

# Examining Traumatic Brain Injury as a Chronic Condition

## A Workshop

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Virtual | March 11–12, 2025

## STATEMENT OF TASK

A planning committee of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine will organize a public workshop that brings together researchers, neuroscientists, medical professionals (including rehabilitation experts), brain injury experts, persons living with traumatic brain injury (TBI) and caregivers, state and federal partners, and other key interested parties to discuss the evidence base for designating TBI as a chronic condition. The workshop will also address the current science and strategies to improve the care and outcomes of individuals living with chronic or long-term effects of TBI.

Invited presentations and discussions may be designed to:

- Explore the current evidence on characterizing TBI as a chronic condition and management of chronic or long-term TBI symptoms and disabilities.
  - Describe current research on the incidence and prevalence of experiencing chronic or long-term symptoms and disabilities after TBI,
  - Examine risk and protective factors related to experiencing chronic or long-term symptoms and disabilities due to a TBI, as well as the risk for co-occurring health conditions.
  - Assess the challenges and opportunities regarding characterizing TBI as a chronic condition.
  - Discuss available data systems and potential strategies to capture robust data to improve research on care and outcomes for individuals living with chronic or long-term TBI symptoms and disabilities.
- Discuss evidence-based strategies and interventions to improve the care and outcomes for individuals living with chronic or long-term TBI symptoms and disabilities and how their needs may change across the lifespan.
  - Discuss needs and information gaps surrounding clinical care practice guidelines for healthcare professionals.
  - Investigate the challenges and opportunities regarding the use of the Chronic Care Model for TBI management.
- Examine existing services available for individuals who experience chronic or long-term TBI symptoms and disabilities and examine the challenges and opportunities regarding improving access to and coverage for TBI-specific rehabilitative services and specialized follow-up care.
  - Examine examples of current and model state and local systems of care to support individuals living with TBI.
  - Share perspectives of people and families with lived experience.
  - Discuss how to better incorporate family and caregiver needs into TBI care and management.

## DAY 1 | TUESDAY, MARCH 11, 2025

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### Workshop Objectives

- Explore the evidence for characterizing TBI as a chronic condition.
- Assess the current state of care and services that are available and alignment with the needs of those living with the lasting effects of TBI across the life course.
- Examine opportunities to advance research and improve care and services for individuals living with the lasting effects of TBI and their families.

**10:00–10:10**    **Welcome and Introductory Remarks**  
Odette Harris, *Planning Committee Chair*

**10:10–10:15**    **Video – Perspectives of Individuals Living with Chronic TBI Symptoms**  
Odette Harris, *Planning Committee Chair*

**10:15–10:30**    **Keynote Speaker**  
John Corrigan, *The Ohio State University*

**Workshop Objective 1: Assess the Evidence for Characterizing TBI as a Chronic Condition**

**10:35–11:35**    **Session 1: Epidemiology of Traumatic Brain Injury as a Chronic Condition**  
Kristen Dams-O'Connor, *Moderator and Planning Committee Member*

Session Objectives:

- Assess the current evidence on the incidence and prevalence of long-term symptoms and/or disabilities following TBI across different populations.
- Describe what is known about characteristics and biological and sociodemographic factors associated with developing chronic symptoms or disabilities over the life course.
- Identify scientific knowledge gaps and other barriers that impede a comprehensive understanding of TBI as a chronic condition.

**Speakers**

Andrea Schneider, *University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine*  
Angelle Sander, *Baylor College of Medicine*

**11:35–12:35**    **Session 2: Neuropathophysiological Mechanisms Underlying TBI as a Chronic Condition**  
Amy Wagner, *Moderator and Planning Committee Member*

Session Objectives:

- Examine the state of the evidence on the biological basis for TBI as a chronic condition.
- Identify research gaps or barriers to advancing understanding of the lasting health effects of TBI.

**Speakers**

David Loane, *Trinity College Dublin*  
Amy Wagner, *Moderator and Planning Committee Member*

**12:35–12:55**    **Break**

**12:55–1:00**      **Video – Perspectives of Individuals Living with Chronic TBI Symptoms**

Odette Harris, *Planning Committee Chair*

**1:00–2:15**      **Session 3: Evidence on Outcomes and Co-Morbidities Associated with TBI as a Chronic Condition**

Jeanne Hoffman, *Moderator and Planning Committee Member*

Session Objectives:

- Examine the evidence on common symptoms and co-occurring health conditions associated with TBI as a chronic condition over the life course.
- Identify knowledge gaps and barriers that impede a comprehensive understanding of TBI as a chronic condition.
- Discuss the compounding contributions of TBI sequelae on functional outcomes and quality of life, as well as impact on access to and management of care.

**Speakers**

Charles Bombardier, *University of Washington*

Mary Jo Pugh, *University of Utah*

Tamara Wexler, *New York University*

Saef Izzy, *Brigham and Women's Hospital*

Raquel Gardner, *University of California, San Francisco*

**2:15–2:25**      **Break**

**Workshop Objective 2: Assess the Current Landscape of Care and Services for TBI as a Chronic Condition**

**2:25–2:30**      **Video – Perspectives of Individuals Living with Chronic TBI Symptoms**

Odette Harris, *Planning Committee Chair*

**2:30–3:30**      **Session 4: Gaps in the Current Landscape of Rehabilitative Care and Specialized Services for TBI as a Chronic Condition**

Stacy Suskauer, *Moderator and Planning Committee Member*

Session Objectives:

- Discuss current care pathways and services available to address outcomes associated with TBI as a chronic condition.
- Identify gaps and points of failure in the current landscape of care and specialized services.
- Explore barriers to timely access to care and services.

**Discussion Panel**

Joel Scholten, *Department of Veterans Affairs*

Mark Ashley, *Centre for Neuro Skills*

Tolu Oyesanya, *Duke University School of Nursing*

Rebecca Quinn, *University of North Dakota School of Medicine & Health Sciences*

Derek Fales, *Planning Committee Member*

Shannon Juengst, *University of Texas, Houston*

**3:30**      **Closing Remarks**

**Adjourn Day 1**

## **DAY 2 | WEDNESDAY, MARCH 12, 2025**

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**10:00–10:10**      **Welcome and Introductory Remarks**  
Odette Harris, *Planning Committee Chair*

### **Workshop Objective 3: Identify Opportunities to Advance Research and Improve Care for TBI as a Chronic Condition**

**10:10–11:15**      **Session 5: Opportunities for the Use of Chronic Care Models for TBI**  
Risa Nakase-Richardson, *Moderator and Planning Committee Member*

Session Objectives:

- Discuss recent findings on the use of specialized chronic care models for TBI.
- Explore essential characteristics of an ideal care model that could be brought to scale.

**Speaker**

Flora Hammond, *Planning Committee Member*

**Discussion Panel**

Judy Dettmer, *NASHIA*

Kelli Gary Talley, *Planning Committee Member*

Helene Moriarty, *Villanova University, Corporal Michael J. Crescenz VA Medical Center, Philadelphia*

**11:15–11:30**      **Break**

**11:30–12:10**      **Session 6: Near Term Opportunities to Improve Care for TBI as a Chronic Condition**

Flora Hammond, *Moderator and Planning Committee Member*

Session Objectives:

- Review gaps and challenges identified by speakers and workshop participants on Day 1 relating to the current state of care and services for TBI as a chronic condition.
- Identify near term actions to improve care and services for all people living with the lasting effects of TBI across the life course.

### **Discussion Panel**

Owen Perlman, *Planning Committee Member*

John Corrigan, *The Ohio State University*

Shannon Juengst, *University of Texas, Houston*

Judy Dettmer, *NASHIA*

## **12:10–12:50 Session 7: Near Term Opportunities to Advance Research on TBI as a Chronic Condition**

Ramon Diaz-Arrastia, *Moderator and Planning Committee Member*

Session Objectives:

- Review research gaps and challenges identified by speakers and workshop participants on Day 1.
- Identify near term actions to advance a comprehensive understanding of TBI as a chronic condition and inform the development of new approaches to treatment and prevention.

### **Discussion Panel**

Angelle Sander, *Baylor College of Medicine*

David Loane, *Trinity College Dublin*

Jeanne Hoffman, *Planning Committee Member*

## **12:50–1:00 Closing Remarks**

Odette Harris, *Planning Committee Chair*

**MEETING ADJOURNS**