

**Tenth Annual Northern Kentucky  
TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY CONFERENCE**  
*“The Faces of TBI – From Injury to Recovery; A Decade of Progress”*  
**March 18, 2016**

**Speaker Biographies**

**Linda Alford, MEd** – Ms. Alford is the Regional Director of Special Education for the Northern KY Cooperative for Educational Services. Formerly an Assistant Superintendent for Student Services (10 years), Director of Special Education (12 years) and Special Education Teacher (11 years). Received a Rank 1 certificate (Supervision of Instruction) from University of Cincinnati, Master’s Degree from Northern KY University and a Bachelor of Arts from Georgetown College. She has a total of 40 years in special education.

**Cynthia Allen, GCFP, STMI** – Ms. Allen has been working in integrative health programs and health care management for over 25 years. As a Guild Certified Feldenkrais Practitioner, she has been in private practice since 2001, seeing clients at Future Life Now in Cincinnati, Ohio. She is also a Senior Trainer in Movement Intelligence and co-creator of Integral Human Gait theory. In addition to seeing clients and teaching weekly classes, Allen offers continuing education and certification programs throughout the United States.

**Norberto Andaluz, MD** – Dr. Norberto Andaluz is a neurosurgeon with the Mayfield Clinic, Associate Professor of Neurosurgery at the University of Cincinnati, and Director of Neurotrauma at the University of Cincinnati Neuroscience Institute. He specializes in the treatment of all disorders and diseases of the brain and spine, but in particular, traumatic brain injury, aneurysms, arteriovenous malformations (AVMs), intracerebral hemorrhage, stroke, carotid artery disease, moyamoya disease and brain tumors. Dr. Andaluz received his medical degree from Universidad Nacional de Rosario in Argentina. He completed his residency in neurosurgery at Instituto de Neurología y Neurocirugía at Sanatorio Parque in Rosario, Argentina and earned a fellowship in cerebrovascular surgery from the University of Cincinnati. Professional memberships include the American Heart Association, Congress of Neurological Surgeons, National Neurotrauma Society, Neurocritical Care Society and North American Skull Base Society.

**Debra Braunling-McMorrow, PhD** - Dr. Debra Braunling-McMorrow is the President and CEO of Learning Services, a national provider of services for persons with brain injury. She has also served as Vice President of Business Development and Outcomes and Vice President of Quality Assurance for a national rehabilitation provider. She led operations for the Center for Comprehensive Services, one of the first post-acute brain injury rehabilitation programs in the country. Dr. McMorrow has served on several national committees and editorial boards as well as on a number of Peer Review Panels including for the U.S. Department of Education NIDRR and the Department of Health and Human Services HRSA. Dr. McMorrow has published in numerous journals and books and has presented extensively in the field of brain injury rehabilitation. She has been working for persons with brain injuries for over 30 years.

**D. Bradley Burton, PhD** – Dr. Burton is a consulting clinical neuropsychologist at Pathways NeuroRehabilitation unit and Southern Indiana Rehabilitation Hospital. He completed a neuropsychology fellowship at the Cleveland Clinic Foundation, a specialty residency program at Baylor College of Medicine and his PhD from Nova Southeastern University.

**Belinda Cole** – Ms. Cole, one of the first female jockey's in the country, successfully competed in professional thoroughbred horse racing from 1972 until 1981 when she sustained a brain injury in a racing accident. After two and half years in rehabilitation at the Center for Comprehensive Services (CCS), she regained many functional skills. Ms. Cole has developed many strategies and made the adjustment that it takes to put together the pieces of a shattered life. She then worked as a peer counselor for CCS for 10 years, where she provided support and taught awareness and strategies to other survivors of brain injury as they worked through the adjustment process. Ms. Cole also worked with families, especially spouses, in awareness of the difficulties resulting from a brain injury and working through the grieving process as they adjusted to their loved one's injury. She attended brain injury conferences and training sessions to speak to survivors, families, and professionals on brain injury issues. Ms. Cole has served on the Board of Directors of the Brain Injury

Association of Illinois and on the Survivor Council of the BIA of America. She wrote a journal, published in 1991, telling her story about the struggles and triumphs that she and her family went through following her brain injury. In 1999, she retired from working directly in the field of brain injury. Since then she has devoted significant time to the education and study of meditation and spiritual growth and development through reading and attending workshops and retreats. In 2003 Ms. Cole became a Level II Reiki Practitioner and also began her own business in Southern IL, Lick Creek Equine Center, teaching horseback riding and how to appropriately care for horses, as well as boarding horses. She relocated to Louisville, Ky in 2013 where she enjoys retirement and volunteers at Green Hill Therapy Center working with children with disabilities through Equine Therapy.

**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 and her daughter, Callie, (a TBI Survivor) have volunteered at the BIAK Brain Ball for two years. 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. She is interested in improving the outcomes of individuals with TBI, through Research, Collaboration and Advocacy. With 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. Parenting a child with a TBI is a humbling experience. Never stop fighting to be the best you can be.

**Callie Daniel** – Ms. Daniel is a sophomore at New Richmond High School, OH and is a TBI survivor from a horse accident in June 2005. The day of her injury started as a beautiful morning with family plans to attend Callie's kindergarten graduation and then spend the day at the zoo. Callie went with her dad to the barn to let the horse out into the field in her new dress and shoes. The horse got loose/spooked in the field with the lead rope on. The lead rope wrapped around Callie's arm as the horse was charging past and drug her through two fields and into a tree. Callie was air cared to CCHMC for a 92-day stay and a TBI. Callie continues to grow and change. She is an inspiration to everyone she meets. Her struggles are invisible to others who do not know her or her story.

**Isaac Ankoma Darko, MD** – Dr. Darko received his residency training in the field of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R) at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine. He is board-certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation (PM&R). Dr. Darko completed his fellowship subspecialty training in traumatic brain injury (TBI) at the Richmond VAMC in Virginia. Dr. Darko is currently the TBI/Polytrauma program director at the Cincinnati VA Medical Center in Cincinnati. He is also on faculty at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center. Dr. Darko describes his mission as “to provide the highest level of traumatic brain injury (TBI) and rehabilitative care by advancing a mature rehabilitation program continuum through research, leadership, and increased interdisciplinary involvement.”

**Nathan K. Evanson, MD PhD** – Dr. Evanson is a pediatric physiatrist in the division of Pediatric Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center. He graduated from the University of Cincinnati Physician Scientist Training Program with an MD, and a PhD in neuroscience. He went on to residency training in the combined pediatrics and physical medicine & rehabilitation residency program at Cincinnati Children's Hospital and University Hospital. He runs the BRAIN clinic for moderate to severe traumatic brain injury, and is establishing a basic science research program to investigate the effects of environment on recovery from brain injury.

**David Heuser, DC, DABCN** – Dr. Heuser graduated from New York Chiropractic College in 1961. He began private practice in Patchogue, New York from 1981-1998 and then began his own practice in Dayton, Ohio. He has treated over 30,000 patients and had over 400,000 patient visits. He has extensive experience over the years treating the effects of TBI; Parkinsons; Dystonias; autistic spectrum disorders; ADD/ADHD; stroke and cognitive decline. He has been married for 30 years to Dr. Denise Logan and are the parents of four children.

**Hannah M. Kersting, BA** - Ms. Kersting is a third-year doctoral student in clinical psychology at Spalding University. She is currently completing a practicum at Pathways NeuroRehabilitation unit under the supervision of D. Bradley Burton. She graduated summa cum laude from the University of Kentucky with a B.A. in Education and a B.A. in Psychology.

**Angela McKeone, MS** – Ms. McKeone has been working in mental health since 1999 and is currently a Provisionally Licensed Counselor. Angela received her bachelor's degree in specialized studies from Ohio University in 2003, Master's degree from Capella University specializing in Counseling Psychology in 2006, and a graduate certificate in Domestic Violence, Loss, and Trauma Counseling from Marshall University in 2015. Angela has training with Trauma-Focused Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy as well as Dialectical Behavioral Therapy. She has worked with adults, families, and children in partial hospitalization programs, crisis units, community mental health setting, with the Assertive Community Team in Huntington, WV, and is currently a therapist in multiple elementary schools. Angela was honored in 2014 by the general assembly of the state of Ohio for exemplary attainment by demonstrating ability to meet challenges with enthusiasm and confidence. In October 2014, Angela also was recognized by Prester Center and the West Virginia Child Care Association as the Clinical Staff of the Year. Angela currently resides in South Point, Ohio, with her husband and two daughters.

**Janice Osborne Dowdy, MS, CCC/SLP, CBIS** – Ms. Dowdy is a speech-language pathologist and certified brain injury specialist working for NeuroRestorative treating clients with acquired brain injury in a post-acute community based program in Ashland, KY. Janice has been an SLP for 15 years working in acute care, inpatient and outpatient acute rehabilitation, and post-acute residential and outpatient settings.

**Ashok Poluri, MD, DABPMR** - Dr. Poluri graduated from medical school in India and completed his residency in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation (PM&R) from Stony Brook University Medical Center, New York where he was Chief Resident followed by fellowship in Interventional Pain Management. He is Board certified in PM&R and pain management. He has extensive research background in the field of PM&R with over 20 publications in peer reviewed journals and training in exercise physiology. He joined Health South of Northern Kentucky as Medical Director-TBI in October 2014 and has been consulting at various local hospitals helping patients restore function and lead active independent lives.

**Alice G Rini, JD, MS, RN** – Ms. Rini is a nurse-attorney currently working as a private consultant primarily to long-term care agencies. Her past experience includes many years as a university professor in Kentucky and New York. She has also worked in an 'of counsel' position to a local law firm and as a practice consultant to health care facilities and a curriculum consultant to educational institutions. Her publications include contributions to books in the subject areas of elder law, elder housing and long term care, nursing leadership and management, nursing and legal ethics, and communication and documentation. She has also published articles in professional journals and presented papers and research to professional groups of nurses, attorneys, and educators. Alice was recently chosen as one of the most outstanding 65 graduates of Adelphi University School of Nursing in its 65 years of existence. She is a member of the BRIDGES Board of Directors and has been on the planning committee for the Northern Kentucky Traumatic Brain Injury Conference for nearly 10 years.

**Cindy Waden, MEd** – Ms. Waden is the PBIS and Collaboration Professional Learning Coach for the Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services. She has worked with students that have severe emotional and behavioral disabilities for twenty years both in and out of the school settings. Cindy has been providing training and technical assistance to local districts and school staff for the past twelve years and has participated in several initiatives through the Kentucky Department of Education.