

AGENDA MARCH 9

Time	Session
10:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.	Registration and Check-In
12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	Survivor and Caregiver Meet and Greet Come to this informal gathering and stay for just ten minutes or the full two hours! Be sure to eat before you come or bring your own lunch with you.
2:00 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	Opening Session: Why We Gather, Why it Matters, What's Possible <i>Rick Willis, President and CEO, Brain Injury Association of America</i> BIAA's President and CEO will kick off the conference by exploring what happens when the brain injury community comes together with intention and purpose. Hear why this moment matters, what we hope to accomplish together, and how your voice and participation can help shape the future of brain injury advocacy, programs, and support.
2:30 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	Exhibits and Networking
3:00 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.	Plenary: Communicating Better Together: Putting New Brain Injury Messaging into Practice <i>John D. Corrigan, Ph.D., Professor, The Ohio State University National Research Director, BIAA; Kelly Lang, Author, Advocate, Survivor, and Caregiver</i> A group of brain injury organizations and brain injury survivors collaborated over the past year and released a statement on how to talk about brain injury. This opening plenary, featuring a panel and interactive roundtable discussions, will ground us in these shared principles as we come together for days of connection and collaboration.
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Welcome Reception (heavy hors d'oeuvres served)

AGENDA MARCH 10

Time	Session
9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m.	<p>Plenary: What's Happening in Brain Injury in 2026 <i>Rick Willis, President and CEO, Brain Injury Association of America; Paul Dubetz, Adjunct Assistant Professor, Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, The Ohio State University; David Harrington, President and CEO, Centre for Neuro Skills; Geoffrey Manley, Ph.D., Chief of Neuro Surgery, Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital; Kelly Parker, Independent Services Director, Wounded Warrior Project</i></p> <p>Learn about the current state of BIAA and brain injury services, research, and policy. Also, join us in celebrating BIAA's award winners!</p>
10:30 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.	Exhibits and Networking
11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	<p>Concurrent Sessions:</p> <p>Connection, Loneliness, and Finding Meaning: Supporting Yourself and Your Community <i>Kate Kerkmans, LCSW, CBIS, President and CEO, BIA-CO</i></p> <p>This session will delve into the causes of loneliness and highlight practical, evidence-based strategies to strengthen interpersonal connections, foster belonging, and build supportive communities.</p> <p>Turning Experience into Impact: How to Share Your Brain Injury Journey <i>Eric Ganci, Esq., The Ortega Firm</i></p> <p>Whether you are a professional, survivor, or caregiver, your personal experience with brain injury is a powerful tool for raising awareness and inspiring action. In this session we'll discuss how to sequence and express your story in a way that leaves your listener understanding who you are.</p>
12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m.	Lunch (Provided), Exhibits and Networking
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	<p>Concurrent Sessions:</p> <p>Leveraging Your Story to Inspire Support <i>Stacy Mulder, Executive Director, BIAA-TN; Charlene Iroanya, Occupational Therapist, TIRR Memorial Hermann; Tera Welch, COO, NeuLife Rehabilitation; Angela Leigh Tucker, Survivor and Advocate</i></p> <p>This session will explore approachable ways to engage your personal network, spark meaningful conversations, and encourage people to show their support for the brain injury community.</p>

AGENDA MARCH 10

Continued

Time	Session
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.	<p><u>Concurrent Sessions (Continued):</u></p> <p>Bridging Research and Real Life: Many Roles for Engagement <i>Michael W. Williams, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Department of Psychology, University of Houston; Shannon Juengst, Ph.D., CRC, FACRM, Clinical Investigator, Brain Health and Rehabilitation Research Center, TIRR Memorial Hermann; Angelle M. Sander, Ph.D., Director, Brain Health and Rehabilitation Research Center, TIRR Memorial Hermann</i></p> <p>Brain injury research should reflect the priorities and experiences of the people it is meant to help. Learn how advocates can partner with researchers, participate in studies, influence what gets studied, and ensure that brain injury research addresses what matters most to people with lived experience.</p> <p><i>This session is provided in memory of Martin Spivack, Ph.D., M.D., and Deborah "Debby" Price.</i></p>
2:00 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.	Exhibits and Networking
2:15 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.	<p>Community-Led Excellence: Programs Where Volunteers Drive the Mission <i>Carrie Collins, Director, BIA-AZ; Kimberly Hill, MS, CTRS, CCT, Executive Director, BIA-LA/United Spinal Association of Louisiana; June Klein-Bacon, BSW, CBIST, Executive Director, BIA-IA; Peggy Reisher, MSW, Executive Director, BIA-NE; Monica Vaccaro, Director of Programs, BIA-PA</i></p> <p>Hear about impactful, volunteer-led programs in the brain injury community. Panelists will share what works, what doesn't, and what tools you need to get started.</p>
3:00 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	Exhibits and Networking
3:15 p.m. - 5:15 p.m.	<p>Preparing for the Hill <i>Denver Supinger, Director of Advocacy and Government Relations, BIAA; Christopher Kush, CEO, Soapbox Consulting; Zaida Ricker, MPS, Director of Strategic Partnerships and Policy, NASHIA</i></p> <p>Required training for individuals with scheduled congressional visits on Wednesday.</p>

AGENDA MARCH 11

Time	Session
7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m.	Grab and Go Breakfast
8:00 a.m., 8:30 a.m., and 9:00 a.m.	Buses Depart for Capitol Hill
10:30 a.m.	Group Photo on Capitol Hill
3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.	A Congressional Brain Injury Taskforce Event- The Hidden Intersection: Intimate Partner Violence and Brain Injury
9:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.	Congressional Visits on the Hill
2:00 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.	Buses Depart to Return to Hotel
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	Optional North American Brain Injury Society (NABIS) event open to BIAA attendees: A New Era of Brain Injury Research and Care – Lighting the Path Forward <i>Kristen Dams-O'Connor Ph.D., Director, Brain Injury Research Center of Mount Sinai</i>
6:00 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.	The Connection Hour: A Joint BIAA/NASHIA/NABIS Reception Join us for an informal, joint reception. The Connection Hour is designed for mingling, cross-discipline connection, and energizing conversation—paired with light refreshments.