



2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE
YOU ARE REMARKABLE.

June 12-14, 2024
Saratoga Springs, New York

Presented by:

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A MESSAGE FROM THE BRAIN INJURY ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK STATE'S BOARD PRESIDENT & EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

On behalf of the Brain Injury Association of New York State's (BIANYS) Board of Directors and staff, we are excited to welcome you to the 2024 Annual Conference in beautiful Saratoga Springs, New York. The Annual Conference is an exciting time as we bring together brain injury survivors, caregivers, service providers, and professionals in the brain injury field, including attorneys, doctors, educators, and therapists, for three days of interactive workshops and educational sessions all geared on improving the lives of brain injury survivors and their families. Days filled with education, interactive workshops, networking, community, and celebration help make the Annual Conference a great event.

The theme for this year's conference, **You are Remarkable**, is a reminder that everyone is worthy of acknowledgment and attention, and not to be forgotten. As a community - New York's brain injury community, we are remarkable in what we can, will, and have accomplished. This message will be carried by this year's keynote speaker, Ashok Rajamani. Ashok is an award-winning author, artist, poet, radio host, and speaker. He suffered a massive brain hemorrhage at 25, and as part of his recovery, learned to give a voice to his injury and to those who weren't able to find theirs. We can't wait to hear his message with you.

As always, the Annual Conference would not be possible without all the help and investment from the BIANYS staff, volunteers, exhibitors, sponsors, providers, and most importantly, our members and donors. Thank you for all the work that you do for New York State's brain injury community!

We hope you enjoy your time in the beautiful Saratoga Springs and find this year's program educational and engaging. Enjoy!



Robert Gundersen, Board President
Brain Injury Association of New York State

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert Gundersen".



Eileen Reardon, Executive Director
Brain Injury Association of New York State

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eileen Reardon".

BIANYS STAFF & LEADERSHIP

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PROGRAM NOTES

Welcome to the Brain Injury Association of New York State's 2024 Annual Conference! We are delighted to be back in beautiful Saratoga Springs with all of you. We have worked hard to develop a comprehensive program, making sure that each of you will find and share something valuable, and maybe have some fun too!

See important conference information below.

Name Badges: Please wear or have visible your name badge throughout the conference. Name badges are needed for entrance to all presentations, workshops and meals. Please stop by registration if you lose your badge.

Program Accessibility: The use of tape recorders as an adaptive measure is permitted. Presenters have also been asked to make materials in accessible forms whenever possible.

Evaluation Forms: Please complete workshop and conference evaluation forms. This information will be used to assist in providing CEUS when possible and for future event planning.

Disclaimer: The views expressed in the conference workshops are those of each individual presenter. BIANYS does not promote or endorse practices mentioned and is not responsible for the content of the workshops, the opinions expressed or the views of each presenter.

Thank You: BIANYS would like to thank all of the sponsors, exhibitors, staff, Board of Directors and YOU!



2024 KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Ashok Rajamani
Advocate, Author, Artist, Poet,
Radio Host, and Speaker

A graduate of New York University and a New York City resident by way of a small town in Illinois, **Ashok Rajamani** is a talent in the visual, print, and performance worlds, also, he is a survivor of a catastrophic, near-fatal brain hemorrhage.

Though surviving, he was left with permanent bisected blindness, epilepsy, distorted hearing, erratic transient amnesia, metal staples in his brain, and ultimately, a carved skull courtesy of open brain surgery. From all of this though, he wrote the award winning memoir, **The Day My Brain Exploded: A True Story**.

Ashok also emerged as a proud brain injury rights advocate, becoming a board member of the International Brain Injury Survivors Network, Subject Matter Expert (SME) for the Brain Injury Association of America, and guest host on Brain Injury Radio.

Says Ashok, "I am deeply honored to be speaking at the BIANYS conference. As a survivor with a scarred skull, I know that those who face, and survive, brain injury are absolute warriors. It is a true highlight in my career to be involved in this important event for all New Yorkers."

2024 AWARD WINNERS



Kara Moran
Advocate and Brain Injury Survivor

Frank Pierce
Champion Award



Ted Weiss Consumer
Advocacy Award



Dina Pagnotta, PT, MPT, MPH
Director of Strategic Initiatives,
NYU Langone Concussion Center

Marie Ivancich
Memorial Award

Congratulations!

Plus a special presentation of the
Silent Angel Award . . .



2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE AGENDA AT-A-GLANCE

Wednesday, June 12

- 3:00pm - 4:00pm: Registration and Check In
- 4:00pm - 5:00pm: Education Sessions (2)
- 5:00pm - 5:15pm: Break
- 5:15pm - 6:15pm: Education Sessions (2)
- 6:15pm - 7:30pm: Welcome Pizza Party and Game Night

Thursday, June 13

- 8:30am: Registration Opens
- 8:30am - 9:30am: Breakfast
- 9:45am - 10:45am: Education Sessions (2)
- 10:45am - 11:00am: Break
- 11:00am - 12:00pm: Education Sessions (2)
- 12:00pm - 1:30pm: Awards Presentation and Lunch
- 1:30pm - 1:45pm: Break
- 1:45pm - 2:45pm: Education Sessions (2)
- 2:45pm - 3:00pm: Break
- 3:00pm - 4:00pm: Keynote Presentation
- 4:30pm - 5:30pm: Education Sessions (2)
- 5:30pm - 6:30pm: Dinner

Friday, June 14

- 8:00am: Registration Opens
- 8:00am - 8:45am: Breakfast
- 8:45am - 9:15am: Brain Injury Association of New York State Annual Meeting
- 9:30am - 10:45am: Main Conference Presentation
- 10:45am - 11:00am: Break
- 11:00am - 12:15pm: Main Conference Presentation
- 12:15pm - 12:30pm: Conference Closing with Boxed Lunch To Go



2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Wednesday, June 12

4:00pm - 5:00pm

Session One, Location Win:

- Transition and Youth Services: An Overview of ACCES-VR Services
Presenters: Brian Alvarado, Suzanne Pearson

Session Two, Location Place/Show:

- Empowering Care at Home: Harnessing Interactive Technology for Safer, Smarter Living
Presenters: Diane Mickle Gotebiowski, Frank Hemming, Esq., Louis Pierro, Esq.

5:15pm - 6:15pm

Session One, Location Win:

- Living with TBI: Information and Feedback Session for an Educational and Resource Book for Care Partners of Individuals with TBI
Presenter: Michelle Smith, MPH, CHES

Session Two, Location Place/Show:

- Tips for Writing Your Story and Getting It Published
Presenter: Barbara Rubin

Thursday, June 13

9:45am - 10:45am

Session One, Location Win:

- A Balancing Act: How Physical Therapy May Be Able to Help After TBI
Presenter: Audrey Paslow, PT, DPT, NCS

Session Two, Location Place/Show:

- Advances in Technology Use in Brain Injury Rehabilitation: A Multidisciplinary Perspective
Presenters: Lauren Furey, Mark Linsenmeyer, MD, Mel Melewski, Rebecca Grondin

11:00am - 12:00pm

Session One, Location Win:

- Compassion Fatigue and the Helping Profession
Presenter: Melissa Blok, LMSW

Session Two, Location Place/Show:

- Self-Care for Patients and Caregivers After Brain Injury
Presenters: Alaina Hammond, PsyD, Heidi Fusco, MD, Jessica Rivetz, MD, MS, Melissa Hillebrecht, PsyD
-

2024 ANNUAL CONFERENCE SESSIONS

Thursday, June 13 (continued)

1:45pm - 2:45pm

Session One, Location Win:

- Possible Adverse Neuropsychological, Neuropsychiatric, Neurological (Neuro-Lyme) Effects of Lyme Disease on the Brain

Presenter: Don Brady, PhD, PsyD, NCSP, CAS

Session Two, Location Place/Show:

- Living with TBI: Information and Feedback Session for an Educational and Resource Book for Care Partners of Individuals with TBI

Presenter: Michelle Smith, MPH, CHES

4:30pm - 5:30pm

Session One, Location Win:

- Modern Technology Advacnes Within the Subacute Setting

Presenters: Lisa Foudas, MS, OTR/L, CBIS, Ricardo Palomo, COTA, CBIS, Wendell Miller, MSW, CBIST, LPTA, Teri Rajnath

Session Two, Location Place:

- Learning to Live Again: The Stories I Told Myself and the Steps I took to Return to School and Work After My TBI

Presenter: Amy Brombos, EdD

Friday, June 14

9:30am - 10:45am

Conference Presentation, Location Daily Double:

- Superheroes

Presenters: Wildlife Rockstars

11:00am - 12:15pm

Conference Presentation, Location Daily Double:

- Self-Care of Patients and Caregivers After Brain Injury

Presenters: Alaina Hammond, PsyD, Heidi Fusco, MD, Jessica Rivetz, MD, MS, Melissa Hillebrecht, PsyD

Thank you to the 2024 Annual Conference Sponsors.

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- Rochester Chapter, BIANYS
- Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital
- USA's Heart of Spirit

THANK YOU BIANYS AND DEDICATED STAFF FOR ALL YOUR EXCELLENT WORK!

Traumatic Brain Injury never discriminates.

Each of us is vulnerable to unforeseen circumstances.

We close our eyes to such unimaginable possibilities until a harsh reality forces them open.



At this turning point, knowing how to reach out to Andy Siegel is of critical importance.

Andy is a personal injury lawyer who has dedicated himself to representing survivors of TBI and their families.

He understands compassion and admiration is due those who must struggle—in the wake of sudden tragedy—to restructure their lives in an ongoing battle to recover the normality once taken for granted.

What Andy also understands are the obstacles TBI survivors and their families frequently face from the legal system, made more painful by hostile, seemingly uncaring insurance company response. For this reason, he goes to battle.

Andy's courtroom victories are won not just because he's experienced, and not only because he's fully committed, but because he simply refuses to give up until he has achieved an outcome fully satisfying to his sense of justice.

With over **86 MILLION DOLLARS** in jury verdicts, Andy has proven his excellence in representing survivors of traumatic brain injury.

When selecting an attorney, *results matter.*



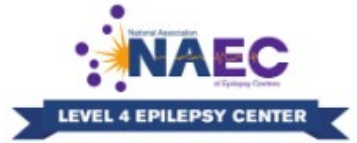
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Andy has been selected as a Superlawyer each year since 2010. Only 5% of attorneys are selected as a Superlawyer based on evaluation of 12 indicators of professional achievement and peer recognition.

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CARF ACCREDITED BRAIN INJURY REHABILITATION PROGRAM



We are excited to introduce our CARF accredited Brain Injury Program.

We provide brain injury rehabilitation services at the sub-acute level to neurologically impaired patients at three of our facilities. This program is designed to treat adults with CVAs, Brain Injuries, Parkinson's disease and other neurological illnesses resulting in residual deficits and disability.

With up to 3 and ½ hours of therapy per day, up to 7 days per week including, Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Speech Therapy and Cognitive Remediation. Patient-centered rehabilitation strategies are tailored to the unique needs of each patient. We focus on increasing level of independence, community re-entry and overall quality of life.

Treatment is provided by a dedicated team of experts including Psychiatrist, Neurologist, Neuropsychologist, Physical Therapist, Occupational Therapist, Speech Therapist and Certified Brain Injury Specialist (CBIS), with emphasis on interdisciplinary collaboration and development of a care plan based on clinical assessments and patient and family goals.

For additional information contact: Wendell Miller, Administrative Program Manager of Neurological Services at 516-460-7398



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NewYork Presbyterian Brooklyn Methodist Hospital's comprehensive rehabilitation program provides intensive multidisciplinary services to adult survivors of acquired brain injury. The road to recovery after brain injury begins on our acute inpatient rehabilitation unit. Our expert team works closely with patient and their families to develop personalized treatment plans to best facilitate recovery from physical, cognitive, emotional, and behavioral impairments experienced after brain injury. Comprehensive care is provided through our outpatient neurorehabilitation program on discharge.

Our Mission

Our mission is to deliver the highest quality care by providing expert multi-disciplinary management of complex physical, emotional, behavioral, and cognitive impairments in patients with acquired brain injury.

Our Goal

Is to maximize each individual's physical, cognitive, and psychosocial abilities, helping them achieve their highest possible level of functional independence after brain injury.

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- Paragon Management, SNF, LLC
- RES Home Care
- Rochester Chapter, BIANYS
- Sunnyview Rehabilitation Hospital
- USA's Heart of Spirit

Join us on our mission . . .

When you support the Brain Injury Association of New York State through membership, you invest not only in the Association's work, but also those impacted by brain injury throughout the state.

Visit bianys.org to learn more.



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