

BI-STATE STROKE CONFERENCE

presented by Ability KC

Join Ability KC and our team of experts for one of Kansas City's leading conferences dedicated to innovations in treatment, evidence-based solutions designed to inspire real life clinical practices, and cutting-edge technologies for providing care to individuals who have experienced a stroke. This FREE conference is presented in collaboration with the Bi-State Stroke Education Consortium to enhance the educational opportunities for providers of stroke care across the continuum. Participants will receive a completion certificate at the end of the conference to self-submit for 4 hours of continuing education.

Thursday, May 7, 2026

8:00 AM – 12:30 PM

Kauffman Foundation Conference Center

4801 Rockhill Rd., Kansas City, MO 64110

Audience: Professionals Only



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8:00 AM Check-In

8:15 AM Navigating Medical Complexity: Delivering Integrated, Person-Centered Rehabilitation presented by Ashley Kinsey, RN, Collin Shelton, MS, CCC-SLP, CBIS, Kayla Thuet, DPT, Kristi Payne, OTR, Mary Kate Pikus, OTR/L

Objectives:

1. Explore therapeutic technologies that improve assessment, treatment, and functional recovery for individuals post-stroke.
2. Provide education on promoting independence and facilitating seamless transitions from therapy to school, home, and community for children after a neurological event.
3. Comprehend how to incorporate highly relevant, functional cognitive tasks into therapy sessions to enhance the generalization of target cognitive skills.
4. Describe project-based therapy and its advantages for generalizing functional cognitive and communication skills.
5. Outline the role of Return-to-Work (RTW) intervention within the continuum of neuro-medical rehabilitation.
6. Discuss how interdisciplinary collaboration aids the journey to employment after medical rehabilitation.
7. Identify the clinician's responsibilities in creating and implementing workplace accommodations to ensure a successful return to work.
8. Examine the role and influence of nursing services in an outpatient rehabilitation setting.

9:45 AM What the Chart Doesn't Capture: Intimacy, Identity, and the Couple System After Stroke presented by Brandon Taylor & Lindsey Taylor

Objectives

1. Articulate why the couple relationship warrants primary clinical attention after stroke, as experienced from both the survivor and care partner perspective.
2. Recognize opportunities within their current practice to initiate conversations about relational and psychosocial wellbeing with stroke survivors and their partners.
3. Connect patients and care partners to peer-led relational support resources as an extension of post-discharge care.

10:15 AM Break

10:30 AM Direct Visualization, Better Outcomes: FEES After Stroke presented by Jennifer Barnett, MS, CCC-SLP/FEES

Objectives:

1. Discuss the history and research supporting the use of FEES.
2. Identify intended outcomes and clinical application of FEES in the post stroke population.
3. Determine benefits of biofeedback with FEES.
4. Review cases studies of utilizing FEES in the post-acute setting.

11:30 AM Optimizing Seating for Individuals After Stroke presented by Alison Carr, PT, DPT, CBIS & Erin Brown, OTR, ATP

Objectives:

1. Understand the importance of the team approach regarding seating and positioning.
2. Understand wheelchair options for persons who have had a CVA.
3. Discuss the impact of appropriate seating and positioning regarding the independence and functionality of the user.

12:30 PM Conference Concludes

ABOUT ABILITY KC

Ability KC builds brighter futures for children and adults with disabilities through comprehensive medical, educational, vocational and therapeutic services. Our work is woven into the story of our city, as we've touched countless lives since 1947. Throughout our rich 75+ year history Ability KC has been at the cutting edge, leading the way in the delivery of holistic, individualized care while using evidence-based best practices and innovative approaches. The dedication of our experts and the support of our community converge to enable our work to not only continue but to grow in effectiveness and influence. We continue to make Kansas City stronger by ensuring people with disabilities have the support they need to fully participate in the community and we measure success by the unique goals those we serve set and achieve.

ABOUT THE CONSORTIUM

The Bi-State Stroke Education Consortium is composed of thirty-three health organizations and the American Stroke Association. These organizations have agreed to collaborate to enhance the educational opportunities for providers of stroke care across the continuum.

- Ability KC
- AdventHealth Shawnee Mission
- American Heart Association
- American Stroke Foundation
- Ascension Via Christi Hospital – St. Francis
- Belton Regional Medical Center
- Cass Regional Medical Center
- Centerpoint Medical Center
- Hays Medical Center
- Hutchinson Regional Medical Center
- Kansas Rehabilitation Center
- Lawrence Memorial Hospital
- Lee's Summit Medical Center
- Liberty Hospital
- MidAmerica Rehab Hospital
- Mosaic Life Care
- Mosaic Medical Center – Albany
- Mosaic Life Care of Maryville
- North Kansas City Hospital
- Olathe Medical Center
- Overland Park Regional Medical Center
- PAM Health Rehabilitation Hospital of Overland Park
- Research Medical Center
- Saint Luke's Health System
- Saint Luke's East Hospital
- Saint Luke's North Hospital
- Saint Luke's South Hospital
- St. Joseph Medical Center
- St. Mary's Medical Center
- Stormont-Vail HealthCare
- The University of Kansas Health System
- The University of Kansas Health System St. Francis Campus
- Via Christi Hospital – St. Francis
- Wesley Medical Center



INDUSTRY LEADING EXPERTISE

About the Speakers

ASHLEY KINSEY, RN

Ashley is a Registered Nurse with over 15 years of experience spanning therapeutic rehabilitation, kidney transplant care, medical-surgical nursing, long-term care, primary care, women's health, pediatrics, travel nursing, hospice marketing, and management. She joined Ability KC in 2020 and now serves as Nurse Manager after initially working as an RN in the adult day program. Ashley is known for blending clinical expertise with compassion, adaptability, and a genuine passion for patient advocacy. She is an active member of Black Nurses Rock and The Cure JM Foundation, committed to uplifting communities and advancing healthcare equity. Ashley is a proud mother of two who finds joy in reading, meaningful connections, and making a lasting impact wherever she serves

COLLIN SHELTON, M.S. CCC-SLP, CBIS

Collin is a speech-language pathologist on the adult medical rehab team at Ability KC. Collin started his career with Ability KC's Employment Services department in 2014 while earning his BS in Communication Disorders from the University of Central Missouri. He earned his MS from UCM in 2018 and has had experience in skilled nursing facilities, schools, home/community-based services and the outpatient day program at Ability KC. Collin is a Certified Brain Injury Specialist and his therapy interests include cognitive-communication skills, acquired language disorders, voice disorders and more

KAYLA THUET, DPT

Kayla is a pediatric physical therapist at Ability KC. She earned her Doctor of Physical Therapy degree from Washington University in St. Louis in 2024, completing clinical training at St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee, and Shirley Ryan AbilityLab in Chicago, Illinois. Kayla has been part of the Ability KC team for nearly two years, where she provides both landbased and aquatic therapy. She works with children with a wide range of neurological conditions, including cerebral palsy, stroke, spinal cord injuries, and traumatic or acquired brain injuries.

MARY KATE PIKUS, OTR/L

Mary Kate is an occupational therapist at Ability KC. She received her Master of Occupational Therapy from St. Louis University in 2024. She completed clinical rotations at Research Medical Center in Kansas City as well as Ability KC. Mary Kate has been a part of the Ability KC team for almost two years. She provides traditional occupational therapy as well as help run the constraint induced movement therapy camp. She works with children with a wide range of neurologic diagnoses including stroke, traumatic brain injury, cerebral palsy, spinal cord injury, and genetic abnormalities

INDUSTRY LEADING EXPERTISE

About the Speakers

KRISTI PAYNE, OTR

Kristi Payne graduated from the University of Missouri, Columbia, with a degree in Occupational Therapy. Her clinical background includes focus in neurorehabilitation, specifically brain injury and stroke, while working at the Rehabilitation Institute in Kansas City, MO and the Institute for Rehabilitation and Research in Houston, TX as manager of OT for the Brain Injury and Stroke program. She has also worked in outpatient, home health and rehab-to-home Skilled Nursing settings. Recognizing the potential individuals with neurological impairments have for meaningful and productive employment, Kristi accepted the role of Return-to-Work Navigator at Ability KC to help bridge the gap between medical neurorehabilitation and the transition back to work. Through early intervention and the implementation of appropriate accommodations, the transition from medical rehabilitation to return-to-work is both efficient and supportive, helping minimize the risk of job loss during recovery. Services include assisting individuals to navigate the requirements for medical leave and disability benefits; coordinating communication with the medical team, including the physician; developing workplace or school accommodations aligned with functional abilities; conducting job site assessments; facilitating education and dialogue with employers to support a successful return to work or school; and connecting individuals with community resources.

BRANDON TAYLOR, FOUNDER, BEYOND THIS

Brandon Taylor is the founder of Beyond This and a peer support facilitator specializing in stroke and acquired disability. A former dating and relationship coach, Brandon experienced a severe multifocal ischemic stroke in 2017 at age 35— with lasting effects across many areas of his functioning. He completed much of his rehabilitation at Ability KC and has since returned as a co-facilitator of peer support groups serving stroke, TBI, and spinal cord injury populations. Brandon brings a survivor's perspective to the dyadic post-discharge coaching model he developed with his partner Lindsey — a framework that treats the relationship as the unit of care and addresses the psychosocial and relational dimensions of recovery that clinical discharge pathways rarely reach or support.

LINDSEY TAYLOR, CO-FOUNDER, BEYOND THIS

Lindsey Taylor is co-founder and operations lead at Beyond This, and a care partner with firsthand experience navigating the relational and systemic challenges of life after stroke. She brings over two decades of leadership in People operations, organizational development, coaching, and facilitation across numerous industries— experience she now applies to building the programmatic and institutional infrastructure at Beyond This. Lindsey co-facilitates peer support programming grounded in the dyadic model and leads the organization's growing partnerships with rehabilitation networks, academic programs, and clinical organizations across the region.

JENNIFER BARNETT, MS, CCC-SLP/FEES

Jennifer completed her undergraduate and graduate education at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, graduating in 2007. She is currently an owner of Mobile FEES, LLC providing mobile endoscopic swallow studies and FEES competency trainings in the Midwest. She has also served as a FEES course instructor for over ten years, educating SLPs across the nation. She has received multiple ACE continuing education awards and has presented at area dysphagia study groups, state associations meetings, and guest lectured at local universities.

Disclosures: Jennifer Barnett has the following financial disclosure. She is an owner of Mobile FEES, LLC. Jennifer has no non-financial relationships to disclose

INDUSTRY LEADING EXPERTISE

About the Speakers

ALISON CARR, PT, DPT, CBIS

Alison is a graduate of St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa, where she received her Bachelor of Science in Exercise Science in 2012 and then her Doctor of Physical Therapy in 2013. Alison has 12 years of experience as a physical therapist and brain injury specialist. She feels fortunate to have had training to use new technologies and specialized therapeutic interventions, such as various robotic exoskeleton devices, functional electrical stimulation devices, and serial casting interventions, to assist her patients in their rehabilitation. Alison has enjoyed using her skills as a physical therapist in the outpatient setting, particularly in the Day Program at Ability KC in Kansas City, Missouri. Alison worked in inpatient rehabilitation for four years before joining Ability KC in November of 2017.

ERIN BROWN, OTR, ATP

Erin is an occupational therapist and assistive technology professional who works at Ability KC (since 2008) to serve adults and children with disabilities by providing education and therapy services. She enjoys working with all disabilities but has a passion for persons with spinal cord injury and upper extremity limb loss and seating and positioning. She is a part of the Adult Medical Rehab program as well as the ACCT program (Adaptive Computer and Communication Technology). She is involved in the community serving as board President and Membership Chair for the Greater Kansas City Spinal Cord Injury Association, Event Chair for Mid-West Ability Summit and committee chair for the Academy of Spinal Cord Injury Professionals (ASCIP). Erin has her Bachelor of Science in Occupational Therapy from University of Kansas (1995) as well as her specialty certification in assistive technology (2002) through Rehab Engineering Society of North America (RESNA).

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Questions?

Please contact
Tonya Pride, Marketing Specialist & Community Liaison,
at tonya.pride@abilitykc.org or 816.751.7786

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