

# TBI Updates

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON  
TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY  
MODEL SYSTEM



150  
YEARS  
1861-2011  
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VOLUME 10 ISSUE 2

FALL 2012

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## TBI Model System Advisory Board Member



**Emma Jane  
Finlay**

Dec 7, 1936 –

Aug 1, 2012

Emma Jane Finlay was a fearless advocate for those with traumatic brain injury (TBI). She retired in the year 2000 as a program leader and family counselor for the Brain Injury Association of Washington (BIAWA) but remained an active participant in the Traumatic Brain Injury Model System's Advisory Board, as well as many other activities. Last year, the BIAWA initiated a scholarship program for survivors of Brain Injury and professionals in the

field named the **Emma Finlay Brain Injury Survivor Scholarship Program**. For the last year and a half she struggled with cancer, and she will be missed by so many. Anyone who would like to make a memorial gift to her memory is invited to make it to the

**BIAWA, at:**

**P.O. Box 3044**

**Seattle, WA 98114**

On the "for" line designate "Emma Finlay Scholarship Program."

**Thank you Emma for all your  
hard work!**

## Silas James receives BIAWA scholarship



**Silas James**, Research Assistant with the UW Traumatic Brain Injury Model System group, is the recipient of the Brain Injury Association of Washington's (BIAWA) Higher Education/Professional Scholarship. Silas will be pursuing a degree in public administration from the University of Washington's Evans School of Public Administration. Congratulations Silas!

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## VISION AFTER TBI



THERE'S MORE THAN MEETS THE EYE

Our last Informational Forum in April was presented by Dr. Nancy Torgerson, who has been in private practice since 1984 and worked with patients after acquired and traumatic brain injuries. Dr. Torgerson spoke about the importance of vision and the common difficulties that can occur after TBI. Most surprising for people in attendance, was the fact that vision problems can exist, even if the person thinks everything is okay.



**Dr. Nancy Torgerson,  
O.D., F.C.O.V.D.**

All of those who attended the forum were entertained by Dr. Torgerson's excellent demonstrations related to visual disruptions that can occur after Traumatic Brain Injury and how these changes can be simulated for everyone

to understand.

Thank you to all those from the Young Adults With TBI Support Group for attending and volunteering for the demonstrations at the forum.

Dr. Torgerson's presentation slides are currently available on our website.

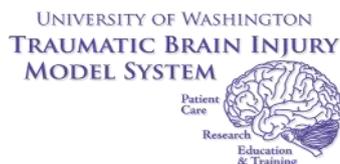
\*The video from this forum will be available in the weeks to come\*

**Link to Alderwood Vision Therapy  
Clinic:**

[www.alderwoodvisiontherapy.com](http://www.alderwoodvisiontherapy.com)

**“There can be problems with the way  
the eyes are working together”**

Dr. Torgerson



Visit our new website!  
[www.tbi.washington.edu](http://www.tbi.washington.edu)



We have updated and redesigned our website, and we want to hear what you think! Please [‘Visit our feedback page’](#) and complete a survey. If there’s something that you would like to see in the future, let us know. This is also a great opportunity for us to hear from you on future TBI Forum Topics.

Our video section is now hosted on our YouTube channel, and we adding all our previous videos, as well as new ones. So [bookmark our](#) site and/or subscribe to our [YouTube Channel](#).

## Join Us for the TBI Model System Quarterly Forum: Traumatic Brain Injury and Sleep Issues



**SPEAKERS:**

DON FOGELBERG, PHD &  
 CRAIG DITOMASSO, MD

Presentations by Dr. Fogelberg and Dr. DiTomasso will be followed by post-presentation discussion. You may submit questions prior to the forum to ensure they are answered by emailing: [uwtbi@uw.edu](mailto:uwtbi@uw.edu). Please indicate “Sleep topic Question” in the subject line.

\*\*Check our website ([www.tbi.washington.edu](http://www.tbi.washington.edu)) for on-line attendance information option or email [uwtbi@uw.edu](mailto:uwtbi@uw.edu).

**When:**

**October 18, 2012  
 Thursday  
 6pm—7:30pm**

**Where:**

- ⇒ **University of Washington Health Sciences Building**
- ⇒ **Take the BB Elevators to 9th floor**

## REHAB WEEK AT UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON MEDICAL CENTER

On September 21st, the TBI model system participated in the **National Rehabilitation Awareness Week**. TBI Factsheets, current TBI research projects, and TBI upcoming events were all discussed. Thank you to all of you who came to visit us at the University of Washington Medical Center lobby!



Pictured: **Erica Wasmund**, Research Assistant, with the TBI model system table.



### BIAWA 6TH ANNUAL GALA 2012

The TBI Model System is looking forward to the the Brain Injury Association of Washington's 6th Annual Gala & Auction October 27, 2012. For more about the Brain Injury Association of Washington or to donate an item or make a contribution, visit: <http://www.braininjurywa.org/gala>

### RESEARCH AT TBI MODEL SYSTEM

Come by before the October 18th Quarterly Forum to find out more about what the TBI Model System is doing at the University of Washington. There will be TBI Factsheets available and currently recruiting studies brochures. If you have questions or comments, we will be available beginning **at 5:30 October 18th**.

University of Washington, Health Sciences Building. Take the BB Elevators up to the 9th floor, and follow the signs to the Classroom.



**NIDRR announces selection for TBI Model System centers for 2012-2017**

The U.S. Department of Education awarded 16 grants totaling more than \$6.9 million for research on all aspects of rehabilitation care for those who sustain traumatic brain injuries. The grant was awarded under the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research's Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) Model Systems program. The sixteen sites awarded were:

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| University of Washington                    | Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital      |
| The Institute for Rehabilitation & Research | The Ohio State University              |
| Mayo Clinic                                 | University of Pittsburgh               |
| Kessler Foundation Inc.                     | University of Alabama at Birmingham    |
| Virginia Commonwealth University            | Baylor Research Institute              |
| Craig Hospital                              | University of Miami                    |
| Indiana University                          | New York University School of Medicine |
| Albert Einstein Healthcare Network          |  |
| Mount Sinai School of Medicine              |  |

**CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL !**

**Recommended Reading: Living Life Fully after Brain Injury**

Brain injury recovery is a long journey for survivors, families and caregivers. This workbook is a valuable resource and tool for living a full life after brain injury. With chapters by 19 national experts on brain injury, it is informative at a “cutting edge” level but presented in a format and writing style both empowering and clear for individuals and families. A CD contains 46 worksheets that can be printed and used by survivors, families and clinicians.

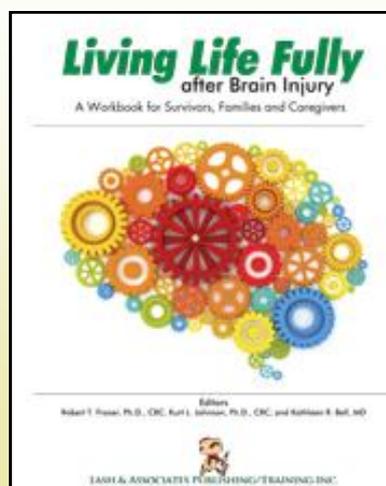
**Title: Living Life Fully after Brain Injury: A workbook for survivors, families and caregivers**

**Authors:**

Robert T. Fraser, Ph.D., CRC  
 Kurt L. Johnson, Ph.D., CRC  
 and Kathleen R. Bell, M.D.

**ISBN#**

9781931117609



## The Amantadine Study (AIMS)

DO YOU OR SOMEONE YOU CARE ABOUT EXPERIENCE ...?



MOOD SWINGS

IRRITABILITY

Researchers from the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine at the University of Washington are seeking volunteers for a research study. The purpose of the study is to see if Amantadine is effective in treating irritability in patients with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Amantadine has been approved for many years for treating Influenza and Parkinson's Disease.

### YOU MAY BE ELIGIBLE FOR THIS STUDY IF YOU:

- ◆ Are between the ages of 18-75;
- ◆ At least moderately irritable (easily annoyed or upset, poor temper control, may have verbal or physical outbursts);
- ◆ Had a TBI more than 6 months ago;
- ◆ Have an 'Observer' (someone with whom you have contact about 5 times per week to help rate your irritability)

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Leslie Kempthorne: 206-543-0219 or by email at [ette@uw.edu](mailto:ette@uw.edu)

### Anger Self Management Training (ASMT)

The purpose of this study is to explore two different treatment methods both of which involve working one-on-one with a therapist to learn if these methods might help people with traumatic brain injury who have problematic anger or irritability. Volunteers will receive therapy for 8 weeks and will have their anger or irritability evaluated before, during and after treatment.

### YOU MAY QUALIFY FOR THIS STUDY IF YOU:

- Were 16 or older when you sustained your traumatic brain injury;
- Are currently less than 65 years old;
- Have anger/irritability that is new since your traumatic brain injury, or worse than before your traumatic brain injury

### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

Sara Wellnitz, RN, BSN

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[Note that we cannot ensure confidentiality via email]



## Looking Closer at Social Skills after TBI...



**Title of Study:**

### **Treatment for Social Competence in Persons with Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI)**

The University of Washington is taking part in a research study that is investigating the effectiveness of a treatment program for Social Competency for people who have sustained a TBI.

#### **Trial Summary**

The aim of this study is to determine the effectiveness of holistic group treatment program (called the Group Interactive Structured Treatment, or ‘GIST’) to improve social communication skills for individuals with Traumatic Brain Injury. Hypothesis: Compared to an alternative intervention, those receiving the GIST intervention will show improved social competence, improved quality of life, and stronger group cohesion.

If eligible, the treatment program is 13 weeks, and would require the ability to attend group sessions at the University of Washington or Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, WA. Our next group will begin in February, 2013.

To find out if you’re eligible, please contact:

**Leslie Kempthorne**

**ette@uw.edu or 206-543-0219**

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