



# Brain-e-News

INFORMATION FROM JEFFERSON MOSS  
REHABILITATION RESEARCH INSTITUTE  
TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY MODEL SYSTEM



Thomas Jefferson  
University

HOME OF SIDNEY KIMMEL MEDICAL COLLEGE

## RESOURCES

Jefferson Moss Rehabilitation Research  
Institute

[www.mrri.org](http://www.mrri.org)

The Center for Outcome Measurement  
in Brain Injury

[www.tbims.org/combi](http://www.tbims.org/combi)

Brain Injury Association of America

[www.biausa.org](http://www.biausa.org)

Brain Injury Resource Line

1-800-444-6443

Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania

[www.biapa.org](http://www.biapa.org)

1-833-242-7248

Brain Injury Alliance of New Jersey

[www.bianj.org](http://www.bianj.org)

1-732-745-0200

Family Helpline

1-800-669-4323

Brain Injury Association of Delaware

[www.biade.org](http://www.biade.org)

1-302-346-2083

Model System Knowledge Translation  
Center

[www.msktc.org](http://www.msktc.org)

BrainLine

[www.brainline.org](http://www.brainline.org)

## Discovering a New Path after Brain Injury

FALL 2024

On Saturday, October 12, 2024, the Moss Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Model System and Jefferson Moss-Magee Rehabilitation co-hosted the *Discovering a New Path after Brain Injury* conference, marking the 6<sup>th</sup> TBI Model Systems consumer conference in the Philadelphia area. Over 150 attendees enjoyed a day of lectures, discussion groups, hands-on workshops, networking, and resource-sharing at Thomas Jefferson University's Hamilton Hall. A virtual option was also available for attendees who couldn't join us in person.

The program focused on "new paths after brain injury", with topics addressing wellness and self-care, coping with mood, relationships and intimacy, getting around in the community, and aging. Sessions featured research findings, discussions, and practical advice from experts on brain injury research and clinical care, as well as individuals with lived experience of brain injury.

Jennifer Lynn Robinson inspired the audience with a Keynote Address that was infused with positivity, resilience, and her personal story of finding a new path after brain injury.





## Discovering a New Path after Brain Injury (con't)

In addition to the lectures and discussions, conference goers participated in hands-on sessions, which allowed them to express themselves in the form of journaling, music, and mask making.



We would like to thank everyone involved in planning this inspiring event. The Advisory Committee was led by Dr. Rabinowitz – the Moss TBI Model System project director – and included Donald Thomas, Melody Mendez, Jordan Donnelly, and representatives from Jefferson Moss-Magee Rehabilitation, Bancroft, Beechwood NeuroRehab, Bryn Mawr Rehab Hospital, ReMed, Success Rehabilitation, and the Brain Injury Association of Pennsylvania.

## Research Team Member:

Jaclyn Barcikowski, DO

*Jaclyn Barcikowski, DO, is a physiatrist certified in Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation and Brain Injury Medicine. She serves as a Clinical Director of the Stroke Rehab Unit, as well as Associate Program Director of the MossRehab Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Residency Training Program.*



“I work as a physiatrist in the Brain Injury Center at Elkins Park. I came straight to MossRehab after completing my fellowship. Coming here was a huge opportunity for me. MossRehab has a wonderful reputation, particularly for brain injury medicine. My patients include those admitted to the hospital who require a high intensity of medical care due to brain injuries. I also work with outpatients discharged from the hospital. They come to my practice to get care and may receive different outpatient therapies such as physical, occupational, and speech.

I have been excited to work with Dr. Rabinowitz and her team on the GetUp&Go study - a research program to promote physical activity in people living with TBI. I am thrilled to be part of this research. As a marathon runner and avid hiker, I am passionate about the benefits of exercise and experience it personally in my own life. Evidence suggests that encouraging regular exercise not only aids in the rehabilitation process but also brings about a myriad of health benefits. From improved cognitive function and mood enhancement to enhanced cardiovascular health, the positive outcomes are vast. I am enthusiastic about the potential impact this research could have on the well-being of my patients and others living with brain injuries.”



## Faces of the Model System

The TBI Lab would like to highlight two of our Research Assistants – McKenzie Buszkiewicz and Dennis Tirri – who both joined us in the fall of 2023.

McKenzie is a graduate of University of California San Diego (UCSD), earning her bachelor’s degree in Cognitive and Behavioral Neuroscience, with a minor in Human Developmental Sciences. As an undergraduate, she worked as a research intern

in the Neural Engineering and Translation Lab, and she was a member of the research committee for Psi Chi – the International Honor Society in Psychology.

In the TBI Lab, McKenzie conducts follow-up interviews at various post-injury milestones. She most enjoys taking advantage of all the learning opportunities at Jefferson Moss Rehabilitation Research Institute. When she is not working, McKenzie enjoys painting, lifting weights, and playing with her cat and bunny.

Dennis received his bachelor’s degree in Neuroscience from Bucknell University, and he is a graduate of the University of Mississippi, where he earned his Master of Arts in Psychology, with an emphasis in Clinical Psychology. As part of his master’s thesis, Dennis examined the effects of cognitive fatigue on working memory and decision-making in individuals with traumatic brain injury, and he has several years of experience as a Research Assistant with the Northern New Jersey Traumatic Brain Injury Model System.

In the TBI Lab, Dennis recruits new participants to our TBI Model Systems project, and he conducts interviews for several other studies. Dennis takes pleasure in being part of a team that is dedicated to improving the lives of individuals with TBI. In his free time, he enjoys going to the gym, playing with his dog, and volunteering in his community.

Thank you for all your hard work, McKenzie and Dennis!



## Empowerment Group Meeting

The Elkins Park Empowerment Group meets on the second Monday of each month from 5-6:30 PM virtually. Please contact Kelsey McIntyre for more information.

Phone: **215-456-9397**

Email: [kelsey.mcintyre@jefferson.edu](mailto:kelsey.mcintyre@jefferson.edu)





Jefferson Moss Rehabilitation Research Institute  
50 E. Township Line Road  
Elkins Park, PA 19027  
Attn: Lauren Krasucki



The National Institute on Disability, Independent Living and Rehabilitation Research has designated Moss as a Model System for traumatic brain injury since 1997. The TBI Model System seeks to improve lives by creating and disseminating new knowledge about the course, treatment, and outcomes of TBI.

Current Traumatic Brain Injury Model Systems

