



Kenneth Podell, Council Member

Dr. Kenneth Podell is a board certified neuropsychologist and has been practicing for over 25 years. Dr. Podell is the director of The Houston Methodist Concussion Center and Neuropsychology Section, Dept. of Neurology where he oversees concussion care neuropsychological services for Houston Methodist. He works with several professional, collegiate, and high school teams and is actively involved in concussion research and publications. Dr. Podell serves on NCAA concussion committees and is a member of the Big 10-Ivy League TBI Research Collaboration, Assessment Work Group. He is an Associate Professor in The Weill Medical School, Cornell University, and Institute for Academic Medicine, Houston Methodist, Houston, and an adjunct Associate Professor in the Department of Psychology, University of Houston. He is a reviewer for several journals. Dr. Podell is one of the original developers of ImpACT (Immediate Post-Concussion and Cognitive Testing) – the most widely used neurocognitive measure for return to play from concussions. Dr. Podell is passionate about working with our youth athletes in trying to reduce the risk of brain injuries through education, prevention, clinical care and research.



Jim Batchelor, Council Member

My name is Jim Batchelor. I'm a medically retired Army infantryman who was shot in the head while serving in Iraq on April 4, 2004 during Operation Iraqi Freedom. Since suffering a severe TBI, I have gone on to obtain my bachelor's in criminal justice and a master's of science in national security and serve not only on this board but am the chair for the Texas SILC and serve with numerous veteran organizations such as the CVMA and the American Legion.



Kimberly Hall Oas, Council Member

Kim Oas FNP-BC currently serves as the Assistant Director of Advance Practice Providers at the Peter O'Donnell Brain Center of UT Southwestern in Dallas, Texas. Kim brings over 2 decades of



treating patients with neurologic issues to include Brain Injury here in Texas as well as on the national level. She has worked in Neurologic settings in Boston, MA, Cleveland OH, and at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester MN prior to returning to Texas 5 years ago. Her experience includes both acute and ambulatory settings and she is committed to transition of care from the acute environment to home. She has taught in the graduate and undergraduate level in both didactic and clinical settings for multiple disciplines and universities. She has presented at national and regional meetings specific to Neurology topics inclusive of TBI and Concussion and has published in peer reviewed professional journals.

She completed her graduate education and training in Texas where she received her undergraduate and Master's degree in Nursing and FNP training in the University of Texas system.



Larry Swift, Council Member

Larry is the parent and guardian of an adult child who sustained a brain injury in a motor vehicle crash in 1993. Since then, Larry has been actively involved in pursuing resources to assist his daughter in her recovery and in having a good quality of life. Larry has worked actively with others in the brain injury community and the larger disability community to address policy issues that can improve recovery and quality of life for all Texans with disabilities. Larry has



worked with the Texas Brain Injury Advisory Council and its predecessors in formal and informal roles since its inception in 1997. Larry is retired from Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) where he served as a policy advisor on long-term services and supports. Larry served as a policy analyst with the Texas Department of State Health Services addressing policy issues for children with special health care needs, and served as director for the Texas Traumatic Brain Injury Project with the Texas Department of Health and HHSC.



Patti Foster, Council Member

Patti Foster's life is a testament to the intense love she has for others. Her joy and laughter refresh those around her, and she welcomes opportunities to influence lives through her motto: **M.A.D. Now!** - *Make A Difference Now!*

She has traveled with a fine arts team to Australia, toured with the university choir to the British Isles and spent a week in the heart of Mexico with a mission group. Performances with the Fort Worth Chamber Orchestra and the Sam Houston State University Orchestra further broadened her scope of music and expression.

Since 1990, Patti has been in media – a voice-over talent and radio personality for various Christian stations in TX/LA and IN/MI.



On June 18, 2002, Patti's life came to an abrupt halt! A tractor-trailer rig, going 67mph and pulling a trailer full of cars, barreled into the back of their stopped Tahoe. Patti was ejected and suffered multiple bodily injuries along with a horrific severe brain injury. One of her friends died in the crash as Patti's body lay in a coma for 6 weeks.

Patti is an urgent advocate of brain injury. She has written her own story, **COPING with TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY: One Woman's Journey from Death to Life**, available as paperback, eBook, and audio. Plus she has been invited to write her miraculous brain injury story in numerous paperback books, as well as an audiobook. She serves as Vice President of Hope After Brain Injury, is a member of the North Texas TBI Model System Advisory Council, is also a member of the BIAA-Texas Division Strategic Planning Committee, and travels often as a speaker for MADD.

Visit her web site: www.pattifoster.com or email her: info@pattifoster.com



Vanessa Alba, Council Member

Vanessa Alba, a native Austinite, had a massive stroke on April 23, 2013 at the age of 45 that affected her right side. With intensive physical, speech and occupational therapy at The Central Texas Rehabilitation Hospital and St. David's Round Rock Hospital, in in-patient and out-patient settings, she was able to return to full time employment two years ago with minimal



modifications and understands first-hand the challenges (physical, emotional, social and cognitive) a stroke survivor encounters both in the workplace and daily life. She is a member of the St. David's Round Rock brain injury support group and interacts regularly with people who have had various types of brain injuries. This experience has enabled her to more fully understand the variety of challenges survivors encounter. She hopes to bring a voice and insight into the obstacles survivors face each day and a focus on the types of support that survivors need in order to live full, productive, independent lives post-brain injury. An educator in Texas for the past 23 years, she has served as a teacher and principal in the elementary and middle school settings. She earned her Bachelor of Arts and Master of Education degrees, in 1989 and 1998 respectively, from The University of Texas at Austin and is currently employed at the Texas Education Agency.



Glyn Crane, Council Member

Born in Little Rock, Ar; married; three sons. I attended Florida State University. After spending many years in Law Enforcement I started my own business forms company.

I have dedicated my life to helping people. As a past member of the Jaycees of Longview I served on all committees and as an officer at various times. I have served as trustee on the Community Healthcare Board for over 20 years; the last few as Vice chairman. The Community



Healthcore services nine counties for mental health. I served as past Chair of the American Heart Association of Gregg County and on the Board of Directors for the Young Men's Christian Association and currently on the Texas Department of Aging and Disability Services. I am a member of the First United Methodist Church of Longview serving as Head Usher and on the Board of Trustees.



Christi Wilson, Council Member

Howdy! I'm Christi Wilson from the Bryan/College Station area, better known as Aggieland. Along with being a former 1st grade school teacher and administrative assistant, my proudest accomplishment is being a mother to my three children - Calli is almost 5, Haley is almost 3, and Colby is 6 months old. Haley is my pediatric stroke survivor and she is my driving force for serving on the Texas BIAC. Haley's stroke occurred before she was even born resulting in an extensive medical diagnosis list along with therapies, specialists, medical equipment, orthotics, medications, tests, surgeries and the list continues. Additionally, navigating the medical field is a familiar realm as Calli has a rare form of food allergies, mast cell disorder, and other issues resulting from those allergies. Plus, Colby is somewhat following in Calli's food allergy footsteps. My husband Wes and I have been married for eleven years. I am truly blessed by his support along with wonderful local family and an incredible babysitter. While serving on the Texas BIAC,



I am excited to capitalize on my passion for volunteerism, organization, administration, leadership, and public service all while representing the knowledge I have learned through my experiences with Haley. I appreciate the opportunity to share my experiences as having a child with a prenatal stroke provides a unique set of challenges. I greatly look forward to serving alongside everyone.



Charles Walker, Council Member

Charles Walker has a doctoral degree from the UT Southwestern Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences where he completed an internship and a clinical neuropsychology fellowship. He was on the faculty at UT Southwestern before accepting a position at the Methodist Rehabilitation Institute in Lubbock, Texas, as neuropsychologist and management team member. After entering private practice he became a partner at the Southwest Center for Psychological Development. He taught and supervised doctoral students from Texas Tech University and he was a consulting neuropsychologist to the Lubbock Independent School District and Texas Tech Pediatric Integrative Clinical Services. In 2004, he returned to Tyler, Texas, and joined the graduate psychology faculty



at UT Tyler. He then served as Corporate Director for Clinical Affairs for NeuroRestorative Specialty Centers, Inc., a four-state system of brain injury rehabilitation programs. In 2013 he accepted his current position as Associate Professor of Medicine at UT Health Science Center at Tyler, where he helped to found a doctoral internship program in professional psychology. In 2007 he served as president of the East Texas Psychological Association, and he presently serves as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Texas Psychological Association. He has been active in community service and volunteer efforts, and his teaching and professional service has garnered a number of awards over the years. He is a licensed psychologist health service provider and has provided expert testimony concerning brain injury and mental health issues in State and Federal courts.



Jane Boutte, Council Member

Jane is recognized as a tireless advocate and leader in the development and operations of post-acute brain injury rehabilitation programs. She's held executive roles for two nationally recognized post-acute brain injury programs and is currently fostering the development of Baylor Institute for Rehabilitation's first Brain Injury Transitional Rehabilitation Program.



Jane has dedicated her career to enhancing programs and services available to every person living with a brain injury and their caregivers. In addition to her professional accomplishments, she has held various volunteer leadership roles within the brain injury community, including past president of the Brain Injury Association of Texas. Jane currently leads the BIAA – Texas Division’s Legislative Steering Committee and Advisory Board.

Jane has been a TBIAC volunteer or board member for the past 15 years, serving as past council chair and legislative chair. She’s passionate about educating lawmakers on issues related to brain injury, especially providing testimony and information to legislative committees and 1:1 contacts. She led efforts to develop brain injury insurance legislation and rule implementation; participated in the development and implementation of Cognitive Rehabilitative Therapy into Medicaid Waivers; developed various TBIAC Governors’ Reports; and spearheaded the effort to educate lawmakers and agency staff on the importance of maintaining an active, engaged, and strong Texas Brain Injury Advisory Council (TBIAC).



Stephanie Juarez, Council Member

December 2013, at 40 years old, my boyfriend suffered 4 strokes. His recovery has had many ups and downs. At times I have been his nurse, PT, OT, and SPT. With the help of the Texas



Brain Injury Advisory Council and the legislation they have fought hard to obtain, he was able to get the rehab he desperately needed.

Together, we discovered how difficult navigating the waters of recovery can be and I am committed to ensuring that others are able to get the rehab they are entitled to. I know just how hard it is to go through this painful process while juggling a child and a small business. Every survivor of brain injury needs an advocate and every advocate/caregiver needs support and sometimes a little guidance. I'm here to help where there is need.

This process has led me in a new direction in my professional life as well as my personal one. I have been a licensed massage therapist now for 15 years and have expanded my practice to include a form of bodywork created by Dr. Bruno Chikly called Brain Therapy in addition to CranioSacral Therapy, which I have been using in my practice for the past 10 years.



Janine Mazabob, Council Member



Janine has extensive critical care nursing clinical, educational and leadership experience with an emphasis in neurology trauma and stroke. Janine has been active in critical care serving in a leadership position with the local critical care nurses in Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Texas. In addition Janine is active on a local and national level with the Society of Critical Care Medicine. Janine has served as the Stroke Coordinator at Baylor St. Luke's Medical Center and led this organization in achieving Comprehensive Stroke Certification. Janine served as co-chair on the Stroke Coordinator Sub-committee with SETRAC. Janine led a successful Stroke Support Group in Houston. Her passion is to improve the health and well-being of the citizens in the state of Texas that suffer from brain injury.



Rose Pelzel, Council Member

Rose Pelzel of West Texas is the mom of Brian Pelzel, who had an auto accident in 2003 and sustained a TBI and then an ABI in 2005 after being bitten by a mosquito and suffering from viral encephalitis. She has worked in the insurance business for many years and is a volunteer with many groups, including in the past with the Brain Injury Association of Texas where she was a member as well as an officer. In 2006 she started volunteering on the TBIAC committees before being appointed to the Council. Serving as vice-chair twice, and chair once, she has helped with establishing the OABI, insurance bills helping BI survivors, educating the people of Texas, fighting to keep the Council and OABI from being cut from the State along with many



other items. Representing the Council, she participated on the State Congressional Brain Injury Annual Task Force and with the National Association of Head Injury Administrators in Washington D.C. where she learned of the needs of BI survivors not only in Texas but nationwide. This picture is large with many pieces. She continues to advocate for improving the availability and accessibility of brain injury supports and services in rural communities in West Texas as well as all of Texas.



Nancy Calvin, Council Member

Being on the Texas Brain Injury Advisory Council involves commitment to a cause which may be personal to one's family, one's neighborhood, or to one's community.

In my case, my commitment is due to all. As a patient, I learned what it is like to be in need of help from the medical community while in the ICU for two weeks. I continued to need the help and expertise of people in the medical field as I recovered during the next four months. Residual injuries have affected my concern for others who have had worse injuries.

As a parent, teacher, and friend, I have realized that this issue may require knowledge and wisdom when speaking up to help others see the impact of this type of injury on daily life for both the recovering patient as well as the caregivers. Also, the ability to convince others of the

need for funding a program is important.



Binu Tharakan, Volunteer

Currently I am an Assistant Professor and Research Scientist (Texas A&M University HSC College of Medicine and Baylor Scott and White Health). I have my Bachelor's, Master's and Ph.D degrees and postdoctoral research experience with a focus on neuroscience, traumatic injuries, vascular biology, etc. (Postdoctoral research: National Institutes of Health (NIH) Bethesda, MD; Texas A&M University Health Science Center/Scott and White, etc.). Currently I supervise an active research lab and collaborate with trauma surgeons from my department on various research projects. I have published more than fifty scientific articles in internationally reputed science journals. I also serve as editor and editorial board member of multiple international journals and review research articles for journals in the field of traumatic injuries. I also serve as an editor of a book titled, Traumatic and Ischemic Injuries: Methods and Protocols by Springer (chapters written by 19 invited authors internationally). I am also involved in educating and generating awareness in students and the public about brain injuries, in science advocacy efforts, and have participated in various scientific delegations to Capitol Hill. I

hope that my research and academic experience in this field will bring additional scientific/academic input to these important committees.



Lauren Medel, Volunteer

Lauren obtained her Bachelors of Applied Science from Arizona State University. She went onto obtain her MBA in Management at Western International University and then her JD at St. Mary's University School of Law. During her undergrad Lauren sold real estate in the Scottsdale Arizona area to mainly first time buyers. After moving back to Texas and while working toward her MBA, Lauren worked as a claims adjuster at Progressive Insurance. During law school Lauren was an adjunct professor teaching business law, ethics and human resources. Most recently, Lauren has worked at AT&T as part of the Leadership Development Program in Supply Chain.

After surviving a horrific car accident, Lauren decided it was time to finally pursue her dreams of going to law school and becoming a lawyer. Hey, if you can learn how to walk again when you're 25 you can conquer law school, can't you? Lauren is sensitive to the needs of everyday people. She's especially fond of helping small businesses and regular people overcome real issues.



Lauren currently resides in Oak Cliff. She is active in local issues including infrastructure, education and civil and disability rights. She is married with two children.



Kristen Shumbera, Volunteer

Having been in education for over ten years, educating others about brain injuries is an interest of mine. My primary area of concern is educating parents how to help their child after a brain injury to ensure success in school and life. My husband Brad and I were thrown into the world of brain injuries after my son suffered a traumatic brain injury at five months old. Since his injury, we have focused on Lincoln's care and providing as much early intervention as possible. Our family resides in College Station where my husband and I work at Texas A&M. Lincoln attends the Preschool Program for Children with Disabilities (PPCD) through the local school district.

Check out our blog at: <http://theshumberas.blogspot.com/>