



3rd FITBIR STAKEHOLDERS MEETING SPEAKERS



Rosemarie Anderson, Administrative Manager at NYU Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service Admissions Department for 22 years. On August 4, 2004, my husband was a pedestrian and was struck by a drunk driver. He sustained a severe TBI. I was married at the time for 22 years. We have two daughters and at the time they were 17 and 13. These past 17 years we have had a completely different relationship and journey together. It has been filled with surgeries, clinical trials, research studies, support groups and multiple medical appointments and self-education. In addition to his TBI, 1 year ago he was diagnosed with cardiac amyloidosis. It is a constant journey. There are two things we have control over--attitude and effort.



Richard Anderson, injured survivor. In 2004 I sustained a severe traumatic brain injury, while I was vacationing with my family. As a pedestrian a drunk driver struck me. I was admitted to a trauma hospital in which I stayed for a month and then transferred to Kessler Rehabilitation for an additional month. Ultimately, I was discharged and received outpatient therapy at NYU for approximately 3 years. I became permanently disabled and partially fill the void of my life by becoming a BRITE Stakeholder and a Board Trustee with the Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey. Advocating brain injury awareness and assisting other brain injury survivors motivates me.

Prior to my injury I was a Bureau Director for the Human Resources Administration of the City New York. My position with NYC ceased after 26 years in which I was 47 years old. Fortunately, I was married for 32 years and now with an additional 17 years she is my caregiver, best supporter and the wind that allows me to breathe. I also have been blessed with 2 daughters, 2 grandchildren and a third due this October. During the years of rehabilitation and recovery it is difficult to move forward. One step at a time is what that is needed, and the feeling of hope and strength will be obtained.



Melissa Baker holds a bachelor's degree in Health Services Management from the Fairbanks School of Public Health – Indiana University. She has been with the Datalys Center for Sports Injury Research and Prevention, Inc. since June 2014. To date, she is a Project Coordinator for the NCAA/DOD Grand Alliance: Concussion Assessment, Research and Education (CARE) Consortium. Melissa's primary role is as the liaison with QuesGen Systems, Inc. developing the electronic database for the CARE Consortium. She also provides customer service to those accessing this electronic database and has been primarily responsible for coordinating, data mapping and submitting CARE data into FITBIR.



Patrick Bellgowan, PhD, is currently the Associate Deputy Director in the Division of Neuroscience (DON) in Extramural Programs at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS). Dr. Bellgowan received his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in behavioral neuroscience and did postdoctoral training in functional neuroimaging at the Medical College of Wisconsin and later in the Intramural program at [NIH](#). Before coming to the extramural program at [NINDS](#) he was the Director of Cognitive Neuroscience and Associate Professor at the Laureate Institute for Brain Research and the University of Tulsa, where he studied the neuropsychiatric sequelae of concussion in collegiate athletes. Dr. Frost-Bellgowan has been at NINDS since 2014, serving as a Program Director in the Repair and Plasticity (R&P) Cluster in DON and managing oversight of the NINDS grants and

cooperative agreements for the traumatic brain injury portfolio. In this role, he has provided oversight of a broad research portfolio spanning basic, translational, and clinical research; worked across ICs and federal agencies in association with the [NIH BRAIN](#) Initiative, Human Connectome Project, and National Research Action Plan; and served as co-director of the Federal Interagency TBI Research informatics platform.



Richard Benson, MD, PhD, is Director of the Office of Global Health and Health Disparities (OGHHD) in the NINDS Division of Clinical Research. He is a leader in the fields of vascular neurology and health disparities research. His areas of research interest and expertise include: health disparities and health equity research, and minority, community, and global health. Dr. Benson has worked in the public and private sectors and is a volunteer with several professional organizations. He is a past president and current board member of the American Heart Association (AHA), Greater Washington Region (GWR). He was a member of the national AHA Stroke Council and is currently an American Academy of Neurology (AAN) Registries committee member. Dr. Benson received his B.S. in Chemistry from Fisk University, followed by an MD/PhD from Meharry Medical College in Neurophysiology (elected to AOA). Subsequently, he completed his neurology residency at the Harvard-

Longwood neurology residency program in Boston, and a stroke fellowship at the Columbia University Neurological Institute in New York, while obtaining an M.S. in Epidemiology from the Mailman School of Public Health. After fellowship, Dr. Benson worked as a vascular neurologist in New York City at the Long Island Jewish Medical Center and St. Luke's-Roosevelt Medical Centers. In 2005, he moved to the Washington D.C. area to work as a Program Director in what was then the Office of Minority Health and Research at the NINDS. He left the NIH in 2008 to focus on patient care, and in 2010 became Associate Medical Director of the NIH Stroke Program at Medstar Washington Hospital Center and Associate Professor of Clinical Neurology at Georgetown University Medical Center. Dr. Benson returned to the NINDS in 2019 to direct the OGHHD.



Rebecca Berman, PhD, is a Health Program Specialist at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, where she supports multiple research portfolios within the Repair & Plasticity Cluster. She also serves as part of the NINDS FITBIR team and works closely with the TBI Program Director to foster data sharing initiatives in both preclinical and clinical research, including the development of common data elements for the clinical history and neuropathology of TBI-related dementia. Prior to joining NINDS, Dr. Berman conducted neurophysiological and neuroimaging research as an intramural Staff Scientist at the National Institute of Mental Health. In her current role she values the opportunities to advance scientific collaborations in service of improving health outcomes.



CAPT Matt Breiding, PhD, joined the U.S. Public Health Service and CDC's Division of Violence Prevention in 2005 where his work was focused on the surveillance of intimate partner violence, sexual violence, and child maltreatment. In 2014, he became the Traumatic Brain Injury Team Lead at CDC, working with his team to develop the National Concussion Surveillance System and CDC's Pediatric Mild TBI Guideline.

Dr. Breiding received a Bachelor of Science degree in industrial and systems engineering from Ohio State University and masters and doctoral degrees in counseling psychology from the University of Notre Dame. He completed a post-doctoral clinical residency at the Washington University in St. Louis Student Health and Counseling Center. He is a licensed psychologist in the state of Missouri.



Vibeke Brinck, MS, is the Director of Systems Engineering at QuesGen. Vibeke has extensive experience translating complex clinical research data and data management problems into simple, elegant solutions. She has over 12 years of experience developing research study databases in a wide variety of clinical areas including childhood obesity, lung disease, neuroimaging, dementia, and traumatic brain injury. She has been involved in developing and managing the TRACK-TBI, CENTER-TBI, and CARE databases, and has been part of the curation teams of both TRACK-TBI and CENTER-TBI. Her objective is to help clients collect, manage, curate, and analyze their data to yield high quality, repeatable results. Vibeke holds a BS in Chemistry from San Francisco State University and an MS in Chemistry from University of Copenhagen.



Johnny Cebak, DO, PhD, is a former Combat Medic and current Medical Officer in the Army National Guard. He has served in the military for 18 years and has been activated multiple times for service. Johnny served as a front-line medic in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom (05-06) in the Al Anbar province and was exposed to the demands and limitations of medicine for service members in active combat. He is intimately familiar with the signature injury of Iraq and Afghanistan conflicts: Traumatic Brain Injury and Post Traumatic Stress. After his return home, he continued his academic pursuits completing two bachelors' degrees: Ag Biotechnology and Biology. He then completed a PhD in neuroscience studying pharmacological mechanisms of neurotrauma under Dr. Ed Hall. After medical

school he moved to Arizona to complete his Neurology residency at Mayo Clinic in Arizona. Johnny maintains an interest in pharmacologic interventions of TBI, PTSD, and sequela thereof. He will be seeking neurocritical care training fellowship following residency.



Stacey Chambers, MS, is a Scientific Project Manager in the Office of Global Health and Health Disparities (OGHHD) at the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), National Institutes of Health (NIH). Her current activities involve the management of global health research awards and programs and serving as the Institute's representative for trans-NIH efforts such as the NIH Common Fund's, Human Heredity and Health in Africa (H3Africa) and the Harnessing Data Science for Health Discovery and Innovation in Africa (DS-I Africa) programs. In prior roles, Ms. Chambers supported the implementation and management of the NINDS Office of International Activities and the NIH Countermeasures Against Chemical Threats (CounterACT) program. She has also detailed with the HHS Office of the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, where she supported the development of activities for programs aimed at advancing the Global Health Security Agenda, within

the Division of International Health Security. Ms. Chambers is currently engaged in the OGHHD's strategic planning efforts to address health disparities and inequities in neurological disorders.



Kristen Dams-O'Connor, PhD, is Director of the Brain Injury Research Center of Mount Sinai and Professor in the Departments of Rehabilitation Medicine and Neurology at Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai in New York, NY. She conducts multidisciplinary research dedicated to improving the lives of people living with brain injury. Her work aims to identify mechanisms, risk, and protective factors to improve long-term outcomes in individuals with traumatic brain injury (TBI) and repetitive head trauma sustained through

sports participation, military service, and intimate partner violence. Her team uses modern psychometric and statistical techniques to measure individual differences in trajectories of change over time among survivors of TBI. One goal of this work is to improve diagnosis of secondary post-traumatic conditions during life so they can be treated. She leads the Late Effects of TBI (LETBI) Project, a TBI brain donor program focused on characterizing the clinical phenotype and postmortem pathological signatures of post-traumatic neurodegeneration and their associations with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias. She is Project Director of the New York Traumatic Brain Injury Model System of care, one of 16 centers of excellence for TBI research and clinical care in the United States. Her research is supported by federal grants from the National Institutes of Health, National Institute for Disability Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research, Department of Defense, Centers for Disease Control, and Patient Reported Outcomes Research Institute. She has published over 150 manuscripts and chapters on TBI treatments and outcomes and has presented her research internationally.



Nicola de Souza, MSc, is a PhD candidate in Dr. Carrie Esopenko's laboratory at Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences. Ms. de Souza has a BSc in Psychology from Queen's University (Kingston, Canada) and an MSc in Cognitive and Decision Sciences from University College London (London, UK). Her research uses neuroimaging techniques (DTI, fMRI) to probe the effects of traumatic brain injury on cognitive, psychological, and neural processes across the lifespan. She is particularly interested in how brain injury may affect decision making and self-control. She hopes that her research will contribute to our understanding of functional impairments post-injury, which may be used to inform cognitive rehabilitation strategies after traumatic brain injury.



Adam R. Ferguson, MS, PhD, is Director of Data Science in the Brain and Spinal Injury Center at the Zuckerberg San Francisco General Hospital, Professor of Neurological Surgery in the Weill Institute for Neurosciences at UCSF, and PI in the San Francisco VA Healthcare System. He works at the interface of data science and disease-centered neurobiology, including traumatic brain injury (TBI), spinal cord injury (SCI), and related areas. His team developed the Open Data Commons Traumatic Brain Injury (odc-tbi.org) and Spinal Cord Injury (odc-sci.org), cloud-based data infrastructures

hosting shared data from over 85 neurotrauma laboratories (10,000+ individual research subjects); and the translationally-focused private data commons for SCI (pdc-sci.org). He serves as PI on NIH and VA awards to further develop data science tools for chronic traumatic brain injury (cTBI) and SCI models. He also serves as contact PI on the NIH TOP-NT UG3/UH3 project for multicenter biomarker discovery in preclinical TBI; and as data science Co-I on multicenter precision medicine projects including the DoD/NIH-funded Transforming Research and Clinical Knowledge in TBI (TRACK-TBI) and TBI Endpoints Development (TED) initiatives, TRACK-SCI, the NIH UCSF-REACH U19 low back pain project, among others. He has participated in workgroups for the NINDS preclinical TBI common data elements (CDE) project, Department of Energy TBI data science consortium, and NASEM's workshops on sustainability of the biomedical data lifecycle. Academically, he has published over 160 peer-reviewed papers.



Alison Garcia, BSE, Project Manager, Center for Information Technology (CIT), NIH Since 2012, Alison Garcia has been supporting the FITBIR community and was the inaugural member of the FITBIR Operations team. Alison has 15 years of experience as a scientific and technical program manager in the federal government space (HHS and DoD) working with cross functional teams to identify impact areas for biomedical informatics projects, areas for improvement, and recommendations based on reporting and/or analytics. She collaborates with senior management and stakeholders, acting as liaison between scientific, technical, and business professionals resulting in successful management of multi-million-dollar delivery

projects. Prior to coming to NIH, Alison spent her career supporting the U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command (MRDC) (formerly US Army Medical Research and Materiel Command) (MRMC) planning, implementing, and evaluating human subject and animal research protocols to test physiological sensor systems for combat casualty and en route care. In her early career as a bioengineer, Alison worked for National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), DoD Space Test Program Space Tissue Loss (STL)/ Cell Culture Module (CCM) building hardware and software to support researcher's studying how space affects cell health. Alison earned her Bachelor of Science in Biomedical Engineering degree from The Catholic University of America Washington, DC.



Susan K. Gregurick, PhD, was appointed Associate Director for Data Science and Director of the Office of Data Science Strategy (ODSS) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) on September 16, 2019. Under Dr. Gregurick's leadership, the ODSS leads the implementation of the NIH Strategic Plan for Data Science through scientific, technical, and operational collaboration with the institutes, centers, and offices that comprise NIH. Dr. Gregurick received the 2020 Leadership in Biological Sciences Award from the Washington Academy of Sciences for her work in this role. She was instrumental in the creation of the ODSS in 2018 and served as a senior advisor to the office until being named to her current position.

Michelle Harris has been supporting the FITBIR community since 2019 and is an inaugural member of the FITBIR Operations team. Michelle has more than 14 years of experience as a health informatics professional. She has knowledge of healthcare, information systems, databases, information technology security, healthcare standards and interoperability, medical terminology, and electronic health records. Prior to coming to NIH, Michelle supported the Department of Defense (DoD) and the Veterans Administration (VA) with applying knowledge of specialized principles and practices related to healthcare management in order to evaluate and make recommendations for improving the healthcare delivery system. Michelle earned her Bachelor of Science in Clinical Radiation Science from Virginia Commonwealth University and Master of Science in Health Informatics Administration from the University of Maryland Global Campus.



Radha Holavanahalli, PhD, is Rehabilitation Program Specialist at the National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR), Administration for Community Living, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Prior to joining NIDILRR in April 2021, Dr. Holavanahalli was a Professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Texas (UT) Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas, Texas. She has over 24 years of experience in burn rehabilitation outcomes research, with a focus on both acute and long-term physical and psychosocial outcomes. She was the Co-Principal Investigator of the NIDILRR-funded North Texas Burn Rehabilitation Model System during her tenure at UT Southwestern. She was appointed Chair of the American Burn Association's (ABA) Aftercare Reintegration Committee. She has served on the national Rehabilitation Committee and the Elderly Care Committee of the ABA. In addition, Dr. Holavanahalli was involved in research mentoring of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation clinical residents and medical students at UT Southwestern.



Amy J. Jak, PhD, is a Professor of Psychiatry at UC San Diego and a Staff Neuropsychologist and Director of the Cognitive Rehabilitation Clinic at the Veterans Affairs San Diego Healthcare System. She has extensive experience in the neuropsychology of traumatic brain injury in Veterans and active-duty personnel, particularly among Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans as well as in the neuropsychology of aging and MCI. She is the Co-Director of the Clinical Research Unit of the VISN 22 Center of Excellence for Stress and Mental Health (CESAMH) and an investigator with the VA/DoD LIMBIC Consortium. Dr. Jak's research interests are in novel treatments for mild TBI as well as in cognitive aging and mild cognitive impairment. Her work has been funded by VA, DoD, NIA, and/or the Alzheimer's Association since 2007.



Nathalia Jimenez, MD, MPH, is Associate Professor and Vice Chair for Equity Diversity and Inclusion for the Department of Anesthesiology and Pain Medicine at the University of Washington School of Medicine. She is a pediatric anesthesiologist and principal investigator at Seattle Children's Center for Child Health, Behavior and Development. She is also Associate faculty at Harborview Injury Prevention and Research Center and Research Director of the University of Washington - Latino Center for Health. Her research interests are health disparities and patient outcomes in Latinx children. Her research includes studies on disparities in pain management, including biological and socio-cultural determinants of pain treatment, and disparities after traumatic brain injury (TBI) among Latinx children. Her work, funded

by a grant from NICHD, documented large long-term disparities in disability after TBI among Latinx children and its relationship with social determinants of health, especially among children of immigrant parents. She developed and pilot-tested a culturally and linguistically concordant patient navigation program to bridge TBI care between hospitals and community services; and is awaiting funding to test its efficacy in a multicenter effort. She is also interested in increasing participation of minority children in research and promote these efforts as a member of the Society for Pediatric Anesthesia Research Committee and Chair for the Diversity Equity and Inclusion Committee.



Sreekanth Kamineni, MS, is currently working as a Database Analyst at the University of Utah's School of Medicine in the Division of Epidemiology the TORCH Lab. He is involved in Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium (CENC) and Long -Term Impact of Military-Relevant Brain Injury Consortium (LIMBIC) national projects. Sreekanth is responsible for designing and maintaining project database, collaborating with other data scientists to submit CENC/LIMBIC datasets to Federal Interagency Traumatic Brain Injury Research Informatics System (FITBIR) according to their specific data

element requirements on a biannual basis. He is also responsible for preparing the custom datasets per investigators' requests across nationwide academics. Sreekanth is responsible for development of clinical notes datasets using veteran health administration data (VHA) to be analyzed by Moonstone the Natural language processing system developed at VA, for TORCH Lab projects on VA Informatics and Computing Infrastructure (VINCI).

Sreekanth started his career as a programmer analyst in 2011 in Cognizant Technology Solutions Company in India and later in 2014 moved to the USA to pursue an MS degree in computer science. In 2015, Sreekanth graduated from Texas A&M Commerce University with MS degree in computer science. He then joined the

analytics team at Valley Behavioral Health in 2016. Sreekanth made significant contributions to Valley Analytics infrastructure. His skills and experiences are in database design and development, data warehouse and data mart concepts, data analysis and visualization, BI Solutions, SQL and ETL development, SAS programing, and scripting programming.



Walter J. Koroshetz, MD, serves as Director of the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke. He joined NINDS in 2007 as Deputy Director and has held a leadership role in a number of NIH and NINDS programs including the Helping to End Addiction Long Term (HEAL) Initiative, the NIH’s BRAIN Initiative, NIH Blueprint for Neuroscience, the Traumatic Brain Injury Center collaboration between the NIH intramural and the Uniformed Health Services University, the NIH Office of Emergency Care Research, the Common Fund’s Undiagnosed Disease and the Acute to Chronic Pain Transition programs.

Before joining NINDS, Dr. Koroshetz served as Vice Chair of the neurology service and Director of stroke and neurointensive care services at Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH). He was a professor of Neurology at Harvard Medical School (HMS) and led neurology resident training at MGH between 1990 and 2007. Over that same period, he co-directed the HMS Neurobiology of Disease Course with Drs. Edward Kravitz and Robert H Brown.



Erica Littlejohn, PhD, is an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), Science & Technology Policy Fellow, within the Office of Global Health and Health Disparities (OGHHD) in the NINDS Division of Clinical Research. In her role, she supports the development, coordination, and implementation of activities aimed at the elimination of health disparities/inequities in neurological disease. Her policy and programmatic interests span the areas of clinical and translational health disparity/inequity research, diversity training and workforce development, and fundamental

neuroscience animal research. Prior to joining the OGHHD, in collaboration with organizations and departments of Academic Institutions with interest in training and research equity, Dr. Littlejohn led initiatives that expanded access and resources for underrepresented minorities. She completed her PhD at the University of Kentucky where she investigated cellular and molecular mechanisms underlying posttraumatic neural plasticity. Dr. Littlejohn also completed a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Texas; UT Health San Antonio, investigating the electrophysiological function of GABAergic vagal neurons in the brainstem. Erica is committed to narrowing health disparities, increasing minority representation in the biomedical sciences, and making strong and meaningful contributions to neuroscience research.



Christine Mac Donald, PhD, is a Professor and the James and Gaye Pigott Endowed Chair in the Department of Neurological Surgery at Harborview Medical Center. She is also the Research Director of the Sports Institute at University of Washington School of Medicine. Her current research efforts include advanced neuroimaging evaluation of concussion in the US military, and the distribution of brain injury severity in civilian adults and children with specific emphasis on comorbid mental health conditions. She also conducts high resolution imaging for direct radiological-pathological correlations of radiographic markers of brain injury pathology via cadaveric imaging and in ex-vivo human brain specimens. For the

past decade she has led large scale, multi-center, international clinical research studies in the United States, Italy, Germany, and Afghanistan.



Matthew McAuliffe, PhD, Chief, Scientific Application Services (SAS) has been at NIH since 1998 and is currently the Chief of the Scientific Application Services (SAS) section in the Office of Scientific Computing Services (OSCS). He provides computational and engineering expertise to a variety of clinical and biomedical informatics activities at NIH and is committed to supporting data sharing and making data FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable). He leads the development of the Biomedical Research Informatics Computing System (BRICS) (<http://brics.cit.nih.gov/>) which is a comprehensive data informatics system designed to efficiently collect, validate, harmonize, and analyze research datasets. In addition, Dr. McAuliffe strives to advance and empower scientific imaging research in the NIH intramural program, to this end, SAS has created and continues the development of the successful Medical Image Processing Analysis and Visualization application (MIPAV: <http://mipav.cit.nih.gov>). MIPAV enables

quantitative analysis and visualization of biomedical imaging modalities (from micro to macro) and is used by researchers at NIH and around the world. It's open source and therefore freely available and has been downloaded over 100,000 times by researchers throughout the world.

Dr. McAuliffe earned his Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering degree from the University of Detroit, Masters in Software Engineering from Johns Hopkins, and his Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, NC. His current research interests include medical informatics and biomedical imaging specializing in segmentation, quantification, and image fusion.



Dave C. Mellick, PhD, has graduate training in Health Psychology and Clinical Science and relevant experience in the area of database design and management, and data analysis, including the creation of data-driven risk models and web-based applications. Mr. Mellick has been with Craig Research since 1995. Mr. Mellick is the co-Director of the of the Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems National Data and Statistical Center and Rocky Mountain Regional Brain Injury System located at Craig Hospital.



Dominic Nathan, PhD, currently serves as the Bioinformatics Director for the Center for Neuroscience and Regenerative Medicine. Dr. Nathan manages inter-agency collaborative research information systems and resources to support CNRM research, clinical trials, and the CNRM data repository. Dr. Nathan has developed informatics infrastructure and tools in conjunction with the NIH to allow CNRM to carry out its research mission effectively and efficiently, in an accelerated timeline. Dr. Nathan completed post-doctoral training at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, USUHS and the NIH. His past non-academic experience includes building and managing an enterprise IT program for a Fortune 500 company and managing a stroke research lab at the VA. Dr. Nathan serves on several national and international

biomedical engineering advisory committees. Dr. Nathan's research interests are in physiological systems modeling, machine learning and bioinformatics with an emphasis on advancing translational clinical research and applications.

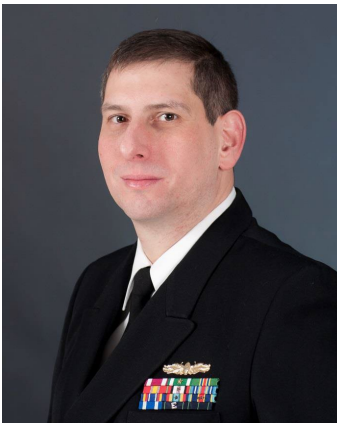


Tayo Obafemi-Ajayi, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Electrical Engineering in the Engineering Program at Missouri State University (MSU). She is the director of the Computational Learning Systems lab at MSU, and a faculty member of the Applied Computational Intelligence lab (ACIL) research group at Missouri University of Science and Technology. She is also the vice-chair of the Bioinformatics and Bioengineering Technical Committee of the IEEE Computational Intelligence Society. She received her B.S. in Electrical Engineering, M.S. in Electrical Engineering,

and a Ph.D. in Computer Science; all three from Illinois Institute of Technology, Chicago, IL. Her research interests include machine learning (ML), data mining, biomedical informatics, and control systems. Her team has been involved in the development and application of ML techniques to a variety of biomedical applications such as Traumatic Brain Injury, Autism Spectrum Disorder, cognitive aging, Inflammatory Bowel Disease, and grapevine disease.



David O. Okonkwo, MD, PhD, is Professor of Neurological Surgery and serves as Director of Neurotrauma at UPMC. He is also Director of the Neurotrauma Clinical Trials Center (NCTC) in the School of Medicine at the University of Pittsburgh. Dr. Okonkwo's clinical interests are traumatic injuries to the brain and spine as well as scoliosis and spinal deformity surgery.



Travis Martin Polk, MD, FACS, Commander, Medical Corps, United States Navy currently serves as the Director of Combat Casualty Care Research Program at the US Army Medical Research and Development Command in Fort Detrick, Maryland. He was commissioned in the US Navy in 1997 after graduating from Norwich University with a Bachelor of Science in Nursing and then attended the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences receiving his medical degree in 2001. He subsequently completed a general surgery residency at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth and a fellowship in traumatology, emergency surgery and surgical critical care at the University of Pennsylvania. His military assignments have included ship's medical officer onboard the USS FORT MCHENRY (LSD-43), staff surgeon at Naval Hospital Okinawa, Director of the Navy Trauma Training Center (LAC+USC Medical Center) and Surgical Director of

the Healthcare Simulation and Bioskills Training Center at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth. He has deployed to Afghanistan three times, including twice as Chief of Trauma at the NATO Role III Multinational Medical Unit in Kanadahaar. CDR Polk is an Assistant Professor of Surgery at the Uniformed Services University.



Julie Self has been the caregiver for her daughter, Audrey, who sustained a severe traumatic brain injury from a horrific car accident in November 2013. Although Audrey was given a bleak prognosis and little chance for recovery, she has had what has been described as a “miraculous recovery”. Julie has a passion for giving hope to anyone struggling with a brain injury as well as sharing her unique experiences through her involvement with brain injury research.



Allan L. Service, PhD, Provost Emeritus, Regis University, Denver, Colorado

On December 2, 2009, I fell backward onto an icy campus sidewalk and experienced a traumatic brain injury. The professionals at St. Anthony Hospital of Denver saved my physical life. My dear wife and the healers at Craig Hospital gave me back the life worth living. I still carry multiple souvenirs of that experience, including loss of the senses of taste and smell and seriously diminished hearing. Looking back from the perspective of my recent seventy-seventh birthday, I consider my TBI and recovery from it to be the defining experience of my life. I retired in 2012 after a forty-year career as higher education faculty and administrator. As the centerpiece of my career as an educator, I served for nearly thirty years as dean, academic vice president, and provost of Regis University of Colorado. Since retiring, I have had the good fortune to become associated with the Research Department of Craig Hospital as a member of project advisory bodies, including the Rocky Mountain Regional Brain Injury System and the TBI Model Systems National Data and Statistical Center. In my relative youth, I earned a baccalaureate degree in mathematics from the College of the Holy Cross and master’s and doctoral degrees in operations research from Case Institute of Technology and Case Western Reserve University. Working with the professionals of Craig Research has repeatedly demonstrated to me how far data-driven research and statistical methodology have advanced since my student days.



Laurie Silfies has been doing research at the University of Pittsburgh for more than 35 years. She became involved in TBI research when she moved to her current position at the Epidemiology Data Center in the Graduate School of Public Health in 2001. Since that time, she has been involved in the development of the database for the Pediatric Neurotrauma Data Center, the Cool Kids Trial (treating children with severe TBIs with hypothermia), the ADAPT Trial (an international observational cohort study comparing the effectiveness of pediatric TBI therapies) and is currently overseeing start-up for a TBI trauma study being done via the LITES Network. Her focus is on creating and implementing data management systems that provide robust data entry and reporting capabilities which ultimately lead to improved research and clinical practices and better outcomes for patients.



Dwayne Taliaferro, PhD, is the Program Manager for the Traumatic Brain Injury and Psychological Health Research Program at the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs (CDMRP). He is also the Program Area Liaison supporting the US Army Medical Research and Development Command's Joint Program Committee 6 for Combat Casualty Care Research. Dwayne has been serving as the CDMRP co-lead for FITBIR since 2013.



Nsini Umoh, PhD, is a Program Director in the Repair and Plasticity Cluster in the Division of Neuroscience. Dr. Umoh received her PhD at Howard University in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics and did post-doctoral training in extremity trauma at Yale University and the U.S Army Institute of Surgical Research. Before joining NINDS, she served as a scientific program manager at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Office of Research & Development. While at the VA, she managed research related to traumatic brain injury, women's health, and health equity. Before joining the VA, Nsini spent 3 years as a portfolio manager at the U.S Department of Defense (DoD) Medical Research and Development Command (MRDC) headquartered in Frederick, MD. While at MRDC, Nsini worked with the Combat Casualty Care Research Program (CCCRP) to manage research related to the early management of combat-related neurotrauma on the battlefield. As a NINDS TBI Program Director, Dr. Umoh manages a broad research portfolio including translational and clinical research, serves as co-director of the Federal Interagency TBI Research informatics platform, and works with national and international partners.



B. Christie Vu, PhD, currently serves as a Program Manager at the Congressionally Directed Medical Research Programs, U.S. Army Medical Research and Development Command. She manages the Combat Readiness—Medical Research Program. She also provides program execution management support to the Defense Medical Research and Development Programs' Military Operational Medicine Research Program's Injury Prevention and Reduction, Environmental Health and Protection, and Physiological Health and Performance portfolios as well as the Combat Casualty Care Research Program's Prolonged Care and En Route Care portfolios. Dr. Vu works with interdisciplinary teams to manage the programmatic execution of various research efforts in the areas of traumatic brain injury, combat trauma, and Warfighter health, including joint DoD/VA funding mechanisms, and serves on USAMRMC integrated product teams for acquisition of medical materiel. Dr. Vu has been involved in interagency efforts such as the Federal Interagency TBI Research (FITBIR) Informatics System, the Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium (CENC), and Long-term Impact of Military-related Brain Injury Consortium (LIMBIC). Prior to joining CDMRP, Dr. Vu studied HIV drug development and drug resistance at the National Cancer Institute at Frederick.

Dr. Vu holds Master of Science and Ph.D. degrees in Chemistry from the Pennsylvania State University, in 2001 and 2004. She earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry in 1998 from Creighton University, where she was a Clare Booth Luce Women in Science Scholar.



Dr. Elisabeth Wilde is a Professor in the Department of Neurology at the University of Utah and an Associate Professor in the Departments of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Neurology and Radiology at Baylor College of Medicine. She also holds an appointment as a Health Research Scientist in the US Veterans Affairs Health System (VA Salt Lake City Healthcare System). Her research interests include the use of advanced forms of neuroimaging to enhance diagnosis and prognosis, monitor

recovery and neurodegeneration, evaluate the efficacy of therapeutic intervention, and elucidate aspects of neuroplasticity in traumatic brain injury. As a clinical neuropsychologist, she has an interest in brain-behavior relationships involving cognitive, neurological, and functional outcome and clinical trials in traumatic brain injury and associated comorbidities. For the last 20 years, she has worked with patients with traumatic brain injury and concussion across a spectrum of age, severity, and acuity, with particular interests in children and adolescents, athletes, and Veteran and Active-Duty Service Members with concussion or traumatic brain injury. She has participated in over 40 federally funded clinical projects in TBI and has authored over 140 peer-reviewed publications. Dr. Wilde is currently the Director of the Neuroimaging Core for the Department of Defense and Veterans Affairs co-funded Long-term Impact of Military-relevant Brain Injury Consortium (LIMBIC) - Chronic Effects of Neurotrauma Consortium (CENC) Neuroimaging Core and has been actively involved in the International Common Data Elements (CDE) initiative and co-leads the Enhancing Neuroimaging Genetics Meta-analysis (ENIGMA) Working Group for TBI.



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