IN THIS ISSUE

New research project on brain injury & intimate partner violence

Upcoming: Our 2020 National Conference

Meet Mike McNally

Updated online concussion course
Research partnership sheds light on intimate partner violence & brain injury

The University of British Columbia (Okanagan) and the Kelowna Women’s Shelter have partnered together on Supporting Survivors of Abuse and Brain Injury through Research (SOAR), a community-focused research project.

The purpose of SOAR is to explore the effects and incidences of traumatic brain injury (TBI) in cases of intimate partner violence (IPV).

The research is being led by Dr. Paul van Donkelaar, professor and concussion specialist, and Karen Mason, former executive director of the Kelowna Women’s Shelter.

SOAR started after Karen read an editorial in the LA Times.

"(It) suggested women in violent relationships were at high risk for traumatic brain injury. Yet at the time, virtually nobody was looking into it," she explains.

"As the executive director of a women’s shelter, I had something of an “A ha!” moment. Of course women experiencing intimate partner violence were probably experiencing concussions given most intimate partner violence consists of blows to the face, head and neck. Yet as a sector we were not educated in brain injury, and we were not doing anything specific to train staff, nor support women staying in shelter who may also have been dealing with the repercussions of one or more concussions."

"I forwarded the article to Paul, who until then had focused his brain injury research on athletes, and said something to the effect of “Forget football players. We need to study women!”"

"It’s been almost three years since we began gathering data, and the project is going well. Our initial research indicates even more women survivors than we initially thought show signs of having experienced at least one, but in most cases, multiple brain injuries connected to intimate partner violence," Paul says.

According to SOAR, approximately 230,000 Canadian women may suffer a violent physical attack at the hands of an intimate partner each year. As many as 92% of them report experiencing symptoms consistent with a traumatic brain injury.

In summer 2019, SOAR received a $1 million grant from the government of Canada to fund further research into what has been called an 'invisible epidemic' in Canada.

Continued on next page
Research partnership sheds light on intimate partner violence & brain injury

We've been fortunate to receive support from a handful of funders to get this project underway, but sustaining and expanding a multi-disciplinary, collaborative research initiative like this requires substantial resources, and those cost money. To receive $1 million in support from the federal government through the department of Women and Gender Equality means a lot to our ability to continue this important work, and we're so grateful," says Paul.

"We hope the work we're doing will increase awareness of this critical public health issue, not only among those who work in the areas of intimate partner violence and brain injury, but also in other areas of health care, social services, and the justice system, as well as in the general public," says Karen.

"Our ultimate goal is to use the data we gather to inform the creation of training and tools for those who support women who've experienced intimate partner violence and traumatic brain injury, and more effective supports for the survivors themselves."

Since the start of the project, both Karen and Paul have noticed more and more attention being paid to the connection between IPV and brain injury.

"While TBI in IPV is still highly understudied, comparatively speaking, we're definitely noticing an increase in momentum and interest in the topic, both in the anti-violence sector and other areas such as health care and law enforcement," says Karen.

"There's an increasing level of interest in creating and disseminating education and training to front line workers, and new research is being done to learn more about TBI in IPV, which is great to see."

Karen and Paul will be presenting on their research project at the Brain Injury Canada 2020 National Conference on Friday, April 30th.

Learn more about SOAR on their website: soarproject.ca/about
REGISTER FOR OUR CONFERENCE

Join us in Ottawa for the

Brain Injury Canada
2020 National Conference

April 30 - May 1 2020

Conference registration is open
Visit braininjurycanada.ca/ottawa-conference-2020/ for all
your conference details and registration information.

Early bird special
Right now, get a 2-day conference pass
for only $199!
Offer expires
NEW this year: workshops

NEW THIS YEAR: Brain Injury Canada is excited to be introducing a day of interactive, focused workshops for small groups run by some of this year's featured speakers. These workshops will take place from **8:30am - 4pm on Wednesday, April 29 2020.**

This day of the workshops is for individuals looking to learn more and participate in discussions on brain injury. Each workshop has a different audience: visit [www.braininjurycanada.ca/ottawa-conference-2020/workshop-schedule/](http://www.braininjurycanada.ca/ottawa-conference-2020/workshop-schedule/) to learn more.

To participate in workshops, you must register online when you register for your conference ticket. Please note times are subject to change.

---

**Wednesday April 29, 2020  Brain injury workshops**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Workshop</th>
<th>Presenter(s)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:30 - 10:00</td>
<td>Constructing and Re-Constructing an Identity Following Brain Injury: Becoming the Me I Want to Be</td>
<td>Tim Feeney, Ph.D., Chief Knowledge Officer, Belevedere Health Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:30 - 12:00</td>
<td>When Love Hurts: Understanding traumatic brain injury in intimate partner violence</td>
<td>Dr. Paul van Donkelaar &amp; Karen Mason, SOAR</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:00 - 2:00</td>
<td>Traumatic brain injury: sex and gender implications for clinicians, patients, and their significant others</td>
<td>Dr. Tatyana Mollayeva &amp; Sara Hanafy, Ph.D student</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:30 - 4:00</td>
<td>LoveYourBrain: Experience the benefits of Yoga &amp; Meditation, without leaving your chair</td>
<td>Kate Durie</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# 2020 Conference Schedule

## Day One

### Thursday April 30, 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Registration &amp; Continental Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 - 8:45</td>
<td>Opening Remarks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:45 - 9:30</td>
<td>We All Belong to Each Other: Rehabilitation as a Social Imperative</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tim Feeney, Ph.D., Chief Knowledge Officer, Belvedere Health Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Albany, NY The Mill School Essex Junction, VT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:30 - 10:15</td>
<td>Bridging Between Obstacles: Surviving the ABI Journey from</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Community Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Judith Johnston, Brain Injury Survivor &amp; Shanda Hunter-Trottier,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>B.A., M.S., CCC-SLP, Reg. CASLPO - Director and Founder of S.L. Hunter</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SpeechWorks.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:15 - 10:45</td>
<td>Break and Visit Exhibit Tables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:45 - 11:30</td>
<td>Objective Assessment and Monitoring of Cognitive Function in Coma,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Vegetative State, and Concussion: Assisting Healthcare from Hospital</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>to Home*</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>John Connolly, Ph.D., Professor, Department of Linguistics and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Languages, McMaster University, Co-Director, Language, Memory and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brain Lab, McMaster University,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:30 - 12:15</td>
<td>New Normal: What does it mean to recover?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ovey Yeung - Brain Injury Survivor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:15 - 1:15</td>
<td>Lunch and Visit Exhibit Tables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1:15 - 2:00</td>
<td>Moving Ahead. Exploring Incidence, Consequences, and Supports for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Women Survivors of Traumatic Brain Injury in Intimate Partner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Paul van Donkelaar, PhD - Co-founder and Principal Investigator for</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>SOAR (Supporting Survivors of Abuse and Brain Injury through</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Research)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Karen Mason - Co-founder for SOAR (Supporting Survivors of Abuse and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Brain Injury through Research)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:00 - 2:45</td>
<td>Sex and gender implications for clinicians attending to patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>with traumatic brain injury</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tatyana Mollaeva, MD, RPSGT, RST, PhD - Postdoctoral research fellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>(Occupational Sciences and Occupational Therapy), University of</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Toronto, and;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Sara Hanafy, PhD Candidate, University of Toronto</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2:45 - 3:15</td>
<td>Break and Visit Exhibit Tables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3:15 - 4:00</td>
<td>Cannabis and brain injury: help or harm?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Dr. Mark A. Ware MBBS, MSc, Chief Medical Officer, Canopy Growth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Corporation; and Associate Professor of Family Medicine and</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Anesthesia, McGill University</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4:00 - 4:45</td>
<td>&quot;Building bridges and enhancing capacity: Improving client</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>outcomes through collaborative programming between</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>community rehabilitation and acute hospital settings&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Stacie Dertinger, M.A.D.S., B.C.B.A. and Jane Savage, M.S.W., R.S.W.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Head Injury Rehabilitation Ontario</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
# 2020 CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

## Day Two

**Friday May 1, 2020. Health Brain and Well-Being**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8:00 am</td>
<td>Registration &amp; Continental Breakfast</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:30 - 8:35</td>
<td>Opening Remarks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8:35 - 9:15</td>
<td>Challenging your limits</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shanda Hill, Ultra-athlete and brain injury survivor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:15 - 9:55</td>
<td>How nutrition can positively impact cognition, depression and anxiety following a TBI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kylie James, Kylie James, B.Sc. (OT), CNP, RNCP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9:55 - 10:20</td>
<td>Break and Visit Exhibit Tables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10:20 - 11:00</td>
<td>Quieting the Mind: Natural Brain-Changing Treatments for Anxiety, Trauma and Sleep</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tom Diamond, PhD, Certified Neurofeedback Specialist, Registered Clinical Counsellor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:00 - 11:40</td>
<td>Discovering Day-to-Day Living Following a TBI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pauline Hoffman, Certified Professional Organizer, Cleaning Specialist</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11:40 - 12:05</td>
<td>Break and Visit Exhibit Tables</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12:05 - 12:45</td>
<td>Yoga and meditation for brain injury: evidence, innovations, and ways forward</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Shilo Zeller, RYT-200, LoveYourBrain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Program is subject to change

---

**Interested in sponsoring or exhibiting?**

THANKS TO OUR CONFERENCE SPONSORS

Thank you to our conference sponsors

Platinum

VOXNEURO
UNLOCKING THE BRAIN

McNALLY • GERVAN LLP
INJURY & INSURANCE LAWYERS

Gold

PoNS™

Silver

Connolly Obagi LLP
PERSONAL INJURY LAWYERS

Lunch

Snack

MG LAW
Personal Injury Law Firm

Saccade Analytics

Breakthrough brain injury assessment built on 25+ years of research now clinically available

Customize rehabilitation plans, accelerate treatment and track recovery with unprecedented precision.

Learn more now
info@voxneuro.com
1-833-869-6387
www.voxneuro.com

© 2020 VoxNeuro Inc. All Rights Reserved
VoxNeuro’s Cognitive Health Assessments™ are a Health Canada cleared lab developed service and are to be used by a physician, nurse practitioner or clinical specialist as an assessment tool. The reports can be used to assist in a medical or clinical diagnosis and when required, guide the creation of a rehabilitation plan tailored to the patient’s needs. VoxNeuro does not provide medical advice to clients directly.
My name is Michael McNally, and I have had my brain injury since the fall of 2009.

I was on my way home from work, when I blacked out and I was in a car accident. The doctors figured out that I had a brain aneurysm which caused my accident.

I was at the Hamilton Hospital in a coma for between 6-9 months. There was a lot of blood in my brain, and I had 4-5 blood transfusions. The damage was mostly on the right side of my brain, and I had surgery.

I spent a total of 2 and a half years at the hospital. Now I live in at Thornton View Long-term Care in Oshawa.

When I first got my brain injury, I couldn’t move the left side of my body. I also lost the ability to swallow whole foods and some of my speech. Doctors told me I would probably never walk again.

After I was told I wouldn’t walk again, I did lots of physical therapy. One exercise that really helped improve my mobility was tossing a ball back and forth with my therapist.

Today I have a step counter and I use a walker. I can even walk for a short time without the walker. I participate in Brain Injury Society of Toronto’s fundraising walks, and last time we raised $18,000.

My advice to other people with brain injury is to never give up. Not even once. It’s hard: I still get migraines and have a speech impediment. I continue to do physical therapy. But the hard work is paying off. And my goal is to continue getting better so I can walk out of here and into my home to my wife and kids.

I would like to thank my wife Dawn and my children Taylor and Ryan, my mom and dad, my brothers Mark and Matthew, and all my friends abroad and here at Thornton View for their continued love and support.
Interested in Sharing Your Story?
Brain injury affects over 1.5 million Canadians. Our 'Stories of ABI' bring comfort and connection to all our readers across the country.

If you'd like to share your story, please email info@braininjurycanada.ca. We will send you our submission rules and help make the process as accessible as possible.

Thank You to Our Corporate Sponsors

Platinum

Silver

Bronze

Opticalm Inc.

Brain Injury Canada would like to extend our sincere appreciate for the continued support of the McColl-Early Foundation and Dr. Dan Andreae, Patron of Brain Injury Canada
FIND YOUR BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION

Alberta
- Southern Alberta Brain Injury Society
- Brain Care Centre

British Columbia
- British Columbia Brain Injury Association
- Braintrust Canada
- Bulkley Valley Brain Injury Association
- Fraser Valley Brain Injury Association
- Comox Valley Head Injury Association
- Kamloops Brain Injury Association
- Nanaimo Brain Injury Association
- North Okanagan Shuswap Brain Injury Association
- Northern Brain Injury Association of BC
- Powell River Brain Injury Association
- Prince George Brain Injured Group Society
- South Okanagan Similkameen Brain Injury Society
- West Kootenay Brain Injury Association
- Vancouver Brain Injury Association
- Victoria Brain Injury Association

Newfoundland & Labrador
- Newfoundland & Labrador Brain Injury Association

Nova Scotia
- Brain Injury Association of Nova Scotia

Ontario
- Ontario Brain Injury Association
- Brain Injury Association of Quinte District
- Brain Injury Association of Fort Erie
- New Beginnings - Chatham-Kent
- Brain Injury Association of Durham Region
- Hamilton Brain Injury Association
- Brain Injury Association of London and Region
- Brain Injury Association of Niagra
- Brain Injury Association of North Bay and Area
- Brain Injury Services of Northern Ontario
- Brain Injury Association of the Ottawa Valley
- Brain Injury Association of Peel Halton
- Brain Injury Association of Peterborough Region
- Brain Injury Association of Sarnia Lambton
- Brain Injury Association of Sault Ste Marie
- Seizure & Brain Injury Centre
- Brain Injury Association of Sudbury
- Brain Injury Association of Toronto
- Brain Injury Association of Waterloo/Wellington
- Brain Injury Association of Windsor Essex
- Brain Injury Association of York Region

New Brunswick
- Brain Injury New Brunswick

Manitoba
- Manitoba Brain Injury Association
FIND YOUR BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION

**Prince Edward Island**
- Brain Injury Association of Prince Edward Island

**Quebec**
- Association des personnes ACVA-TCC du Bas-Saint-Laurent
- Association des traumatisés crâniens de l’Abitibi-Témiscamingue
- Regroupement des Associations des Personnes TCC du Québec (RAPTCCQ)
- Association des handicapés adultes Côte-Nord
- Association des accidentés cérébro-vasculaires et traumatisés crâniens de l’Estrie
- Association des TCC et ACV de la Gaspésie et des Îles-de-la-Madeleine
- Association des personnes handicapées physiques et sensorielles du secteur Joliette
- Centre d’aide personnes traumatisées crâniennes et handicapées physiques Laurentides
- Association des traumatisés crânio-cérébraux Mauricie-Centre-du-Québec
- Association des Traumatisés crânio-cérébraux de la Montérégie
- Association québécoise des traumatisés crâniens
- Association des neurotraumatisés – Outaouais
- Association des TCC des deux rives
- Association Renaissance des personnes traumatisées crâniennes du Saguenay/Lac-Saint-Jean

**Saskatchewan**
- Saskatchewan Brain Injury Association
- Lloydminster and Area Brain Injury Society

**Download our brochure Acquired Brain Injury: The Basics**

Visit [www.braininjurycanada.ca/acquired-brain-injury](http://www.braininjurycanada.ca/acquired-brain-injury) to download our new brochure. Please distribute to your clients/patients and networks.

Version française disponible
Updated online course for caregivers

The Concussion Awareness Training Tool (CATT) has released an updated course for parents and caregivers of individuals with concussions.

This 30 minute course is great for all parents and caregivers, but is especially helpful if your children participate in sports and recreational activities.

The world of concussion diagnosis and treatment is always changing, which is why this course, and other courses offered by CATT are closely monitored and updated when needed.

To register for the free online, visit https://cattonline.com/parent-caregiver/

Download our workbook Returning to Work Following an Acquired Brain Injury

Visit https://www.braininjurycanada.ca/returning-to-work-guidebook/ to download our workbook. Please distribute to your clients/patients and networks.

Version française disponible.
Have questions or ideas? Send them to us at info@braininjurycanada.ca

Let's Get Social

Facebook @braininjurycan
Twitter @braininjury_CAN
LinkedIn braininjurycan

PLEASE NOTE
The opinions expressed in Impact, the newsletter of Brain Injury Canada are those of the respective authors and not necessarily those of Brain Injury Canada. Brain Injury Canada will not be liable for any damages or losses howsoever sustained, as a result of the reliance on or use by a reader or any other person of the information, opinion, or products expressed, advertised or otherwise contained here in. Where appropriate, professional advice should be sought.