Sexual Activity Following Concussion** – Pilot Study to Determine Scope of the Problem  
**Presented by:** Dr. Michael Robinson, Dr. Darryl Putzer

**Speaker Bios:** Dr. Michael Robinson – Dr. Robinson is a clinical researcher at Western University with an interest in the clinical assessment and management of concussion.

Dr. Darryl Putzer – Dr. Putzer is a family physician with a specialization in sports medicine at the Fowler Kennedy Sports Medicine Clinic.

**Learning Objectives:** By the end of the session, participants will be able to:

1. Understand the potential scope of the issue and the lack of knowledge in the area
  2. Identify potential issues with sexual activity following concussion
  3. Understand the importance of addressing questions and issues with sexual activity with concussion patients
- 

**Sexual Health Practice Across the Continuum of Acquired Brain Injury Rehabilitation**  
**Presented by:** Jill Robinson, Alyssa Prangle, Jill Bowen

**Speaker Bio:** Jill Robinson - Jill graduated from the University of Western Ontario in 2000 with an Honors Bachelor of Arts degree in Anthropology. In 2010, Jill pursued her interest in social justice and human development through obtaining her Bachelor of Social Work degree at King's University College. Jill spent the majority of her career working in community and hospital supporting individuals who were experiencing substance use and mental health concerns. After a volunteer experience with the Institute of Palliative Medicine in Kerala India in 2013, Jill began to shift her focus to rehabilitation and began working as a Social Worker at Parkwood Institute in 2016. Jill is currently working in the Acquired Brain Injury Outpatient program.

Jill Bowen - Jill has a particular interest in both the role of mindfulness and Cognitive Behaviour Therapy to assist individuals to adjust to their injury. She has been trained in Motivational Interviewing and Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to assist clients in moving through the stages of change throughout their own recovery journey. Jill is a practitioner of yoga and implements the use of mindfulness in her own life. Jill has also incorporated this therapeutic perspective with the development of the Minds Matter Psychosocial Support group that is run through the Acquired Brain Injury Outpatient program. This group allows clients to process their emotional changes after injury and work towards adjustment.

Alyssa Prangle – Alyssa graduated from Wilfrid Laurier University with Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology (2015). It was during this time that she became involved with research, completing an undergraduate thesis study examining the effect of vestibular training intervention for individuals with post-concussion syndrome. Alyssa then went on to complete her Master of Kinesiology degree (2017) with a thesis study examining peripheral visual motion sensitivity in previously concussed, asymptomatic individuals. After years working in brain injury research,

Alyssa then pursued her interest in rehabilitation through obtaining her Master of Science in Occupational Therapy at McMaster University in 2019. Alyssa has been working as an Occupational Therapist within Parkwood Institute's Acquired Brain Injury Inpatient Program since 2019. She has a particular interest in supporting individuals with moderate to severe traumatic brain injuries who experience challenging behaviours and facilitating their participation in meaningful activities.

**Presentation Description:** This presentation will provide an overview of the sexual health practice initiative, including the baseline survey results, the implementation steps and program description, staff and patient education tools and resource development, and the evaluation plan. Initial evaluation results and opportunities for improvement will also be shared.

**Learning Objectives:** By the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

1. Understand the application of the PLISSIT model and Sexual Rehabilitation Framework to implement a Sexual Health clinical practice across the continuum of Brain Injury Rehabilitation
2. Understand the steps in the implementation process to identify practice gaps and ways to leverage patient and caregiver experience to create sustainable practices
3. Develop strategies for building capacity and supporting health care teams in sexual health practice

---

## **Presenting Evidence in Brain Injury Trials**

**Presented by:** David Isaac

**Speaker Bio:** David Isaac is a personal injury lawyer practicing at Lerner in London. He also teaches at Western University's Faculty of Law in the areas of health law and municipal law. David has a broad personal injury practice, but as an avid cyclist he has a special focus on helping cyclists who have been injured while riding. David has presented at numerous academic conferences and has published on legal issues related to the admissibility of expert evidence.

**Presentation Description:** Treatment providers are often asked to write medical-legal reports in the context of ABI litigation. These reports are crucial for informing the judge and jury of the nature and cause of the injury, as well as the survivor's prognosis and treatment options. This evidence can make or break a survivor's case. However, in ABI trials, this evidence can also be extremely complex, and with novel therapy interventions, there can be complications with presenting this evidence to the Court. At times, these complications can mean that key evidence is misunderstood or ruled inadmissible.

In this presentation, I will give a high-level overview of the law of complex or novel scientific evidence informed by two ABI cases that have ties to London. I will then review some tips on making your evidence accessible to a jury of laypeople and on writing medical-legal reports that clarify complex evidence.

While this presentation is primarily meant to provide information for treatment providers, I hope it will be interesting and accessible to attendees who are survivors or caregivers who may have dealt with these problems or are dealing with them.

**Learning Objectives:** By the end of the session, the participant will be able to:

1. Identify and understand potential issues in ABI medical-legal reports
  2. Draft medical-legal reports in a way that ensures clarity and compliance with case law
  3. Work with lawyers and other experts to simplify and clarify complex medical information in the context of ABI litigation
- 

### **Igniting HOPE Within**

**Presented by:** Samantha Hudson

**Speaker Bio:** Samantha is a person with lived concussion experience

**Presentation Description:** Using the word HOPE as an acronym, I would like to share how medical professionals encouraged the flame of hope within me after I sustained a series of three concussions, mixed with chronic Benign paroxysmal positional vertigo, vestibular migraines and Persistent Postural Perceptual Dizziness.

**Learning Objectives:**

1. Learn and understand four HOPE building strategies
2. Ability to conceptually apply knowledge to professional practice
3. Encouraged and confident that these strategies will help clients feel:
  - a. Willing to move towards recovery goals
  - b. Supported in the uniqueness of their symptoms
  - c. Seen, heard, validated and safe
  - d. Hopeful about their future