

Examining Traumatic Brain Injury as a Chronic Condition: A Workshop

March 11-12, 2024

Video Participant Bios



Kelly Lang, is the co-author of *The Miracle Child: Traumatic Brain Injury and Me* is a brain injury survivor and caregiver to her daughter who sustained a traumatic brain injury in 2001. Kelly is an author, public speaker, communications trainer, and advocate and she believes sharing our stories assists others in their healing journeys. She co-leads the Brain Injury Association of America's Advisory Council and serves on the Virginia Brain Injury Advisory Council. Her advocacy experience includes working with the National Center on Advancing Person-Centered Practices and Systems' Brain Injury Learning Collaborative and served as a member of the Traumatic Brain Injury Leadership Group and the Person-Centered Advisory Group. Kelly has been the Keynote speaker at state brain injury conferences and conducted

workshops and webinars about brain injury and advocacy. Kelly has also worked with the Coalition for National Trauma Research as a panelist and participated in their conferences. Kelly received the 2024 Mark Ylvisaker Symposium Award and spoke at the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine about her family's experience with pediatric brain injury. Kelly is also a Communications Trainer with INOVA Health Systems. Kelly and her husband created a website <https://www.themiraclechild.org/> educating others about brain injury.



Jack Somers, MS, is an advocate for veterans' neurological care and improving treatment outcomes. His role as a Lived Experience Veteran Advisor at the VA's Southwest Region Epilepsy Centers of Excellence (ECoE) spans across 10 states and 12 facilities. The ECoE focuses on enhancing the quality of life for veterans with epilepsy and seizure disorders, ensuring their voices are heard in program developments and through partnerships with researchers, the collaborative efforts strive to center veteran needs in healthcare innovations. Simultaneously, as a Lived Experience Consultant with CURE Epilepsy, Mr. Somers contributes to trailblazing research in epilepsy and TBI. His advisory capacity taps into

advancements in diagnostics and AI applications, leveraging his firsthand experience to guide studies and support military and veteran communities. His work aims to drive improvements in treatment outcomes, bridging the gap between scientific discovery and the lived experience of those served.



Carole Starr, is a 20-year brain injury survivor, national keynote speaker, author of *To Root & To Rise: Accepting Brain Injury* and the founder/facilitator of Brain Injury Voices, an award-winning survivor volunteer group in Maine. Carole has been active in her local, state and national brain injury communities. In her home state of Maine, she facilitates the WINGS Brain Injury Support Group and is a member of the Brain Injury Association of America-Maine Chapter Advisory Board. For 11 years, she led Brain Injury Voices, the survivor education/advocacy/mentoring volunteer group that she and her mentor Bev Bryant founded. Nationally, Carole is a co-chair of the Brain Injury Advisory Council, a survivor group within the Brain Injury Association of America and a member of the TBI Advisory and Leadership Group, a survivor group within the Administration for Community Living's TBI

Technical Assistance and Resource Center. She was also a faculty member for the Person-Centered Brain Injury Learning Collaborative. As a keynote speaker, author, mentor and group leader, Carole has found a new way to be a teacher, a way that honors the daily brain injury symptoms she still copes with. Her life is once again full of meaning and purpose. She is happy, even while living with a disability.