CELEBRATING PROGRESS IN BRAIN INJURY SERVICES, SUPPORT AND RESEARCH: HOPE FOR THE FUTURE

JOIN US VIRTUALLY
November 5, 2020 through April 22, 2021
20th Year Annual Educational Series

BIAPA.ORG
The Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania (BIAPA) is pleased to announce that the high quality Conference content that the Conference Committee and speakers worked so hard to prepare prior to the onset of COVID-19 will be held as an Educational Series virtually over a span of 6 months. It is our hope that presenting this year’s Educational Series virtually will make it available to even more people. Our goal is to make each session interactive, using technology for audience polling, chat, and real-time Q&A. We appreciate our speakers’ and audience’s flexibility in adapting to this new way of presenting and learning new information and hope that we can reach even more people who have experienced brain injury and their family members along with rehabilitation professionals. Also, please reserve next year’s Conference dates, June 27-29, 2021, when we hope to be able to resume our in-person Conference at the Lancaster Marriott at Penn Square.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION
Register at biapa.org

| Individuals with Brain Injury/Families Professionals (CEUs included)  | $10 per session | $100 for 12 sessions ($20 savings) |
| Psychologists (APA - additional $40 charge) | $40 per session | $180 for 6 sessions ($60 savings) |
| Recreational Therapists (additional $65 charge) | | $300 for 12 sessions ($180 savings) |

Financial assistance to cover the cost of one or more of the educational series sessions, due to financial hardship, is available for brain injury survivors and their families. Contact Christine Schneider, schneider@biapa.org or 1-866-635-7097 for more information.

Thursday November 5, 2020 - 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm - Dr. John Whyte
Enhancing Cognitive Functioning after Brain Injury: Progress and Challenges

Cognitive problems are important across the brain injury severity spectrum. Research on disorders of consciousness (DOC) now supports changes in the standard of care and healthcare access. Evidence on treatments for cognitive impairments in higher functioning individuals has been slower to accumulate, and controversies remain regarding the most effective approaches to cognitive rehabilitation, who should deliver them, and whether they should be covered by insurance. This presentation will review the current evidence regarding the ability to improve cognitive function after brain injury, as well as some of the challenges that have limited progress in this area.

Thursday November 19, 2020 - 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm - Dr. Jeff Kupfer
Comprehending Behavior: A Framework for Explanations in Neurobehavioral Treatment

When people seek explanations about behavior (especially when behavior changes suddenly), there is a distinction between “what” is happening, “why” it is happening, and “how” it is happening. Behavior is often mischaracterized because it is in the normal range of actions. If behavior is categorizable, all three categories above must be considered in order to derive more comprehensive and inclusive treatments. Neurobehavior treatment attempts to combine these variables, while seeking out the purpose or function of behavior as well as the best way to talk about it. This presentation will include a case study, along with strategies for integrating Applied Behavior Analysis treatments with medical and rehabilitation treatments. A comprehensive framework for neurobehavior treatment will be presented.
How is memory affected after someone has a brain injury, and what can be done about it?

When a person has a brain injury, memory difficulty is frequently encountered. This workshop will serve as an update and review of the different types of memory and amnesia (memory impairment), basic underlying brain anatomy, assessment of memory, and treatment approaches including therapy strategies, the use of memory aids, and medications. Although key neuroscience concepts will be presented, an effort will be made to keep the information practical and readily understandable.

Delivering Cognitive Rehabilitation through remote electronic delivery mechanisms shows promise for being more effective and efficient than utilizing in-person service delivery alone, and may help people become even more successful in their homes/communities. TeleRehab could help to reduce missed appointments, increase access to services, and allow therapists/clients to work in more ecologically-valid environments, increasing treatment efficacy. This presentation will describe the evidence-based research supporting the innovative treatment delivery method, TeleRehab, and a pilot project underway by the PA Department of Health/Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania, to determine the feasibility, efficacy, and satisfaction of clients/therapists in receiving/providing cognitive rehabilitation through TeleRehab.

This session will address the vocational implications of traumatic brain injuries and the barriers to employment needing sufficient attention for success in industry-integrated competitive employment. Particular emphasis will be placed on the "soft skills" that are essential for sustained positive outcomes, and case examples will be used to highlight the importance of soft skills. Resources of benefit to individuals at various stages of vocational development will be identified and described. The session will include ample time for the audience to raise questions and share experiences related to employment.

Brain injuries commonly trigger role changes for survivors and their romantic partners. All too often, what was a relatively equal partnership can suddenly shift to a dynamic of caregiver and care-receiver. That shift—and the adjustment to it—can stress both partners, while also challenging the relationship in ways not previously experienced. Like with all challenges to relationships, responses can range from healthy to destructive. This presentation will identify and explore healthy behaviors while also cautioning against some common but avoidable destructive behaviors.
**TBI and Domestic Violence: Using the HELPPS Screening Tool to Support Survivors**

Individuals who experience domestic violence are at increased risk for traumatic brain injury (TBI) but frequently remain untreated and undiagnosed. In Pennsylvania, every domestic violence program now uses the HELPPS Screening Tool on intake to ensure survivors seeking shelter and other services are able to identify their risk of TBI and receive assistance with assessment, rehabilitation, and support. In this presentation we will review the connections between domestic violence and TBI and how the HELPPS Screening Tool is utilized throughout the Commonwealth, as well as information on how and when to access local domestic violence programs for help if you or someone you are working with is experiencing domestic violence.

**Fitness Training After Brain Injury: Why and How**

Research shows that one of the best things people can do after a brain injury is to exercise. Benefits include improved mood, better health, and changes in cognition and self-esteem. However, figuring out how to get started and what to do can be challenging. This session will discuss why and how to implement a community-based fitness program after brain injury. The presentation will focus on how fitness trainers can develop a plan, promote feelings of health and inclusion, and facilitate changes in quality of life. Part of this presentation will also report on a pilot program for adolescents with brain injury.

**Care for the Caregiver after Brain Injury**

This presentation is geared toward Caregivers. An overview of the impact of caregiver stress will be provided, highlighting the challenges someone caring for a person who has had a brain injury may experience. Issues including age and sex differences, depression, and coping with loss will be discussed. Interventions to support caregivers will be reviewed, including the importance of structure, reframing, and socialization. This session will include a demonstration of progressive muscle relaxation exercise which participants can learn to use as a coping strategy.

**Impact of Sleep Disturbance on Health after Brain Injury**

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, one-third of the US population is affected by sleep disturbance. Sleep disturbance has been associated with chronic diseases such as obesity and heart disease, and is more prevalent after traumatic brain injury (TBI) than in the general population. Sleep deprivation can also affect a person’s behavior, cognitive function and quality of life. This presentation will give attendees an overview of prevalence of sleep problems and the effect of sleep on one’s health. The attendees will also learn about assessment methods and non-pharmacological interventions to manage sleep problems.
Building Quality of Life after a Brain Injury

Quality of life factors can improve long term rehabilitation outcomes and increase the likelihood of staying in one’s home and community of choice. So what factors make up quality of life and how does one work towards improved quality of life? This presentation will define quality of life and discuss the key factors that make up quality of life, including community engagement and participation, sense of responsibility, purpose and meaning, and social connections, as well as ways to achieve improved quality of life overall following a brain injury.

Love Wins: A Mother’s Perspective

Love Wins is a presentation addressing both the hope and heartbreak that occurs when traumatic brain injury enters a family, as well as the places of both courage and fear in which families and survivors find themselves. Through a PowerPoint set to a song written by Taylor’s youngest brother, telling photos and Nicole’s honest perspective, participants will learn how one family discovered love’s triumph in the midst of life’s darkest storm. Nicole recognizes that every story matters, and within her sharing embraces the understanding of each story represented in the space we share.

BIAPA ANNUAL MEETING AND AWARDS

Each year at the BIAPA Annual Conference, we hold our Annual Meeting, which is required by our By-Laws. At the Annual Meeting we present the accomplishments of the past year, get input on Member priorities, and hold annual elections. We also present Annual Awards to individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions of time and expertise to the brain injury community. This year, the Annual Meeting will occur by videoconference on Thursday October 15 at 3pm. There will be a Coffee House session led by Cristabelle Braden immediately following the Annual Meeting. Stay tuned to the BIAPA website (biapa.org) for more information about these events.