

# SHINING A LIGHT ON BRAIN INJURY

## DRAFT PROGRAMME

BRAIN INJURY CANADA CONFERENCE • THE HILTON, SAINT JOHN, NEW BRUNSWICK  
APRIL 19 & 20 2017 • TO REGISTER GO TO [WWW.BRAININJURYCANADA.CA](http://WWW.BRAININJURYCANADA.CA)

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### April 19th, Wednesday

**Michelle Bartlett, Saint John, NB- The Long Road Back Home** -Prior to Michelle's brain injury she had a full life. A wedding, children, a move to Alberta was all in her future; she was a supervisor at local call center and lived with her aging parents in the family homestead in Bartlett Mills NB.. Two days after open-heart surgery in 2004 at the Saint John Regional Hospital, Michelle suffered a severe anoxic brain injury. She lapsed into a coma and sent to palliative care in St. Stephen NB. Her family was told there was no hope of recovery. Michelle will share her story of grit, determination, perseverance and the importance of a good support system in the face of adversity.

### **Shawn Jennings- Locked in Syndrome: Reflections on my Journey**

#### **Dr. Patricia Forgeron -BSc, MSc, MD, FRCPC Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Saint John NB Rehabilitation of Acquired Brain Injury: Past, Present and Future;**

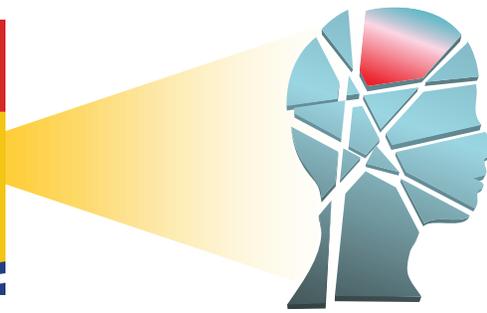
Acquired brain injury remains a significant health burden for patients and their families. Governments at the provincial and federal levels have worked with health care professionals in establishing strategies, through legislation, for the prevention of traumatic brain injury. Advances in acute medical care have allowed patients to survive from anoxic and traumatic brain injury. In-patient and out-patient rehabilitation programs vary throughout the country. Community reintegration remains a challenge problem for patients and their families. This presentation will provide an overview of the components of a comprehensive rehabilitation program; advances in pharmacological management and cognitive rehabilitation while exploring challenges for improving patient outcomes.

#### **Robin Green - A New Centre for Chronic traumatic brain injury: Delivering the latest research**

**innovations to patients on a broad scale-** Development of remotely deliverable interventions for people in the chronic stages of brain injury

#### **Kara Stanley, Simon Paradis and Joe Stanton- Halfmoon Bay, B.C. Fallen: A Musical Journey of Trauma and Recovery-**

Kara Stanley and Simon Paradis with the musical accompaniment of Stanton Paradis -In 2008, Simon Paradis fell, severing his spinal cord, fracturing skull bones and suffering global trauma to the brain from an arterial bleed. A craniectomy was performed and he was put in an induced coma, the outcome of his injuries uncertain. A professional musician prior to his accident, Simon has once again returned to playing music live with his good friend Joe Stanton, forming the duo Stanton Paradis. Together they will musically accompany Kara as she narrates their story, outlining in this interactive and embodied presentation the critical role music played in Simon's awakening and ongoing recovery.



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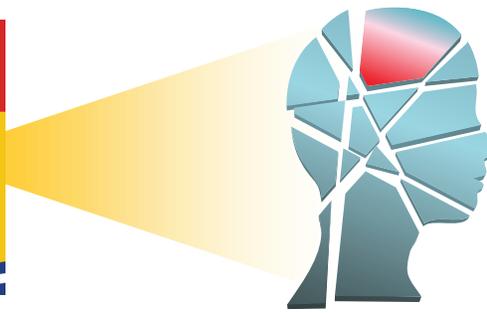
### April 19th, Wednesday (cont)

**Leona Burkey - "Breaking New Ground on Old Soil" Developing Nova Scotia's First Provincial Acquired Brain Injury Strategy** - challenges, lessons learned and opportunities for improving brain injury care in the Maritimes. -As Executive Director of Brain Injury Nova Scotia, Leona has filled the role of Co-Chair of Nova Scotia's first Acquired Brain Injury Strategy Project, commissioned by Nova Scotia's Minister of Health and Wellness, since work began in late 2015. A final report has recently been delivered to the Ministry of Health and Wellness. This talk will provide an overview of the 20 years of lobbying effort that resulted in the project and of the general state of ABI care in the Atlantic region (Nova Scotia in particular). Project structure, milestones and anticipated outcomes will be discussed, as well as unique challenges and opportunities to affect policy change around acquired brain injury services and support, culminating in a call to action.

**Jason Harps Ottawa, ON** Jason will share the story how he as an employer hired an individual with a brain injury and how that decision changed the culture at work and impacted his personal life.

**Tara Sutherland, certified Athletic Therapist, Head Athletic Therapist at STFX University, past president of the Canadian Athletic Therapy Association (CATA)- The Antigonish Concussion Clinic; it takes a village-** This presentation will be a discussion of the workings of the Antigonish Concussion Clinic and the team approach that has been developed to assist with the treatment and care of concussed individuals. Tara will describe the team and the members that make it possible for the clinic to succeed and assist our patients.

**6:00- 8:00 Art Show- Atrium Market Mall**



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### April 20th, Thursday

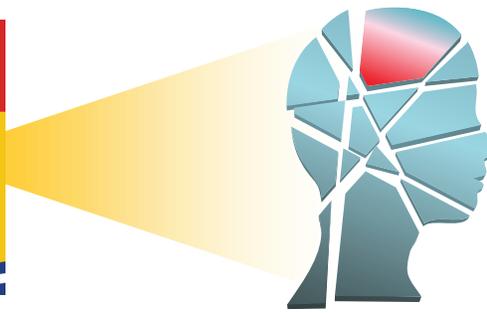
**David Grant, Salem, New Hampshire “Traumatic Brain Injury - A Lifetime of Recover** - David is a survivor and the Publisher of TBI Hope magazine.

He will outline the details of the 2010 cycling accident that resulted in his traumatic brain injury. Additionally, he will discuss challenges presented by conflicting outcome predictions by members of the medical and professional community. Compensatory strategies that have helped David move forward will be included in David’s presentation. David will also share very specific examples of recovery gains that came to pass years after his TBI to show that recovery does not have an end date and that tangle and measurable improvements do indeed continue for a lifetime.

**Jeff Sebell - “My Brain Injury is not the Boss of Me”** -Jeff focuses on developing a new relationship with our brain injury so that it is not the boss of us and does not control us, and we can move forward with our lives.

**Angela Colantonio - Toronto. ON Brain Injury Among Battered Women: How do we address this in Canada?** While there is much coverage of concussions among male professional athletes, repeated blows to the head among women in abusive relationships has not received much attention. This presentation will describe a program of research and knowledge exchange from the Acquired Brain Injury Lab at the University of Toronto/Toronto Rehabilitation Institute-UHN in partnership with organizations and individuals representing women at risk of brain injury through violence. We report on proposed strategies to address t

**Sport Concussion- Jennifer A. Fletcher MD FRCSC Dip Sport Med, Assistant Professor  
Dalhousie University, Clerkship and Residency Director Dept. of Orthopaedics and  
Stewart Munroe BSc CAT (C) Certified Athletic**



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### April 20th, Thursday (cont)

#### **Cecile Proctor and Dr. Lisa Best Reconsidering our Interpretation of Recovery-**

Over the last three years, Dr. Lisa Best and Cecile Proctor have conducted research at the University of New Brunswick on the impact of Brain Injuries, including concussions, on psychological variables such as depression, loneliness, social isolation and satisfaction with life. This talk will focus on risk factors associated with Satisfaction with Life post injury in both survivors of brain injury and their caregivers. The results of their research impact on how we structure rehabilitation and question our interpretation of recovery."

#### **Dr. Adrian Owen - U of Western Ontario- Cognition After Serious Brain Injury: What Has Neuroimaging Told Us?"**

**Dr. Rebecca Mills, Licensed Clinical Neuropsychologist Director of Training, Pre-Doctoral Internship, Stan Cassidy Centre for Rehabilitation Motivational Difficulties Post Acquired Brain Injury"** - Dr. Mills discuss the neurological and emotional factors associated with motivational problems that are often present post-brain injury.

#### **Suzanne McKenna - Ottawa, ON Anytime, Anywhere, Anyone - A Brain Injury Does Not**

**Discriminate! A brain injury is not an event or an outcome.** It is often the start of a misdiagnosed, misunderstood traumatic or acquired brain injury. Individuals who sustain brain injuries require timely access to expert care, specialized rehabilitation, lifelong management and individualized services and support to live healthy, independent and satisfying lives. The presentation will deal with the challenges brain injury survivors, and caregivers face and how an active Canadian network will support and give hope to those who need it. Suzanne will center around where we have come from, to where we are today and where we have to go to keep moving forward.