



## BRAIN INJURY RESEARCH

The effects of brain injury can be complex. In order to improve outcomes, we must determine the factors that play a role in a person's short-term and long-term recovery. Shepherd Center supports relevant and low risk brain injury research studies that have the potential to improve the outcomes of its patients and their families.

### THE BRAIN INJURY RESEARCH PROGRAM

The Brain Injury Research Program at Shepherd Center is dedicated to identifying factors that impact recovery, determining the effectiveness of various forms of clinical interventions, and designing reliable and valid measures that can be used to assess and guide decisions about a person's rehabilitation.

Some of the funded research questions that the Brain Injury Research Program at Shepherd Center is attempting to answer include:

- What interventions lead to the best health and functional outcomes for persons with traumatic brain injury?
- Will medications help people with brain injuries to participate more in their therapies and recover better?
- What functional, psychological and social factors are most likely to place a client at risk for a poor rehabilitation outcome and/or difficulty transitioning home?
- Can we better assess and predict which clients are high safety risks and need full-time supervision?
- What resources are needed in the first year after traumatic brain injury to maximize client return to the community and improve life quality?

Each brain injury research study is carefully designed to be informative, practical, and, most importantly, safe. When we design a research study, we have to be comfortable enough with the study that we would consent our own family members to be participants in it. There has to be enough potential upside and/or very limited downside so that patients and their families feel good about participating.

### THE BRAIN INJURY RESEARCH TEAM

- Ronald Seel, PhD  
Brain Injury Research Director
- Stephen Macciocchi, PhD, ABPP  
Rehabilitation Psychology and Neuropsychology Director
- Darryl Kaelin, MD  
Acquired Brain Injury Program Medical Research Director
- Kimether Barlow, MPH  
Brain Injury Research Project Coordinator
- Sarah Heaner, MPH  
Brain Injury Research Project Coordinator
- Nicole Thompson, MPH  
Brain Injury Research Project Coordinator

### JOIN A STUDY

If you are interested in participating in a brain injury research study at Shepherd Center, go to [www.shepherd.org/research/intake-form](http://www.shepherd.org/research/intake-form) to complete and submit a brief questionnaire. We will keep your information in a database and contact you about research studies that you may be eligible to participate.

### OUR RESEARCH PROJECTS

For more information about the brain injury research projects being conducted by Shepherd Center, visit [www.shepherd.org/research/brain-injury](http://www.shepherd.org/research/brain-injury). You will be able to read more about our past and ongoing research studies, and see which studies are in need of volunteers.

### FOR MORE INFORMATION:

If you have any questions regarding Shepherd Center's Brain Injury Research Program, please contact us by email at [braininjuryresearch@shepherd.org](mailto:braininjuryresearch@shepherd.org), or call Ron Seel, Ph.D., at 404-367-1240.