



LUMINARY
OF THE YEAR
TENNESSEE — 2026

Thursday, October 8, 2026
Richland Country Club
Nashville, TN

BRAIN INJURY SURVIVORS DESERVE BETTER
your sponsorship can make a lasting impact

Signature Campaign Partnership Opportunities



Questions?

Contact Stacy Mulder at smulder@biausa.org or 615-988-9638



Why support the Luminary of the Year Campaign?

BRAIN INJURY SURVIVORS DESERVE BETTER **your sponsorship can make a lasting impact**

As Tennessee's **leading voice on brain injury**, the Brain Injury Association of America, Tennessee Chapter (BIAA-TN) is dedicated to improving the quality of life for individuals affected by acquired brain injury across their lifespan. More than **1.3 million Tennesseans** have experienced one or more traumatic brain injuries in their lifetime, and thousands more have sustained non-traumatic brain injuries such as stroke, anoxic injury, brain tumor, or brain infection. National research indicates that just over 47% of people with a history of brain injury live with at least one functional disability; an estimated 600,000+ Tennesseans may be living with disability related to brain injury.

Current Landscape

The Brain Injury Association of America recently released *The 2026 State of Brain Injury Report*, a comprehensive national analysis developed in collaboration with leading experts in brain injury and neurorehabilitation. This report highlights the profound and far-reaching impact of acquired brain injury on survivors, families, caregivers, and entire communities.

"As leaders in the brain injury community, it is incumbent on us to accurately portray the scale of brain injury in Tennessee and what needs to be done to address it."

— Stacy Mulder, Executive Director, BIAA-TN

By sponsoring Luminary of the Year, you help strengthen BIAA-TN's ability to deliver critical support for survivors, caregivers, and healthcare professionals; advance groundbreaking research; advocate for public policies that support rehabilitation and long-term recovery; expand access to resources; and increase the number of clinicians with specialized training to ensure excellent care at every stage of rehabilitation.

The Value of Your Support

Each year, BIAA-TN delivers help, hope, and healing to the millions of Tennesseans affected by acquired brain injury. Funds raised through Luminary of the Year support these core initiatives:

- **The National Brain Injury Information Center (NBIC):** Our team responds to thousands of inquiries each year, connecting survivors, caregivers, and professionals with accurate information, resources, and referrals.
- **Advocacy:** We mobilize statewide and national networks to educate policymakers, protect, and expand essential programs, and uphold commitments to high-quality brain injury care.
- **Community Outreach:** We build strong partnerships with hospitals, rehabilitation facilities, schools, community organizations, and state agencies to expand awareness of services, support groups, and care coordination.
- **Education and Professional Development:** We provide free educational webinars for survivors and caregivers and administer the Academy of Certified Brain Injury Specialists (ACBIS), which has certified more than 20,000 professionals nationwide.
- **Research Advancement:** Through the Brain Injury Research Fund, BIAA supports innovative research aimed at improving treatments and developing cures for chronic brain injury. With more than 500,000 service members diagnosed with TBI since 2000 and 1 in 10 children affected annually, investment in research is more critical than ever.

Your partnership through Luminary of the Year directly strengthens these efforts and helps ensure that every Tennessean impacted by brain injury has access to the support and resources they need.

Luminary of the Year Celebration

Thursday, October 8, 2026

Richland Country Club
Nashville, TN

*Cocktail Reception,
Dinner, Auction &
Fund the Mission Moment
Inspiring mission-focused
program highlighting
stories of resolve,
determination, and
compassion.*



**Partner with BIAA-TN
to illuminate
the path forward for
millions of Tennesseans**





LUMINARY
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MAYUR B. PATEL, M.D.

Professor & Chief, Division of Acute Care Surgery
Sr. Investigator, Critical Illness, Brain Dysfunction, & Survivorship Center

Dr. Mayur B. Patel is a distinguished surgeon-scientist whose work sits at the critical intersection of brain dysfunction and acute illness. He has worked with the Brain Injury Association of America, Tennessee Chapter for over a decade and served on its Board of Directors from 2011-2021. As the Division Chief of Acute Care Surgery at Vanderbilt University Medical Center (VUMC), he oversees the delivery of trauma, burn, emergency general surgery, and critical care across an 80,000-square-mile region, including those patients sustaining Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Beyond his clinical leadership, Dr. Patel serves as the Department Vice-Chair of Professional Development, where he champions the mentorship and promotion of early career faculty.

A Senior Principal Investigator within the Critical Illness, Brain dysfunction, and Survivorship (CIBS) Center, Dr. Patel has spent over a decade maturing a federal research portfolio that exceeds \$22 million in National Institute of Health (NIH) and Veterans Affairs (VA) funding. His work has been defined by three active independent programs: the INSIGHT-ICU project, which examines neuroinflammation and long-term cognition after Traumatic Brain Injury; the BRAIN-ICU-2 platform, exploring the link between acute brain dysfunction and dementia; and the RETURN-III study, which evaluates computerized cognitive rehabilitation for ICU survivors. Dr. Patel is a leading national authority on the role of beta-blockade in traumatic brain injury (TBI) and has conducted high-impact meta-analysis, a pilot randomized clinical trial (RCT), and developed a multicenter RCT proposal (under review) in collaboration with the Vanderbilt Trial Innovation Network in coordination with NIH leadership and the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to meet the highest scientific and regulatory standards.

His commitment to advancing the field is further evidenced by his role as Program Director for Vanderbilt's inaugural NIH T32 Post-doctoral Research Fellowship, where he trains the next generation of physician-scientists in injury and critical illness. To date, he has mentored over 60 trainees ranging from undergraduate students to R-level faculty.

Dr. Patel's influence extends to global and national policy; he has served as permanent charter member of the NIH Surgery, Anesthesia, & Trauma (SAT) Study Section and has contributed to the Seattle International Severe Traumatic Brain Injury Consensus Conference (SIBICC), the ACS TBI Best Practices group, and the National Academies of Science, Engineering, & Medicine (NASEM) TBI Forum.






Currently, Dr. Patel serves as President of the Eastern Association for the Surgery of Trauma (EAST), the nation's largest organization dedicated to Acute Care Surgery. He is also an Associate Editor for the Sabiston Textbook of Surgery, the world's leading surgical text. Previously, he served as Deputy Chief of Surgical Services for the Tennessee Valley Healthcare System (VA), where he led thirteen surgical subspecialties for a two-state hospital system. Through his clinical, academic, and leadership roles, Dr. Patel remains a pivotal figure in bridging the gap between acute brain injury and long-term recovery.





PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Demonstrate Your Commitment by sponsoring the Luminary of the Year Campaign, your organization will be recognized as a champion for an underserved and resilient community. Together, we can create a future where every brain injury survivor has access to the support, resources, and respect they deserve.

Investment Level	Presenting Sponsor \$30,000	Gold Sponsor \$15,000	Silver Sponsor \$10,000	Bronze Sponsor \$5,000
Number of Table(s) for 10 guests at Luminary of the Year Celebration	Up to 3	1	1	1
Event Naming Opportunity "presented by:___"				
Opportunity to share welcome message from the podium during event				
Representative involved in program night of the event				
Program book ad	Back cover	Half page	Quarter page	Listing
Logo inclusion in promotional and communication materials				
Recognition on BIAA website	Logo and link			
Recognition on Luminary of the Year website	Logo and link	Logo and link	Logo	Listing
Recognition in slides shown during dinner	Dedicated slide	Dedicated slide	Listing	Listing
Logo in recognition materials post-event honoring fundraisers (THE Challenge! Magazine, social media channels, etc.)	Logo	Logo	Logo	Listing
Event thank you signage	Logo	Logo	Logo	Listing

Specialty sponsorship packages available such as Survivor & Caregiver Sponsor, Fund the Mission Match Sponsor, Bar Sponsor and others.

Contact **Stacy Mulder** at smulder@biausa.org or call **615-988-9638** for additional information.





PARTNERSHIP COMMITMENT FORM

Company/Individual Name (as you would like it to appear in materials):

Contact name:

Address:

City, State, Zip

Phone:

Email:

Select level:

\$30,000 Presenting sponsorship

\$10,000 Silver sponsorship

\$15,000 Gold sponsorship

\$5,000 Bronze sponsorship

Other \$

Contact for logo and ad (if applicable):

Name:

Email:

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Please send invoice.

Contact me for credit card payment.

Check will be mailed to PO Box 1511, Brentwood, TN 37024 Please note that it is for Luminary of the Year.

I'd like to make a donation to the Brain Injury Association of America. Amount: \$

Signature:

Date:

Please submit completed form to **Stacy Mulder** at smulder@biausa.org

