



# 2024 Arkansas Trauma Rehabilitation Symposium

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September 12, 2024

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**EMBASSY SUITES**

11301 Financial Center Parkway

Little Rock, AR 72211



Dear attendees-

On behalf of the planning committee, I would like to extend our warmest welcome to you as we kick off the 2024 Arkansas Trauma Rehabilitation Symposium. Your presence here is highly appreciated. We are thrilled that you are able to join us for what promises to be an inspiring and informative event. Organizers are dedicated to the goal of fostering a collaborative atmosphere and providing you with opportunities to network and connect with fellow experts in your field.

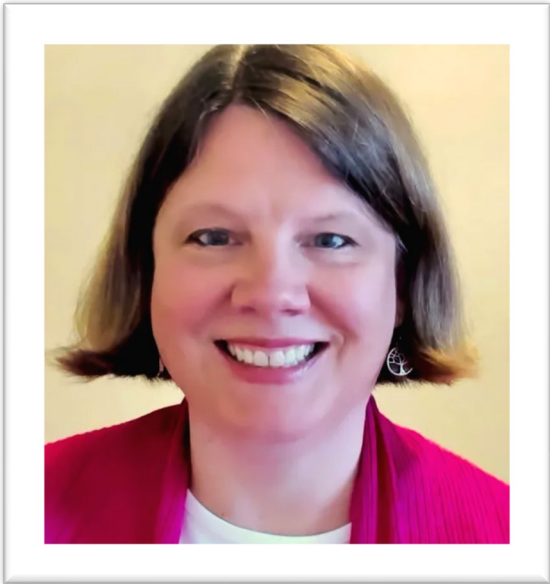
I think you will find this event to be an enriching experience packed with valuable, current, and local information in which to care for your patients. Although we have a distinguished speaker lineup with a wide palette of topics, I think you will find Carole Starr's story fascinating, and Dr. Joseph Giacino's best practices for disorders of consciousness patients revolutionary. We look forward to dynamic conversations and collaborative interactions that help us all to cultivate our understanding of how-to best care for our patients.

-Danny

# 2024 Arkansas Trauma Rehabilitation Symposium

TIME	TITLE	PRESENTER
7:30 a.m.	Registration & Refreshments (provided)	
8:00 a.m.	Brain Injury Program Report of Arkansas TBI & SCI Trends	Danny Bercher
8:15 a.m.	<b>MORNING KEYNOTE ADDRESS:</b> Weasilience: Handling Life's Wild Moments	Carole Starr
9:15 a.m.	Exhibitor Break	
10:00 a.m.	The Arkansas Pediatric Concussion Profile, Clinics, and Intervention Strategies	Lauren Poindexter/ Danny Bercher
11:00 a.m.	Return to Work for SCI Survivors	Jennifer Goodwin
Noon	Lunch (Provided)	
1:00 p.m.	So Every BODY Can Move – Arkansas; Disability Rights for Prosthetic Users	Francois Vanderwatt
2:00 p.m.	<b>AFTERNOON KEYNOTE ADDRESS:</b> Natural History of recovery and outcome after severe TBI: Separating fact from fiction	Joseph Giacino
3:00 p.m.	Exhibitor Break	
3:30 p.m.	De-escalation Techniques in Acute Care Settings	Chrystal Fullen/ Stephen Docherty
4:30 p.m.	Vertigo and Balance Issues	Sam Atcherson
5:30 p.m.	Rehabilitation for Burn Injury Survivors: Bringing Research to Practice	Mandy Yelvington
6:30 p.m.	Closing Remarks	Danny Bercher

# Keynote Speakers



*Carole Starr, M.S.*

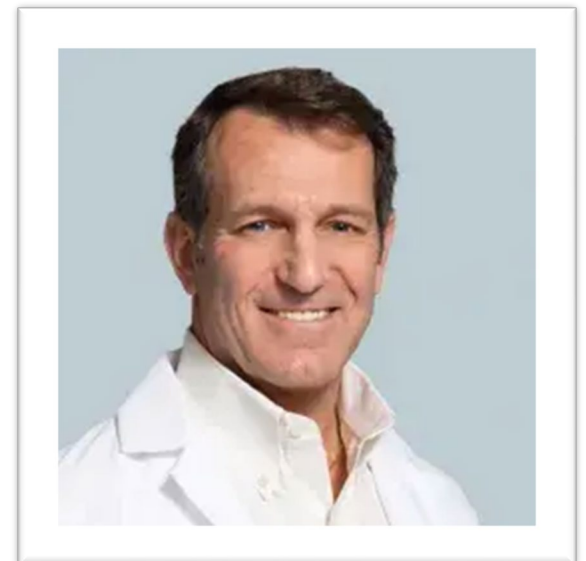
## *Weasilience: Handling Life's Wild Moments*

Carole Starr's life changed forever in 1999 when she sustained a brain injury in a car accident. She was unable to continue her life as a teacher and amateur musician. It took Carol many years to accept her brain injury and the new person she became. She's reinvented herself by focusing on what she can do. She's now an inspiring keynote speaker and the found and facilitator of Brain Injury voices, an award-winning survivor education, advocacy, and peer mentoring volunteer group.

*Joseph Giacino, PhD*

## *Natural History of recovery and outcome after severe TBI: Separating fact from fiction*

Dr. Giacino is Director of the Spaulding Rehabilitation Network (SRN) Disorders of Consciousness (DoC) Program, Director of Rehabilitation Neuropsychology, and Professor in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Harvard Medical School. He directs the SRN Neurorehabilitation Laboratory, which develops assessment and treatment methods for severe acquired brain injury and DoC and serves on the teaching faculty of the Center for Bioethics at Harvard Medical School.



# Speakers

## Sam Atcherson, PhD, FNAP



Samuel R. Atcherson, PhD, is a nationally recognized leading scholar, mentor, and educator in audiology. He serves as a professor in the Departments of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology and the Department of Otolaryngology – Head & Neck Surgery. As a person with lifelong hearing loss, Dr. Atcherson's areas of interest and expertise include audiologic rehabilitation, auditory electrophysiology, and health literacy and health disparities. He has authored over 60 peer-reviewed articles, 50 non-refereed articles, 3 textbooks, and numerous book chapters. Dr. Atcherson holds two textbook contracts with Thieme Medical Publishers and has been awarded over \$477,000 in grant funding. He is on the Editorial Board for the Journal of the American Academy of Audiology and is a Distinguished Scholar Fellow of the National Academies of Practice.

## Danny Bercher, PhD, NRP, CBIS

Dr. Bercher has been a licensed Arkansas paramedic and instructor as well as certified National Registry of EMTs Paramedic since 1985. His education includes a B.S. at the University of Arkansas, M.Ed. in Adult Education from the University of Arkansas – Little Rock, and PhD in Health Sciences from the University of Arkansas. He is a Certified Brain Injury Specialist (CBIS). He was a full-time paramedic in Little Rock and later a flight paramedic. He has served as the Director of the UAMS IDHI Brain Injury Program since 2018.



## Stephen Docherty, PsyD

Dr. Docherty is a neuropsychology fellow at UAMS in the Psychiatric Research Institute. He completed graduate training California Lutheran University. His primary areas of interest involve cognitive rehabilitation, serious mental illness, and acquired brain injury. Currently, Dr. Docherty engages in several projects, including the Arkansas Brain Injury Group's brain injury peer mentorship and support group pilot training, THRIVE (The Holistic Rehabilitation Intervention Experience).



# Speakers

## *Chrystal Fullen, PsyD*

Dr. Chrystal Fullen is a Clinical Neuropsychologist serving the Departments of Psychiatry, Neurology, and Trauma Surgery at the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences. In addition, she also provides neuropsychological services to include assessment, intervention, and agitation management at Baptist Health Rehabilitation Institute. She graduated from Our Lady of the Lake University with a doctorate degree in Psychology and completed her clinical internship at the South Texas VA in Clinical Neuropsychology and fellowship at UAMS, where she focused on furthering her specialization in neuropsychological



## *Jennifer Goodwin, JD*

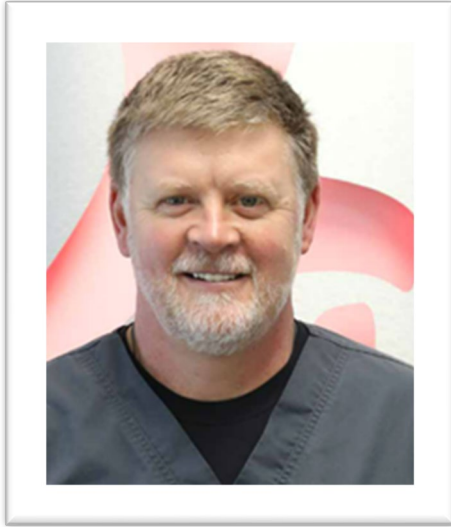
Jen is quadriplegic, an attorney, and most importantly, a mom to two incredible boys. She sustained a spinal cord injury 16 years ago that led to trading in her heels as a pharmaceutical sales rep for wheels. After several years focused on rehab, Jen decided to advance her education and graduated from Bowen School of Law in 2017. She is an attorney at Disability Rights Arkansas and focuses on special education and employment law. She enjoys spending time with her boys and family and anything outdoors.

## *Lauren Poindexter, MD*

Dr. Lauren Poindexter, M.D., is a NYU fellowship-trained rehabilitation and sports medicine physician specializing in concussion management, non-surgical treatment of spine and sports injuries, including injections and PRP. She is a former assistant professor in the UAMS departments of Orthopedics and Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation in Fayetteville, Lowell, and Arkansas Children's Northwest and currently serves as an adjunct professor in the NYU Rusk Rehabilitation Department. Dr. Poindexter earned a Master of Athletic Training from the University of Arkansas and completed a fellowship at The Steadman Clinic. After graduating from Virginia Tech Carilion School of Medicine, she completed her surgery internship in Phoenix and residency at the University of Arkansas. She formerly served as a team physician for the Arkansas Razorbacks®, has consulted for the Seattle Seahawks, and provided medical care at the 2023 Winter World University Games, Little Rock Marathon, and USA Triathlon.



# Speakers



*Francois Van Der Watt, CPO/LPO*

As a native from South Africa, Francois moved to the USA in 2002. He is the owner/CPO at Van Der Watt Prosthetics & Orthotics in Greenwood and Barling, Arkansas. He provides general prosthetic and orthotic care to patients of all ages and functional levels but specializes in high-performance sport and activity prosthetics and has been part of the US Paralympic Track & Field Team since 2011.

Francois is a member of the Arkansas Orthotic, Prosthetic and Pedorthic Advisory Board and has authored Chapter 50: Adaptive Lower Limb Prostheses for Sports and Recreation in the 5th edition of the Atlas of Amputations and Limb Deficiencies: Surgical, Prosthetic, and Rehabilitation Principles; published by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons.

*Mandy Yelvington, PhD, OTR/L, BCFR, BT-C*

Miranda Yelvington is an Occupational Therapist Arkansas Children's Hospital in Little Rock and is a Certified Burn Therapist (BT-C). For the last 25 years, she has been practicing at Arkansas Children's Hospital, specializing in Burn Rehabilitation. Miranda has authored or co-authored papers published in national and international journals and has presented at regional, national, and international conferences.



# Exhibitors

Thank you to all of our exhibitors.  
This event could not happen without you.



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# Speaker and Symposium Evaluations

- ✓ Please be sure to fill out the speaker and symposium evaluations.
- ✓ There is an evaluation for each presentation and a few questions about the symposium overall.
- ✓ As a reminder, *all* evaluations must be completed by the due date to receive CE credit.
- ✓ If you do not get a chance to complete all of the evaluations today, you will receive follow up emails over the next couple of weeks.
- ✓ Evaluation QR codes may be found below on each attendee table, the registration area, or ask your nearest UAMS employee. They will be able to provide one for you.



<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2024ARTRS>

# UAMS IDHI Brain Injury Program

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