

CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The 2006 Galveston Brain Injury Conference will focus on pediatric issues surrounding TBI. The conference will be facilitated by Roberta DePompei, PhD, an internationally known expert in brain injury, recognized for her research and development of clinical techniques for cognitive-communication and school reintegration issues for youth. Following an introduction by Dr. Pompei, and presentations by the group chairs, participants will break into work groups.

While there are many important issues that could be discussed, we have chosen to emphasize four:

1. neuropsychological, neurophysical, developmental issues
2. assessment and outcome issues
3. school transition intervention education issues
4. transition into adulthood and community

We will NOT be discussing needs and what ought to be done. We will be discussing best practice that presently exists and how to further innovative research and clinical agendas. Your specific assignment will be to provide information, articles, materials regarding your present best practice in the area/group you will be part of for others to read prior to coming to Galveston, and to work while you are there to establish 3-5 overall themes that are best practice, and to develop additional plans for research dissemination and utilization across the country. It is our hope that the conference will enhance collaborative relationships to address these issues and encourage much needed research in the area of pediatric brain injury prevention and recovery.

In order to facilitate discussion prior to the conference, Jay Tanet, Assistant to the Dean, School of Allied Health Sciences at UTMB, will be contacting you by e-mail and asking you to join one of the four discussion groups. Some of you have committed to a specific group and some have not. We have assigned those of you who have not chosen a group to one of the discussion groups (see Discussion Group lists). Please respond to that group and interact with them. You are free to change groups on site regardless of the discussion group you participated in on the web site. We want you to choose the group you have the most interest in and the one where you believe you can contribute the most. If you want to participate in more than one discussion group, please let Jay know and he will get your name on multiple groups! The following questions will be asked on the web site in order to start the discussion.

Personal Questions:

1. Provide a brief vita. One paragraph is sufficient--please no longer than one page.
2. List your areas of interest in pediatric TBI/ABI. (For those who work with adults, please provide you areas of interest. You are invited for your experience in the field and we want to know your background as well. We believe your experience with adults can help guide our work with kids—in fact, these kids will soon be adults and that is the focus of group 4!).

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3. Can you provide a recent publication/presentation/power point that will help us know your professional interests better? (At this time we believe you can add this to the web site—there will be instructions on the web site as to how to do this. If we are wrong, please tell us where we might locate this or send it through e-mail to your group).

Discussion Questions:

1. What do you see as the number one issue/advance that is making a difference in working with this population?
2. How are you presently working to address this issue?
3. Is it necessary to provide evidence-based research in order to advance this idea/issue?
4. If you had \$1 million to work with persons with TBI, what would you do with it?
5. Is there a theory or model of assessment/treatment to which you subscribe?
6. How can what we already know be better disseminated and utilized throughout the country/world?
7. Based on the above 6 questions and how others in the group answered them, what challenges/questions would you give to other members?

Each chairperson will add 1-2 questions of their own in order to get the discussion going further. We will only be on line for 8-9 weeks so please participate often so that we may get to know each other better.

Thank you for your participation. We look forward to seeing all of you in Galveston.