

**Bios & Topics**  
**2018 Making Connections: 2nd Annual Pediatric Brain Injury**  
**Resource Fair & Conference**

**Vision Connection and Brain Injury by Briana Larson, OD, FCOVD, FAAO, FNORA**

Vision makes up 80% of the sensory input to the brain and is processed in every lobe of the brain. Learn how Brain Injury affects vision and the impacts of visual dysfunction on quality of life, potential and recovery. Key visual systems and skills will be reviewed including eye tracking, teaming, focusing, visual-balance, visual-motor, and visual memory. See how visual rehabilitation can improve visual skills and visual integration after brain injury and significantly improve signs and symptoms such as double vision, blurred vision, headaches, dizziness, light sensitivity, decreased depth perception, reduced peripheral vision, poor memory, reduced stamina, poor reading and writing skills. Learn how treating visual deficiencies can improve academic potential, sports skills, activities of daily living, and overall function.



Dr. Briana Larson, a developmental optometrist is COVD board certified in vision development and therapy. She completed a post-doctorate clinical residency in vision therapy and rehabilitation with emphasis in pediatric optometry; a credential achieved by less than 1% of optometrists nationwide. In 2012, The American Academy of Optometry inducted her as a Fellow of the Academy. The Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation Association (NORA) inducted Dr. Briana Larson as a Fellow (FNORA) during its 2014 Annual Conference at North Carolina. A Fellow (FNORA)

designation is recognition of a professional's highest level of competence in clinical abilities and scientific knowledge in the field of Neuro-Optometric Rehabilitation. Dr. Larson has the distinction of being the lone practicing optometrist in the state of Texas with this exclusive set of Credentials.

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**Think SMART: A Strategy-Based Approach for Students with TBI by Lori G. Cook, Ph.D., CCC-SLP**

What does it mean to be smart? Brain science in recent years has revealed much about how to best "fuel" the brain to optimize our learning by how we engage it every day. For a student with brain injury, given our current age of "information overload," it has become particularly important to be strategic in the ways we take in information and direct our mental energy. In this talk, Dr. Lori Cook will discuss the latest research on brain development, neuroplasticity, and the brain's "Cognitive Executive Officer," focusing on how to promote increased brain potential in our "iGeneration" with some actionable tips and takeaways. An emphasis will be placed on

applications to maximize learning and higher-order cognitive functions (i.e., executive functioning).



Dr. Cook, a certified speech-language pathologist since 2003, directs the Pediatric Brain Injury Programs at the Center for BrainHealth of The University of Texas at Dallas. She also serves as a senior clinician for the Center's translational Brain Performance Institute as well as an adjunct assistant professor for UTD's School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences. Dr. Cook has also served as site research coordinator for a National Institutes of Health-funded study investigating the long-term recovery of higher-level language skills as well as executive function abilities after brain injury.

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### **The Benefits of Acupuncture & Craniosacral Therapy After a Brain Injury by Daniel Finley and Amy Sanders.**

We will discuss the background of Chinese Medicine ideas and how we view the body as a set of interlocking systems. We will discuss the benefits of scalp acupuncture & craniosacral therapy after a brain.



Dr. Daniel Finley, Ph.D. L.Ac

Daniel Finley has Doctorate in Chinese Medicine with a focus on spinal cord injuries and nerve damage and is one of the leading experts in the world on nervous system damage. He currently has several successful cases of treating bowel and bladder dysfunction in paralyzed patients. In addition to treating spinal cord injuries, Daniel is also head of the acupuncture department at University Behavioral Health Hospital in Denton. There, he works exclusively with active duty military soldiers returning from deployment who are in pain and suffer from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder and Traumatic Brain Injuries.



Amy Sanders OTR LMT CST

Amy Sanders is a Registered Occupational and Massage Therapist, and holds a certification in CranioSacral Therapy. She began her career in Neuro-Rehabilitation settings working with the brain injury population, over 20 years ago. Amy believes strongly in a whole body approach to treatment. She focuses on empowering her patients in their own self-care and healing.

### **Mood & Behavioral Problems Following Brain Injury by Richard O. Temple, Ph.D.**

Brain injuries can cause a host of problems in all aspects of life, including mood and behavioral functioning. In this presentation, common mood and behavioral problems following brain injuries will be described, as well as appropriate treatment approaches, both pharmacologic and behavioral.



Dr. Temple received his Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Psychology from Illinois State University. He went on to earn a Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology with a Neuropsychology emphasis from the University of Alabama-Birmingham. He then completed an internship at the Medical University of South Carolina, postdoctoral training in Neuropsychology at Brown Medical School, and specialization in sport psychology. Dr. Temple has worked in the field of brain injury for the past 13 years

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### **Return to Learn: Navigating School Following Brain Injury by Kelly Jones, Ph.D.**

I will cover the impact of brain injury on cognitive, emotional, and behavioral functioning as it relates to returning to school. I will also discuss the special education process including common accommodations, supports, and interventions available for children and adolescents with acquired brain injury.



Dr. Kelly Jones is a pediatric neuropsychologist at Dell Children's Medical Center. Dr. Jones received her M.S. and Ph.D. from Drexel University's Clinical Psychology Doctoral Program (Neuropsychology Concentration) in Philadelphia, PA. She completed her Predoctoral Internship in Pediatric Neuropsychology at UCLA's Semel Institute for Neuroscience and Human Behavior and her Postdoctoral Fellowship in Pediatric Neuropsychology at the Kennedy Krieger Institute/Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine in Baltimore, MD. While at the Kennedy Krieger Institute, Dr. Jones specialized in providing clinical care to children and adolescents within the institute's interdisciplinary Rehabilitation Continuum of Care (Inpatient Neurorehabilitation, Neurorehabilitation Day Hospital, Concussion Clinic, TBI Follow-Up Clinic). At DCMC, Dr. Jones provides neuropsychological care for children with acquired brain injuries from the acute stage of recovery to long-term follow-up. She is the neuropsychologist for the hospital's Inpatient Rehabilitation Unit, Inpatient Trauma Service, and Outpatient Trauma/Concussion Clinics.

## **Stem Cells from Fat Basics & Use in Neurological Disease by Dr. James Davis, Ph.D. and Dr. Bill Johnson**

What stem cells are and where we get them. Current uses and experiences with pediatric neurology.



Dr. Davis is double board-certified in Anesthesiology and Interventional Pain Management. He is a native-born Texan who studied physics at The University of Texas at Arlington as a member of the Alpha Chi Honor Society, and then went on to obtain his medical degree at Texas A&M University College of Medicine. He completed his internship in Medicine and Pediatrics at Scott and White Memorial Hospital, and his residency at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He was the Director of Anesthesiology at Fayette Memorial Hospital in La Grange, Texas from 1995 until 2000, and has been an active member of the American Society of Interventional Pain Physicians and the President of Interventional

Pain Management, PA since 2000.

Dr. Davis has a special passion for pursuing the investigation of stem cell administration for neurologic conditions such as MS, Parkinson's disease, dementia, stroke, peripheral neuropathy, spinal and neuropathic pain, and in particular, spinal cord injury and traumatic brain injury. To this end, he has pioneered the use of the C1-C2 intrathecal injection of SVF, which we believe allows a greater concentration of stem cells to access the brain and spinal cord. These specialized placements are conducted under fluoroscopic guidance in his in-office surgical suite under sedation.

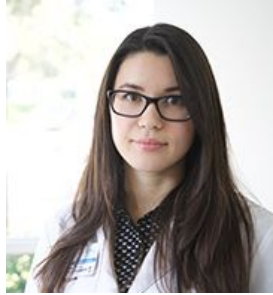


Dr. Bill Johnson is a native of Dallas, Texas, and graduated with honors in pre-medicine from Texas Tech University. He then received his medical degree from Texas Tech University in 1981, and completed residency in internal medicine at the school in 1984. He is board certified in internal medicine.

From 1984 until 2000, Dr. Johnson practiced internal medicine as a partner at the Lubbock Diagnostic Clinic, serving many of those years as president of the group. Dr. Johnson had a long-standing interest in the benefits of stem cell therapy and the ability of stem cells to truly rejuvenate or replace diseased or damaged tissue. He saw the benefits of stem cell therapy in action when seeing significant improvements in heart failure patients when attending a stem cell conference in January 2013. This experience was the catalyst behind the opening of Innovations Stem Cell Center later that year. Dr. Johnson says that stem cell therapy is one of the most rewarding facets of his over 30 year medical career. Currently, Innovations Stem Cell Center has locations in both Dallas, Frisco, and Fort Worth, Texas.

### **Receptor-Based Therapies and Treatment by Dr. Emily Kalambaheti, DC, DACNB**

We will talk about how people can use electricity, light, movement, sounds, and visual stimulation to train and rehab the brain. We will briefly discuss what has worked for past patients in conjunction with receptor-based therapies including stem cells therapy, neurofeedback, and hyperbaric oxygen therapy to name a few.



Dr. Emily Kalambaheti, DC, DACNB is a Staff Clinician at Plasticity Brain Centers in Orlando. She was born and raised in Iowa, where she attended the University of Iowa, graduated with a bachelor degree in Health Sciences, and was a member of the Iowa National Guard. Dr. Kalambaheti graduated magna cum laude with her Doctorate of Chiropractic from Palmer College of Chiropractic, Florida Campus. She has completed her post-graduate neurology training through the Carrick Institute for Graduate Studies and holds a diplomate from the American Chiropractic Neurology Board. She also continues to receive training with the Carrick Institute in the areas of functional neurology, movement disorders, and neurochemistry and nutrition.

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### **Mindfulness Strategies & Neurofeedback for Patients Suffering with Post TBI Anxiety by Dr. Laura Whipple**

We will discuss Neurofeedback as a therapeutic intervention for TBI and post concussion syndrome. She will also touch on the benefits of mindfulness and meditation in managing the effects of life overload that are common with TBI and concussion. We will also cover six practical steps (recognize, reduce, retreat, relax, rethink and return) that are helpful in managing the sensory overload which is a typical struggle for these patients.



Dr. Laura Whipple is originally from Canada and relocated to Texas to attend chiropractic college. She has a BS in Neuroscience from the University of Toronto and a Doctor of Chiropractic from Parker University. Dr. Whipple married fellow classmate Dr. Todd Whipple and they founded their clinic Whipple Sports and Wellness in Dripping Springs, TX. Dr. Whipple developed an interest in Neurofeedback as a natural treatment modality for brain imbalances after she suffered a concussion training for an Ironman.

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### **Hyperbaric Oxygen Therapy for Brain Injuries by Dr. Eleanor Womack, MD**

We will cover the latest research and mechanisms of healing the brain through HBOT. As a known gene modification therapy, 8,101 of the 20,000 known protein-coding genes in the human genome are either upregulated or downregulated with a single treatment. HBOT is the standard of care for TBI, concussion and stroke in many countries.





Dr. Eleanor P. Womack, MD is the Medical Director for ATX Hyperbarics, Austin's only standalone mid-pressure hyperbaric oxygen therapy clinic. She has also been the Medical Director of Westlake Medical Arts for the last eight years. WMA is a concierge functional medicine clinic in West Lake Hills, Texas. Dr. Womack is board certified in both Internal and Anti-Aging & Regenerative Medicine. She has both undergraduate and graduate degrees from Harvard University.

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### **Transition into Adulthood by Dr. Lindsay Heath**

We will discuss transitional services and resources including vocational, education, guardianship, legal issues, and more.



Lindsay Heath, Ph.D. is a school psychologist and neuropsychologist with experience working with both pediatric and adult survivors of brain injury. She will provide information regarding various paths available during the transition to adulthood as well as educational, vocational, community-based, and legal resources.

Dr. Heath received her doctorate in School Psychology with a specialization in neuropsychology at the University of Florida and completed her post-doctoral residency in neuropsychology at Dartmouth Medical School. She currently provides evaluation services at the APACenter and neurorehabilitation therapy at Rehab Without Walls, where she works with individuals of a variety of ages with brain injuries. She is also the Vice President of the Austin Neuropsychological Society and the President of Small Victories Foundation, a nonprofit organization aimed to provide creative experiences for adult survivors of brain injury.