

**Eleventh Annual Northern Kentucky
TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY CONFERENCE
“Gear Up for TBI Recovery – Applicable Strategies”
March 31, 2017**

Speaker Biographies

Krista A. Beyrer, MA, CCC-SLP – Ms. Beyrer, an Adjunct Assistant Professor of Clinical, is a faculty member in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) at The University of Cincinnati (UC) and has been a speech language pathologist for over 20 years. She earned her Bachelor’s Degree in Speech and Hearing Science from The Ohio State University and her Master’s Degree in Communication Sciences and Disorders from UC. In addition to working both academically and clinically with graduate and undergraduate students at the university, she also provides clinical services to adolescent and adult patients with acquired (neurogenic) communication disorders in the UC Speech Language and Hearing Clinic on campus. Furthermore, she works as a consultant with UC Health Concussion Team, is a consultant at the Veterans Administration Medical Center (VAMC) -Cincinnati, Speech Pathology Department, for group telehealth services, serves as an undergraduate mentor and Capstone advisor, and recently (March, 2016) shared responsibilities as Regional Program Coordinator for the annual Ohio Speech Language Hearing Association State Convention. Krista has presented seminars and guest lectures on various topics related to communication disorders throughout the tristate area. She holds her Certificate of Clinical Competence (CCC) in Speech Language Pathology, Ohio State Licensure, Ohio Board and Teaching Certifications, Kentucky State Licensure and is also a member of the American Speech Language Hearing Association and Special Interest Group (SIG) 2: Neurophysiology and Neurogenic Speech and Language Disorders.

Joseph F. Clark, PhD - Dr. Clark is a professor of neurology with 25 years of experience concerning brain injury research, diagnosis and management. This includes stroke, hemorrhage stroke and traumatic brain injury. He is also part of the concussion management team in the University of Cincinnati helping serve the University Athletes as well as the community. Dr. Clark has authored over 130 peer reviewed publications and has been the author and principal investigator on numerous federal and foundation grants.

Kathy Cummins – Ms. Cummins resides in Somerset, KY and is a brain injury survivor from a car accident in 1989. Adjusting to a life with brain injury was a very sad and lonely process for her. Throughout that time, she learned many things that helped her cope better with the daily struggles she faced and wrote a book about her experience, "Living in the Shadow of Myself, My Journey through Brain Injury." Visit her website: <http://www.brain-injury-survivor.net/>

Amy L. Daniel RN, MSN, CNOR – Ms. Daniel is a 1986 Graduate from the Good Samaritan School of Nursing, and a 2012 Graduate of Xavier University Clinical Nurse Leader program..She currently works at Cincinnati Children's Hospital as a Case Manager for the Health Network. Amy is on the Board of Directors at Bridges, Inc. and a prior board member for BIAK Northern Kentucky. Amy is an Advocate for TBI, bringing resources to health care providers at the annual poster presentation Expand Your Reach for Nurse week at CCHMC. Amy is interested in improving the outcomes of individuals with TBI, through research, collaboration and advocacy. After being a nurse for many years, Amy has advocated for her daughter Callie, who experienced a life threatening TBI in 2005 at the age of 5 years.

Jessica Embry, CBIS, CTRS, MBA – Ms. Embry’s father sustained brain injury from motor vehicle accident when he was 24 and Jessica was 7. Given experience of father’s brain injury, she obtained a bachelor’s degree in recreational therapy and later obtained master’s degree in business administration. Having spent her career working in brain injury, Ms. Embry is currently program director at NeuroRestorative. She is a member of the NKY TBI Conference Planning Committee.

Gerald M. Holloway, AT - Mr. Holloway is an athletic trainer with nearly 25 years of experience the realm of sports medicine in both clinical and academic settings. Current responsibilities include the oversight of NovaCare’s Vision Enhancement programs for athletes and concussion patients. He is also part of the concussion management team at the University of Cincinnati.

Kenneth A. Mook, MD, PhD – Dr. Mook is Board Certified Physiatrist specializing in physical medicine and rehabilitation and is an aneurysm survivor. He graduated from the University of Louisville School of Medicine in 1994 and became the Chief Resident of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Frazier Rehabilitation Institute in 1998. He was the Program Director of University of Louisville PM&R Residency Program from 2005 to 2011 and is currently the Medical Director of Gateway Rehabilitation Hospital in Florence, KY since 2012.

Laura B. Ngwenya, MD, PhD - Dr. Ngwenya is the Director of the Neurotrauma Center at the University of Cincinnati Gardner Neuroscience Institute. She completed her MD, PhD at the Boston University School of Medicine. She then underwent training in Neurological Surgery at The Ohio State University Wexner Medical Center. After completion of residency, she worked as a Clinical Instructor at the University of California San Francisco/San Francisco General Hospital while obtaining fellowship training in Neurotrauma and Neurocritical Care. Dr. Ngwenya is an academic neurosurgeon who is actively engaged in clinical trials and translational research working towards improving outcomes after traumatic brain injury.

Craig J. Phillips, MRC, BA – Mr. Phillips sustained an open skull fracture with right frontal lobe damage, a severe brain bruise with brain stem involvement in 1967 when he was 10 years old. He remained in a coma for three weeks. He also fractured his left femur (thigh bone) and remained in traction for seven weeks. He was then placed in a full body (Spica Cast) for five months. Brain injury rehabilitation was non-existent at the time and he was essentially on his own with the rehabilitation process. He taught himself how to read, write and speak in complete sentences and was mainstreamed back into elementary school in the sixth grade. Once his external wounds healed, the impact of the injury to his brain became invisible. The only visible evidence was that he walked with a limp for a long time. Although he was not expected to succeed beyond high school academically, he obtained his undergraduate degree in 10 years and his graduate degree in 3-½ years. In 1998 he was deemed unemployable by the department of vocational rehabilitation and declared disabled by the Social Security Administration. He created Second Chance to Live in 2007 to share hope. To read more about his journey in the recovery process during the past 49 + years, please visit his website: <http://secondchancetolive.org/about-second-chance-to-live/>

Tara E. Reed, PhD - Dr. Tara Reed is a licensed psychologist in the state of Kentucky and has provided clinical services for children, families, and adults with brain injury through Horn and Associates in Rehabilitation, PLLC since August, 2008. She currently divides her clinical time between the provision of evaluation and therapeutic services for children and families, as well as neurocognitive evaluation, counseling and behavior services for adults with brain injury. Dr. Reed received her Master of Science degree in Clinical Psychology from Eastern Kentucky University and a subsequent Ph.D. in Counseling Psychology from the University of Kentucky. She has completed practicum and internship placements in various mental health clinic settings, a Neuropsychological clinic, substance abuse treatment centers, and a behavioral medicine internship at the Federal Medical Center in Lexington, Kentucky. Dr. Reed specializes in the evaluation and treatment of Autism Spectrum Disorders, ADHD, anxiety, and learning disabilities, as well as further evaluation and treatment provision for adults with brain injury. She has experience across home, school, and clinic service provision. Dr. Reed continues to participate in continuing education courses focused on evaluation procedures, psychological diagnosis, differential diagnosis, and comprehensive treatment of brain injury related deficits.

Kelly Roberts, PT, MPT – Ms. Roberts has been a therapist for over 15 years specializing in neurological rehabilitation. She has over 200 hours of continuing education classes to advance her techniques and trainings to give patients the most advanced treatments possible. She is trained in all of HealthSouth's technologies and uses them frequently with her patients as research indicates. She is the Senior PT at HealthSouth of Northern Kentucky and also helps her staff develop their skills.

Rachel Smith, LMT – Ms. Smith is an HPN High Performance Neurofeedback Clinician with 19 years experience as a massage and Craniosacral Therapist at Significant Healing in Florence, KY. After receiving HPN to recover from TBI, she now helps others address symptoms. Visit her website: <http://rachelvsmith.com>

Chad A. Walters, DO – Dr. Walters received his Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine in 2003. He completed his residency training with the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Kentucky. After completion of his residency training, he served as Assistant Professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Kentucky as well as Medical Director of the Brain Injury program at Cardinal Hill Rehabilitation Hospital in Lexington, KY. He currently holds a private practice in Louisville, KY and serves as Medical Director for NeuroRestorative in the Louisville, Middletown, Lexington and Ashland locations. Dr. Walters specializes in neuromuscular rehabilitation with special emphasis on medical management of traumatic brain injury patients, neuromuscular rehabilitation and electrodiagnosis. He is currently a Certified Brain Injury Specialist Instructor and is Board Certified by the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation.

Steven Wheeler, PhD, OTR/L – Dr. Wheeler is a Professor of Rehabilitation Sciences and Occupational Therapy Program Director at the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Wheeler has more than 20 years of experience in brain injury related teaching, research, and clinical work with numerous publications and national presentations. He currently serves as a consultant for the NeuroRestorative community based brain injury rehabilitation programs in Kentucky. Prior to his recent appointment with the University of Cincinnati, Dr. Wheeler served as Associate Chair of Occupational Therapy at the West Virginia University School of Medicine. He is a past recipient of the Elizabeth Devereaux Service Award by the West Virginia Board of Occupational Therapy and the Excellence in Teaching Faculty Award by the West Virginia University Injury Control Research Center.

Melissa A. Wilinsky, OTR/L – Ms. Wilinsky has been an occupational therapist for 22 years. She is the Sr. Occupational Therapist at HealthSouth and works primarily in outpatient therapy. She has over 150 hours of training on various technologies and neuro rehabilitation. She is the leader for staff skill development.

Julie Wring, MA, CCC-SLP – Ms. Wring has been a speech-language pathologist for over 23 years. She is the Sr. SLP and the program champion for the Brain Injury Team, as well as, the Stroke Team at HealthSouth. She is continually amazed and rewarded to learn and see how the brain can change with the use of technology.