The 7th Annual Brain Injury Association of Canada Conference

Canada’s National Conference on Acquired Brain Injury

September 30, October 1, 2, 2010
at the Regina Inn, Regina, Saskatchewan

Becoming Stronger Together

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Program Highlights
To date, our confirmed, diverse slate of speakers include:

Dr. K. Kellie Leitch, MD, MBA, FRCS(C)
Dr. K. Kellie Leitch is an orthopedic paediatric surgeon at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. In 2008, Dr. Leitch authored the report entitled: “Reaching for the Top: A Report by the Advisor on Healthy Children & Youth”. The report is a ‘call to action’ for government and industry on key issues affecting Canadian children and youth. She received the Order of Ontario in 2010 for her advocacy work on behalf of Canadian children and youth.

Trevor Greene
Canadian soldier who is the subject of the documentary Peace Warrior and his partner Debbie Lepore will speak about their struggle to recover from Trevor’s traumatic brain injury. On Monday, November 9th, 2009 Trevor was awarded the new Sacrifice Medal from the Governor General.

Neil Nichols, B.A. (Econ.)
Neil W. Nichols suffered a head injury in 1988 in a surf accident which he walked away from. He had a team of physicians who treated various parts of his injuries both physical and mental. In 1990 he became certified as an NLP practitioner. In 2004 he became a Certified Clinical Hypnotherapist. NLP and hypnosis saved his life or at least made it worth living. He lives in White Rock, BC.

Dr. Angela Colantonio
Dr. Angela Colantonio is a Senior Research Scientist at the Toronto Rehabilitation Institute where she holds the Saunderson Family Chair in Acquired Brain Injury Research. She is also Professor of Occupational Science and Occupational Therapy, Public Health and Rehabilitation Sciences in the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Toronto. Dr. Colantonio’s research program focuses primarily on acquired brain injury in the population, long term outcomes and knowledge transfer.

Janelle Breese Biagioni
Janelle is a published author, national speaker and a long-standing advocate for families and survivors of brain injury. Her published work includes non-fiction books, articles and short stories on bereavement and coping strategies for families affected by catastrophic injury. Janelle is currently working on her next book, Extraordinary Mourning: Understanding Grief after Brain Injury. Janelle resides with her family in Victoria, British Columbia. She is editor of Headline, a quarterly publication serving the brain injury community.

For further information contact barbutler@biac-aclc.ca
**Dana Sarris**

Dana Sarris has trained in Human Services and has worked at Braintrust Canada for the past 10 years as a Support Facilitator and a Community Support Coordinator. During the past two years Dana has worked in partnership with the Kelowna Canadian Mental Health Associations Outreach Team in the role of Coordinator of the Acquired Brain Injury Homeless Outreach Services. This role has seen Dana work with homeless individuals identified with brain injury to connect them to housing, keep them stable, and to hook them up to appropriate services.

**Colette Pelletier**

Colette Pelletier is a registered psychologist whom also works with the Saskatchewan South Acquired Brain Injury Outreach Team. Her background is in counseling psychology. She tends to work mainly with adolescents, young adults and adults, as well as their families. She has been involved in establishing support/counseling/recreational groups to expand participants’ social networks and increase their sense of wellbeing; an integral part of recovery after acquired brain injury.

**Gord Mokar**

Gord Mokar is the Chief Executive Officer of Safe Saskatchewan. He was born and raised in Wakaw, Saskatchewan and demonstrates daily passion and vision in moving the vision of Safe Saskatchewan forward because he has seen negative statistics in areas other than work-related injuries. Support from his wife Val, and children Naomi and Alex reassure Gord that he is working for the greater good of his province.

**Lee-Anne Beam**

Lee-Anne Beam is a 37 year-old, Libra female who, in 2004, unwillingly entered into a permanent relationship with an incompatible Scorpio-born brain injury. She was introduced to yoga early in her recovery and it appealed to her Libra side which wanted to keep living a harmonious, balanced, and uncomplicated life. In the mean time, the chronically agitated Scorpio-born injury rebelled against calming efforts and guidance towards that peaceful life. Five years later, yoga and mindfulness practice are part of her daily routine which cannot conquer, but can dilute the chronic agitation, that is the legacy of her injury. She is an active member of the Brain Injury Association of Niagara and was the Volunteer of the Year for 2008.

**Dr. Lindy Kilik**

With deep family roots in both Saskatchewan and Ontario, Dr. Kilik is a Registered Psychologist practicing in the areas of Neuropsychology, Rehabilitation Psychology and Clinical Psychology in Kingston, Ontario. She completed her Undergraduate Degree at the University of Toronto and her Graduate Degrees at Queens University in Kingston. Dr. Kilik began her career in Regina, at the Wascana Rehabilitation Centre, and later with Career Headways. Her clinical areas of interest are ABI and dementia. In addition to her clinical work, Dr. Kilik holds academic appointments in the Departments of Psychiatry and Psychology at Queen’s University in Kingston, and is actively involved in research, teaching and training of students. She has taught various courses at the University of Regina, Queen’s University and in the former ABI program at St. Lawrence College. Her current research includes development of cognitive / behavioral screening tools and driving.

**Jeannette Holman-Price**

Jeannette Holman-Price is a native from Newfoundland and Labrador. She is the driving force of the Jessica Campaign which was created in loving memory of Jessica Holman-Price to campaign the government to abolish article 83.57 of Quebec’s Automobile Insurance Act (1978). Jeannette is an active advocate for the prevention of brain injuries and the organization and promotion of services for those with acquired brain injuries in particular for her teenage son Peter Luc. Jeannette has also organized the St. John’s Safety Week. As well, she is an active organizer and promoted the first in Canada National Day of Remembrance for Road Traffic Victims.

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Magda Kapp
Magda Kapp is the Social Marketing Manager for BrainTrust Canada, a Kelowna-based not-for-profit organization with a strong focus on brain injury education and prevention. She spearheaded an injury prevention marketing campaign for the organization that was targeted to youth and young adults called “Protect Your Head” that won 9 international awards. Magda is a graduate of Simon Fraser University where she completed her Bachelor of Arts Degree in Communications. She has over 20 years experience in the marketing and public relations field, both in Vancouver and Kelowna. Magda was also a 2003 Nominee of the YM-YWCA Women of Distinction Awards. She is married and lives in West Kelowna with her husband and pets on two acres with a small apple orchard.

Mary Anne Ostapovitch
Mary Anne Ostapovitch has extensive background as a Physical Therapist in the field of brain injury rehabilitation. She celebrates her 25th anniversary working for the Association for the Rehabilitation of the Brain Injured (ARBI), a unique, community based program providing long-term rehabilitation for persons with severe acquired brain injury. Mary Anne was a founding member for the following organizations: Head Injury Association of Canada, Southern Alberta Brain Injury Society and the Brain Injury Association of Alberta.

Colleen Butler B.A., C.R.C.
A comprehensive background of education and training combined with over 25 years business experience while raising a family makes Colleen very successful in her ability to help, inspire and motivate others. In her workshops Colleen combines these capabilities with fun and humor to provide memorable training. Coaching comes from a strong background of practicality, experience and compassion. Colleen Butler offers clients a complete range of services to help businesses and individuals achieve goals and maximize their potential. She works in a practical manner striving for fairness, believing in change and assisting others to enhance their lives!

Mary Catherine Ann
Mary has worked in the area of acquired brain injury for over 23 years. Her educational background is nursing. She specialized in behavior management prior to coming to Dale Brain Injury Services, London, Ontario. For the past ten years she has been the Director of Cornerstone Clubhouse, a program offered through Dale. Mary sits on numerous community boards. She is a founding member of both the Southwestern Ontario Brain Injury Network and the International Brain Injury Clubhouse Alliance (IBICA). She has presented the Clubhouse Model to many audiences both in Canada, United States and Finland. She continues to offer educational workshops at Cornerstone Clubhouse to assist other programs to become versed in the model.

Ana Gollega
Ana has been leading ARBI’s Research team since 2003. Her main focus has been the development and pilot testing of the CAMMRI, Comprehensive Assessment Measure for Minimally Responsive Individuals. She also has six years of clinical experience working with brain injury and stroke clients at ARBI. Ana graduated in 1991 with a BSc in Occupational Therapy from the University of Sao Paulo in Brazil and completed her Masters degree in Anatomy in 2000.

Helen McDonald-Bohan
Helen McDonald-Bohan is a recreation therapist by profession and has been with the Association for the Rehabilitation of the Brain Injured since 1999 where she currently leads the Community Integration Program. Helen graduated from the University of Alberta in 1991 and has worked with such populations as traumatic brain injury, stroke and Alzheimer’s disease clients. She resides in Calgary with her husband, 2 sons and 2 dogs and enjoys camping, tennis and biking.
Dr. Lolita O’Donnell
Dr. Lolita O’Donnell, a medical/surgical clinical nurse, has served on DCoE’s staff since its establishment in November 2007. She was involved with the initial planning and continues to be involved with the development of the Concept of Operations, Strategic Plan, outreach programs and advocacy efforts for service members, veterans and their families with PH and TBI concerns.

Previously, O’Donnell was an Assistant Professor of Nursing at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va., from 2003 to 2007. From 1990 to 2003, her civilian nursing experiences at Sibley Memorial Hospital in Washington, D.C., included medical/surgical nursing, case management and quality and risk management. She served as a clinical nurse in the Air Force Nurse Corps from 1988 to 1993, and as a flight nurse in the Air Force Reserve Corps. She was deployed during Operations Desert Storm and Desert Shield and received the Air Force Commendation Medal for excellence.

Bernene Cohen
Bernene Cohen is a Recreation Therapist on the Sask. Central Acquired Brain Injury Outreach Team. Her role involves case management responsibilities as well as providing recreation therapy interventions. Bernene has worked as a Recreation Therapist for 15 years in numerous settings including long term care, geriatric and long stay rehabilitation and community. She has a passion for program development and has been involved in many initiatives throughout her career. She was thrilled to be a finalist in the 2008 Saskatchewan Health Care Excellence Awards for her work in developing the Sports for Life program.

Val Lougheed
On September 9, 2003, Val Lougheed almost died in a head-on collision. She sustained catastrophic orthopaedic injuries as well as a brain injury and spent the next five months in hospitals. She will be in active rehabilitation for the rest of her life. Ironically, Val – Social Worker, trainer and author – had been working in the field of rehabilitation herself for 25 years, and was in her 18th year as President and CEO of Northern Lights Canada, a large vocational rehabilitation/case management company.

Dean Hugie
Dean Hugie is a registered (health) psychologist currently in private practice in Regina, Sask. Over the past number of years, he has worked as a consultant to the Saskatchewan Sport Medicine and Science Program, a learning specialist SIAST and Counseling Psychologist. In 2006, Dean began complementing his work with energy principles. He continues to develop expertise in these areas.

Jolyn Brin
Jolyn Brin is an educator with the Saskatchewan South Acquired Brain Injury Outreach Team. Her background is in special education teaching. She primarily works with children, adolescents, and their families. Her work has become more focused on supporting older adolescents and young adults whom have completed their formal education and are moving towards more independence and vocational pursuits.

Mark Lich
Mark Lich is a Program Coordinator at Radius Community Centre for Education and Employment Training, a nonprofit community based agency providing services in Saskatoon for over 40 years. He has over 15 years of experience in the nonprofit and community based sector. He is currently the Program Coordinator of the Radius Community Integration Service. This service provides recreation based outreach support for children and youth with Acquired Brain Injury and other cognitive or intellectual disabilities. Mark has a collaborative spirit which leads to the creation of partnerships that provide links to community involvement and the enhancement of services for the participants at Radius Community Centre.

Dr. Richard Volpe
Dr. Richard Volpe received his PhD from the University of Alberta. At present he is Professor and Projects Director, Life Span Adaptation Projects, the Institute of Child Study, Department of Human Development and Applied Psychology (OISE), University of Toronto. He a Bloorview Kid’s Rehab School Authority Trustee, member and chair of the Best Practices Committee of the Provincial Advisory Committee of the Ontario Injury Prevention Resource Centre (OIPRC), member of the Prevention Committee of the Ontario Neurotrauma Foundation. He has authored or co-authored nine books and sixty articles. His current research deals with applications of prevention science, knowledge mobilization, and the promotion of evidence informed practice.