



## Message from the Chair



Beth Wicks  
IPBIS Chair

Welcome to the fifth issue of the International Paediatric Brain Injury Society (IPBIS) Newsletter. Thank you for your interest in IPBIS and all things concerning paediatric brain injury. This issue of our newsletter again brings you some exciting content across three themes – Researcher Spotlight, International Developments and Hot Topic. We hope you enjoy this Newsletter – please share with your colleagues and [click here](#) to subscribe.

This Newsletter is published in alignment with the 5th Biennial International Conference on Paediatric Acquired Brain Injury that will be held in Glasgow, Scotland, from 18-21 September, 2024. With the theme “*Building a Better Future Together*”, this international conference will focus on the development of innovative treatments, rehabilitation programmes, support mechanisms and ways to improve the lives and potential of children and young people affected by acquired brain injury. The educational programme will be inclusive of all issues relating to paediatric acquired brain injury, both traumatic (e.g., external physical force injuries, penetrating injuries) and atraumatic (e.g., infectious diseases, tumours, stroke, neurotoxic poisonings, etc.). We are very excited that this year’s conference will include a Trainee and Early Career Social to promote networking and fun, along with a Gala Dinner at the Kelvingrove Art Gallery and Museum. Registration for the conference is now open with discounted ‘early rates’ ending on 30 June, 2024. We invite you to find out more about the conference by [clicking here](#) and we can’t wait to see you all in Scotland soon!

There are opportunities for you to get involved in IPBIS and to contribute to our international platform to help improve the lives of children, adolescents and young adults with ABI, as well as to promote prevention of brain injuries on a worldwide scale.

Find out more about IPBIS by [visiting our website](#) and by following us on X @IPBIS. Become a [member](#) of IPBIS and join us in advancing paediatric brain injury research and disseminating knowledge that matters to you!

With warm regards,

Beth Wicks  
Chair  
IPBIS Board of Governors



## Researcher Spotlight

This IPBIS Newsletter issue will use the ‘Researcher Spotlight’ section to showcase the three internationally renowned researchers/practitioners who will deliver Keynote Addresses at the upcoming [5th Biennial International Conference on Paediatric Acquired Brain Injury](#) that will be held in Glasgow, Scotland (18-21 September, 2024). In this section you will learn a little about each of these leading researchers/practitioners in the field of paediatric acquired brain injury, what they plan to share in their keynote presentations, and what they are most excited about with regards to the upcoming conference. We hope you enjoy this section and invite you all to attend the conference to see each of them present their impactful work in person. For more information on our upcoming conference please [click here](#).

### Name

Shannon Scratch, PhD, CPsych



### Biography

Dr. Shannon Scratch is a Clinician Scientist at Holland Bloorview Kids Rehabilitation Hospital and Assistant Professor in the Department of Paediatrics and Rehabilitation Sciences Institute at the University of Toronto. She is a practicing Clinical Neuropsychologist, and her research programme and hospital clinic are dedicated to youth experiencing prolonged symptoms following concussion and acquired brain injury, and their caregivers and families. Dr. Scratch holds Foundation and Tri-Council funding and is especially interested in the development and testing of new interventions for these youths. She holds the Holland Family Professorship in Acquired Brain Injury and is the director of the Neurorehab Outcomes via Education & Learning (NOVEL) Lab. She is passionate about fostering youth and family engagement in research and is the co-Chair of the Research Family Engagement Committee at Holland Bloorview.

### Keynote Address Title

From inspiration to iteration: co-design of interventions for young people with acquired brain injury

### What excites you most about the upcoming International Conference on Paediatric Acquired Brain Injury

“I love the interdisciplinary nature of IPBIS conferences. It is an important place where clinical and research colleagues from different healthcare settings and sectors come together to share ideas and programs. I’m looking forward to sharing our programs, as well as learning from others about their approaches for supporting young people who experienced brain injury and their families in their local settings.”

*Continued on next page*

## Find out More

Dr. Scratch's [website](#).

X: @theNOVELlab @ShannonScratch

## Name

Chris Giza, MD, FAAN

## Biography



Dr. Chris Giza graduated from Dartmouth College, received his M.D. from West Virginia University, and completed Adult and Pediatric Neurology training at UCLA. He worked on the Yosemite Search

and Rescue team before joining the UCLA Brain Injury Research Center. He served as Vice-Chief of the California State Athletic Commission, and as an advisor for the U.S. Department of Defense, traveling to Afghanistan in 2011. He founded and directs the UCLA Steve Tisch BrainSPORT & Operation Mend BRAIN TBI programs. He co-authored concussion/mild TBI guidelines for the American Academy of Neurology (2013), CDC (2018) and the Concussion in Sport Group (2017, 2023), where he is also on the Board of Directors and Chair of the Concussion in Sport Group (CISG) Education Committee. He serves on concussion advisory committees for Major League Soccer, National Basketball Association and United States Soccer and is a clinical consultant for Major League Soccer/United States Soccer Federation, National Hockey League/National Hockey League Players Association, National Basketball Association, the Los Angeles Lakers and National Football League. Dr. Giza is Professor and Chief of Pediatric Neurology at UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital.

## Keynote Address Title

Biology = Treatment: Moving to precision care for pediatric TBI

## What excites you most about the upcoming International Conference on Paediatric Acquired Brain Injury

"Pediatric Traumatic Brain Injury is the most complex injury, to the most complex organ, at the most complex time. Better characteriza-

tion of pediatric TBI using objective biological markers will help develop endophenotypes. Understanding endophenotypes will lead to individualized management and improved prognostication for TBI, ranging from traumatic axonal injuries and hematomas to concussions. I'm very excited to share our work at IPBIS in Glasgow and engage in discussion of a new approach to post-TBI care."

## Find out More

Dr. Giza's [website](#).

X: @griz1

## Name

Steve Clifford, PhD, FRCPCH, FMedSci

## Biography



Dr. Steve Clifford is Chair of Molecular Paediatric Oncology and Director of the Newcastle University Centre for Cancer. He leads its Childhood Brain Tumour Research team (25 scientists/clinicians), with major interests in understanding the biological basis of embryonal brain tumour development (principally medulloblastoma), and translating these findings into improved clinical treatments. His international bench-to-bedside programme in medulloblastoma has been central to advances in childhood neuro-oncology research and international clinical trials over the last two decades. His team has made fundamental discoveries through advanced genomic, biomarker, trials and functional studies, and translated these into improved molecular diagnostics, risk-stratification, and therapeutics. Dr. Clifford is Chair of the National Cancer Research Institute (NCRI) CNS tumours group. He sits on steering committees including the Children's Cancer and Leukaemia Group executive and ITCC-Brain committee, and on advisory panels for organisations including The Brain Tumour Charity (SAB Chair), Cancer Research UK, The Tessa Jowell Brain Cancer Mission, The French National Cancer Institute (INCa) and The Singapore Medical Research Council. He is a Trustee of the JGWP charitable foundation and 'Children with Cancer in Ma-

lawi", a charity outreach programme for children's cancer care in Africa.

## Keynote Address Title

Personalising kinder therapies for childhood brain tumours: From advanced genomics to clinical trials

## What excites you most about the upcoming International Conference on Paediatric Acquired Brain Injury

"Our integrated clinical and biological research programme is changing the landscape of diagnosis, treatment individualization and risk-adapted therapies for children with brain tumours. I'm delighted to be invited to speak at IPBIS Glasgow and to be able to share this story and update on our most recent discoveries."

## Find out More

Dr. Clifford's [website](#).

X: @ProfSClifford

**Join your colleagues in  
Glasgow, Scotland, for the**

**Fifth Biennial International  
Conference on Paediatric  
Acquired Brain Injury!**

**18-21 September, 2024**

**For complete information  
on the educational program,  
networking and social  
events, pre-conference  
sessions, accomodation,  
and exhibit opportunities,  
[CLICK HERE!](#)**



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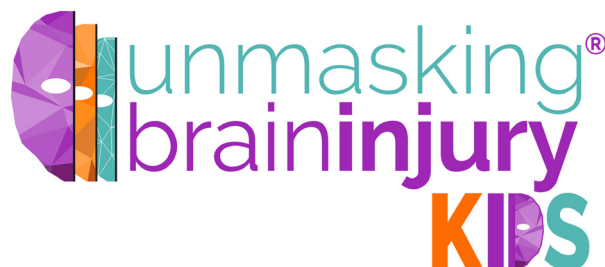
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## International Developments

### Unmasking Brain Injury KIDS

Unmasking Brain Injury KIDS is a part of the worldwide awareness and advocacy project, [Unmasking Brain Injury](#). The mission of Unmasking Brain Injury is to promote awareness of the prevalence of brain injury; to give survivors a voice and the means to educate others of what it is like to live with a brain injury; and, to show others that persons living with a disability due to their brain injury are like anyone else, deserving dignity, respect, compassion and the opportunity to prove their values as citizens in their respective communities.



The goals of Unmasking Brain Injury KIDS are to enable children and youth who have experience a brain injury to:

1. Identify feelings associated with their brain injury;
2. Translate these feelings into shapes, colours, or images onto a paper mask outline or a paper mâché mask;
3. Increase awareness of the impacts and prevalence of paediatric brain injury.

IPBIS has liaised with the Unmasking Brain Injury project to produce guidance for those working or living with children and young people with ABI so that they also can participate in this pivotal program – Unmasking Brain Injury KIDS. We aim to obtain numerous submissions from young people around the world. All the created masks will be displayed digitally at the upcoming 5th Biennial International Conference on Paediatric Acquired Brain Injury that will be held in Glasgow, Scotland (18-21 September, 2024).

To participate in the Unmasking Brain Injury KIDS project, [click here](#) for more details and guidance.

### IPBIS Toolbox – Update coming soon!



The *IPBIS Toolbox* contains summaries of a wide range of tools and programmes free to use for professionals in the field of paediatric acquired brain injury. This Toolbox is now available in an interactive format – making it much easier to search and download the tool or programme that you want. Find out more by [clicking here](#).

Work on the new edition of the IPBIS Toolbox '**Guidance for the post-discharge rehabilitation of children, adolescents and young adults with Acquired Brain Injury**' is now underway – it will be available this September (2024).



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### We hope you enjoyed this newsletter!

Please share with your colleagues and [click here](#) to subscribe so that you never miss an edition of the IPBIS Newsletter!

If you have any ideas for future stories or feedback for our newsletter, please let us know by emailing [newsletter@IPBIS.org](mailto:newsletter@IPBIS.org).

Find out more about IPBIS by visiting our [website](#) and social media pages! X: @IPBIS

If you are interested in becoming a member of IPBIS please [click here](#).

If you are interested in becoming an IPBIS Ambassador please [click here](#).

Until our next edition - thank you for all you do in the field of paediatric brain injury!

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