



## Brain Injury Association of Arizona

# BRAINSTORM!

Reaching out to serve persons with brain injury,  
their families, and professionals

FALL 2003

## Driving After A Brain Injury

**D**riving an automobile is considered a "right of passage" in our society. All teenagers look forward to and plan for the day when they reach the legal age to be tested for a driving license. The importance of driving and the independence it denotes does not usually change after an individual sustains a brain injury.

Many persons with brain injuries and their families presume that once recovered from the initial medical aspects of a brain injury, an individual will gradually resume normal pre-injury activities, which may have included driving. Often the need to evaluate driving skills is overlooked in rehabilitation facilities and creates a major power struggle for the family once the individual returns to the community. After sustaining a brain injury, individuals who were licensed drivers do not normally "forget" how to operate a car. Many will not have residual physical impairments that prevent the mechanical operation of a car. However, there are more skills involved other than starting, steering, and stopping. These skills need careful evaluation to ensure the safety of the driver and others.

For some, whose residual deficits more severely impact on vital perceptual and executive functions, a good evaluation may determine that driving is not a safe activity, at least for short term. Periodic re-evaluations should be conducted to document positive changes that may affect these skills.

The Brain Injury Association of Arizona has several transportation resources within the state of Arizona. Below are a few samples of what we are aware of currently.

Please feel free to call our office for other counties and other options available to you. Keep in mind that some of these programs have restrictions on eligibility and not all are free of charge; many are reasonably priced.

**All Counties** within Arizona offer **Safe Ride 1-800-797-7433**

(800 number will direct you to a local number)

### Coconino County:

- Transportation Senior and Special Needs 928-779-6624
- Pine Country Transit 928-779-6624

### Maricopa County:

- American Red Cross 602-336-6660
- Arizona Recreation Center for the Handicapped 602-230-2226
- Phoenix Reserve-A-Ride 602-262-4501
- Project Mobility 602-392-0287
- Taxi Subsidy for Employees With Disabilities 602-253-5000
- Meditrans/Discount Cab/ Total Transit, Inc 602-200-5500
- Bus Travel Training for people with disabilities: Betsy Buxer 602-223-4101

### Navajo County:

- Special Needs Transportation 1-800-797-7433 Show Low
- Tic Shut-In Service & Shuttle 928-537-9859 Show Low

### Pima County:

- Sun City Transit 520-623-4301
- Van Tran (special needs) 520-791-5409

### Yavapai County:

- Transit City Bus 928-778-7978 Prescott
- Adult Community Center 520-282-2834 Sedona
- Verde Valley Care Givers 928-204-1238 Sedona

### Yuma County:

- Foothills Helping Hands 928-305-9974



### Phoenix driving

### evaluations and licensing programs:

**AZ Dept. of Transportation, Motor Vehicle Division (MVD)**, Phone 602-255-0072, [www.dot.state.az.us/MVD/](http://www.dot.state.az.us/MVD/) Disability license plates and placards are available at any MVD customer service center.

**AZ Medical Review Board for Motor Vehicle License**, Phone 623-925-5795, Fax 623-925-9323, Please call for packet of information and assistance.

**Driving Evaluation-Samaritan Health Systems**, Good Samaritan Outpatient facility, 1441 N. 12th St., Phoenix, AZ 85006-6481, Phone 602-239-4757, Fee, Call for information, adaptive driving rehabilitation evaluations for persons who have had brain, spinal cord, or other injuries/illnesses where they have been deemed unable to drive safely without and evaluation. Driving classes available.

**DrivAble Solutions**, 2222 E. Highland Ave., #430 Phoenix, AZ 85016, Phone 602-840-8869, Fax 602-840-8947, Fee, Call for information, adaptive driving rehabilitation evaluations for persons who have had brain, spinal cord, or other injuries/illnesses where they have been deemed unable to drive safely without an evaluation. Driving classes available.

### Tucson driving evaluations and licensing programs:

**Ability Driver Rehab Services Inc.**, Po Box 90048 Tucson, AZ 85752, Phone 520-219-0550 Fax 520-219-8881, [Renee@abilitydriver.com](mailto:Renee@abilitydriver.com), Driver

# A Message from the President... *Christopher J. Nicholls, PhD*

**T**he morning temperatures are cooler again, and there are signs of renewed life in my garden. The promise that the hot summer will end soon brings the excitement of new beginnings, and the energy to attend to projects and needed repairs. Over the last two months, the BIA of Arizona has also been energized by the election of many new board members, and with the help of our Executive Director and staff, we look forward to strengthening an organization that strives to achieve our mission of creating a better future through brain injury prevention, research, education and advocacy.

Much of the energy in non-profit organizations such as the BIA comes from the passion of those who have in some way been touched by the cause of the organization. Sadly, brain injuries occur far too frequently today. The impact upon the individual, their family and loved ones, their school or workplace, and society at large is larger than any who aren't directly involved can imagine. Brain injuries furthermore result in those who need help being frustrated by their challenges in searching for, contacting and asking for services from resources in the community. To those of us

who are fortunate enough to have (at least some of) our cognitive skills intact, figuring out how to arrange for community services that we and our family need is filled with hurdles, obstacles, and hoops to jump through. The task facing an individual who has difficulty remembering details, organizing their activities, putting thoughts into words, etc., must seem impossible at times.

With the support of the Governor's Council on Spinal and Head Injuries, the BIA of AZ is therefore focusing most of our current energy on the development and efficiency of an information and referral service. Jeanne Anderson, our Information & Resource Manager (602-323-9165), will guide you to available resources in our state. Please also review the information on our available support groups, and the wealth of information contained on our web site ([www.biaaz.org](http://www.biaaz.org)). One of our immediate goals is the development of a comprehensive network of individuals and services within our state, and to further explore what we as an organization can do to serve you, as our constituents. Please feel free to call, give suggestions, make comments, etc.!

Finally, I am pleased to announce that we have many new volunteers at all levels of our organization. Our Executive Director, Gene Van den Bosch, has formed three new "advisory councils," one each to represent the survivors and family members of individuals with brain injuries, the professionals who work with these individuals, and the corporate leaders whose companies and products are vital to our community. From these groups, several key individuals have emerged and have accepted positions on our Board of Directors. We are now re-examining our Board structure and organization, and have a goal of establishing an organization that is focused, mission-driven, and both financially and philosophically successful. This will require a great deal of work from all involved, including yourself! Please consider volunteering your time – on a committee, in helping at the office, or with any of the programs of the organization. Please also feel free to telephone me at any time (480-998-2303) to provide me with your input, suggestions, or concerns. I look forward to the coming year in serving as President of the Brain Injury Association of Arizona, but more importantly to the longer-term

## Welcome New Board...

**T**hank you to all the Members who made the elections successful by taking the time to vote. Your votes recently elected the following fellow members to serve on the Board of Directors for the Brain Injury Association of Arizona for three year terms:

**Chris Nicholls**, President; **Susan Wolf**, Vice President; **Marjorie Hagglund**, Secretary; **Valerie Luks**, Treasurer; **Anne Breen**, **John Brewer**, **Lauren Dawson**, **Christina Eng**, **David Farney**, **Ernest Griffith**, **Clayton Guffey**, **Randi Halvorsen**, **Christina Kwasnica**, **Carolyn Mitchell**, **Jennifer Morse**, and **Danielle Puentedura**.

Welcome to all. Your volunteerism with the BIAAZ is very much appreciated.

## Our New Website...[www.biaaz.org](http://www.biaaz.org)

**W**e are happy to announce that our new website is now available for public viewing, although it is still under construction. The site provides a wide range of information related to brain injury for survivors, family members and professionals. The site is US Government Section 508 Compliant and deemed accessible by BOBBY, the leading authority on website accessibility.

By visiting the site you

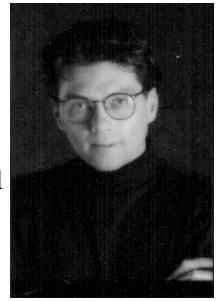
will have the option to send the staff emails and keep up to date with the current activities we are involved with here in Arizona.

Come visit our new site. Don't forget to update with the new bookmark so you can visit the site often with ease.

A special thank you goes to Eric Vitiello at Perceive Designs for creating such a useful new website for the Brain Injury Associa-



# From the Executive Director . . . *Gene van den Bosch*



**T**oday, the Brian Injury Association of Arizona still faces developmental challenges but we are entering into a new and exciting stage of development. This stage includes the strengthening of our core services – information and referral for the brain injury community – and the strengthening of our volunteer leadership and staff.

As we introduce our full website at [www.biaaz.org](http://www.biaaz.org) for the benefit of survivors, their families and the professionals who serve them, we are busily receiving comments from well-wishers with positive suggestions for improvement. We really appreciate these ideas to make our communication services even better. If you have not already done so, please visit our website and let us know what you think. And, yes, we will seriously consider your suggestions or comment of appreciation.

We are also engaged in developing a **state-wide computer database** to hold information related to resources for survivors and their families and the professionals who serve them. Once completed, this database will receive and provide information

for other organizations providing help for those affected with brain injuries. Yes, we are moving from the “paper” information and resource office to a fully computerized office with immediate interaction to our website. The benefits will be ready in just a few months.

Of special note is our upcoming **Southwest Brain Injury Conference** on October 17. There is still time to register for this exciting opportunity to receive information related to brain injury. The target audience will be medical and allied health professionals in acute settings or rehabilitation units involved in the evaluation, management or long-term care of either adults or children with a traumatic brain injury. Topics will include: recent findings from the NIDRR TBI model system programs; neurophysiology of head injury; sexuality and the person with traumatic brain injury; long-term planning; spasticity; family issues; alternative treatments; community re-entry; the impact and treatment of the child with TBI; and long-term neurobehavioral consequences. We are especially grateful for the wonderful volunteer

work provided by Jan Blackham, Anna Griffith, and Christina Eng. And those companies supporting this conference as exhibitors or donors are especially appreciated. A complete listing of these supporters will be published at and after the conference.

Finally, we want to recognize the ongoing and excellent work of our **volunteer leaders and our staff**. We rely on the support of our Board members and committee members willing to give up their own personal or family time to help develop and guide the BIAAZ. We also rely on our wonderful staff, hard-working and dedicated, providing services for you, our members, and the community. To our Board, committees and staff members, thank you.

We hope we will continue to receive your generous support for our services to the community. And if you would like to join in the work of one of our committees, please let us know. Thank you for your member-



## Have You Suffered a Brain Injury? Do You Want Help Getting Your Life Back?

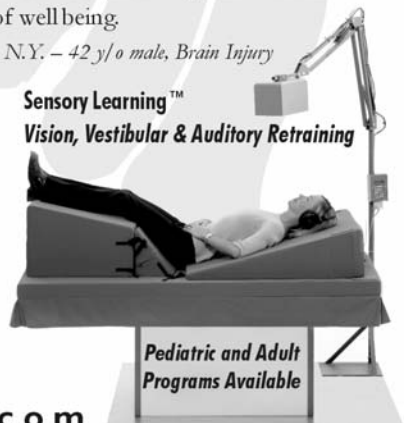
A 42 year old male suffered a head injury at age 11 with associated right partial frontal lobectomy. This client went through the **Sensory Learning™** program 32 years post injury in July 2002. His chief complaints were poor concentration, fatigue, diplopia (double vision), irregular/racing thoughts and generally feeling disconnected with his environment. Thirty days after the **Sensory Learning™** program the client has sustained a 75% reduction of diplopia (double vision), significantly improved control of thoughts and greatly improved concentration. For the first time in 20 years he has a feeling of being “connected with his environment.” The client felt the program was definitely worth doing and highly recommends it to other people with similar problems. As of April 2003, client continues to have the above positive benefits, and a greater sense of well being.

*N.G., Huntington, N.Y. – 42 y/o male, Brain Injury*

**For more information, call: 480-777-7075**

SIRRI offers the **Sensory Learning™** program, an innovative, drug-free approach to developmental learning that utilizes supra-modal sensory stimulation that has been proven highly successful across a wide spectrum of populations. Call today to arrange for a free consultation.

SIRRI • 5225 S. McClintock Drive, Suite F • Tempe, AZ 85283  
Tel: 480-777-7075 • Fax: 480-777-7119



**SIRRI** Sensory Integration Research  
& Rehabilitation Institute

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

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The Brain Injury Association of Arizona  
*presents the*  
Southwest Brain Injury Conference  
"Current Research—Clinical Applications"

October 17, 2003

Sunburst Resort, 4925 N. Scottsdale Rd., Scottsdale, AZ

**CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES:**

1. Describe the clinical implications of current research on long-term neurobehavioral outcomes.
2. Discuss principles of interventive strategies in dealing with the acute and long-term sequelae of traumatic brain injury.
3. Identify psychosocial issues and related community resources for families with either an adult or a child with a traumatic brain injury.

**TARGET AUDIENCE:**

Medical or allied health professionals in acute settings or rehabilitation units involved in the evaluation, management or long-term care of either adults or children with a traumatic brain injury.

**FEE:**

\$115.00 includes lunch and written materials.

**KEYNOTE SPEAKER:**

**Dr. Mitchell Rosenthal, Ph.D., ABPP**

is currently the Vice President for Research for the Kessler Medical Rehabilitation Research and Education Corporation. He is also Professor of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey. In addition, he serves as Project Director of TBI National Database Center, funded by the National Institute on Disability and Rehabilitation Research. He is the founding co-editor of the Journal of Head Trauma Rehabilitation and senior editor of the textbook, *Rehabilitation of the Adult and Child with Traumatic Brain Injury* (1999), now in its third edition. He has also published over 100 peer reviewed articles, books and chapters and delivered over 200 presentations at major national and international meetings, primarily related to brain injury rehabilitation.

**CEU Credits Available**

**CONTACT:**

**CO-CHAIRS:**

Christina Eng, BS, OTR/L 602-206-2381  
Anna Griffith, MS, CRRN 602-546-1173

...continued on page 5

# Conference Program:

**7:30-8:15am** Registration/Continental Breakfast/  
Exhibits

**8:15-8:30am** Welcome/Overview

**8:30-9:30am** **Mitchell Rosenthal, Ph.D., ABPP**  
Recent Findings

from the NIDRR

Programs:

search, Practice

TBI Model System

Implications for Re-

and Policy

**9:30-10:30am** **Daniel Lieberman**

Neurophysiology of

Head Injury

**10:30-11:00am** Break & Exhibits

**11am-12noon** **Ernest R. Griffith and**  
**Sally Lemberg**

MSW

Person with

jury

Sexuality and the

Traumatic Brain In-

**12:00-1:00pm** Lunch

**1:00-2:00pm** Breakout Sessions

**CNS, MS, CRRN:**

Planning

**nica, MD:**

**and**

**MSW:**

sues

Treatments

**M.E.D.:**

Re-entry

**2:00-2:30pm** Break & Exhibits

**2:30-3:30pm** Panel Discussion

*Treatment of the*

*matic Brain Injury*

**Betty Scira,**

Long Term

**Christina Kwas-**

Spasticity

**Ernest R. Griffith**

**Sally Lemberg**

Family Is-

**John Porter MD:**

Alternative

**Ted Telepak**

Community

*The Impact and*

*Child with Trau-*

## One-Week Institute a Success!

**F**rom July 28 to August 1, 2003, the BIAAZ collaborated with the Arizona's Governor's Council on Spinal and Head Injuries to support a one week institute for the ***"Traumatic Brain Injury Course for Educators: Education and Rehabilitation of Children with Traumatic Brain Injury."*** The Institute was held at the Arizona Golf Resort & Conference Center.

The 28 participants came from throughout the state and included special and general education teachers, school psychologists, school counselors, occupational, physical and speech therapists, behavioral health specialists, and case managers from the Arizona Long Term

Care System.

The participants indicated that the course provided them with: an excellent introduction and understanding of traumatic brain injury, the continuum of care, and what occurs at different stages along the continuum of care; strategies for working with children with TBI and their families to assist them with school and community entry and re-entry; information about community resources; and valuable educational and informational resource materials.

The BIAAZ had a table of resource materials and information about the BIAAZ and promoted their new affiliation with Lash & Associ-

# Donor Recognition Within the BIAAZ Newsletter

This BIAAZ newsletter, *Brainstorm*, is an information and referral newsletter for members and friends of the BIAAZ. Our members include survivors of brain injury, their families and caregivers, and professionals who provide services for them. We currently print and distribute over 1,000 copies of our 8-page newsletter. Our quarterly issues are also available on our website, [www.biaaz.org](http://www.biaaz.org).

Our aim is to provide up to two pages of “donor recognition” to express our gratitude to our supporters and to provide additional information to our members and friends. Donations specified to help underwrite the typesetting, printing and mailing of the BIAAZ newsletter will be recognized within the newsletter. Our current donor recognition rates for the newsletter are:

Business Card Size  
Recognition—donation of  
\$60

Quarter Page  
Recognition—  
donation of \$120

Half Page Recognition—  
donation of \$240

Full Page Recognition—  
donation of \$480 or more

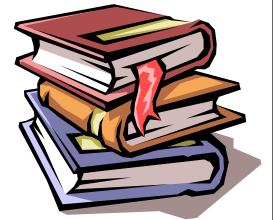
## *Please...*

- Specify “to support the BIAAZ newsletter” when you send in your contribution.
- Make out your check to Brain

Injury Association of Arizona.

- Provide us with camera-ready materials if you wish them to be included in

## Library & Resource Update New Arizona Lash & Associates Representative



The Brain Injury Association of Arizona would like to announce our association with Lash & Associates Publishing/ Training Inc. as their Arizona representative. This highly respected company provides information and resources to help families, survivors, medical providers and educational professionals understand the special needs of children, adolescents and adults with brain injury.

This is an exciting opportunity for our association. Our contract with them will allow us to earn funds to be used to continue our work of providing information and materials to our Arizona commu-

nity.

Our office will be stocking a complete selection of books, pamphlets and survivor kits for survivors and professionals over the next year. The retraining and assessment programs for professionals are available by special order. Catalogs are also available for your convenience. Please contact our I & R Manager for more information.

We look forward to our association with the professionals at Lash & Associates and in turn will work to provide you with the most current works in the fields of brain injury



**Lash and Associates Publishing/Training**  
Information and Resource Center on Brain Injury in Children and Adults

# MEMBERSHIPS

New & Renewed between June 1 and September 23, 2003

*Thank you for your support!*



Lynne Alexander  
Nanette Andro  
David Barriga  
Tina Begay  
Paul Beljan  
Angela Bridges

Dr. Robert A. Briggs  
Sarah Butler  
Gary A. Czugh  
Lauren Dawson  
Franki Diaz  
Beverly Dougherty

Richard & Christina Eng  
Annemarie Eveland  
Jessica E. Grady  
Ernest Griffith  
Clayton Guffey  
Marjorie Hagglund  
Randi Halvorsen  
Roy & Pam Herberger  
Susan Hogue  
Nadine Hutcherson  
David G. Lamb  
Valerie Luks  
Laura Beth Michon  
Joan E. Miller  
Carolyn Mitchell  
Jennifer Morse  
Chris Nicholls

Donald Nockleby  
Clayton Pearce  
Bonny Pearson  
Benjamin Puentedura  
Danielle Puentedura  
Emilio Puentedura  
Steve Ryan  
Susan Scott  
Roni Spehn  
Cindy Staltor  
Melissa Staltor  
John Viada  
Dr. John R. Walker III  
Paula Wan  
Lisa Wynn  
Lanie Zigler

## Helpful Websites

**NEW** q [www.biaaz.org](http://www.biaaz.org) p **NEW**  
[www.biausa.org](http://www.biausa.org)  
[www.ade.az.gov/ess/pinspals](http://www.ade.az.gov/ess/pinspals)  
[www.phrma.org](http://www.phrma.org)  
[www.azlawhelp.org](http://www.azlawhelp.org)

## YUMA CHAPTER PROGRESS

**T**he BIAAZ's Yuma Chapter is still forming gradually, with an elected Chair, Danielle Puentedura and Secretary, Robyn Nelson. We still need to elect a Co-Chair and Treasurer. However, things are moving in the right direction. We have an advisory group of diverse individuals from the Yuma Community. We are all motivated and eager to establish a strong service/resource base here in Yuma, with the long-term goal being to reduce the amount of time that Yuma families with injured members must spend in Phoenix.

We also established a date for the first

Yuma Brain Injury Support and Focus Group meeting, which was held Thursday, September 25, 2003 at 7:00 p.m. at the Yuma Rehabilitation Hospital, who kindly donated the space. The goal of this first meeting was to gain insight into the needs of Yuma brain injury survivors and their families and thus direct us toward the resources that we are in need of most. We will then establish a regular meeting time to suit all who attend. There is still much work to be done here in Yuma, but we have the people with their hearts and heads in the right place.



# Brain Injury Association of Arizona, Inc.

(a chartered affiliate of the Brain Injury Association of America)

4250 E. Camelback Rd., #K-280 • Phoenix, AZ 85018 • (602) 508-8024 • Fax (602) 508-8285 • www.biaaz.org  
Helpline: (602) 323-9165 • Toll-free Helpline: (888) 305-0073

## MEMBERSHIP / DONATION

### **We need you to join our team! A team dedicated to:**

- Improving the quality of life for individuals with traumatic and acquired brain injury and their families, and
- Developing and supporting programs to prevent brain injuries.

Please complete all sections of this form to update our records. Membership covers a calendar year beginning the month of receipt of your application.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
Organization / Company

\_\_\_\_\_  
Address

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip

\_\_\_\_\_  
Phone FAX

\_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail

Please check one:

### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

Includes quarterly newsletter, notification of conferences and events, public policy updates and national publications.

Today's Date \_\_\_\_\_

New Member or  Renewing Member

**Basic Individual / Family / Friend – \$35**

**Professional – \$75**

**Courtesy / Special Rate – \$5**

This reduced rate is for persons with a brain injury or family members who have limited resources. The \$5 fee will help process your application and in the mailing of materials. Benefits are the same as a basic membership. Membership will not be denied to anyone based on his/her ability to pay.

**Please call me...I would like to volunteer!**

**I would like to make a donation only.**

If you wish to charge your membership payment, please complete:

VISA  MasterCard  American Express

# \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

**Please make check payable and mail to:  
BIA of AZ, 4250 E. Camelback Rd., K-280, Phoenix, AZ 85018**

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Brain Injury Association of AZ  
4250 E. Camelback Rd., K-280  
Phoenix, AZ 85018

