

DEFINING MOMENTS IN BRAIN INJURY

September 15, 2025 | DoubleTree by Hilton, Portland, Maine



Join us for this premier conference focused on brain injury treatment, recovery, research, and resources in Maine

Highlights Include:

- Keynote Address on *Life after Brain Injury: Navigating the Journey of Recovery with Resilience*
- Beverley Bryant Memorial Lecture on *How Art and Music Helped Heal My Brain* by Amy Stacey Curtis
- 11 breakout sessions for professionals, individuals living with brain injury, and family caregivers
- Earn up to 6 CE credits
- Exhibits from leading organizations serving the brain injury community in Maine

Who Should Attend:

Individuals living with brain injury, family caregivers, social workers, case managers, certified brain injury specialists, certified rehabilitation counselors, recreational therapists, mental health clinicians, psychologists, nurses, physicians, physical therapists, occupational therapists, speech language pathologists, pediatricians, physician assistants, school nurses, nurse practitioners, and students.

REGISTRATION FEES

Early rates good thru August 14

Professionals: \$199 early/\$249 regular

Survivors/family/students: \$60 early/\$75 regular

[CLICK HERE TO REGISTER](#)

Questions? Contact
conferences@biausa.org

HOTEL INFORMATION

DoubleTree by Hilton
363 Maine Mall Road, Portland, Maine

We have a special group room rate of \$189 (single or double occupancy). To make your reservation, call Hotel Reservations at 855-610-8733 and mention you are part of BIAA to get the special rate. The room block expires at 5 pm ET on August 23, 2025. After that date, rooms may not be available, so please register early!

SCHOLARSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

We have scholarships available for brain injury survivors and family members to attend the conference for \$20. If you are interested, please [click here](#) to apply.

CONTINUING EDUCATION CREDITS

Certified Brain Injury Specialists (CBIS/CBIST)

The Academy of Certified Brain Injury Specialists will recognize up to six hours of continuing education credit for attendance at the full conference.

Certified Rehabilitation Counselors

This program is approved by the Commission on Rehabilitation Counselor Certification for six continuing education credits for Certified Rehabilitation Counselors (CRCs).

Social Workers

This program is approved by the Maine Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers for six continuing education contact hours.

Case Managers

We have applied to the Commission for Case Manager Certification for CE credits for Certified Case Managers (CCMs).

Psychologists

We have applied to the Maine State Board of Examiners of Psychologists for CE credits for Psychologists.

Certificate of Attendance

All attendees are eligible to receive a certificate of attendance.

For more Information

For any questions regarding CE credits, contact conferences@biausa.org.

DEFINING MOMENTS IN BRAIN INJURY CONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

AGENDA

7:30–8:30 a.m.	Registration and Morning Refreshments		
8:30–9:35 a.m.	Welcome & Keynote Address on Life After Brain Injury: Navigating the Journey of Recovery with Resilience Rene' Mills, M.S., CCC–SLP, CBIST (Craig Hospital), D'Anna Nowack, SLP.D, CCC–SLP, CBIS (Baylor University), Mark Halvorsen (Seminole Spirit Support Group) and Jeff Richmond		
9:35–9:45 a.m.	Networking Break		
	Track 1	Track 2	
9:45–10:45 a.m.	Getting Involved: From Passion to Plan Carole Starr, M.S. and Kelly Lang, B.A.	Neurobehavioral Outcomes: A Behavioral Intervention Workshop Gordon Horn, Ph.D. (NeuroRestorative)	
10:45–11:00 a.m.	Networking Break		
11:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.	Beverley Bryant Memorial Lecture on How Art and Music Helped Heal My Brain Amy Stacey Curtis Lewis and Clara Lamont Brain Injury Advocacy Award Presentation		
12:00–1:00 p.m.	Lunch		
	Track 1	Track 2	Track 3
1:00–2:00 p.m.	Effective Strategies for Meaningful Community Involvement Lisa Cline and Liz Korson (Maine DHHS OADS) and Lee Glynn	Trauma Informed Care and Brain Injury Tiffany Robinson, LCPC, CCATP, and Tammy Miranda, LCPC	The Role of Neuropsychological Assessment in Treatment and Management of TBI Charles Gaudet, Ph.D. (VA Boston Healthcare System)
2:00–2:15 p.m.	Networking Break		
2:15–3:15 p.m.	Yoga Nidra Guided Meditation for Sleep and Emotional Well-being after Brain Injury Ellie Spriet, OTD, OTR/L (LoveYourBrain)	Bridging Gaps: Collaborative Knowledge Sharing for Integrated Care in Underserved Communities Patty King, CTRS, CBIS (BIAA–ME) and Ernestine Perreault, LACD, CCS (Spurwink)	Calming a Brain on Fire: Managing Migraines Post-Brain Injury Casey Poirier, PT, DPT, Bethany Althaus, PT, DPT and Michael Cyr, PT, DPT, NCS (Maine Strong Balance Center)
3:15–3:30 p.m.	Networking Break		
3:30–4:30 p.m.	Helping Hands, Healing Hearts Suzanne Morneault (All Things Become New)	Women’s Experience of Concussion Shannon Wright, DAT, M.Ed., ATC (University of Maine)	TBD

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

8:35-9:35 AM - OPENING KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Life After Brain Injury: Navigating the Journey of Recovery with Resilience

Rene' Mills, M.S., CCC-SLP, CBIST, Provider Relations Manager at Craig Hospital; D'Anna Nowack, SLP.D, CCC-SLP, CBIS, Clinical Assistant Professor/Clinical Assistant Director, Online CSD Program, Baylor University; Mark Halvorsen, Founder and Director of Seminole Spirit Support Group; and Jeff Richmond

Coping with the long-term consequences of acquired brain injury is complex and multi-faceted for families, survivors, and healthcare professionals. With increasingly shorter hospital and inpatient rehabilitation stays, survivors are often forced to take responsibility for their continued cognitive rehabilitation after the first six to twelve months of injury with few resources available to them. In this presentation, survivors with moderate to severe brain injury who are part of an international peer support group will share their perspectives on living and thriving after their injury.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify at least three quality of life measures for survivors of acquired brain injury.
- Describe at least two examples of activities to facilitate neuroplasticity after acquired brain injury.
- Describe the cognitive and social benefits of community engagement for individuals with acquired brain injury.

9:35-9:45 AM - NETWORKING BREAK

9:45-10:45 AM - CONCURRENT TRACKS

Getting Involved: From Passion to Plan

Carole Starr, M.S., and Kelly Lang, B.A.

Brain injury survivors have a unique perspective and can make valuable contributions. However, the realities of brain injury make involvement challenging. Many survivors have a passion to be more involved but require support to increase their engagement. Get on Board is a program for increasing survivor engagement in state brain injury communities. It has been helping Maine brain injury survivors identify their strengths, learn how to get involved in the brain injury community, and make a difference. Hear their stories and learn strategies to turn inspiration into impact.

Learning Objectives:

- List three benefits to survivors getting involved in the brain injury community.
- List two barriers to survivors getting involved in the brain injury community.
- List two ways survivors can get involved in the brain injury community.

Neurobehavioral Outcomes: A Behavioral Intervention Workshop

Gordon Horn, Ph.D., National Director of Analytics and Clinical Outcomes, NeuroRestorative and Co-Chair, NeuroRestorative Research Institute

It has long been recognized that cognition, mood, and behavior provide limiting aspects of brain injury recovery. An estimated 11-34% of patients remain with persistent agitated behaviors (>9 months post-injury) causing a major source of family stress. Neurobehavioral disorders show impaired impulse control, outbursts, verbal and physical aggression, and issues related to planning, judgment, and self-awareness. In addition, research revealed that most survivors with behavioral impairment were living with their families even four years (or greater) post-injury. This session reviews current research findings regarding behavior strategies in multiple settings.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the neuropathology of behavioral dysregulation.
- Discuss national behavioral outcome trends.
- Describe various behavioral intervention levels and strategies.

10:45-11:00 AM - NETWORKING BREAK

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

11:00 AM-11:50 PM - BEVERLEY BRYANT MEMORIAL LECTURE

How Art and Music Helped Heal My Brain

Amy Stacey Curtis

In this Beverley Bryant Memorial Lecture, 2025 Maine's Got Talent winner Amy Stacey Curtis will share how art and music helped her heal and to rebuild skills after a brain injury in 2017. After six years of recovering from psychosis and wheelchair to walker to cane to back on her feet, thanks in part to art-making, Amy was still struggling with speech. She soon intuited that practicing a skill with simultaneous tasks, like playing an instrument, might build new neuromuscular pathways. Since Amy started playing ukulele, her normal speech has returned, except in environments where her brain is over-stimulated. Amy learns five songs weekly, a self-prescribed occupational therapy. She has played 500+ songs, singing at open mics and also on social media, where one TikTok video has over 600K views.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify the role of creative activity in the recovery journey.
- Recognize self-discovery methods in rehabilitation.

11:50 AM-12:00 PM - PRESENTATION OF LEWIS AND CLARA LAMONT BRAIN INJURY ADVOCACY AWARD

12:00-1:00 PM - LUNCH

1:00-2:00 PM - CONCURRENT TRACKS

Make the Day Count: Effective Strategies for Meaningful Community Involvement

Lisa Cline, Employment Specialist and Liz Korson, Quality Improvement Specialist for Meaningful Day and Employment Services, Maine Office of Aging and Disability Services; and Lee Glynn, Brain Injury Survivor

Community is where all people are valued for their unique gifts and talents and where everyone feels welcome in businesses, organizations, clubs, and associations as members, employees, learners, and citizens. Communities are stronger when everyone belongs. This session will outline actionable steps people can take to connect with local causes, organizations, and neighbors and show that everyone—regardless of background or experience—has something of value to contribute to their community. Attendees will also learn from the lived experience of a Maine small business owner who found his passion, joy, and a sense of community through his work and how he encourages other brain injury survivors to explore their own entrepreneurial paths.

Learning Objectives:

- Explain the benefits of community involvement for independence, self-confidence, emotional well-being, and quality of life.
- Discuss tools, resources, and strategies for developing and maintaining friendships and social connections.
- Describe clubs, groups, and organizations in Maine and how to get involved in ways that lead to membership, contribution, and valued roles.

Trauma Informed Care and Brain Injury

Tiffany Robinson, LCPC, CCATP and Tammy Miranda, LCPC

This session will explore the intricate relationship between trauma and brain injury, examining how trauma can impact brain function and how brain injury, in turn, can influence the development of trauma. Participants will gain an understanding of the interconnectedness of these issues and how they affect individuals both directly and indirectly. The session will also highlight the challenges faced by those supporting individuals with brain injuries and trauma, providing insights into effective strategies for care and intervention.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the impact of trauma on brain function and how traumatic experiences can influence neurological health and cognitive functioning.
- Discuss how brain injuries contribute to the development of trauma and the psychological challenges faced by individuals with brain injuries.
- Identify effective strategies for supporting individuals and others impacted by both trauma and brain injury, with an emphasis on care and intervention techniques.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

1:00-2:00 PM - CONCURRENT TRACKS CONTINUED

The Role of Neuropsychological Assessment in Treatment and Management of TBI

Charles Gaudet, Ph.D., Assistant Professor, Department of Psychiatry, Boston University Chobanian & Avedisian School of Medicine, and Staff Neuropsychologist, Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Service, VA Boston Healthcare System

Neuropsychological assessment is an important tool to support better understanding changes that often accompany traumatic brain injuries (TBIs). Given the diversity of presentations and outcomes following TBIs, interpretation of performance on neuropsychological testing is complex and subject to nuance. This presentation will provide an overview of benefits and limitations of neuropsychological assessment across the spectrum of TBI.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the indications for neuropsychological assessment.
- Discuss the limitations of neuropsychological testing.
- Explain how neuropsychological assessment can benefit treatment and management of TBI.

2:00-2:15 PM - NETWORKING BREAK

2:15-3:15 PM - CONCURRENT TRACKS

Yoga Nidra Guided Meditation for Sleep and Emotional Well-being after Brain Injury

Ellie Spriet, OTD, OTR/L, CKTP, RYT200, Clinical Affiliate Program Manager, LoveYourBrain

This session will cover how sleep and mental health are impacted after brain injury, and how Yoga Nidra, a guided relaxation technique, has been proven to help. Topics include Yoga Nidra methods and effective practices like progressive muscle relaxation, body scan, and inner resources to support yourself and others in their healing journey.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe 3+ simple guided relaxation techniques.
- Discuss key best practices for adapting Yoga Nidra for brain injury.
- Identify free Yoga Nidra resources for brain injury.

Bridging Gaps: Collaborative Knowledge Sharing for Integrated Care in Underserved Communities

Patricia King, CTRS, CBIS, NeuroResource Facilitator, BIAA-ME and Ernestine Perreault, LADC, CCS, Community Support Services Supervisor, Spurwink

This session will explore a collaborative effort to develop a pilot program addressing the gap between brain injury occurrence and access to care among underserved populations. It will give an overview of how screening, accommodations, staff training, and connections to BIAA-ME resource facilitation have been implemented in a community-based harm reduction clinic in Maine, as well as in structured programming at other pilot sites. The session will also highlight best practices, outcomes to date, and future opportunities.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify basic harm reduction principles and recovery resources for individuals with substance use disorder in Maine.
- Discuss the value of brain injury screening in underserved populations for effective, person-centered planning.
- Describe training approaches that promote brain injury informed environments for providers working with underserved populations.
- Discuss lessons learned and the impact of brain injury awareness on the pilot program.

SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

2:15-3:15 PM - CONCURRENT TRACKS CONTINUED

Calming a Brain on Fire: Managing Migraines Post-Brain Injury

Casey Poirier, PT, DPT; Bethany Althaus, PT, DPT; and Michael Cyr, PT, DPT, NCS, Maine Strong Balance Center

Clinicians will share information regarding the pathophysiology leading to migraines and how this relates to brain injury and post-traumatic headache. They will discuss the signs and symptoms of migraines and the different subtypes of post traumatic headaches. They will provide evidence supporting the role of physical therapy in rehabilitation for individuals with migraines following brain injury, treatment strategies for this population, and examples from clinical care.

Learning Objectives:

- Discuss the connection between brain injury and migraines and distinguish the subtypes of post-traumatic headache.
- Identify the diagnostic criteria of migraine.
- Describe the benefits of physical therapy for brain injury survivors with migraines.

3:15-3:30 PM - NETWORKING BREAK

3:30-4:30 PM - CONCURRENT SESSIONS

Helping Hands, Healing Hearts

Suzanne Morneault, Co-founder, All Things Become New, Inc.

In this presentation on caregiving, we'll explore the challenges and rewards of supporting loved ones. Learn practical strategies for managing caregiver responsibilities, prioritizing self-care, and navigating resources. Discover ways to build resilience and find support in your caregiving journey. Gain valuable insights and connections to help you thrive as a caregiver.

Learning Objectives:

- Identify practical strategies for managing caregiver responsibilities, including time management, boundary setting, and seeking support.
- Discuss the importance of self-care and explore ways to prioritize physical, emotional, and mental well-being as a caregiver.
- List local resources and support systems that can help caregivers navigate challenges and find community.

Women's Experience of Concussion

Shannon Wright, DAT, M.Ed., ATC, Assistant Professor of Athletic Training, University of Maine

When women sustain concussions, particularly sport-related concussions, their experience differs from men's. They experience a different variety of symptoms and can take longer to recover and fully return to participation. With the continued rise of women's participation in sports and recreational activities, their experiences of concussion are valuable and help inform clinicians in all professions how to better serve them.

Learning Objectives:

- Describe the differences in concussion symptoms and incidence and recovery rates in women.
- Describe strategies to help identify non-traditional symptoms women may experience after a concussion.
- Identify additional supports for women experiencing a concussion.

PLANNING COMMITTEE

BIAA would like to thank our volunteer planning committee for their hard work and dedication:

- **Sue Bartlett, LCSW, CCM, CBIS**, Per Diem Case Manager, New England Rehabilitation Hospital
- **Jim Beaudry**, Brain Injury Survivor
- **Beth Burke, OTR/L, CBIS, MHA**, Team Leader, Maine Medical Center
- **Cory Hall, DPT, ATC, NCS**, Assistant Professor, Franklin Pierce University
- **Janet Keith, CCM, OT/L**, Director of Business Development/Sales Northeast, Rehab Without Walls Neurorehabilitation
- **Teena Oullette, M.A.**, Clinical Evaluator, NeuroRestorative
- **Jessica Riccardi, Ph.D., CCC-SLP**, Assistant Professor, Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, University of Maine
- **Jenn Williams**, Brain Injury Survivor and Co-Founder, The Middle People Project



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We have a variety of sponsorship opportunities available. [Click here](#) for more information.

BIAA-Maine gratefully acknowledges partial support for the BIAA-Maine "Defining Moments in Brain Injury" Conference from the Administration for Community Living (ACL), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services under Grant #90TBSG0065-01-00.