



Message from the Chair



Nick Reed, PhD
IPBIS Chair

First off, I would like to thank each of you for your continued efforts and interests in the field of Paediatric Brain Injury. Part of our mission at the International Paediatric Brain Injury Society (IPBIS) is to improve the lives of children, adolescents, and young adults with acquired brain

injuries, and their families, and to promote prevention of brain injuries on a worldwide scale. It is because of you, and all the important work that you do, that we collectively can strive towards this mission.

It is my absolute pleasure to bring to you the sixth issue of the International Paediatric Brain Injury Society (IPBIS) Newsletter. This issue of our newsletter will provide you with some exciting content across three themes – International Developments, Researcher Spotlight, and Hot Topics. We hope you enjoy this newsletter – please share widely with your colleagues and [click here](#) to subscribe.

In addition to this newsletter, I am excited to share with you that planning is in full swing for IPBIS' Sixth Biennial Conference on Paediatric Brain Injury, to be held from April 29-May 2, 2026 in the beautiful city of Calgary, Alberta, Canada. The conference will bring together researchers, clinicians, those with lived-experience, community advocacy groups, and many more to share, learn, support and collaborate. For those interested in sharing their research and/or approaches to clinical practice at the conference, the [abstract submission portal](#) is open with a submission deadline of Saturday, October 18, 2025. Find out more by [visiting our conference website](#).

Finally, many thanks to our incredible IPBIS members, including those on our Board of Directors and those who contribute their time and expertise to one of our many IPBIS subcommittees. I encourage you to [become a member](#) of IPBIS and join us in advancing paediatric brain injury research and disseminating knowledge that matters to you!

Looking forward to seeing you all in Calgary soon,

Nick Reed, PhD, Chair
IPBIS Board of Directors



Researcher Spotlight: Roger Zemek MD, FRCPC

Senior Scientist, Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario Research Institute
Professor, Dept of Pediatrics and Emergency Medicine.
University of Ottawa
Clinical Research Chair in Pediatric Concussion, Univ. of Ottawa
Scientific Director, 360 Concussion Care
Director, TRANSCENDENT Concussion Integrated Discovery Program



Key Research Interests

Dr. Roger Zemek is a practicing pediatric emergency physician at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario (CHEO) and senior scientist at the CHEO Research Institute where his research focuses on diagnosing, treating, and developing outcome prediction tools for patients with concussion. Dr. Zemek previously led the largest pediatric concussion study to-date examining the predictors for Persistent Post-Concussion Symptoms in children (the [5P Study](#)). He has also led studies to optimize return to physical activity ([PedCARE](#)) and return to school and screentime after concussion. He leads the [International Living Guideline for Pediatric Concussion](#) that provides up-to-date, best available evidence recommendations for health care professionals providing care for pediatric patients with concussion, as well as information for patients, families, teachers and coaches.

Summary of Recent Research

Dr. Zemek is currently leading TRANSCENDENT (Transforming Research by Assessing Neuroinformatics across the Spectrum of Concussion by Embedding interdisciplinary Data collection to Enable Novel Treatments) Concussion Research Program, a partnership between the CHEO Research Institute, the Ontario Brain Institute, 360 Concussion Care, and a network of researchers across Canada and the United States. The principal goal of this large prospective multi-centre concussion study is to transform how we diagnose and treat concussion across the lifespan. Guided by priorities identified through the [James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership](#) and through ongoing partnership with a diverse TRANSCENDENT Community Advisory Committee, this world-leading cohort will expand to 5,000+ participants with deep biopsychosocial, biomarker (physiological, fluid, neuroimaging), and treatment data that can be used to track concussion recovery across all ages and types of injury and use new and emerging technology to improve the diagnosis and advance the treatment of patients with concussion.

The Bigger Picture

There remains a pressing need to enhance our ability to diagnose concussion accurately and to optimize symptom management. Concussion treatments must evolve from "one-size fits all" protocols to personalized healthcare in which the right treatment is tailored for the right patient, at the right time, guided by individual unique patient characteristics and biological markers to optimize outcomes.

To learn more, stay up to date and [find resources, click here](#).



Call for Abstracts Portal Now Open!
The deadline to submit is Saturday, October 18, 2025, at 11:59pm ET.

The abstract portal for the 6th Biennial Conference on Pediatric Brain Injury is now open! Deadline for submissions is Saturday, October 18, 2025, at 11:59pm ET. The International Paediatric Brain Injury Society (IPBIS) encourages brain injury research and/or approaches in clinical practice for presentation at the conference. The [link for abstract submission is here](#).

Make plans now to join internationally recognized invited speakers and panelists who will present the latest findings on the assessment, treatment, and future priorities in the field of brain injury research and rehabilitation.

Conference themes include:

- Prevention
- Detection and/or Diagnosis
- Prognosis and/or Outcomes
- Management, Rehabilitation, and/or Treatment
- Long-term Consequences

Educational Objectives

The Scientific Planning Committee is developing a broad educational program that will address a wide range of brain injury topics, including:

- The epidemiology of acquired brain injuries in children and adolescents from a world health care perspective,
- Evidence-based research regarding the nature and efficacy of medical, clinical and educational rehabilitation of acquired brain injuries in children and adolescents,
- The varied causes of ABI in childhood, including medical conditions and non-accidental traumatic injuries,
- Protocols to support families affected by paediatric ABI, towards affecting change at National and International levels,
- Models of innovative systems, services and supports for children with ABI and their families, and
- How to better recognize, manage and treat mTBI/concussions in children/adolescents.

Who Should Attend?

The Conference will bring together multidisciplinary professionals with an interest in improving outcomes for children, adolescents, and young adults with acquired brain injury and their families/ carers.

Attendees will be comprised of physicians, neuropsychologists, therapists, allied health professionals, and brain injury advocates. This list is not exhaustive and the organizers expect all multidisciplinary professionals involved in pediatric brain injury will benefit from this valuable opportunity to engage with experts, gain insights, and establish new collaborations.

Keynote Speakers

- Dr. Adam Kirton (Canada)
- Dr. Kristy Arbogast (United States of America)
- Dr. Don Mabbott (Canada)
- Dr. Maria McCarthy (Australia)

About the Venue & Calgary

The Conference will be held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel, a state-of-the-art venue located in the heart of Calgary.

Calgary is a dynamic city with picturesque prairie landscapes and a vibrant urban centre. It has famous cowboy spirit, but is also refined and cosmopolitan. Calgary boasts a diverse culinary scene, incredible theatre, world-class attractions and great shopping, plus a great live music scene, plenty of stunning golf courses, and more days of sunshine to spend in more green spaces than any other Canadian city. It's no wonder Calgary was named the most liveable city in North America by *The Economist* two years in a row!

Further details including registration and accommodation will be available in the coming months. We look forward to seeing you in Calgary in 2026!



International Developments: Swiss Children's Rehab

Prof. Hubertus van Hedel PhD
Prof. Andreas Meyer-Heim MD
Paediatric Rehab Research Department;
Swiss Children's Rehab, University
Children's Hospital Zurich, Switzerland

Who we are & what we do

The research department based at the Swiss Children's Rehab (a 47 in-patient rehab-hospital for children), established in 2010, brings together scientists from various disciplines to advance pediatric rehabilitation through an interprofessional approach and to promote independence in the daily lives of children and adolescents. One area of focus is the development and clinical implementation of innovative robotic and computer-based technologies.

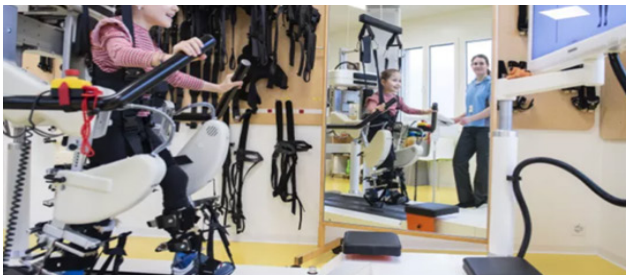
Long-term research goals & reasons for development

- Responding to clinical care needs: The group was developed because children with acquired disabilities often require highly specific, complex therapy strategies that are not sufficiently covered by traditional adult rehabilitation.
- Innovative therapies for children and adolescents: The long-term goal is to develop and integrate new robotic and computer-based rehabilitation methods to make treatment more effective and individualized.
- Scientific basis for clinical practice: The aim is to closely link research and clinical work, ensuring that the latest scientific findings quickly and directly benefit young patients.

- Promoting participation and independence: Rehabilitation should enable children and adolescents to achieve maximum independence and participation in daily life; research, therefore, focuses on assessments, interventions, and participation.
- Interprofessional approach: medicine, therapy, and technology work closely together to address complex needs holistically

What has been done & find out more

So far 197 publications and 12 assessments have been contributed resp. validated. These can be [viewed and downloaded for free here](#).





HOT TOPIC: Cuts to the CDC

United States Government cuts entire CDC TBI team. What are the implications for the field of pediatric brain injury?



Juliet Haarbauer-Krupa,
PhD, FACRM
Location: Atlanta, GA
Profession/Background:
Speech-Language
Pathologist &
Neuroscience Researcher

What was your role at the CDC & how long were you in that position?

My role at CDC was a Senior Health Scientist on the Traumatic Brain Injury Team in the Division of Injury Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control.

What was the TBI Team's role/responsibilities at the CDC? (reviewing/funding research, prevention, etc.)

Our team worked on research, surveillance, and public guidance related to brain injuries from multiple causes. The team funded research to understand the causes, effects, and prevention of brain injuries, called ERPO Projects; wrote Reports to Congress related to TBI; developed and disseminated guidelines for healthcare professionals and the public on TBI management and prevention; and created methods for examining the prevalence of TBI by developing a nationwide concussion surveillance system, mandated by congress. The team also developed and managed the HEADS-UP program for injury prevention, which is a collection of online trainings, videos, PSAs, posters, and fact sheets designed to help healthcare providers, school professionals, athletic trainers, and others diagnose and manage concussions.

What cuts were made (staff and funding)

The entire Division of Injury Prevention and Traumatic Brain Injury Team have been eliminated by the current administration.

Is anyone taking over the responsibilities at the CDC that the TBI Team had?

No. Currently there is no work on injury prevention, prevalence, and the effects of TBI at CDC.

What will happen to the initiatives that your TBI Team was in the midst of overseeing?

Unknown.

What are the current and future implications for field of pediatric TBI since these cuts occurred?

Research, surveillance, guidelines, and prevention play a critical role for children. Over the years, the services and resources that have been provided by the Division of Injury Prevention and Traumatic Brain Injury Team have supported children's access to care and has increased monitoring for brain injury prevention and intervention in healthcare systems and schools. Since these cuts occurred, it is not clear how these changes will ultimately impact children in the United States. Particularly at-risk children. Current and future implications for research and care for children who experience a brain injury are a concern.

Will the national concussion surveillance program still happen?

Currently it has stopped, and it is unknown what will happen to this program.

Call for Volunteers for the IPBIS Trainee & Early Career (TEC) Subcommittee!

Any trainee/early career members who want to join please contact Leigh Schrieff-Brown for details:

leigh.schrieff@gmail.com



IPBIS Toolbox

New tools and programmes sought for IPBIS Toolbox

New tools and programmes are being sought for the *IPBIS Toolbox - Inventory of Measures and Programmes for the Rehabilitation of Paediatric Brain Injury*.

The **deadline for submissions is September 30th, 2025** and the updated version will be available online early in 2026.

Numerous tools and programmes are available for the assessment and rehabilitation of children, adolescents, and young adults with Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) and for the support of their families. However, not all countries, professionals, and families may be aware of the wide range available, so the IPBIS launched the Toolbox in 2018 containing summaries of rehabilitation tools and programmes mostly accessible on the internet. The tools and programmes address the physical, cognitive, academic, and psychosocial problems associated with ABI, post-discharge from acute care.

The aim of the Toolbox is to facilitate access to resources globally and, in particular, to low-and middle-income countries. Submissions in languages other than English are encouraged, pending independent review by experts familiar with the language. Tools and programmes developed in particular regions and languages may not be suitable in other settings and may require translation and adaptation.

All submissions are reviewed by the IPBIS Toolbox Project Team.

The submission form and Toolbox are [available online here](#).

For further information please contact: Louise Blakeborough; email: lblakeborough@chapterfive.co.uk



ipbis

international paediatric brain injury society

What is the goal of the toolbox? Numerous tools and programmes are available for the assessment and rehabilitation of children, adolescents, and young adults with Acquired Brain Injury (ABI) and their families. However, not all countries, professionals, and families may be aware of the wide range available.



The International Paediatric Brain Injury Society (IPBIS) aims to **facilitate access to resources globally** and in particular to **low- and middle-income countries**.

What is the IPBIS Toolbox ?

The IPBIS Toolbox gathers tools and programmes used for the rehabilitation post-discharge from acute care, of children from birth to young adults aged 25 years, with mild to severe traumatic brain injury (TBI) and other forms of non-TBI. The wide range of tools and programmes are indexed according to the deficit(s) addressed and the target user(s).

Web addresses and/or contact details are provided so that more detailed information can easily be obtained direct from the author or developer. **Most of the tools and programmes listed are free**, otherwise any exceptions are indicated.



Free tools and programmes



Children from birth to 25 years old



With mild to severe ABI



Who can use the IPBIS Toolbox ?

The IPBIS Toolbox is intended for use by health care and education **professionals who work with children** from birth to young adults aged 25 years, with mild to severe traumatic brain injury (TBI) and other forms of non-TBI, as well as **families** and **carers**.

How can I submit new tools or programmes ?

New tools and programmes can be submitted by completing the submission form at <https://www.ipbis.org> and emailed to lblakeborough@chapterfive.co.uk. Each tool/programme summary is reviewed by the IPBIS Toolbox project team.

The deadline for inclusion in the next update is : **30th September 2025**

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

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

www.ipbis.org