

# PATHWAYS TO ACCESS

16TH ANNUAL **DISABILITY** SYMPOSIUM

UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA

## Plenary Descriptions

### **Dazed and Confused: Concussion on Campus**

**Jonathan Lichtenstein, M.B.A., Psy.D.**

Although the definition can be elusive and simply stated, a concussion is a traumatic brain injury. The symptom picture in concussion is diverse, with great variation from student to student. Such unpredictability can make treating concussion a true challenge. However, particular trajectories can be identified, which can be helpful not only to treating clinicians, but to all individuals in the student's world system. The interaction between injury and environment is fragile as students and those around them struggle to cope and adjust to functional changes. Physiological and cognitive symptoms, in addition to alterations in daily routine, can manifest in a dizzying constellation where emotional difficulties arise, further complicating recovery. This presentation will discuss disease specifics, with particular attention paid to the college student's experience with concussion. Practical solutions to real problems will be offered. We will focus on the management of this injury outside the clinic, as we consider ideas for intervention in the classroom, the dormitory, and beyond. A review of the extant literature on academic accommodations for college students will be presented, as well as lessons learned from high school concussion management programming that can be adapted to older adolescents and young adults.

### **Everybody is Good at Something**

**V.R. Feroese**

In this presentation, Feroese will share his journey of discovery - from his own son being diagnosed with autism to starting the internationally recognized 'Autism at Work' program at SAP. SAP made a landmark announcement in 2013, where they committed to hiring 1% of the SAP workforce with people on the autism spectrum. He will share how the Autism at Work program makes business sense and is not just a social initiative. The Autism at Work program is now a Harvard Business Case.

Feroese's own life experience as the parent of a differently abled son has been one of extreme emotions – from disappointment to hope, from pain to joy, from love to anguish. He will also cover lessons learned from his life experiences during this presentation.