VT Synapse presents...

Brain Injury Awareness Month Seminar Series and Events

MARCH 5, 12, 19 & 26TH, 2021

Our Mission Statement:
To advocate for the brain injury community by spreading awareness and designing resources to empower individuals to serve their community.

Contact us:
- synapsevirginiatech@gmail.com
- @synapsevirginiatech
- synapse at virginia tech
Speaker Series:

- **March 5th** - **Dr. Alissa Totman (MD, MPH)**
  "Founding of Synapse, Journey into Brain Injury Medicine" [12:30-1:30 PM EST]
  Resident Physician in the Department of Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation at Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital
  Alissa Totman is the Founder and Executive Director of Synapse National, and currently in her third year of residency training at the Harvard/Spaulding Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation Residency Program. Her career goal is to improve care for individuals with brain injury, both through advances in clinical practice and community resources.

- **March 12th** - **Dr. Steven Cramer (MD)**
  "Brain Repair after Stroke" [12:00-1:00 PM EST]
  Professor of Neurology at the University of California, Los Angeles, Director of Research at California Rehabilitation Institute.
  Dr. Cramer is a stroke neurologist who studies neural repair in humans, with an emphasis on stroke and recovery of movement, at Ronald Reagan UCLA Medical Center.

- **March 19th** - **Dr. Matthew Wright (PhD)**
  "Memory and Traumatic Brain Injury" [12:30-1:30 PM EST]
  Associate Clinical Professor of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences at David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA, Director of (NERD), Director of Neuropsychology Services and Training
  The primary focus of his research is to understand and optimize cognitive recovery following traumatic brain injury (TBI). Dr. Wright is currently studying the relationship between independent functioning and this memory model in addition to methods that can improve TBI participants’ memory performances.

- **March 26th** - **Dr. Neil Harris (PhD)**
  "Career Paths and Research in Neuroscience" [12:00-1:00 PM EST]
  Research Scientist at David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA and Department of Neurosurgery
  Dr. Neil Harris has worked within the fields of hydrocephalus, stroke and traumatic brain injury. The major theme of his current research at UCLA is understanding the potential for plasticity and recovery of function after brain trauma utilizing both light microscopy cell biology techniques as well as in vivo neuroimaging methodologies.

**Future seminar speakers - follow our [instagram](#) to stay tuned for a date!**

- **Dr. Mark Witcher (MD, PhD) "DBS and Neurosurgery"**
  General Neurosurgeon at Carilion Roanoke Memorial Hospital
  Dr. Witcher specializes in diagnosis and surgical treatment for both kids and adults of diseases involving brain, spinal cord and nerves. He performs several invasive procedures to treat spinal stenosis, congenital malformations, seizures, tumors.
Our Team:

**Jamie Nelson**
SUPPORT GROUP FACILITATOR

**Lindsey Hall**
GLIAL PROGRAM DIRECTOR

**Jiyon Kim**
MARKETING DIRECTOR

**Lucia Pastore**
CARILION VOLUNTEER PROGRAM DIRECTOR

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