

BRAIN POWER

2019, Volume II



MARCH ON FOR BRAIN INJURY

September 14, 2019

It's time to March On! Join the brain injury community in Rochester, the Hudson Valley, New York City or Long Island for a day of visibility, community and family fun! There will be music, vendors and other activities as we honor exceptional New Yorkers who have gone above and beyond to make a difference in their communities.

Visit marchon.bianys.org to learn more about our Honorees or to register to walk, start or contribute to a team.

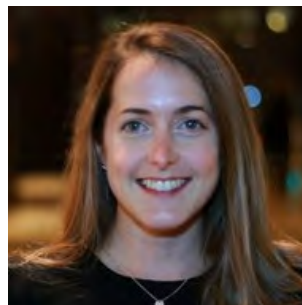
2019 March On Honorees:



**Lillie Austin
Rochester**



**Aimee Rubin
Hudson Valley**



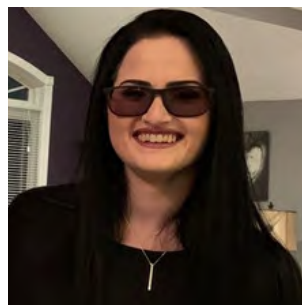
**Kristen Dams-O'Connor, PhD
New York City**



**Sherry & Larry Grant
New York City**



**Ilana Shedrow
Long Island**



**Kourtney Tankleff
Long Island**



**BRAIN INJURY
ASSOCIATION
OF NEW YORK STATE**

A Message from our Executive Director & Board President



Board President Barry Dain

Summer is finally here! Since the last issue of Brain Power, we've been busy with our 2019 Professional Symposium & 37th Annual Conference, as well as getting our project funded by the New York State Health Foundation off the ground.

Over the next year and half, the Improving Concussion Management for New York State Students project will address gaps in concussion management by training educators, parents and students around New York State on Return to Learn protocols. These trainings will enhance a teachers' ability to identify students who have sustained a concussion and their ability to provide the needed academic accommodations and services to ensure full recovery.



Executive Director Eileen Reardon

The 2019 Professional Symposium & 37th Annual Conference in Saratoga Springs went off without a hitch. Brain injury survivors, caregivers, families, medical and legal professionals came together for four days of community and learning, and we are so thankful for the enormous efforts that went into putting it together. A special thank you goes to Sharon Epperson, our illustrious Keynote Speaker. We were and are so inspired by your story and commitment to the brain injury community.

Thank you to all who have made these last months so rewarding! We are stronger together, so join us today- become a member and show the world that you're a part of the voice of brain injury. For more information, visit bianys.org or call 518-459-7911 today!

Eileen Reardon
Executive Director

Barry Dain
President, Board of Directors

The text "Journey of Hope" is written in a large, elegant, black cursive font. It is overlaid on a background image of a city street at night, with blurred lights and a wet pavement reflecting the lights.

Manhattan Penthouse November 7, 2019

Tickets Available July 2019



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September 14, 2019

New York City | Hudson Valley Rochester | Long Island

Join us for a day of visibility, community and family fun!

Register at marchon.bianys.org

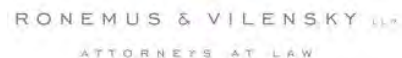
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With Generous Support From



Rehabilitation Network



2019 Professional Symposium & 37th Annual Conference

New York's brain injury community converged on Saratoga Springs from June 3 – 6 for a two-day Professional Symposium and the 37th Annual Conference.

Monday, June 3, saw the advent of our first Legal Symposium. This event brought together attorneys and other professionals to learn about best practices for litigating a brain injury case. Sessions included information on brain injury medicine, how to work with TBI professionals, cross examining defense witnesses and finally, considerations when settling a case.

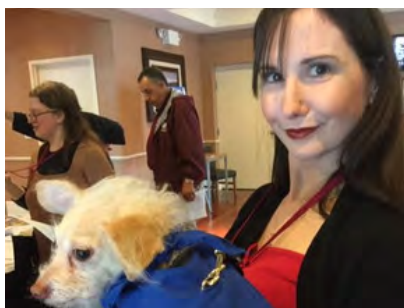
On Tuesday, June 4, the Medical Symposium began promptly at 8 a.m. The room was full to brimming with professionals from around the state, all poised to learn about traumatic brain injury as a chronic disease, medical complications, neuropsychiatry and neurological complications after a TBI. BIANYS was very fortunate to have Dr. Tamara Wexler on hand to talk about neuroendocrine dysfunction after a TBI.

Wednesday, June 4, saw the start of the 37th Annual Conference, with two days of community and learning, rounding out with Keynote Speaker Sharon Epperson. This year's Conference focused on caregivers, with workshops ranging from special needs estate planning to the benefits of yoga to compassion fatigue.

Ms. Epperson is a CNBC Personal Finance Correspondent and a brain injury survivor. Her heartfelt and inspiring speech had the room at times in tears, at other times nodding in recognition of similar experiences. Everyone felt like they had made a new friend by the end of the talk, and we can't thank Ms. Epperson enough for traveling to Saratoga to be with us.

At the end of the last day, everyone was tired but also inspired and re-invigorated after four days of reunions, new friends and new skills.

Thank you to our sponsors, exhibitors, the Saratoga Springs Holiday Inn, and to everyone who had a part in making this year's event such a memorable one. See you next year!



BIANYS Welcomes New FACTS Coordinators



Zazel O'Garra

New York City FACTS Coordinator Zazel O'Garra serves Manhattan and the Bronx. Zazel has worked at social services agencies and in education, serving in the unique dual role of teacher and case manager. She's leveraged her professional clinical background skills and education with a lengthy history with and parallel education in fine arts/dance to develop creative movement programs that enhance patient physical and mental well-being. Zazel has extensive experience working with people from a wide array of cultural and social origins, and has worked extensively with the Brain Tumor Foundation and Voices Against Brain Cancer. Zazel holds a Master's Degree in Social Work from Fordham University.



Alexis Rutty

Western New York FACTS Coordinator Alexis Rutty brings 17 years of experience working for non-profit human service agencies. Alexis has worked with diverse populations, including individuals with disabilities, in a variety of capacities including home care coordination, health assessments for adults and early childhood screenings for children. She also spent several years helping young mothers facing mental health and substance abuse issues get the help they need. Alexis has completed the 'Nurturing Parenting Facilitator Training' and strives to help families utilize available services while understanding the obstacles they deal with. She has a son with Central Auditory Processing Disorder and can relate to the struggles of our FACTS families.

FACTS:

Family Advocacy Counseling Training Services Program

Go to bianys.org or call 518-459-7911 for more information or assistance. You can also call our Family Help Line at 1-800-444-6443.



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Jan Wollney, CBIS

** Indicates District Board Members. Each of these Board Members is selected by BIANYS Members to represent one of the six districts in New York State.