



## **CONCUSSION INITIATIVE**

The Concussion Initiative was developed by the Brain Injury Association of New York State as an interdisciplinary approach to issues related to concussion. The goals of the Initiative are to identify and implement protocols that achieve a successful Return-to-Life for all New Yorkers who sustain concussions; advocate for corresponding public policy addressing concussion; and to implement a statewide educational standard that addresses concussion for those impacted by concussion, loved ones, and professionals in the field.

## ABOUT US

The Brain Injury Association of New York State (BIANYS) is a statewide non-profit membership organization that advocates on behalf of individuals with brain injuries and their families, and promotes prevention. Established in 1982, BIANYS provides education, advocacy and community support services that lead to the improved outcomes for children and adults with brain injuries.

# OUR CO-CHAIRS

## ANDREW HESS, PHD



Andrew Hess, PhD retired in 2014 from his position as a pediatric psychologist at Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital in Schenectady, NY, where he also served as a Chairman of the Department of Psychology for 17 years. He is currently an adjunct Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurology at Albany Medical College and is also in private practice. He conducts neuropsychological evaluations and treats inpatient and outpatient children and adolescents with traumatic brain injuries and other brain disorders. Dr. Hess has over 30 years of experience in providing clinical and administrative services for traumatic brain injury programs and to the patients at Sunnyview Hospital. Dr. Hess is the recipient of the BIANYS 2014 Mark Ylvisaker Educational Advocacy Award in recognition of his longtime commitment to assisting students who have sustained brain injuries. He currently serves on the board of his local Epilepsy Foundation of NENY as a member of the Professional Advisory Board, and on the BIANYS Board of Directors. Dr. Hess has given numerous presentations related to brain injuries and disorders at various places in New York.

## BRIAN RIEGER, PHD



Dr. Brian Rieger is Chief Psychologist and Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at SUNY Upstate Medical University in Syracuse, NY. Dr. Rieger specializes in brain injury, and is the director of the Upstate Concussion Center. He is a frequent speaker on the topic of concussion and sports-concussion at medical, sports, academic and community forums. He is a member of the New York State Public High School Athletic Association (NYPHSAA) Concussion Management Team, and is the Psychology Liaison to the NYSPHSAA Safety Committee. His research interests include the effects of concussion on academic performance as well as the use of dual-task assessments in concussion management.

Dr. Rieger earned his Bachelor's degree at Wesleyan University in Connecticut and obtained his PhD in Counseling Psychology at Fordham University in New York City. He has been a psychologist at University Hospital in Syracuse for over 20 years.

# ADVISORY COMMITTEE

## CO-CHAIRS

**Andrew Hess, PhD, Co-Chair**

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Albany Medical College  
Pediatric Psychologist

**Brian Rieger, PhD, Co-Chair**

Director, Upstate Concussion Center

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**Aimee Brunelle, MS, ATC, EMT**

Past President, New York State Athletic Trainers Association

**Carol Bumbalow, MS, BA, RN**

Past President, New York State Association of School Nurses

**Darryl Daily**

Associate in Physical Education, New York State Education Department

**Steven Flanagan, MD**

Medical Director of Rusk Rehabilitation Medicine, New York University Langone Medical Center

**Angela Gagliardi, MD**

Assistant Chief Medical Officer, New York State Athletic Commission

**Kitty Gelberg, PhD, MPH**

Director, Bureau of Occupational Health & Injury Prevention, New York State Department of Health

**Wayne Gordon, PhD**

Professor and Vice Chair of the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

**Mary Hibbard, PhD**

Former Professor of Rehabilitation Medicine, New York University Langone Medical Center; currently in private practice

**Karen Hollowood, RN, BSN, MSED**

Associate in School Nursing, Office of Student Support Services, New York State Education Department

**John Leddy, MD**

Concussion Clinic Director, University at Buffalo UBMD Orthopedics & Sports Medicine

**Emerald Lin, MD**

Assistant Attending Psychiatrist, Hospital for Special Surgery, President of the New York Society of PMR

**Todd Nelson**

Assistant Director, New York State Public High School Athletic Association

**James Noble, MD, MS**

Assistant Professor of Clinical Neurology, Columbia University Medical Center Neurological Institute

**Kenneth Perrine, PhD**

Clinical Neuropsychologist, NYP/Weill-Cornell Medicine and Clinical Assistant Professor, Weill Cornell Medical College

**Josephine Pucci**

Co-founder and Chair, Headway Foundation

**Tracy Sawyer, PT, DPT**

Vice President, New York Physical Therapy Association

**Philip Stieg, MD**

Chairman and Founder, Weill-Cornell Brain and Spine Center

**Barry Willer, PhD**

Director for Research, University at Buffalo Concussion Management Clinic

**Robert Zayas**

Executive Director, New York State Public High Schools Athletic Association