

# 2022 WORKERS' COMPENSATION SUMMIT

*Embracing and Navigating the New Workplace*



Sept. 13, 2022

Heritage Center of Brooklyn Center

[www.dli.mn.gov/Summit](http://www.dli.mn.gov/Summit)

**mn** DEPARTMENT OF  
LABOR AND INDUSTRY

## Schedule at a Glance

### Tuesday, Sept. 13

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- 7:30 a.m. **Registration and continental breakfast**
- 8:30 a.m. **Welcome, opening remarks** by DLI Assistant Commissioner Kate Daly
- 8:45 a.m. **General Session:** Tyler Arvig, associate medical director, R3 Continuum  
– *Functioning Beyond Trauma: Health, Hope and Productivity*
- 9:45 a.m. **Break, visit with vendors**
- 10 a.m. **Breakout Sessions** (one hour)
- 11 a.m. **Break, visit with vendors**
- 11:15 a.m. **Breakout Sessions** (one hour)
- 12:15 p.m. **Plated lunch** (menu on page 15)
- 1:15 p.m. **General Session:** Keynote speaker Jearlyn Steele, singer, speaker, CBS Radio talk show host, TV entertainment reporter, graduate student, voice-over artist  
– *Is My Labor in Vain?*
- 2:15 p.m. **Break, visit with vendors**
- 2:30 p.m. **Breakout Sessions** (one hour and 15 minutes)
- 3:45 p.m. **End of 2022 Workers' Compensation Summit**

The complete schedule  
begins on page 2.



## A Message from Assistant Commissioner Kate Daly

On behalf of the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) and the Workers' Compensation Advisory Council, I would like to welcome you to DLI's 2022 Workers' Compensation Summit: Embracing and Navigating the New Workplace. Everyone at DLI is excited to welcome you back, in person, to DLI's workers' compensation summit.

DLI is very pleased with the agenda, speakers and presentations provided for you. DLI is very fortunate to have many wonderful Exhibitors – please be sure to visit with them. DLI is also grateful to its Sponsors: CorVel and Mottaz & Sisk.

The COVID-19 pandemic forced workers and employers to embrace and to navigate a new way of working and operating. The Minnesota workers' compensation system responded swiftly and effectively to the pandemic. Insurers, policymakers, regulators, employers and other stakeholders worked together and embraced innovations to make workplaces safer, to provide treatment and to pay claims. Together, they made a difference in the lives of the workers they served. The pandemic also reinforced the flexibility required of employers, employees and policymakers, and the vital role the workers' compensation system plays in Minnesota's economy.

I hope you enjoy the summit and I look forward to meeting you!



## Visit the Work Comp and Campus Service Center



The Work Comp and Campus Service Center is new to the Summit. Located on the lower level, it's staffed today by our subject matter experts who can answer your Work Comp Campus or other workers'-compensation-related questions.

Stop by at any time during this event to have your questions answered or sign-up for a time that works for you today.

## Today's Schedule

**Tuesday, Sept. 13**

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**7:30 a.m.**      **Registration and continental breakfast**

**8:30 a.m.**      **Garden City Room – Welcome and opening remarks** by Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) Assistant Commissioner of Workers' Compensation Kate Daly

**8:45 a.m.**      **Garden City Room – Opening General Session** with Tyler Arvig, PsyD, LP, associate medical director, R3 Continuum  
– *Functioning Beyond Trauma: Health, Hope and Productivity*

**9:45 a.m.**      **Break, visit with vendors**

**10 a.m.**        **Breakout Sessions (one hour)**

**Captain's Room – The Warning Signs of Addiction in the Injured Worker**, Renee Most, outreach manager, Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation

**Harvest A – Mediator panel: How to Effectively Mediate Your Workers' Compensation Case**

- Mike Forde and Kelly Lambert, attorneys and stakeholders, Aafedt, Forde, Gray, Monson and Hager, P.A.
- Amanda Furth, shareholder, Osterbauer Law Firm

*Mediation continues to rise in popularity among parties involved in workers' compensation cases in Minnesota. This dynamic panel will address why mediation has increasingly become an important tool for resolving various disputes and will tackle difficult questions concerning barriers to resolving cases through mediation.*

**Harvest B – Impact of the Recent Statute and Rule Changes Governing Workers' Compensation Ratemaking**, Andrea Everling, vice president of actuarial services, Minnesota Workers' Compensation Insurers Association (MWCIA)

*Demystifying the Ratemaking Report and explaining how the 2023 pure premium base rates are different than ever before.*

## Today's Schedule

**Harvest C – Labor Market Trends**, Tim O'Neill, labor market analyst, Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development

*Learn how Minnesota's labor market continues to recover from the impacts of COVID-19, with an emphasis on labor force and industry trends, hiring demand and projections. This session will also highlight the challenges faced by employers and job seekers as our labor market tightens, as well as the state's workforce with disabilities.*

**11 a.m.**      **Break, visit with vendors**

**11:15 a.m.**      **Breakout Sessions (one hour)**

**Captain's Room – The Summit Case Law Update 2022**

- Stephanie Balmer, shareholder, Falsani, Balmer, Peterson and Balmer
- Christopher Celichowski and Sarah Foulkes, shareholders, O'Meara, Leer, Wagner and Kohl, P.A.

*A review of the top Minnesota workers' compensation cases from the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals and Minnesota Supreme Court from March through August 2022*

**Harvest A – Insurer/TPA Panel: Insurer Perspectives and How Attorneys Can Work Effectively With Them**

- Trisha Gavin, workers' compensation claims manager, and Jane Shafer, senior claims representative, Secura Insurance
- Tierney Francis, team manager, Broadspire
- Sarah Hunter, vice president of claims, SFM

*Panel discussion with representatives from three insurers or third-party administrators sharing experiences and the challenges of claims work, and offering a valuable insight into how dispute resolution works from the insurer side. Attorneys representing both employees and employers/insurers will greatly benefit from this presentation with better knowledge of how to most effectively work with insurers to achieve resolutions.*



## Today's Schedule

### **Harvest B – Workers' Compensation Injuries and Post-traumatic Stress**

**Disorder**, Dr. Emily Bannister, occupational physician and DLI medical consultant

*Work-related post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is being increasingly recognized as a condition affecting injured workers who have experienced physical and/or emotional trauma. In this presentation, the incidence, diagnosis and treatment of PTSD will be addressed, as well as a discussion about issues impacting returning to work.*

### **Harvest C – Minnesota Workers' Compensation System Report: Trends and Highlights**

- Nichole Sorenson, director, DLI Research and Statistics
- Hared Mah and Brian Zaidman, DLI Research and Statistics

*Results from the recently released Minnesota Workers' Compensation System Report will be presented, showing trends in system costs, benefits, vocational rehabilitation and dispute resolution.*

**12:15 p.m.** **Plated lunch (menu on page 15), visit with vendors**

**1:15 p.m.** **Garden City Room – Afternoon General Session** with keynote speaker Jearlyn Steele, singer, speaker, CBS Radio talk show host, TV entertainment reporter, graduate student, voice-over artist  
– *Is My Labor In Vain?*

**2:15 p.m.** **Break, visit with vendors**

**2:30 p.m.** **Breakout Sessions (one hour and 15 minutes)**

### **Captain's Room – Judges Panel: Workers' Compensation Hearings During and Post Pandemic – Finding a Balance**

- Patricia Milun, chief judge, Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals
- Radd Kulseth and Amee Pham, assistant chief workers' compensation judges, Office of Administrative Hearings

## Today's Schedule

**Harvest A – Treatment of Long COVID-19 Conditions**, Kristine Trimble, Select Medical

**Harvest B – Traumatic Brain Injuries and Concussions in Injured Workers**, Dr. Uzma Samadani, president and CEO, US Neurosurgery Associates; staff neurosurgeon, Minneapolis VMAC; associate professor, University of Minnesota

*This talk discusses the nature of traumatic brain injury and means for classifying the nature and severity of injury using objective measures.*

**Harvest C – Ergonomics and the Changing Nature of Office Work**, Breca Tschida, DLI Minnesota OSHA Workplace Safety Consultation

*The pandemic has changed how we work in many ways. From prolonged remote working, to return-to-the-office mandates and changes to how office occupancy affects office design. Office work is changing. What are the implications for ergonomics when office work has changed so drastically in the past two years?*

**3:45 p.m. End of 2022 Workers' Compensation Summit**

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### We want to hear from you!

Watch your inbox for a post-Summit message with a link to our brief online survey. We'd love to hear what you liked about this year's event and what you would change or include the next time around.

We really appreciate your attendance and – with your help – we can make the next Summit the best one yet!

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## General Session Speakers

### Kate Daly

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Kate Daly is assistant commissioner for the Department of Labor and Industry's (DLI's) Workers' Compensation Division. Daly came to DLI from the St. Paul City Attorney's Office and has almost two decades of workers' compensation experience in both the private and public sectors.

Daly's private practice experience was devoted to workers' compensation defense. She advised employers and insurers, and arbitrated, mediated and litigated cases before DLI, the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) and the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals (WCCA). Daly moved to the public sector when she joined the Hennepin County Attorney's Office, where she led the workers' compensation teams for both Hennepin County and the Hennepin County Medical Center. She advised and counseled on liability determinations and litigated cases before DLI, OAH and WCCA.

Daly received her undergraduate degree from the University of St. Thomas and her law degree from William Mitchell College of Law.



### Tyler Arvig

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Functioning Beyond Trauma: Health, Hope and Productivity

*Tyler Arvig, PsyD, LP, associate medical director, R3 Continuum*

We all think we know trauma. After all, trauma is a part of life for all of us at some point. But when does it become a behavioral health diagnosis? In this thought-provoking discussion Tyler Arvig will take a deeper dive into trauma and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), focusing on the functional impacts that are often present in workers' compensation claims or following a workplace injury. The focus will be on how we truly help someone who may have experienced a traumatic event to get better, not just symptomatically, but in life. Arvig will delve into how to identify the issue and assess treatment needs most appropriately. However, he will spend more time on an often overlooked but incredibly significant questions – how do we keep the hope alive and how do we help people to keep moving forward?



#### **About Tyler Arvig**

Tyler Arvig is a clinical psychologist and associate medical director for R3 Continuum. He has more than 15 years of domestic and international experience in behavioral health workplace absence. He is an engaging public speaker who regularly presents at national and international conferences and to large and small organizations about work absence topics and clinical issues in the workplace. He has experience training and



## General Session Speakers

mentoring physicians and behavioral health professionals. Arvig has authored several peer-reviewed journal articles and is a frequently cited subject matter expert. He is also a high-performance driving instructor, racing enthusiast and very slow auto mechanic.

### Keynote speaker: **Jearlyn Steele**

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#### Is My Labor In Vain?

*Jearlyn Steele, singer, speaker, CBS Radio talk show host, TV entertainment reporter, graduate student and voice-over artist*

#### **About Jearlyn Steele**

Jearlyn Steele is a member of the internationally acclaimed family The Steeles, who have performed from Carnegie Hall to Brazil and to the Super Bowl Live Verizon stage in 2018. Recently, Jearlyn and The Steeles were a part of the 2022 (Prince) Celebration at Paisley Park in Chanhassen, Minnesota. For more than a decade, she has been the entertainment reporter for Twin Cities Public Television's (TPT's) award-winning political show "Almanac," interviewing local, national and international acts. As a keynote speaker, facilitator and emcee, Jearlyn has inspired audiences around the country and the Caribbean. Maintaining her four-hour Sunday night radio show "Steele Talkin'" on WCCO Radio 830AM has been a joy for more than two decades. Developing and delivering her TedX Talk in 2016 offered a revisitation of her personal values statement, which has emboldened her as a woman, mother, entertainer and student.



Musically, Jearlyn has performed with the Minnesota Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony Orchestra, Prince, Mavis Staples and more. She was a frequent special guest on the national radio broadcast "A Prairie Home Companion," performing duets with music greats Carole King and Elvis Costello. Her vocal talents landed her a feature in the Robert Altman film, "A Prairie Home Companion," starring Meryl Streep, Lily Tomlin, Woody Harrelson, Tommy Lee Jones and Garrison Keillor.

Jearlyn has served on boards of directors for Chrysalis, a women's resource center, and for the Ordway Circle of Stars, which unites children with the world of art. She is currently pursuing a master of arts degree in leadership and innovation in ministry at Luther Seminary, St. Paul, Minnesota.

In 2016, an honorary doctorate degree was conferred upon her by the University of Indianapolis and in October 2019, she received an Emmy for her role as narrator of the TPT documentary "Flour Power." Jearlyn is a mother of two and a grandmother of three.

## Breakout Session Speakers

### Stephanie Balmer

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Stephanie Balmer was born and raised in Duluth, Minnesota. She completed her undergraduate courses at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis and received her law degree from William Mitchell College of Law in St. Paul, Minnesota. She happily returned to Duluth to join her father Jim Balmer and his partners in the representation of disadvantaged and injured people at Falsani, Balmer, Peterson and Balmer.

Balmer and her family spend their time reading, enjoying local music, coaching and playing soccer, skiing, curling and being with their high-energy dog Florence.

### Emily Bannister

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Emily Bannister, M.D. MPH, is the medical consultant to the Department of Labor and Industry and a board-certified occupational medicine physician. She received her B.A. and M.D. at Washington University in St. Louis and MPH at University of Illinois at Chicago, where she completed her residency in occupational medicine. She has more than 15 years of clinical experience in occupational medicine and has practiced in Minnesota for the past 11 years. Bannister is in solo practice at The Workers Clinic in Brooklyn Center, Minnesota, and is also a medicolegal consultant at Bannister Occupational Medicine Consulting.

### Christopher Celichowski

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Christopher Celichowski represents clients in a variety of matters involving Minnesota workers' compensation, subrogation, employer liability, general liability, dram shop, employment and OSHA defense matters. A shareholder with the firm since 1993, he heads O'Meara, Leer, Wagner and Kohl, P.A.'s workers' compensation section, one of the largest workers' compensation practice groups in the state.

He began his career with the firm in 1987 as a law clerk. He served as the firm's managing shareholder from 1997 to 2000 and 2004 to 2006, and interim managing shareholder in 2012 and, again, from 2017 to 2019. Celichowski lectures extensively about workers' compensation, workers' compensation subrogation, employer liability and dram shop law to a wide variety of audiences, including claims professionals, trade and industry groups, and attorneys. He litigates cases in civil, appellate and administrative law courts. He lectures extensively and has prepared seminar materials for workers' compensation, workers' compensation subrogation, employer liability and dram shop audiences.

His peers have voted him a Minnesota "Super Lawyer" and "Rising Star" in *Law and Politics* magazine. In 2018 and 2019, he earned distinction among "Minnesota's Best Lawyers." Celichowski's colleagues consistently give him an "AV" rating through the LexisNexis Martindale-Hubbell Peer Review Ratings, signifying very high to pre-eminent legal ability and very high general standards. He lives with his wife Bonnie Sons in Shorewood, Minnesota.

### Andrea Everling

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Andrea Everling is vice president of actuarial services at MWCIA. She has a bachelor's degree in actuarial science/finance from Drake University. She is a fellow of the Casualty Actuarial Society and a member of

## Breakout Session Speakers

the American Academy of Actuaries. Before joining MWCI, Everling worked on the carrier side, performing ratemaking and reserving for commercial insurance product, including workers' compensation. She is passionate about providing data-driven insights into the workers' compensation environment in Minnesota. In her role, Everling is responsible for all the association's actuarial, financial data and statistical production functions, as well as the annual Minnesota Ratemaking Report.

### Michael Forde

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Michael Forde is a shareholder with Aafedt, Forde, Gray, Monson and Hager. He received his bachelor of arts degree magna cum laude from Luther College in 1971, and his juris doctor degree cum laude from the University of Minnesota Law School in 1974. He subsequently completed civil mediation training through Hamline University in 1996.

Forde joined the law firm in September 1974 and became shareholder in 1981. His practice initially centered on defending workers' compensation and insurance claims. He began mediating workers' compensation claims in 1995. The Union Construction Workers' Compensation Program subsequently appointed Forde as a designated mediator/arbitrator. Since 2010, he has focused his practice solely on mediating workers' compensation claims and other workplace injury and employment disputes.

Forde has been listed as a "Super Lawyer" every year since 1999. In 2001, he was voted one of the top 100 lawyers in Minnesota. In 2013, he was awarded "Lawyer of the Year" in workers' compensation-employer by Best Lawyers. He is currently listed in the most recent edition of Best Lawyers in America.

### Sarah Foulkes

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Sarah Foulkes represents self-insured and insured clients in the defense of workers' compensation claim matters at O'Meara, Leer, Wagner and Kohl, P.A. Since joining the firm in 1999, she has developed a particular proficiency in evaluating, assessing and defending progressive injury asbestos cases.

She is a 1999 cum laude graduate of William Mitchell College of Law. She received her bachelor of arts degree in social work, magna cum laude, from the College of St. Benedict. She is admitted to practice in the Minnesota federal and state courts. She is also a member of the Minnesota State Bar Association and the Hennepin County Bar Association.

Foulkes is married and has twin boys. She is active in sports following a distinguished high school and collegiate basketball career. In addition, she dedicates her free time to community volunteer work.

### Tierney Francis

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Tierney Francis, AIC, is the team manager for Broadspire's Minneapolis office. Tierney has spent her entire career with Broadspire, a Crawford Company.

## Breakout Session Speakers

### Amanda Furth

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Amanda Furth has represented people with workers' compensation and other personal injuries since 2003. While in law school, she joined Osterbauer Law Firm as a law clerk in personal injury and workers' compensation. Nineteen years later, she is still practicing in these areas. Furth has been named a "Rising Star" attorney by *Super Lawyers* magazine nine times and is a frequent CLE speaker. She is a member of the Minnesota State Bar Association and Hennepin County Bar Association, as well as the Amdahl Inn of Court. Originally from New Ulm, Minnesota, Furth enjoys baseball, festivals and German food. She is an avid sports fan who attends many Twins, Timberwolves and Gophers games with her husband and teenagers.

### Trisha Gavin

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Trisha Gavin, MEPD, CSHE, AINS, is claims manager – workers' compensation for Secura Insurance. She received her bachelor of science in kinesiology – athletic training from the University of Wisconsin, Eau Claire, followed by a master's degree in education and professional development. Her career started in the athletic training world, working in orthopedic clinics and school outreach. In 2007, Gavin transitioned into the workers' compensation space, working alongside injured workers and their employers. Her role in the employer world of workers' compensation was to provide on-site medical management, injury prevention and case facilitation, which included working directly with employers, third-party administrators and carriers on claim analysis, coordination of on-site care, independent medical examinations, ergonomic causation studies and return-to-work planning. Gavin has had accreditation (ATC) from the National Athletic Trainers Association and is a certified specialist in health ergonomics and AINS. She has been with Secura since 2013 and became workers' compensation department manager in August 2021. Secura's claim handling philosophy centers around service first, along with injured worker advocacy.

### Sarah Hunter

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Sarah Hunter joined SFM in 2018 as defense counsel in Lynn, Scharfenberg and Hollick, representing SFM and its policyholders in Minnesota workers' compensation litigation. She became vice president of claims in 2022. Hunter is responsible for all aspects of SFM's claims operations, including regulatory, financial and quality oversight. She previously worked as an attorney, exclusively in workers' compensation defense, for 11 years in private practice.

She serves on the WCRA Members Services Committee, was appointed and serves as an insurer member of the Minnesota Rehabilitation Review Panel and is a member of the Minnesota Workers' Compensation Insurers' Task Force and the Minnesota Claim Managers Association.

Hunter graduated cum laude from the College of St. Scholastica with a bachelor of arts degree and from Hamline University School of Law with a juris doctor. She has been admitted to the Minnesota Bar since 2007.

### Radd Kulseth

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Radd Kulseth has been an assistant chief workers' compensation judge at the Office of Administrative Hearings (OAH) since 2020, after working as a workers' compensation judge there since 2018. Prior to OAH, he was a senior shareholder at Aafedt, Forde, Gray, Monson and Hager, P.A., practicing in workers' compensation

## Breakout Session Speakers

defense, subrogation and construction law in Minnesota and Wisconsin. Kulseth received two bachelor's degrees from North Dakota State University, studied classical languages and near eastern studies at the University of Minnesota and received his juris doctor degree from William Mitchell College of Law.

### Kelly Lambert

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Kelly Lambert is a shareholder with the firm Aafedt, Forde, Gray, Monson and Hager, P.A. She received her juris doctor degree from William Mitchell College of Law in 2001. She received her bachelor's degree cum laude from Hamline University in 1997.

Lambert was admitted to practice law in the state of Minnesota in 2001. Prior to graduating from law school, she worked as a paralegal and law clerk for approximately five years in the areas of workers' compensation and personal injury. She joined Aafedt, Forde, Gray, Monson and Hager, P.A., in 2001, and has experience in all aspects of workers' compensation litigation, including insurance coverage disputes, employer liability cases and subrogation issues. She has a wide variety of clients that include both public and private employers. Many of her clients are self-insured. She enjoys the close working relationships that develop from years of providing defense work for her client base. Lambert has earned broad respect from colleagues and adversaries alike for her thoughtful professionalism. Her goal is to have zealous advocacy coupled with courtesy extended to all parties.

Lambert is a member of the Minnesota Employers Workers Compensation Alliance and the Twin Cities Claims Association. She was recently selected by her peers for inclusion in The Best Lawyers in America™ in the field of workers' compensation law for employers. She was also selected as a rising star attorney by Super Lawyers, a Thomson Reuters business.

### Hared Mah

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Hared Mah, research scientist, Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry, joined the department at the beginning of 2022. Prior to that, he worked at the Minnesota Department of Human Services, where he analyzed child support data. Mah has worked on projects such as Minnesota's workers' compensation physician fee schedule and the Minnesota Workers' Compensation System Report.

### Patricia Milun

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Chief Judge Patricia Milun graduated from the College of St. Benedict's in 1981 and the William Mitchell College of Law in 1985. She worked for Larsen, Heck, Klimek and Powell for five years as a workers' compensation attorney. From 1993 until her appointment as chief judge of the Workers' Compensation Court of Appeals in 2011, she worked as a workers' compensation judge at the Department of Labor and Industry and the Office of Administrative Hearings, except from 2001 to 2003 when she was deputy commissioner of the Department of Labor and Industry.

### Renee Most

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Renee Most has worked as a clinician in the behavioral health care field for the past 20 years, focusing her work on families and individuals struggling with substance use and co-occurring disorders. She obtained her master's



## Breakout Session Speakers

degree in addiction studies from The Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation Graduate Program in 2005. Since that time, she has had both clinical and business development roles at several national treatment facilities. More recently, Most led the largest collegiate recovery program in the nation at Augsburg University in Minneapolis. Her passion lies in working with patients, families and providers to improve the health and wellness of those struggling with substance use and mental health disorders. She currently lives in Minnesota with her husband and two sons.

### Tim O'Neill

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Tim O'Neill is the Minnesota Department of Employment and Economic Development's (DEED's) labor market analyst for the seven-county Twin Cities region of Minnesota. As a regional analyst, he focuses on economic and labor market trends, regional demographics, distinguishing industries in the metropolitan area, and career and educational outcomes. He has a bachelor's degree in history and political science from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, and a master's degree in public policy from the Humphrey School of Public Affairs at the University of Minnesota.

### Amee Pham

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Amee Pham has been an assistant chief workers' compensation judge since 2021. She earned a bachelor's degree from Armstrong State University and a juris doctor from Hamline University School of Law. She was previously an associate attorney for Heacox, Hartman, Koshmrl, Cosgriff, Johnson, Lane and Feentra, P.A., as well as for Fields Law Firm. Pham was a staff attorney at the Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings.

### Uzma Samadani

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Uzma Samadani, M.D., Ph.D., FACS FAANS is a private-practice neurosurgeon in Minneapolis and researcher at the University of Minnesota. She moved to Minneapolis in 2015 and has been named to *Mpls St. Paul Magazine's* "Top Doctors in Neurosurgery" list four times. In 2018, she was on the cover of the "Top Doctors" edition with the byline "The Doctor Will Save You Now" and was also awarded the "Courageous Woman in Healthcare" award by the Women's Health Leadership Trust. *Minnesota Monthly* has twice dubbed her a "Top Doctor in Minnesota."

Samadani has clinical expertise in both cranial and spinal surgery. She has performed one of the most extensive spine tumor resections documented in the scientific literature (five tumors removed in a 25-hour surgery from a 15-year-old girl, who remains tumor-free more than four years later). She also has performed several successful epidural spinal cord stimulation surgeries in people who are paralyzed to restore movement in their lower extremities, as well as other spinal cord functions. Many of these patients have recovered spontaneous volitional movement and several can now walk with assistance or assistive devices.

Samadani is an associate professor in the Department of Bioinformatics and Computational Biology at the University of Minnesota with a graduate faculty appointment in neuroscience. She is also an attending neurosurgeon at the Minneapolis Veterans Administration Medical Center and founder of the neurodiagnostic start-up Oculogica Inc., which has developed the first baseline free concussion diagnostic cleared for marketing approval by the FDA. She holds multiple patents related to brain injury, its treatment and its consequences. She has been named one of the "Most Creative People in Business" by *Fast Company* magazine.

## Breakout Session Speakers

She is on the executive committee of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons/Congress of Neurological Surgeons Joint Section on Neurotrauma and Critical Care and served as scientific program chair for their meeting in conjunction with the National Neurotrauma Society from 2014 to 2017. She also served as chair of the board of ThinkFirst Foundation from 2019 to 2021. She is past chair of the Minnesota State Traumatic Brain and Spinal Cord Injury Research Program and a past-president of Women in Neurosurgery. She serves on the board of the G4 Alliance, which serves the needs of the neglected surgical patient, and she has a strong interest in methods for achieving equitable brain injury care.

She has received more than \$6 million in research grants from national and international competitive funding agencies to study diagnostics, risks, outcomes and treatments for brain and spinal cord injury. She has been funded by the United States Veterans Administration, Department of Defense, National Space and Biomedical Research Institute, Abbott Diagnostic Laboratories, American College of Surgeons, American Association of Neurological Surgeons, Thrasher Research Fund, Integra, the Steven and Alexandra Cohen Foundation, and several other organizations.

Samadani is certified by the American Board of Neurological Surgeons and a fellow of the American College of Surgeons and American Association of Neurological Surgeons. Her research on brain injury has been discussed in *The New York Times*, *LeMonde*, *LeFigaro*, *Wired*, *Washington Post*, *Sports Illustrated*, *Forbes* and *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, as well as numerous other media sources. She has been a speaker at TedMed, the North American Brain Injury Society, National Neurotrauma Society, American Association of Neurological Surgeons meeting and multiple other conferences. She has published 70 peer-reviewed scientific papers and an additional 30 reviews and chapters, including in the *Journal of Neurotrauma*, *JAMA Neurology*, *Journal of Neurosurgery* and the *New England Journal of Medicine*.

Samadani also served as an unaffiliated neurotrauma consultant to the National Football League from 2015 to 2018.

### Jane Shafer

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Jane Shafer, ARM, CPMA, is a senior claims representative, workers' compensation, at Secura Insurance. She received her bachelor of arts degree from Metro State University in legal studies, as well as her paralegal certificate. Her career started as a paralegal working for defense firms in the Twin Cities in workers' compensation and personal injury law. Shafer transitioned into the workers' compensation insurance industry as a certified professional medical auditor at SFM and, ultimately, as a claims adjuster with a self-insured government entity. She has been with Secura since 2020 as a senior claims representative and acquired her risk management designation in April 2022. Shafer also volunteered for two years with the Ramsey County Board of Professional Responsibility, investigating ethical complaints lodged against licensed attorneys in Ramsey County. She is a proponent of integrity first, which is a central core of Secura's philosophy in claim handling.

### Nichole Sorenson

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Nichole Sorenson, director, Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Statistics, has experience in research, data analysis, strategic planning, compliance and continuous improvement. She has a Ph.D. in organizational leadership, policy and administration from the University of Minnesota.

## Breakout Session Speakers

### Gary K. Thaden

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Gary K. Thaden is the government affairs director for the Minnesota Mechanical Contractors Association (MMCA). His responsibilities include labor relations and lobbying services for MMCA and four local chapters of the National Electrical Contractors Association. Thaden serves as a management representative on the Minnesota Workers' Compensation Advisory Council and serves as a public member on the board of directors of the Minnesota Workers' Compensation Insurers Association and as a member of WCRI's Minnesota Advisory Committee. Thaden has served on numerous other industry and civic committees, including as chair of the Hennepin County Library Board of Trustees and chair of the Minnesota State Bar Association Construction Law Section. He earned a bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota and a juris doctor degree from William Mitchell College of Law.

### Kristine Trimble

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Kristine Trimble is a doctor of physical therapy with more than 20 years of experience. She is the recovery and reconditioning champion of Minnesota for NovaCare and is a ReVital Certified therapist who treats individuals on the cancer care continuum. She has worked with the work conditioning program and completes functional capacity evaluations. Trimble guest lectures at several physical therapy programs and coordinates student placements for Minnesota physical therapy students. In addition, she is a passionate dysautonomia advocate who volunteers as a consultant with Dysautonomia Support Network and works with many individuals who experience dysautonomia post-COVID-19.

Trimble recently launched an online training, available to thousands of practitioners, within her company: "Clinical Management of Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS): It Isn't Just Passing Out."

### Breca Tschida

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Breca Tschida is an ergonomist and industrial hygienist for Minnesota OSHA's consultative group, Workplace Safety Consultation, at the Department of Labor and Industry (DLI). She is a certified professional ergonomist and has a master of science in public health degree in industrial hygiene. Before working for DLI, she was a private consultant in industrial hygiene and ergonomics. Tschida has also worked as a health compliance officer and senior member of the ergonomics team for OSHA Compliance with the North Carolina Department of Labor.

### Brian Zaidman

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Brian Zaidman, senior research analyst, Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry's Research and Statistics, has been tracking Minnesota's workers' compensation system since 1987. During that time, Zaidman has studied a variety of workers' compensation and workplace safety and health issues, including vocational rehabilitation, post-traumatic stress disorder claims and injury characteristic trends. He monitors the workers' compensation COVID-19 claims reported to the department. Zaidman also gives presentations about the basics of OSHA log recordkeeping.

## Menus and Provided Services

### Breakfast

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- Fresh baked muffins, croissants, assorted danishes
- Fresh cut fruit and berries
- Fresh brewed Caribou coffee (regular and decaffeinated)
- Herbal tea selection
- Assorted juices and ice water

### Mid-morning break

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- Whole fruit
- Mini bagels
- Cream cheese with smoked salmon, moroccan spice
- Freshly brewed Caribou coffee (regular and decaffeinated)
- Herbal tea selection
- Ice water

### Lunch

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- Simple green salad with cherry tomato, cucumber, shaved carrot and balsamic vinaigrette (gluten- and dairy-free)
- Herb-crusted chicken (gluten-free) with Taleggio cheese and chive risotto and porcini-scented sauce
- Vanilla bean cheesecake with mixed berry topping

### Afternoon break

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- Warm pretzels
- Pimento cheese dip with assorted mustards
- Pretzel rods
- Housemade pickle platter with cucumber, red onion, cauliflower and carrot
- Sugar cookies

### Available on the lower level

#### *Work Comp and Campus Service Center*

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Ask our group of workers' compensation and Work Comp Campus experts your questions during the Summit. They will be available during the whole event for appointments made today and for walk-ins. They will also offer information about how to best interact with the Department of Labor and Industry.

#### *Calm spaces available*

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To help meet the needs of our attendees, we have calm spaces available at the Summit for nursing mothers and for prayer.

## Thank You to Our Exhibitors

### Arcadia Settlements Group

• [www.teamarcadia.com](http://www.teamarcadia.com) •

At Arcadia, we help resolve conflicts, reduce litigation expenses and create long-term financial security for people involved in personal injury claims through our settlement consulting services.



The Structured Settlements Company

### Arthur Chapman

• [www.arthurchapman.com](http://www.arthurchapman.com) •

Arthur, Chapman, Kettering, Smetak & Pikala, P.A. delivers top-tier legal expertise with down-to-earth character and values. Our Workers' Compensation Practice Group works hard to get you the best result in the least amount of time. We get it done with unsurpassed initiative, diligence and follow-through. We have offices in Minneapolis and in Hudson, Wisconsin.

**ARTHUR CHAPMAN**  
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### Baywood Home Care

• [www.baywoodhomecare.com](http://www.baywoodhomecare.com) •

Baywood Home Care provides in-home care so adults who need care can continue living at home. Baywood provides short- or long-term care for adults in the Twin Cities, South Central and Southwestern Minnesota. Baywood has been providing care for more than 22 years, with the mission: happy clients, happy clients' families and happy employees. We believe Baywood offers the best private home care in Minnesota.



**Baywood Home Care**

*The freedom of living at home*

### Ermi, L.L.C.

• [www.ermi-motion.com](http://www.ermi-motion.com) •

Ermi rescues patients from motion loss by partnering with our local clinicians and QRCs. We assist in getting patients back to work in a timely manner while saving the health care system thousands of dollars per patient.



Free to Move Again,  
Free to Live Again.

### Erstad and Reimer

• [www.erstad.com](http://www.erstad.com) •

Erstad & Reimer, P.A., is a full-service defense firm. We offer the unique benefit of having experienced, seasoned attorneys who handle both workers' compensation defense and complex civil litigation in Minnesota and other jurisdictions. Erstad & Reimer, P.A.,

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is recognized as an outstanding litigation firm with a history of serving our clients since 1990. Our civil liability attorneys handle all types of civil litigation, with a focus on insurance defense. Our workers' compensation attorneys specialize in defending workers' compensation claims, litigation and appeals, and practice exclusively in this area of law. We are committed to serving our clients and encourage you to contact us to explore how we can help you with your litigation needs.

### Fitch Johnson Larson

• [www.fitchjohnson.com](http://www.fitchjohnson.com) •

Fitch Johnson Larson was established in 1968, putting us more than 50 years down the road of experience in all aspects of workers' compensation defense. Our focus is defending employers and insurers – including both public and private self-insured employers – in workers' compensation litigation. Our law firm has a robust reputation as one of Minnesota's leading law firms in workers' compensation defense. Our collective success in handling claims from initial investigation through trial and appeal comes to hundreds of years and thousands of cases of firm-wide experience.



### Heacox, Hartman, Koshmrl, Cosgriff, Johnson, Lane & Feenstra

• [www.heacoxlaw.com](http://www.heacoxlaw.com) •

Our firm provides high-quality, cost-effective, aggressive litigation services to a diverse, well-established clientele of businesses, self-insured corporations and the insurance industry. The firm specializes in providing its clients defense and counsel primarily in the area of workers' compensation law.



### MWCIA

• [www.mwcia.org](http://www.mwcia.org) •

The Minnesota Workers' Compensation Insurers Association (MWCIA) is a nonprofit corporation licensed by the Minnesota Department of Commerce as a data services organization (DSO). MWCIA collects policy, claims and financial data from its member insurers licensed to sell workers' compensation insurance in Minnesota. This information is compiled and analyzed, and then used to develop MWCIA's Annual Ratemaking Report, calculate employer experience modifications and inform public policymaking. MWCIA also provides underwriting and policy assignment services on behalf of the Minnesota Assigned Risk Plan.



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### NovaCare Rehabilitation

• [www.novacare.com](http://www.novacare.com) •

NovaCare Rehabilitation provides quality and cost-effective physical therapy and occupational/hand therapy services. At NovaCare, we are devoted to improving function and quality of life for our patients. We are confident of the quality of care we provide and our patients validate this on a regular basis.



**NovaCare**<sup>®</sup>  
**REHABILITATION**

*A Division of Select Medical*

### OMNI Case Management

• [www.omni-cm.com](http://www.omni-cm.com) •

OMNI Case Management brings more than 70 years of combined experience in workers' compensation medical and vocational rehabilitation. We are a regional case management company with the knowledge to do it right and the size to be able to do it the way our customers want. Our vision is simple, to create a company where we can attract the best talent in the business because we are formed by three guiding principles: trust; integrity; and respect. This is what our customers and our employees will come to expect from OMNI.



**OMNI**  
**CASE MANAGEMENT**

### Rebound Orthotics and Prosthetics

• [www.rebound.com](http://www.rebound.com) •

Rebound Orthotics and Prosthetics, Inc. is a local orthotic and prosthetic company founded in 2004. Rebound is veteran owned and operated, with four clinical sites in Minnesota. We specialize in providing artificial limbs/fingers, bracing of all types and DME, including cold therapy. We have six licensed practitioners on staff and are available for consultations to help meet your clients' needs. We provide our services and devices in a timely cost effective manner. The major difference between national companies and Rebound is we will assess, fit, follow up and adjust the device for your client at our local facility. Rebound will work directly with your company to ensure a cost appropriate and clinically effective treatment plan for your clients. Please visit us at our booth and ask us how we can take care of your clients.



## Thank You to Our Exhibitors

### Saunders Therapy Centers

• [www.saunders-therapy.com](http://www.saunders-therapy.com) •

Saunders Therapy Centers is a physical and occupational therapy clinic specializing in work hardening and functional capacity evaluation since 1988. Our passion is to identify and maximize the work-related functional abilities of those injured on the job. Communication is a hallmark of our service.

We work closely with the client, physician, QRC, NCM, insurance adjuster and employer to fully understand the unique requirements of each case.

Each of our clinics has a large gym area and equipment that allows us to evaluate work-related function and simulate job-related activities for nearly any job. We have excellent staff at all three locations – Bloomington, Maple Grove and St. Paul, Minnesota. The clinicians who provide these services are specially trained and very experienced. They understand the industry, the workers' compensation system and the unique issues involved in work-related injuries. Saunders has been 100% employee-owned since 2021.



### Twin Cities Pain Clinic

• [www.twincitiespainclinic.com](http://www.twincitiespainclinic.com) •

At Twin Cities Pain Clinic, we have made it our singular goal to help you get back to living your life with less pain. We are one of Minnesota's leading authorities in treating chronic pain and we have all the expertise, resources and compassionate care to provide relief from virtually all pain conditions.

Dr. Andrew J. Will, a third-generation physician from Bemidji, Minnesota, founded Twin Cities Pain Clinic in 2003 out of a small practice in Eden Prairie, Minnesota. Since then, we have grown into a comprehensive pain management organization with four clinics and two surgery centers throughout the Twin Cities.

Each of our providers is a highly skilled expert specializing in the treatment of chronic pain. We are our patients' partners in care and will work closely with them to determine the exact source of pain and prescribe the best course of treatment to provide maximum relief and improved quality of life. We take great care to ensure everyone has access to prompt, effective treatment. We accept most insurance plans, including workers' compensation, auto accident coverage, Medicare and Medicaid/Medical Assistance.

Chronic pain should never be a barrier to a happy, productive and fulfilling life. At Twin Cities Pain Clinic, we are resolutely committed to helping all of our patients get back to enjoying a life with less pain.



## Thank You to Our Exhibitors

### WCRA

• [www.wcra.org](http://www.wcra.org) •

The Workers' Compensation Reinsurance Association (WCRA) is a quasi-public, nonprofit association that provides reinsurance for all insurance companies and self-insured employers licensed to provide workers' compensation in Minnesota. WCRA provides its members with affordable, accessible and superior reinsurance protection against catastrophic workers' compensation claims. Visit [www.wcra.biz](http://www.wcra.biz) to learn more about WCRA.



### Woodlake Medical Management

• [www.woodlakemedical.com](http://www.woodlakemedical.com) •

Woodlake Medical Management is a regional IME company offering clients second-to-none service with an extensive and ever-growing panel of thoroughly vetted and credentialed medical experts. If you want appointments scheduled within two to four weeks, reports issued in an average of four to seven business days and the most exhaustive and comprehensive quality assurance program in the industry to ensure thorough, detailed and well-explained reports, Woodlake is for you.



From sending notice letters and mileage checks and making reminder calls to injured workers on your behalf, to drafting cover letters for your review and retrieving diagnostic studies for you, Woodlake will handle all of the administrative details up front to free up your time while ensuring the highest quality product in the end.

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## Notes

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