

# WHO SPEAKS FOR THE CHILD?



CROSS INSURANCE CENTER

515 MAIN STREET, BANGOR, MAINE

## KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

---

### Abusive Head Trauma: The Controversy

---

*presented by*

**Christopher Spencer Greeley, MD, MS**

*Chief of the Section of Public Health Pediatrics, Texas Children's Hospital*



Northern Light Health Eastern Maine Medical Center Clinical Education Department is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Northeast Multistate Division (NE-MSD), an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.

*The Maine Medical Education Trust designates this live activity for a maximum of 6 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit(s)TM. Physicians should only claim credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.*

This activity has been planned and implemented in accordance with the accreditation requirements and policies of the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME) through the joint providership of the Maine Medical Education Trust and the Maine Child Welfare Conference Planning Committee. The Maine Medical Education Trust is accredited by the Maine Medical Association Committee on Continuing Medical Education and Accreditation to provide continuing medical education for physicians.

All sessions have been approved for Guardian ad Litem (GAL) credits and Continuing Legal Education (CLE) credits by the Maine Board of Overseers of the Bar.

**6.0 Contact Hours will be provided pending approval**

CERTIFICATES FOR CONTACT HOURS & FORMS REQUIRED IN ORDER TO RECEIVE CEUs WILL BE AVAILABLE AT THE CONCLUSION OF THE CONFERENCE. COST OF CEUs NOT INCLUDED IN THE CONFERENCE FEE.



**ABSOLUTELY NO OUTSIDE FOOD OR DRINK WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE CROSS CENTER.**

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED DURING THE CONFERENCE.

PLEASE ENJOY ANY OUTSIDE FOOD OR DRINK BEFORE ENTERING THE BUILDING



# MORNING AGENDA

8:00 - 8:30	REGISTRATION
8:30 - 8:45	WELCOME AND HOUSEKEEPING
8:45 - 10:15	<b>KEYNOTE - Abusive Head Trauma: The Controversy</b> Christopher Spencer Greeley, MD, MS
10:15 - 10:30	BREAK
10:30 - 12:00	<b>MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS</b>
A.	<b>Children's Views About Facilitated Parent-Child Contact</b> Michael Saini, PhD, MSW, RSW
B.	<b>Project STAAR (Survivors of Trafficking Creating Art, Agency, and Resilience): Using Photovoice to Reduce Stigma and Promote Resilience Among Survivors of Childhood Sex Trafficking</b> Jennifer Middleton, PhD, MSW, LCSW; Angela Renfro
C.	<b>External Signs of Abuse and Neglect</b> Christopher Spencer Greeley, MD, MS
D.	<b>Mandated Reporting: The Call That Starts It All*</b> Bobbi Johnson, LMSW
12:00 - 1:00	LUNCH

# AFTERNOON AGENDA

1:00 - 2:30	<b>AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS</b>
E.	<b>The Impact of Adversity and Disparity on Child Health</b> Christopher Spencer Greeley, MD, MS
F.	<b>Development and Implementation of a Trauma-Informed, Evidence-Based Child Sex Trafficking Risk Screening for Youth</b> Jennifer Middleton, PhD, MSW, LCSW Angela Renfro
G.	<b>Who Speaks for the Child When There Is Sexual Abuse?</b> Amanda Brownell, MD, FAAP
H.	<b>What Happens Next? Investigation, Intervention, and Advocacy</b> Bobbi Johnson, LMSW Tracy Jacques, Esq. Briana L. White, Esq.
2:30 - 2:45	<b>BREAK</b>
2:45 - 4:15	<b>PLENARY - The Child's Voice Entrenched in Conflict: Deciphering Views, Safety, and Wellbeing in the Context of Custody-Related Disputes Within Child Protection Services</b> Michael Saini, PhD, MSW., RSW
4:15 - 4:30	<b>CLOSING REMARKS</b>

## HANDOUTS AND REFERENCE MATERIALS

will be available on the Wings website one week prior to the conference. Please print them if you'd like a hard copy.

[www.wingsinc.org](http://www.wingsinc.org)



**ABSOLUTELY NO OUTSIDE FOOD OR DRINK WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE CROSS CENTER.**

LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED DURING THE CONFERENCE.

PLEASE ENJOY ANY OUTSIDE FOOD OR DRINK BEFORE ENTERING THE BUILDING.



# MORNING KEYNOTE

## *Abusive Head Trauma: The Controversy*

Abusive Head Trauma (AHT), historically called “Shaken Baby Syndrome”, is a condition in which a young child (usually in the first year of life) is injured by violent force by a caretaker. The clinical findings include: injury to the brain, fractures (typically to the ribs and growth plates of the bones), bleeding in the eyes and external injury (bruising). Over the past decade there have been news reports indicating that the existence of AHT has been questioned in the courtroom. This talk will discuss the science behind AHT and frame some of the criticisms raised in the courtroom and in the media.

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

1. Attendees will understand the scope of the medical/legal debate surrounding Abusive Head Trauma (“shaken baby syndrome”).
2. Attendees will recognize criticisms of the theory of Abusive Head Trauma which are raised in the legal setting and the medical literature used to support the skeptical position.
3. Attendees will understand the role of high quality medical literature appraisal in the medical/legal setting.

# AFTERNOON PLENARY

## *The Child's Voice Entrenched in Conflict: Deciphering Views, Safety and Wellbeing in the Context of Custody-Related Disputes Within Child Protection Services*

Ascertaining children's views and preferences in family law and child protection matters has created a number of important academic and policy conversations. These conversations touch on the social construction of children, the role of legal processes, the rights of children, the strategies for accessing children's points of view, and the intersection among childhood, the family, and the law. Current research on the voice of the child has shifted from questions about why the voice of the child is important to how to include the voice of the child. In order to answer these questions, the plenary will explore the different ways that the voice of the child can be considered within child protection services (e.g. parenting assessments, legal representation of a child, guardian-ad-litem, audio or video of the child, letters written by the child, and judicial interviews of children). The plenary will highlight both direct and indirect methods for involving children's voices and will consider the various actors within child protection services that either facilitate or hinder children's voices.

### **LEARNING OBJECTIVES:**

1. Attendees will gain an understanding about the arguments and counterarguments for voice, choice and access.
2. Attendees will learn about the various methods and services that have been developed to encourage children's participation in child custody disputes.
3. Attendees will understand the recent social science evidence about children's participation.



**ABSOLUTELY NO OUTSIDE FOOD OR DRINK WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE CROSS CENTER.**

**LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED DURING THE CONFERENCE.**

**PLEASE ENJOY ANY OUTSIDE FOOD OR DRINK BEFORE ENTERING THE BUILDING.**



# MORNING BREAKOUT SESSIONS

---

## A. Children's Views About Facilitated Parent-Child Contact: Lessons From Supervised Visitation Programs and the Use of Virtual Technologies

Michael Saini, PhD, MSW, RSW

Supervised access and exchange services and the use of virtual technologies allow non-custodial parents to visit with their children under the supervision of trained service providers in a safe, neutral, and child-focused environment. These services are most appropriate for families involved in issues that have risen from child custody and access disputes, such as the safety of children and custodial parents and substance abuse or mental health problems among non-custodial parents. This workshop will highlight the views of children and youth based on their use of these services.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Participants will be able to describe supervised visitation programs and the use of virtual technologies to maintain parent-child relationships.
2. Participants will be able to describe views of children about supervised visitation programs and the use of virtual technologies to maintain parent-child relationships.
3. Participants will recognize recent research and guidelines to help protect children within supervised and online services.

## B. Project STAAR: Using Photovoice to Reduce Stigma and Promote Resilience Among Survivors of Childhood Sex Trafficking

Jennifer Middelton, PhD, MSW, LCSW; Angela Renfro

Project STAAR (Survivors of Trafficking Creating Art, Agency, and Resilience) is a survivor-informed photovoice project that utilized grounded theory analysis techniques to facilitate critical conversations with two cohorts of survivors of childhood sex trafficking. The resulting compilation of photos and narratives shared by the artists (the survivors) will be shown as a 20-minute silent short film. Following the film, a survivor-led panel will present lessons learned and findings (photography and narratives) from the project.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Participants will understand the dynamics of child sex trafficking and its impact on children.
2. Participants will understand how to appropriately and effectively respond to child sex trafficking in a trauma-informed manner within their systems.
3. Participants will recognize the effect of stigma on child sex trafficking survivors.

## C. External Signs of Abuse and Neglect

Christopher Spencer Greeley, MD, MS

This talk will cover the basics of the external signs of child physical abuse and neglect. The talk will emphasize the understanding about bruising and burns in children. The talk will include typical abusive patterns as well as typical accidental patterns of bruising. The talk will also look at burn patterns. The participant will be presented different patterns of inflicted burns. Ways to distinguish inflicted from accidental burns will be discussed. The presentation will also include some common conditions that can be mistaken for being the result of abuse or neglect.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Participants will understand ways to distinguish accidental from inflicted bruises.
2. Participants will understand ways to distinguish accidental from inflicted burns.
3. Participants will recognize common external manifestations of neglect.

## D. Mandated Reporting: The Call That Starts It All\*

Bobbi Johnson, LMSW

Mandated Reporters are a critical part of Maine's Child protection system and act as an early warning network to identify suspected child abuse and neglect. Prompt reporting can help avoid serious and long term damage to a child. Professionals who frequently encounter children in their work are in the best position to recognize and report suspected child abuse and neglect and are required by law to do so. The purpose of this training is to promote child safety by increasing the knowledge of mandated reporters regarding the identification of the signs of abuse and neglect and explaining the process for reporting abuse. \* *This workshop meets the requirement for mandated reporter training under 22 MRS §4011-A-9.*

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Participants will be able to define the role of mandated reporters.
2. Participants will be able to identify behavioral and physical indicators of child abuse or neglect.
3. Participants will be able to understand the steps necessary to make a Child Protective Services report.

# AFTERNOON BREAKOUT SESSIONS

## E. The Impact of Adversity and Disparity on Child Health

Christopher Spencer Greeley, MD, MS

This talk will be an overview of the impact of childhood adversity on the child and the child as an adult. It will discuss on the proposed mechanism how childhood adversity can result in early mortality and increased morbidity. The presentation will discuss different frameworks for how to think of adversity and resilience in children. It will focus on common threats to child well-being (poverty, violence, neglect) and will explore how socioeconomic adversity and inequality has measurable impacts on children and their families. The concepts of inequality will be introduced and explored as it impacts the lives of children. Specific examples of inequality and adversity will be used to illustrate the points made.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. The participant will recognize the role that childhood adversity plays in the life trajectory of children.
2. The participant will understand how socioeconomic inequality has measurable effects on growing children and their families.
3. The participant will recognize how the healthcare provider can begin to address adversity in their practice.
4. The participant will recognize the role that education plays in the life span of the child

## F. Development and Implementation of a Trauma-Informed, Evidence-Based Child Sex Trafficking Risk Screening for Youth

Jennifer Middleton, PhD, MSW, LCSW; Angela Renfro

Comprehensive screening of multiple traumas can prevent further victimization. This session will present a trauma screening tool for children and youth that has been adapted to include a sex trafficking risk score and is currently being piloted across several settings in Kentucky. Discussion will focus on tool development and potential uses in a wide array of settings.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Participants will be able to identify the most common risk factors for human trafficking among youth.
2. Participants will understand how and why human trafficking often gets missed on trauma and power based violence screenings.
3. Participants will understand how a comprehensive trauma screening can enhance agency service provision and referral processes.
4. Participants will learn how to screen youth using the screener adapted by The Center for Promoting Recovery & Resilience

## G. Who Speaks for the Child When There is Sexual Abuse?

Amanda Brownell, MD, FAAP

This presentation will follow the case of a child who has been sexually abused from initial disclosure, to evidence collection, medical evaluation and follow-up. The importance of the multidisciplinary team is discussed. Myths and misconceptions about the medical evaluation will be dispelled. Attendees will be able to better serve child victims of sexual abuse and their families by understanding this often complex process.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Participants will be able to describe the role of the multidisciplinary team in caring for children who have been sexually abused.
2. Participants will understand the importance of the medical examination when a child has been sexually abused.
3. Participants will be able to provide an explanation of the process involved in caring for sexually abused children and their families including how evidence is obtained for an investigation.

## H. What Happens Next? Investigation, Intervention, and Advocacy

Bobbi Johnson, LMSW; Tracy Jacques, Esq.;  
Briana L. White, Esq.

There are several steps and decision points involved in a child welfare response. When a report is accepted for evaluation, a child protective services investigation takes place to determine whether or not a child was abused or neglected, and if so, to what extent. When a child has been harmed or subjected to an ongoing threat of harm and the child's family and supports cannot keep the child safe, intervention by the Court can become necessary. Each stage of the legal process has its own intricacies, including who can participate and to what extent. Every child protection proceeding has a guardian ad litem (GAL) appointed to conduct an investigation, evaluate what is in the child's best interest, and advocate for those best interests to the court.

### LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

1. Participants will be able to describe what happens during a child protective services investigation to determine a child's level of safety.
2. Participants will be able to describe the different Court stages and legal standards of a child protection proceeding.
3. Participants will be able to describe the role and responsibilities of the GAL as an agent of the Court and how that role differs from that of an "interested person," "participant," or "intervenor."

# PRESENTER BIOGRAPHIES

## CHRISTOPHER SPENCER GREELEY, MD, MS

Dr. Greely is the Chief of the Section of Public Health Pediatrics at Texas Children's Hospital and Professor of Pediatrics at Baylor College of Medicine. He received his medical degree from the University of Virginia in 1992 and completed internship and residency in pediatrics at Vanderbilt University. He received a Masters in Clinical Research, with a special concentration in Comparative Effectiveness Research, from the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston. He is board certified in General Pediatrics as well as Child Abuse Pediatrics, and is a member of the AMA and the AAP. He is the co-chair of the Texas Pediatric Society Committee on Child Abuse and Neglect and is the current president of the Ray E. Helfer Society, the international society for physicians working in the field of child maltreatment.

## MICHAEL A. SAINI, PhD, MSW, RSW

Dr. Saini is an Associate Professor at the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work, University of Toronto and holds the endowed Factor-Inwentash Chair of Law and Social Work. He is the Co-Director of the Combined J.D. and M.S.W. program with the Faculty of Law at the University of Toronto and the Course Director of the 40-hour Foundations to Custody Evaluations with the Continuing Education Program at the University of Toronto. For the past 16 years, he has been conducting custody evaluations and assisting children's counsel for the Office of the Children's Lawyer, Ministry of the Attorney General in Ontario. He has over 50 publications, including books, book chapters, government reports, systematic reviews and peer-reviewed journal articles. His publications have been in the area of high conflict, alienation, supervised visitation, virtual visitation and parent competencies post separation and divorce. He is an editorial board member for the Family Court Review and a Board Member of the Association of Family and Conciliation Courts.

## JENNIFER MIDDLETON, PhD, MSW, LCSW

Dr. Middleton is an Associate Professor in the Kent School of Social Work at the UofL and Director of the UofL Human Trafficking Research Initiative. Dr. Jennifer Middleton's research, teaching, and service activities all focus on partnering with communities to develop trauma-informed approaches to working with children and families impacted by trauma, substance abuse, and other adverse childhood experiences. In addition, her collaborative efforts aim to address the cumulative impact of working with traumatized populations on the professionals and organizations who serve them. Dr. Middleton leads multiple federally-funded, interdisciplinary research projects examining the impact of trauma-informed organizational change interventions within systems of care that serve sex trafficked populations and address community violence within refugee, Tribal, urban, and rural community contexts. She recently completed a five-year \$3.9M federal grant project that created a trauma-informed system of care for children directly impacted by the opioid epidemic.

## ANGELA RENFRO

From the young age of three to age twenty-nine, Angela Renfro lived through sexual abuse, prostitution, drug addiction, and human trafficking. Once Angela escaped the clutches of her trafficker, she dedicated herself to helping young girls & women escape the life of human trafficking. Angela is the Founder and Executive Director of the Kristy Love Foundation, Inc. located in Louisville, Kentucky. The Kristy Love Foundation is a 501c3 organization that has been in existence for over 8 years and served over 2,000 victims of trafficking through residential programming, and provided meals and outreach to over 25,000 homeless and/or vulnerable individuals in need.

## BOBBI JOHNSON, LMSW

Bobbi Johnson is the Associate Director of Child Welfare Services for the Office of Child and Family Services within the Maine Department of Health and Human Services. She obtained her Master's degree in Social Work at the University of Maine at Orono and is a Licensed Master Social Worker. Bobbi has worked for OCFS for 24 years. In her role, she is responsible for the overall leadership and strategic direction of child welfare services in Maine. Bobbi has experience with community building at both the local and statewide levels, and has been instrumental in moving the work of child welfare from an agency responsibility to the shared responsibility of families, OCFS and community partners. She has been active on several committees, including the Maine Child Welfare Advisory Panel, the Kinship Advisory Board and the Domestic Violence Homicide Review Panel. These efforts bring together partners statewide and are focused on improving the system of care, maximizing resources and promoting the voices of the individuals we serve.

## AMANDA D. BROWNELL, MD, FAAP

Dr. Brownell is the Medical Director of the Spurwink Child Abuse Program in South Portland, Maine, where she also serves as a Child Abuse Pediatrician. Dr. Brownell completed her pediatric residency at Maine Medical Center's Barbara Bush Children's Hospital in 2015 and a three-year fellowship in Child Abuse Pediatrics at the Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center in 2018. She is the Vice Chair of the Maine Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel, a Clinical Assistant Professor at Tufts University School of Medicine, and the Director of Pediatric Advocacy at Maine Medical Center in Portland, Maine.

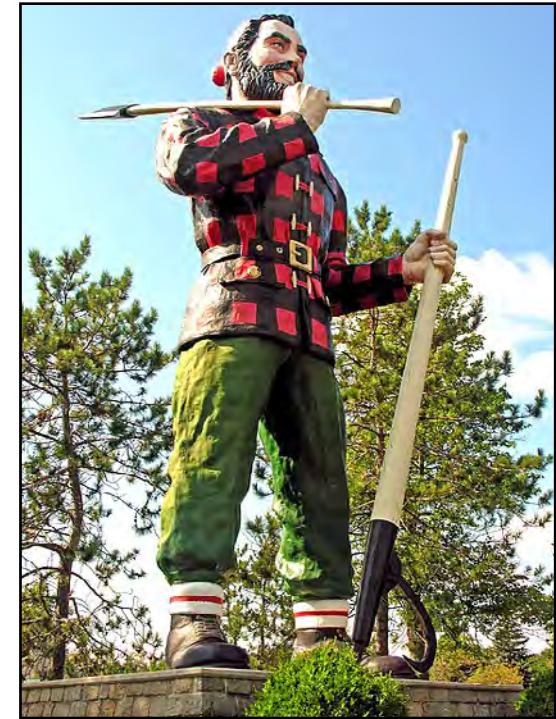
## TRACY JACQUES, ESQ.

Tracy Jacques joined Maine CASA as a Volunteer Coordinator in May of 2013. She graduated from the University of Maine at Orono earning a B.A. in Sociology and Psychology and has a law degree from the University of Maine School of Law. She currently serves as the Coordinator, Guardian ad Litem Services for the Maine Judicial Branch. She also oversees the day-to-day operations of Maine CASA including recruiting, training, and overseeing the volunteers.

## BRIANA L. WHITE, ESQ.

Briana L. White joined the Office of the Maine Attorney General as an Assistant Attorney General in the Child Protection Division in 2015. She received her Bachelors of Arts in Political Science from the University of New England and Juris Doctorate from the University Of Maine School of Law. Currently, she handles child protection proceedings in Skowhegan and Farmington District Courts. Additionally, she sits on the Maine Child Death and Serious Injury Review Panel and handles Clifford Orders statewide.

**PLAN YOUR VISIT TO BANGOR!**  
**CLICK THE LINK BELOW**  
**TO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENING LOCALLY!**  
**BANGOR MAINE EVENTS CALENDAR**



**Photo Credits:**

*Greetings from Bangor*, ©2018 Derek Hurder. Used with permission.

*Paul Bunyan*, ©2006 Dennis Jarvis. Creative Commons license CC-BY-SA 2.0.

*Thomas Hill Standpipe*, Bangor, Maine, ©2012 David Wilson. Creative Commons license CC-BY 2.0.

CC License Deeds available at  
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/>

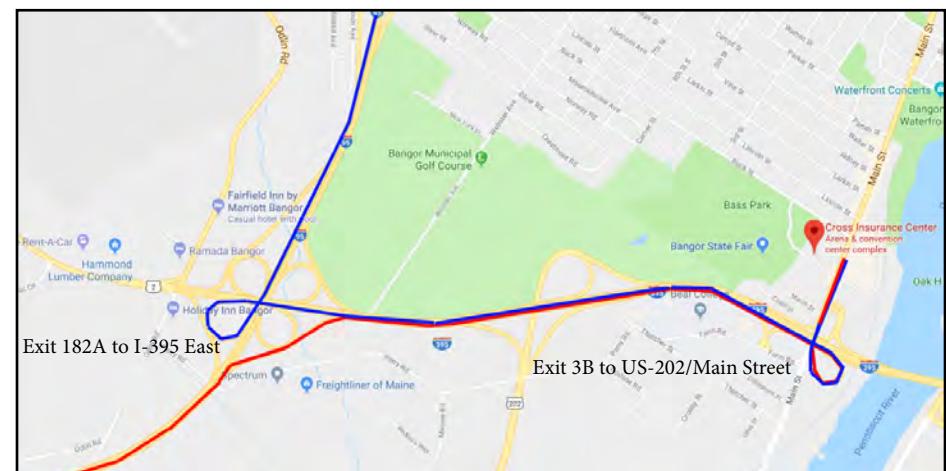
## **DIRECTIONS TO CROSS INSURANCE CENTER 515 MAIN STREET, BANGOR, MAINE**

**Take I-95 to Exit 182A**

**Merge onto I-395 East**

**Take Exit 3B to US-202/Downtown Bangor**

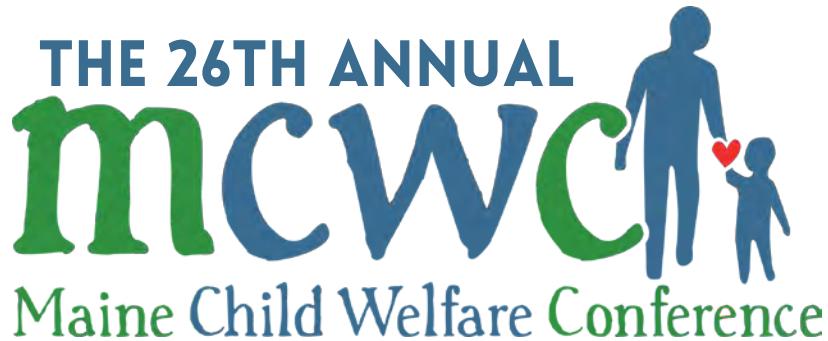
**After .5 miles, Cross Insurance Center is on the left**



**ABSOLUTELY NO OUTSIDE FOOD OR DRINK WILL BE ALLOWED IN THE CROSS CENTER.**  
LUNCH WILL BE PROVIDED DURING THE CONFERENCE. PLEASE ENJOY ANY OTHER FOOD OR DRINK  
PRIOR TO ENTERING THE BUILDING.



# SAVE THE DATE



THURSDAY  
JUNE 11, 2020

FEATURING KEYNOTE SPEAKER

## BESSEL VAN DER KOLK, M.D.

Dr. van der Kolk has spent his career studying how children and adults adapt to traumatic experiences, and has translated emerging findings from neuroscience and attachment research to develop and study a range of potentially effective treatments for traumatic stress in children and adults.



In 1984, he set up one of the first clinical research centers in the US dedicated to study and treatment of traumatic stress in civilian populations. He was a member of the first neuroimaging team to investigate how trauma changes brain processes, and did the first research linking BPD and deliberate self-injury to trauma and neglect in early childhood.

Much of his research has focused on how trauma has a different impact at different stages of development, and that disruptions in care-giving systems have additional deleterious effects that need to be addressed for effective intervention. He initiated the process that led to the establishment of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN), a Congressionally mandated initiative that now funds approximately 150 centers specializing in developing effective treatment interventions and implementing them in a wide array of settings, from juvenile detention centers to tribal agencies, nationwide.

He has focused on studying treatments that stabilize physiology, increase executive functioning and help traumatized individuals to feel fully alert to the present. His efforts resulted in the establishment of Trauma Center, specializing in the treatment of children and adults with histories of child maltreatment.

