

**Eighth Annual Northern Kentucky
Traumatic Brain Injury Conference**
“Living Under the Umbrella”
March 28, 2014

Speaker Biographies

Meghan K. Ackerman, CSW, MSSW – Ms. Ackerman is a mother and wife who currently lives in Northern Kentucky and works at LifePoint Solutions. While pursuing her Masters of the Science of Social work at the University of Louisville, Meghan worked as an advocate for Medicaid Reform and as an advocate for persons with TBI’s. Currently Meghan works with LifePoint Solutions as both a school based therapist and as an IMPACT Plus therapist. As a therapist Meghan is able to work with children who have TBI’s and help both the child and the family find resources and master therapeutic interventions to aid in the maintenance of their recovery from the TBI.

Joseph F. Clark, PhD – In his position as team member of the concussion management team for the University of Cincinnati as well as a certified athletic trainer for nearly 30 years, Dr. Clark is heavily involved in the sports medicine division concerning concussion exams, diagnosis and management. He regularly sees and works with athletes / patients post concussive event and have a wealth of experience related to those injuries from football, baseball, martial arts, MMA and other sports.

Kerry R. Crone, MD FAANS – Dr. Crone graduated from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine in 1978. Following graduation, he completed his neurosurgical training in 1985 at the North Carolina Baptist Hospital, Bowman Gray School of Medicine, Wake Forest University in Winston-Salem, North Carolina. He completed a fellowship in pediatric neurosurgery at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto, Canada. Dr. Crone was appointed as a clinical scholar at the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center in 1986 and became the first full-time pediatric neurosurgeon in the tri-state region. He created the division of pediatric neurosurgery at the Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center and remained as division director until 2012. He accepted the position as director of the resident training program in the Department of Neurosurgery at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center in 2013. He has been honored as one of the Best Doctors in America every year since 1998.

Ralph Dehner, BS, COTA/L – Mr. Dehner is the Program Manager of the Mighty Vine Wellness Club, a nonprofit fitness and wellness center serving the mental health community and the general public. In addition to being a Certified Occupational Therapy Assistant he has a degree in Holistic Studies/Wellness Management and is a regular presenter at local and state conferences, was awarded the “Excellence in Continuing Education Award” in 2006 and 2013 by OOTA and presented at the Inaugural International Tai Chi for Health Conference in Seoul, South Korea in 2006, the National Autism and National Ehlers-Danols Syndrome Conferences in 2012. He also has done continuing education seminar tours throughout the United States once per month over the last three years.

Ralph, one of 20 Master/Trainers in the USA, in Dr. Paul Lam's Tai Chi for Health Programs, has been studying Qi Gong and Tai Chi since 1990 and teaching since 1997. He teaches several therapeutic styles of Tai Chi including Tai Chi for Arthritis, Tai Chi for Diabetes, Tai Chi for Back Pain, Tai Chi for Osteoporosis as well as traditional Sun Style, Yang Style and Competition Forms as well as Soaring Crane Qi Gong. Ralph has studied with some of the most respected Tai Chi and Qi Gong Masters in the world both in the USA and abroad. Ralph also is a Master/Teacher and practitioner of several forms of energy healing techniques and holds regular workshops to train health care providers and other interested people.

Mark H. Deis, MD – Dr. Deis was born and raised in Dayton, OH, the youngest of 6 children. He completed undergraduate studies at the University of Dayton, medical school at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine, then went on to complete a residency in General Pediatrics at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center and a fellowship in Developmental Pediatrics at Children’s Hospital Medical Center of Akron. He stayed on as a member of the Department of Developmental Pediatrics in Akron for 2 years, moved into general pediatrics with the Cleveland Clinic Foundation for the next two years, and for the past 12 years has been with Pediatric Associates of Northern Kentucky. His main clinical interests are Down syndrome, ADHD, care of children in hospice, psychopharmacology and developmental disabilities in general. He has been an invited guest speaker for the Cleveland Clinic Foundation for the past 16 years, and is the author of three chapters of a review book on normal and abnormal child development for the Cleveland Clinic. He lives in Union, KY with his wife Andrea and their 5 children, ages ranging from 9 to 20.

Steve Hensley, BS – Mr. Hensley has been employed by the City of Fort Mitchell since April of 1987, beginning his career as a Police Specialist. In March of 1990, he was promoted to the rank of sergeant, serving as a shift supervisor for approximately 8 years, and in October of 1998, he was promoted to the position of Police Chief. In June of 2005 the City Administrator retired, at which time he was assigned his duties and responsibilities in addition to duties of Police Chief, serving in a dual capacity since that time. Since 1997, he has been very active in the development and the continued operation of the Northern Kentucky Emergency Response Unit, and has held the positions of team member, team leader, and current position of team Administrator.

Marielle Kabbouche, MD, FAHS – Dr. Kabbouche joined the Neurology Department at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center as a Headache fellow in 2002. She continued from there as faculty and active member of the center with involvement in all academic as well as clinical, research and teaching aspect of pediatric neurology with interest in pediatric headache and pediatric stroke. She is involved in multiple research projects as a PI and co-PI including NIH grants, pharmaceutical and clinical studies. In addition to that she dedicates part of her time to outpatient management of pediatric stroke as well as a consulting faculty on inpatient acute management of pediatric stroke including the review of acute stroke guidelines for Cincinnati Children's Hospital.

Anthony T. Kramer RN, BSN, NREMT-P – Mr. Kramer joined the fire service with the Southgate Volunteer Fire Department in 1975 where he became a Kentucky Certified Paramedic. He graduated from Thomas More College with a BSN and worked as a registered nurse in critical care (ICU, CCU, ED). He then began career as a full time faculty member with the University of Cincinnati Prehospital Education Program and later lead instructor for the UC Paramedic Program, UC Blue Ash, at the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport Training Center. Tony still remains active in the fire service with the Southgate Volunteer Fire Department and is currently the Administrator of Southgate-Wilder EMS, LLC.

Stephanie D. Langguth, Esq. – Ms. Langguth received her Juris Doctorate from Northern Kentucky University Salmon P. Chase College of Law and her Bachelor of Science from Northern Kentucky University with a major in Accounting and minor in Business Administration. She was Legal Aid of the Bluegrass' Northern Kentucky State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP) Coordinator from 2006-2011. Currently, she is a staff attorney at Legal Aid of the Bluegrass where she specializes in the field of public benefits.

Kate Lopez, OTR/L, MHS, CDRS – Ms. Lopez is an occupational therapist working on inpatient rehabilitation and acute care units at Mercy Health-West Hospital. She is also the manager of the Driver Rehabilitation Program there. Kate achieved her Bachelors of Science in Occupational Therapy from Xavier University and a Master's degree in Health Sciences in Occupational Therapy from the University of Indianapolis. She has been practicing in the field of Driver Rehabilitation for 10 years and recently became a Certified Driver Rehabilitation Specialist (CDRS) through the Association of Driver Rehabilitation Specialists. Kate is an adjunct faculty member at Xavier University in the Occupational Therapy Department and routinely lectures regarding driver evaluation and rehabilitation.

Walt Lubbers, MD - Dr. Lubbers completed his MD at the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. He completed a residency in Emergency Medicine at the University of Cincinnati, and is a current fellow in Emergency Medical Services at the University of Cincinnati Department of Emergency Medicine. He is an EMS physician with the Cincinnati Fire Department and Assistant Medical Director for Colerain Township Fire and EMS.

Mark Martin, BS – Mr. Martin served in the United States Army from 1986-92 as a Black Hawk pilot. He was also a decorated Chief Warrant Officer in the Persian Gulf War. He currently is the Veteran & Soldier Outreach Coordinator at the Brain Injury Alliance of Kentucky (BIAK) in Louisville.

James F. Phifer, PhD - Dr. Phifer is the founder of Radical Rehab Solutions, a brain injury community re-entry program. He is an adjunct faculty member at the West Virginia University School of Medicine. He completed his Ph.D. at the University of Louisville, an internship in rehabilitation neuropsychology at Rush Medical Center in Chicago and postdoctoral training at the University of Alabama Medical School. Previously, he was an assistant professor and co-director of the Cerebrovascular Disease Program at the University of Alabama Medical School.

Kelly Roberts, PT, MPT- Ms. Roberts is the Senior Physical Therapist at HealthSouth Rehabilitation Hospital of Northern Kentucky. She treats both in and outpatients whom have suffered a brain injury. She has over 12 years of experience as a therapist and over 11 with a focus on neurological patients. She has 165 hours in neurological continuing education. She specializes in new technology and advanced treatment techniques, such as: using the Bioness L300, and H200; Interactive Metronome, Autoambulator (body supported treadmill training), Biodex balance, Saeboflex, Saeboreach, Reo and Aquatics.

Shari L. Wade, PhD – Dr. Wade is a pediatric rehabilitation psychologist and Professor of Pediatrics at Cincinnati Children’s Hospital Medical Center and the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine. She is also director of research in the Division of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. She obtained her Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh and completed a predoctoral internship at Yale University and a postdoctoral fellowship in pediatric psychology at Case Western Reserve University. Professor Wade has been investigating social environmental predictors of recovery from childhood traumatic brain injury for more than 20 years. More recently, she has developed and tested web-based problem-solving and parenting skills interventions to facilitate child and family adaptation post injury, conducting some of the largest RCT of behavioral interventions for pediatric TBI to date. Her research has resulted in more than 100 peer-reviewed publications and has been supported by funding from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, the National Institute of Mental Health, the Centers for Disease Control and the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research including a Rehabilitation Research and Training Center for Pediatric TBI Interventions. In 2010, she received the Faculty Achievement Award for Research from Cincinnati Children’s Hospital. She is on the editorial boards of the Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation, Family Psychology, and Rehabilitation Psychology. Dr. Wade was part of the Common Data Elements initiative for TBI and is currently part of the CDC Expert Panel on the diagnosis and management of mild TBI in children.

Sarah Wagers, MD - Dr. Sarah Wagers is Board Certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. She is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurosurgery and the University of Louisville. She is the Clinical Director of the Polytrauma Program at the Robley Rex VA Medical Center in Louisville, KY. She is the Medical Director of the Traumatic Brain Injury Service at Frazier Rehab Center in Louisville, KY. She enjoys caring for patients through all aspects of TBI. She lives in Louisville with her husband and 2 children.

Rena Warner, RN – Ms. Warner has been a Registered Nurse 16 years. She has been with the Acquired Brain Injury Branch in the Department for Medicaid Services since 2009. Prior to that, she was a Case Manager for 3 years at the University of Kentucky and at Markey Cancer Center for 9 years.

Steven Wheeler, PhD, OTR/L – Dr. Wheeler is an Associate Professor of Occupational Therapy at the West Virginia University School of Medicine and a Certified Brain Injury Specialist (CBIS). Dr. Wheeler has published as well as presented both nationally and internationally on community re-entry issues following TBI. He received his Ph.D. in Health Related Sciences with a specialty in occupational therapy from Virginia Commonwealth University; his dissertation topic was *Community Participation and Life Satisfaction following Intensive Community Based Rehabilitation using a Life Skills Training Approach*. Dr. Wheeler serves as a consultant with NeuroRestorative’s community based, brain injury rehabilitation programs in Ashland, Lexington, and Louisville, KY. He is also a Governors Appointee on the West Virginia TBI / SCI Rehabilitation Fund Board.

Melissa Wilinsky, OTR/L - Ms. Wilinsky has worked in rehabilitation for 19 years. She began her career at Drake center as a staff occupational therapist and has worked at HealthSouth Northern Kentucky for the past 16 years as a senior therapist at HealthSouth for approximately 11 years. Her experience is in neurological impairments and general rehabilitation. She is Neuro-IFRAH certified and certified in Interactive metronome, champion in Saebo products for neurological rehabilitation, certified in modalities, trained in Bioness H200, REO, Motomed and Gamecycle and have experience in using all of the above technology with patient care. She has had continuing education training on Shoulder dysfunction for both orthopedic and neurological impairments, kinesiotope techniques, lymphedema, and functional treatment approaches with neurologically impaired patients. She has worked in inpatient rehabilitation for 12 years and currently has been in the outpatient setting for 7 years at HealthSouth Northern Kentucky.

Julie Wring, MA, CCC-SLP – Ms. Wring has been a Speech-Language Pathologist for 20 years and has worked at HealthSouth for 8 years. She is certified in Neuromuscular Electrical Stimulation/Vital Stim for swallowing therapy and in Interactive Metronome to improve cognitive and speech skills. Patients who she has treated using these technologies have experienced significant improvements and success.