

Examining Traumatic Brain Injury as a Chronic Condition: A Workshop

Committee

Odette Harris

Chair

Dr. Odette Harris, MD, MPH, is the Paralyzed Veterans of America Professor of Spinal Cord Injury Medicine at Stanford University. She also serves as the Director of Brain Injury for Stanford Medical Center, the Director of the Defense Veterans Brain Injury. In addition to this, Dr. Harris is the Deputy Chief of Staff, Rehabilitation at the VA Palo Alto. Dr. Harris manages the care of patients suffering from traumatic brain injury implementing treatment algorithms aimed at improving outcomes. Dr. Harris has won numerous academic, research and humanitarian awards. Most recently, she was recognized in 2019 by Forbes and Ebony Magazine Power 100 List Award as one of 100 most influential African Americans and received the National Medical Fellowships (NMF) Award for Excellence in Academic Medicine. She was appointed a Fellow of the Aspen Global Leadership Network in 2018. In 2022 and 2024, Dr Harris was recognized by Stanford University as one of Stanford's 13 women's history makers. Dr Harris' Endowed Professorship further distinguishes her as the first African American woman in neurosurgery and the first woman in neurosurgery at Stanford to receive this honor. As a Dartmouth volunteer, she has served as an Admissions Interviewer, on the Dartmouth Alumni Council and Mentor to undergraduates and alumni pursuing STEM. She majored in Biology at Dartmouth and received her MD degree from Stanford University School of Medicine where she also completed Residency. She earned a Master of Public Health, Epidemiology from the University of California, Berkeley.

Kristen Dams-O'Connor

Member

Dr. Kristen Dams-O'Connor, PhD, is Director of the Brain Injury Research Center of Mount Sinai, a clinical neuropsychologist and Professor in the Departments of Rehabilitation Medicine and Neurology at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, NY. She is also Director of the New York Traumatic Brain Injury Model System of Care and a Founding Board Member of the New York Neurotrauma Consortium. Her primary fields of clinical and research expertise are in long-term outcomes after brain injury, intersections of TBI and neurodegenerative disease, neuropsychological assessment, and cognitive rehabilitation for individuals with neurological diseases. Dr. Dams-O'Connor sees patients in the Rehabilitation Neuropsychology Faculty Practice for neuropsychological assessment and neurocognitive remediation. Under her leadership, the Mount Sinai Brain Injury Research Center develops and tests new treatments for TBI, investigates long-term health and functional TBI outcomes, and studies the mechanism and pathology of post-traumatic neurodegeneration and its relationships with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias (ADRDs). Her research is currently supported by federal grants from the National Institutes of Health, National Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation Research, Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute, and the Department of Defense. She completed a postdoctoral fellowship in clinical neuropsychology at Mount Sinai Medical Center, and a predoctoral internship in neurorehabilitation at the Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine at New York University Medical Center. She received her PhD from the University at Albany.

Ramon Diaz-Arrastia

Member

Ramon Diaz-Arrastia, MD, PhD, is the John McCrea Dickson, MD Professor of Neurology and the Director of the Clinical TBI Research Center at the University of Pennsylvania Perelman School of Medicine. His research interests are focused on understanding the molecular, cellular, and tissue level mechanisms of neuronal injury and neuroregeneration, with the goal of developing neuroprotective and neuroregenerative therapies. Dr. Diaz-Arrastia received his MD and PhD degrees from Baylor College of Medicine, and completed post-graduate training at Harvard and Columbia. Prior to coming to Penn, he served on the faculty at the University of Texas Southwestern, the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences, and the National Institute of Neurologic Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). Dr. Diaz-Arrastia has published over 250 primary research papers, as well as over 40 invited reviews and book chapters. He has also served in several national committees related to traumatic brain injury, epilepsy, and dementia, convened by the National Institutes of Health, the Department of Defense, the Veterans Administration, and the National Academy of Medicine.

Derek Fales

Member

Derek Fales, LSW, is the Waiver Services Director, Developmental Disabilities and Brain Injury Services at the Maine Brain Injury Program. In his current role, he oversees the day to day operations for Home and Community Based Services waiver programs for Individuals with Intellectual Disabilities, Other Related Conditions and Brain Injury in partnership with the State Medicaid Agency, the Office of MaineCare Services. As the waiver services director he oversees Developmental Disability and Brain Injury Waiver programs in addition to overseeing Maine's Brain Injury Services and Supports programs. His extensive experience in health and human services has been focused on working towards increasing positive social outcomes for children and families affected by violence, poverty, substance abuse while ensuring community inclusion and maximizing opportunities for people with disabilities to live and work in their communities to the same degree as a person without disabilities. He is also the President of the Board of Directors for the National Association of State Head Injury Administrator.

Flora Hammond

Member

Flora Hammond, MD, is the Nila Covalt Professor and Chair of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Indiana University School of Medicine. She is a board certified Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation physician who is an active clinician, researcher, and administrator. Dr. Hammond chairs the IU PM&R Diversity and Equity and Inclusion Committee and is an active member of the TBI Model System Inclusion Diversity Equity and Access Special Interest Group. She also serves on the IUSM Health and Wellness Advisory Council. She is Project Director of the Indiana Traumatic Brain Injury Model System, and Chair of the TBI Model Systems Program Executive Committee. Dr. Hammond also chairs the Chronic Brain Injury Special Interest Group of the TBI Model Systems, Co-Chairs the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine Chronic Brain Injury Task Force, and Chairs the Tri-Model Systems Chronic Injury Special Interest Group. She has authored more than 220 peer-reviewed publications, most in the area of brain injury and spinal cord injury rehabilitation. Dr. Hammond has received several awards acknowledging her contributions, including the 2001 Association of Academic Physiatrists Young Academician Award, the 2011 Brain Injury Association of America William Caveness Award for national and international research contributions, the 2016 Robert L. Moody Prize for Distinguished Initiatives in Brain Injury Rehabilitation and Research, and the 2017 American Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Distinguished Member Award. She completed her medical degree at Tulane University School of Medicine, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation residency at Baylor College of Medicine, and brain injury medicine fellowship at the Rehabilitation Institute of Michigan.

Jeanne M. Hoffman

Member

Jeanne Hoffman, PhD, is a Professor, Division Head, Rehabilitation Psychology and Neuropsychology at the University of Washington School of Medicine. She is a board-certified rehabilitation psychologist. She conducts research to improve outcomes for individuals with traumatic brain injury and spinal cord injury and examines access to healthcare for individuals with disability. Her other research interests include adjustment to disability, and new healthcare models and health services. Dr. Hoffman earned her PhD in Clinical Psychology at Arizona State University.

Risa Nakase-Richardson

Member

Risa Nakase-Richardson, PhD, FACRM, is a Clinical Neuropsychologist at the James A. Haley Veterans' Hospital and Associate Professor in the Department of Medicine, Pulmonary and Sleep Medicine Section, at the University of South Florida. She has worked in neuro-rehabilitation in both clinical and research capacities since 1998. She is a Fellow of the American Congress of Rehabilitation Medicine and National Academy of Neuropsychology. She has over 70 publications in peer-reviewed journals and over 200 presentations at scientific meetings. She has served as PI or Investigator on 13 grants funded by various federal agencies and private organizations including VA, DOD, PCORI, NIDILRR, and NAN. She has worked at the Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center in Tampa Florida since 2008. Her interests include rehabilitation outcomes for persons with brain injury with a more recent emphasis on the role of sleep in management of brain injury. She has established an objective sleep monitoring program using actigraphy and polysomnography in the management of sleep in acute rehabilitation and recently edited a special issue in the Journal of Head Trauma and Rehabilitation on the topic. She supervises trainees in rehabilitation medicine, sleep medicine, and psychology in both clinical and research topics related to post-traumatic sleep disturbances and severe brain injury.

Owen Perlman

Member

Owen Perlman, MD, is a Physician for the Associates in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. He is a Board-Certified Specialist in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. He specialized in brain injury rehabilitation, spinal cord rehabilitation, stroke, neurological and multiple trauma rehabilitation, and chronic pain management. He also serves as Medical Director for Post-Acute Residential and Outpatient Traumatic Brain Injury Programs including NeuroRestorative Southeast Michigan, Resilire Neuro-Michigan, and Galaxy Brain and Therapy Center. He is also a Board Member of the Brain Injury Association of America. He has an extensive private practice and cares for brain injury survivors throughout the state who reside with family or are in post-acute residential brain injury programs. He was President of the Michigan Academy of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and is a past Executive Board Member of the Washtenaw County Medical Society. He has held offices and Board positions with several organizations in Ann Arbor and Metropolitan Detroit. During his prior position, Dr. Perlman was an Assistant Professor in the Department of PM&R at the University of Michigan where he served as the Director of the Adult Inpatient Rehabilitation Program and collaborated on initiating a Traumatic Brain Injury Evaluation Clinic and a Chronic Pain Management Program. Dr. Perlman completed his residency at the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Michigan Medical Center in Ann Arbor, Michigan. He received his medical degree from the University of Michigan Medical Center.

Stacy Suskauer

Member

Stacy Suskauer, MD, is the Vice President of Rehabilitation at Kennedy Krieger Institute, Director for the Division of Pediatric Rehabilitation in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Johns Hopkins Medicine and a professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Pediatrics at the Johns Hopkins School of Medicine. Dr. Suskauer is also a research scientist and co-director of the Center for Brain Injury Recovery at the Institute. Dr. Suskauer's primary research focus is understanding and optimizing outcomes after childhood brain injury, including concussion. Dr. Suskauer's additional research and clinical interests include evaluating functional outcomes in individuals with Sturge-Weber Syndrome and caring for children with limb differences. Dr. Suskauer attended Duke University in Durham, North Carolina for her undergraduate and medical education. She completed a combined residency program in pediatrics and physical medicine and rehabilitation at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center and the University of Cincinnati. She came to Kennedy Krieger Institute and Johns Hopkins for a pediatric rehabilitation research fellowship and subsequently joined the faculty of these institutions in 2007. Dr. Suskauer is board-certified in pediatrics and physical medicine and rehabilitation. She holds subspecialty certification in pediatric rehabilitation medicine.

Kelli G. Talley

Member

Kelli Gary Talley, PhD, MPH, OTR/L, CBIS, is an assistant professor in the Department of Rehabilitation Counseling (RC) at Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) in Richmond, VA. After sustaining a severe traumatic brain injury (TBI) 34 years ago, she obtained a Bachelor of Science in occupational therapy (OT) from Chicago State University in Chicago, IL, a Master of Science and Master of Public Health from Columbia University in New York, NY, and a Ph.D. from VCU. She has 29 years of clinical practice, 19 years of research, and 12 years of teaching experience in OT, RC, and health services. Dr. Talley has authored/co-authored 37 peer-reviewed journal articles and five book chapters primarily focused on racial and ethnic minorities and caregivers with TBI and other disabilities. She has secured over \$500,000 in grant funding as a principal or co-principal investigator for TBI and community-based research. She is the former president of the board of directors for the Brain Injury Association of Virginia (BIAV) and a former member of a national committee for Veterans with special disabilities that reports directly to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs in Washington, DC. She has presented at numerous conferences around the nation and internationally on her research and her experience of living with a TBI and becoming successful, productive, and happy after injury.

Amy K. Wagner

Member

Amy Wagner, MD, is a tenured Professor, Vice-chair Faculty Development, and Endowed Chair for Translational Research in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Pittsburgh. She holds a secondary appointment in the Department of Neuroscience and is Associate Director for Rehabilitation Research at the Safar Center for Resuscitation Research. Dr. Wagner's research program uses biomarkers as tools for developing and optimizing personalized treatments and outcomes for individuals with disability, particularly with traumatic brain injury (TBI) and with cardiac arrest. She has defined her work with rehabilitation centered biomarkers research as Rehabilomics Research (www.rehabilomics.pitt.edu). Dr. Wagner's research focus includes the TBI Rehabilomics Research Model, identifying biomarkers relevant for assessing pathology and prognosis as well as for assessing clinical risk and use in clinical decision making. Her experimental research also focuses on how agents commonly used during rehabilitation impact recovery. Her experimental research also focuses on the neurobiology of neuroplasticity and recovery after TBI, immunotherapies after neurological injury, and how commonly used therapeutic agents impact neurobiological and neurobehavioral processes associated with neuroplasticity and recovery. She is especially focused on dopaminergic systems and brain injury recovery, and her experimental TBI work also includes the study of rehabilitation relevant cognitive training paradigms to better understand the substrates and mechanisms of learning and memory recovery. Dr. Wagner has published 100 original research and 40 invited articles and chapters. Her extensive transdisciplinary and translational research portfolio of federally funded research (including National Institutes of Health, Centers for Disease Control, The National Institute for Disability, Independent living, and Rehabilitation Research, and the Department of Defense) has garnered, to date, over \$15 million as a principal investigator for TBI and cardiac arrest research. She has mentored dozens of trainees, many of which have received awards and scholarships for their research. She is Training Faculty for the Center for Neuroscience at the University of Pittsburgh and also directs the Brain Injury Medicine Fellowship at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center. Clinically, Dr. Wagner treats patients with neurological conditions undergoing inpatient rehabilitation, and she is a consultant for neurologically devastated patients during their acute hospitalization at the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center.

Katherine Bowman

Staff Officer