



Acquired Brain Injury Research Lab

Improving the quality of life of persons with acquired brain injury

Dr. Angela Colantonio's research program receives support from the Saunderson Family Chair in Acquired Brain Injury Research at Toronto Rehabilitation Institute. Research is focused around the themes described below.

Acquired Brain Injury In the Population

ABI Dataset

Accomplishments include establishment of the world's first Acquired Brain Injury Dataset, which tracks traumatic and non-traumatic brain injuries in Ontario across the continuum of care. We provide ABI data to stakeholders across geographic areas for health service planning, evaluation and advocacy. Our research also informs brain injury prevention.



ABI in Vulnerable Populations

Our expertise in population-based studies of ABI is internationally recognized. Our Lab provides expertise and research on ABI/TBI in vulnerable populations:

- Forensic mental health
- Prison populations
- Homeless persons
- Older adults
- Aboriginal population
- Workers in high-risk occupations
- Girls & women

Girls & Women with ABI

Our Lab addresses the inequity of research on girls and women with ABI. We are currently leading an international research initiative that focuses on this under-served population; specific topics include the impact of ABI on reproductive health, and the social & environmental factors necessary to achieve health and well-being.



Long term Outcome Studies

Our Lab continues two decades of internationally funded work on long term consequences of TBI. Two main projects currently underway focus on girls & women with ABI, and older adults with TBI.



Intervention Studies

Numerous initiatives are underway, mainly led by our exceptional trainees:

- Barriers to information and communications technology use among health care workers in the rehabilitation field
- Addressing sleep disorders post-TBI to improve cognitive communication and other functional outcomes
- Addressing accommodation challenges for return-to-work post TBI, from the employer perspective
- Addressing barriers and facilitators of return-to-work after mild to moderate TBI in an insured population
- Exercise as a means to treat depression after TBI

We are now funded by the Ontario Workplace Safety and Insurance Board to address maximizing return to work after mild to moderate TBI for persons in an insured population.



Knowledge Translation

Our Lab worked collaboratively with other researchers, the theatrical community, and survivors of TBI & their families to create *After the Crash: A Play about Brain Injury*. This award-winning play has been in performance continuously since 2006.



To request a performance or find out more visit www.ruckusensemble.com

We are currently developing a Knowledge Exchange grant focusing on girls & women with TBI across Canada.

Capacity Building

An important part of the Lab is to involve students and trainees in our research. Trainees across many departments and disciplines play core roles in research projects. We also collaborate with many other research projects and institutions.



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