

Anthony Lequerica Ph.D., Senior Research Scientist, Kessler Foundation

Dr. Lequerica obtained his doctoral degree in Clinical Psychology with a specialization in Neuropsychology from Wayne State University. After his internship at the John D. Dingell Veterans Affairs Medical Center in Detroit, he completed a two-year post-doctoral fellowship in the Advanced Rehabilitation Research Training program sponsored by the National Institute for Disability, Independent Living, and Rehabilitation Research (NIDILRR) at the University of Michigan. As a Senior Research Scientist at Kessler Foundation, he is the Director of the Brain and Behavioral Outcomes Lab within the Center for Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Research. His major area of research focus lies in examining cultural issues and social determinants of health that affect outcomes after TBI, with a secondary line of research examining sleep-wake regulation and sleep-dependent neuroplasticity after TBI. He has a fervent interest in psychometrics and mixed-methods research, synthesizing qualitative and quantitative approaches. Dr. Lequerica has a clinical appointment at Kessler Institute for Rehabilitation's Cognitive Rehabilitation Program where he specializes in the delivery of neuropsychological services to Spanish-speakers. He has over 60 peer-reviewed publications and has given numerous presentations across the U.S. and abroad to researchers, health care professionals, and individuals with brain injury and their families.

Stacia Bissell, M.Ed., Brain Injury Speaker, Educator, Coach

Ms. Bissell is a brain injury coach, educator, public speaker...and survivor. She specializes in helping others find personal and professional growth relating to brain injury. She has degrees in mathematics and education, and spent much of her career as a secondary math teacher until taking on roles in administration and academic coaching. In 2011, she became a licensed middle and high school principal with aspirations of running her own school in the near future. However, a bicycle accident that same year left her with a traumatic brain injury and her career as a public school educator came to an end. After her world was turned upside down personally and professionally, she started the journey of navigating life with a new brain and new circumstances. It was her Speech Language Pathologist, Katya Bowen, who planted the seed that one day she might educate people in a different way. Ms. Bissell has been a Keynote speaker and workshop provider at a number of events, schools, hospitals and service organizations, written about her post-TBI journey featured in Brain Injury HOPE Magazine, and is a Program Leader for LoveYourBrain. She was co-founder of the Northampton Massachusetts Brain Injury Support group and was instrumental in the design of a professional development package for teachers on "return-to-learn" strategies after students suffer from concussion, and which has now become part of the BIA of Massachusetts. Ms. Bissell is an established coach and mentor to other survivors and caregivers, offering services designed to help promote hope, healing and forward movement. You can learn more about her at www.TBImentor.com. Ms. Bissell is a native of Berkshire County in Western Massachusetts. She has three grown children, two grandchildren, and a cute cat...named Greta.

Michelle Brisman Ph.D., Director of Clinical Services/Neuropsychologist, Supported Living Group

Dr. Brisman has been a neuropsychologist for over 25 years, working both in clinical settings and privately. She is the Director of Clinical Services at The Supported Living Group, an organization that provides community based, person focused support services for multiple Waiver programs including ABI

Waiver I and II. She is a team member for numerous Waiver programs for SLG as well as private and other agencies, aimed at improving an individual's quality of life, assist with self-esteem, and overcome the physical, social, and cognitive obstacles of a brain injury. Dr. Brisman performs diagnostic and CBT services for these clients, managing a wide array of behavioral issues from sequelae of their TBI or ABI. She works with each Waiver team individually to develop comprehensive behavior plans to manage maladaptive behaviors and achieve life goals. In addition to her work at SLG, Dr. Brisman maintains a private practice in Farmington, CT specializing in forensic evaluations. She received her doctorate from Yeshiva University in the Bronx, NY.

Barbara Nadeau, Barbara Nadeau, Ph.D., OTR/L, Clinical Professor/Program Director for Post-Professional Occupational Therapy Doctorate Program Quinnipiac University

Dr. Barbara Nadeau is a Clinical Professor at Quinnipiac University and an occupational therapist who works in the Connecticut Acquired Brain Injury Waiver program as a Cognitive Behaviorist. Dr. Nadeau has worked with individuals with brain injuries for many years and co-leads a BIAC support group in North Haven. Above all, Dr. Nadeau is committed to recognizing the strengths and valuing the perceptions of all individuals.

Colette Seter Elliott Ph.D., Program Director/Rehabilitation Psychologist, Hospital for Special Care Neurobehavioral Program

Dr. Elliott is presently the Program Director and Rehabilitation Psychologist for the Neurobehavioral Program at HFSC, a 25-bed inpatient long-term community reintegration program for adults with brain injury. I lead our interdisciplinary team and oversee treatment plans, admissions, and Program policies. She provides individual and family psychotherapy and lead various treatment groups, as well as supervise psychology practicum students and fellows. Dr. Elliott also provides psychotherapy services within the Psychology Outpatient Clinic and the Center for Cognitive Health, serving patients and caregivers with various presenting problems related to medical diagnoses, such as cancer, ALS and other movement disorders, chronic pain, pulmonary disease, and neurocognitive disorders. Dr. Elliott is also a trained neuropsychologist and utilize assessments for treatment planning. Her treatment incorporates CBT, ACT, mindfulness, and cognitive rehabilitation techniques.

Kris Shea, Graduate Student, Hartford University

Mr. Shea is a fourth-year doctoral student in the Clinical Psychology PsyD program at the University of Hartford. He is currently completing his externship with the Neurobehavioral Program at the Hospital for Special Care and the Clinical Resource Hub at VA West Haven. As a member of the U.S. Navy, he will be attending internship at Naval Medical Center Portsmouth in Virginia beginning in August 2023. Mr. Shea's clinical and research interests involve exploring the intersection of military and queer/gender diverse identities, enhancing cultural responsiveness in clinical training settings, and the dual diagnosis of PTSD and substance use disorders.

Lindsey LoStimolo, Graduate Student, Hartford University

Ms. LoStimolo is a fourth-year doctoral student in the Clinical Psychology PsyD program at the University of Hartford. She is currently completing my externship with the Neurobehavioral Program at the Hospital for Special Care and at Yale Psychological Assessment Services. As a fourth-year doctoral student, she is currently in the interview and match process for her internship training year beginning in Summer 2023. Lindsey's clinical and research interests involve exploring the intersection between identity development and mental health, and sexual functioning, sociocultural influences in case presentation, and internal systems approaches to trauma treatment.

Staff sergeant Juliet Taylor, Master's Degree Mental Health Counseling, Intake & Program Access Specialist, CT Veteran Legal Center

Ms. Taylor enlisted in the US Army 2002-20014. Juliet Served honorable both stateside and overseas to include tours in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II and Operation enduring freedom. Ms. Taylor is a decorated Army veteran who demonstrates an extensive experience and knowledge as a veterans advocate, having worked tirelessly with several veteran and community organizations across Connecticut. Ms. Taylor completed her Mental Health Counselor degree at the University of Bridgeport and is currently the CT State Commander for the Disabled American Veteran (DAV).

Peter Love, Ph.D., Peter Love Educational Consulting LLC

Dr. Love is an Educational Psychologist in private practice with over forty years of working in support of people with a variety of disabilities. Dr. Love is a qualified Cognitive Behavior Therapist in the state's ABI Waiver Program, a Qualified Behaviorist Provider for the Department of Developmental Services, and a Qualified Autism Services Provider for the state's Autism Waiver Program.

Sarah Raskin, PhD, ABPP/ABCN, Charles A. Dana Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience at Trinity College

Dr. Raskin is Board Certified by the American Board of Professional Psychology-Clinical Neuropsychology and is a Fellow of the American Psychological Association and the National Academy of Neuropsychology. She has published numerous articles investigating neuropsychological functions and cognitive rehabilitation for a variety of disorders, including brain injury and edited three books. She is past president of the Brain Injury Alliance of Connecticut. She has received numerous awards, including the Mitch Rosenthal Memorial Distinguished Lecture Award from the Rehabilitation Psychology Division of the American Psychological Association. She received her BA in Behavioral Biology from Johns Hopkins University and her PhD in Neuropsychology from the City University of New York Graduate Center.

Rachael Schippani, MA, Coordinator of Community Education and Volunteer Programs/The Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services, a program of BHcare

Ms. Schippani received her master's degree in Community Psychology from the University of New Haven last year. She is currently the Coordinator of Community Education and Volunteer Programs at The Umbrella Center for Domestic Violence Services. The Umbrella Center is one of 18 domestic violence agencies in the state. In her role at the center, she speaks to many different organizations and audiences about the dynamics of domestic violence and other related topics such as healthy relationships, teen dating violence, elder abuse etc.

Davine Lynnette Manson, Motivational Speaker & Founder of Divine Restorations, Inc.

Ms. Manson is in a life space that she never thought she would find herself, through a domestic violence incident, she sustained a brain injury when she was struck over the head. For 19 years, Ms. Manson struggled and often did not recognize herself as she dealt with hatred for the man who did it to her. Finally, forgiveness allowed her to move on. Ms. Manson still has the TBI, the seizures, the headaches, but she is now able have peace, which is why she started her own organization, Divine Restorations. Ms. Manson's organization was created to help woman going through domestic violence. In her own words, "I am here to show women what strength and resilience looks like. Through it all, we are not survivors we are thrivers".

Elizabeth Kloczko Wescott, OTD, OTR/L, SIGHT Multispecialty Center

Dr. Wescott earned a clinical doctorate in Occupational Therapy from Quinnipiac University and her master's degree in OT at the University of Scranton. She is currently a Clinical Assistant Professor at Quinnipiac University and works part time at SIGHT Multispecialty Center. Prior, Ms. Wescott spent 11 years at Rusk Rehabilitation NYU Langone as a clinical specialist in the neuro inpatient unit. She has presented both locally and nationally on topics including neurological visual assessment and intervention, concussion management, and neurorehabilitation. Ms. Wescott is a liaison for the rehabilitation, disability, and participation special interest section for ConnOTA and is on the Board of Directors for LOF Adaptive Skiers and StrokeOT, two non-profit 501c3 organizations in CT.

Melissa Lambright, OD, FCOVD, Diplomate of the American Board of Optometry, SIGHT Multispecialty Center

Dr. Lambright is the founder of SIGHT Eye Health and SIGHT Multispecialty Center and has a unique perspective in that she has a background in ocular disease, neurorehabilitation, and visual development. She is board certified through the American Board of Optometry in primary eye care and ocular disease. She received her fellowship from the College of Visual Development (COVD) and is board certified in neurorehabilitation, visual development, and vision therapy. She has spent the last 10 years running a neurorehabilitation clinic with integrated vision therapy and occupational therapy services. Dr. Lambright received her undergraduate degree from the University of Michigan, her Doctor of

Optometry from the Illinois College of Optometry and has over 20 years of experience. Dr. Lambright not only has extensive experience clinically but is the mom of two young girls and has an appreciation and understands the complexity of the visual system and its connection to systemic health. She experienced this first hand as her mother navigated the healthcare system after an episode of blindness, eventually leading to the diagnosis of multiple sclerosis. Dr. Lambright has served as Board of Directors of the Connecticut Optometric Association and the Junior League of Hartford.

Lauren Jameson / Occupational Therapy Student, SIGHT Multispecialty Center

Ms. Jameson is a graduate student at Quinnipiac University in the Doctor of Occupational Therapy program. Ms. Jameson graduated from Quinnipiac in 2019 with a major in Health Science Studies and a Minor in Psychology. She is currently working on her capstone project studying the impact of concussion on student athletes and spent her first Level II fieldwork at Sight Multispecialty clinic in a collaborative OD and OT model.

Kaelie Murray-Simmons, Vision Therapist, SIGHT Multispecialty Center

Ms. Simmons is a Vision Therapist at SIGHT in Farmington where she works with patients experiencing a wide variety of visual symptoms including patients with a history of concussion, stroke and TBI. She graduated from Trinity College with a B.S. in Biology with honors and a B.S. in Environmental Science.

Victor Darr, senior Brain Injury Specialist, Brain Injury Alliance of CT

Mr. Darr has been working in the Human Services field and supporting brain injury survivors for more than 25 years. He holds a degree in Philosophy from UCONN and served in US Army Intelligence in South Korea during Operation Desert Storm. Most recently he served as a Director of Acquired Brain Injury services at Project Genesis. Mr. Darr brings with him a wealth of compassion, understanding of the complexity of brain injury, and incredible advocacy skills. As the Senior BIS at BIAC, Mr. Darr is involved in a variety of activities including Helpline, Outreach & Training, and Navigator services. Mr. Darr also oversees the BIAC support group network throughout the state.

Katia Reynolds, Brain Injury Specialist, Brain Injury Alliance of CT

Ms. Reynolds has worked in the Human Services field for almost 20 years, working with individuals experiencing brain injury, homelessness and co-occurring disorders with mental health and substance abuse. Ms. Reynolds earned her Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies at the University of Connecticut. Katia currently also works as a 911 dispatcher. As a Brain Injury Specialist at BIAC, Ms. Reynolds is involved in a variety of activities, including responding to Helpline callers and inquiries as well as assisting to maintain and update the BIAC website Resource Directory.

