Issued by the International Brain Injury Association (IBIA) and Acquired Brain Injury Ireland (ABII)

**World Congress Leaves a Legacy for**

**Survivors of Brain Injury in Ireland**

**14th World Congress on Brain Injury draws 1,000 delegates**

**from 34 countries to share latest advances in**

**brain injury treatment and research**

**Next World Congress announced for Montreal, Quebec, Canada:**

**March 19th – 22nd 2025**

Over four days from March 29th – April 1st 2023, the world’s leading minds in the field of brain injury came together in Dublin, Ireland to share the latest findings on the assessment, treatment and future priorities in brain injury research and rehabilitation. The 14th World Congress on Brain Injury was presented by the International Brain Injury Association in partnership with Acquired Brain Injury Ireland.

Over 1,000 delegates from 34 countries gathered at this landmark event, which was hosted at the Convention Centre Dublin. Among them were more than 100 internationally recognised keynotes, panelists and speakers, united in their commitment to progressing the recovery and rehabilitation journey of those impacted by brain injury.

Speaking on behalf of the IBIA Board, Chair of the 14th World Congress Dr David Arciniegas celebrated this hugely successful event:

“Every two years, the IBIA mounts this global gathering as a platform to share cutting edge research, promote collaboration, and shine a light on the causes and impacts of brain injury internationally. This 14th edition has been especially significant, marking the first World Congress to be hosted in-person since the onset of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Each day, we’ve witnessed the enthusiasm of presenters and attendees to work together to advance brain injury research and translate it into the very best clinical practice. We’re confident that the outstanding science presented will directly result in improved outcomes for persons with brain injury upon the return home of the delegates.”

Congress Co-Chair and Chief Executive of Acquired Brain Injury Ireland, Barbara O’Connell explained: “It was always our intention that this Congress would be a catalyst for lasting and meaningful change in Ireland.

“19,000 people in this country acquire a brain injury every year. Yet, despite these staggering numbers, there is no clear recovery or rehabilitation pathway for survivors in Ireland. Once they’re discharged from hospital, their future is in the hands of a geographic lottery – the system is unequal, under-resourced and under-funded.

“That’s why we were particularly gratified that our Government stood up and took note as this remarkable delegation of global professionals came together in our capital city. Introducing the keynote presentation on the final day of the Congress, Ireland’s Minister of State for Disabilities, Anne Rabbitte TD, announced her commitment to secure funding in the next annual budget for the country’s first community-based, specialist paediatric neuro rehabilitation team.

“This is a significant development, representing a legacy from the Congress that will make a real difference for young people impacted by brain injury and their families.

“We look forward to working with Government, our Health Service Executive, partners and stakeholders in the months ahead in order to make this happen.”

At the outset of the Congress, Minister Rabbitte had remarked: “In Ireland, we recognise the vital importance of investing in brain health and brain injury treatment at all stages of the neuro rehabilitation pathway, from acute hospital to home. Timely, individualised rehabilitation has the potential to increase independence, maximise ability and enable survivors to participate as active citizens in our communities.

“That’s why Government has committed to addressing the needs of those impacted by brain injury, including through our National Neuro Rehabilitation Strategy. We already have many of the components of an effective brain injury rehabilitation pathway in place to make Ireland a global exemplar in this field. This is a priority for Government and I look forward to working with those involved in the Congress and the sector over the coming months to implement our plans and realise their shared ambition.”

As the Congress came to a close, it was announced **the next World Congress on Brain Injury will be held in the city of Montreal, Quebec, Canada, from March 19th – 22nd, 2025.**

The Congress also marked the transition to new executive leadership for the IBIA, with the baton being passed from David Arciniegas, MD to Lisa Brenner, PhD as Chair and CEO. Leanne Togher, PhD, assumed the role of Vice Chair succeeding Nathan Zasler, MD. Ronald Seel, PhD, assumed the role of Treasurer succeeding Bruce Stern, and Enrique Noe Sebastian, MD, PhD, assumed the position of Secretary, succeeding Lisandro Olmos, MD. All outgoing officers will remain involved in IBIA as Trustees or in other positions of leadership.

A full list of presentations made at the Congress and speaker information is available [here.](https://ibia.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/2023-congress-on-brain-injury/congress-info-site/Agenda) Key areas of focus included – paediatric brain injury, brain injury from intimate partner violence, brain injury and the criminal justice system, approaches to and outcomes of neurorehabilitation; and advances in brain injury care.

Delegates included rehabilitation physicians, psychiatrists, psychologists, neurosurgeons, speech pathologists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, social workers, nurses, case managers, advocates, legal professionals and all those dedicated to advancing research and treatment for patients with brain injury.

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**About the World Congress on Brain Injury**

The 14th World Congress on Brain Injury will be held March 29-April 1, 2023, at the Convention Centre Dublin. Organised by the International Brain Injury Association (IBIA), the World Congress on Brain Injury is the largest gathering of international professionals working in the field of brain injury. The 2023 World Congress is being held in partnership with Acquired Brain Injury Ireland. [www.braininjurycongress.org](http://www.braininjurycongress.org/)

**About the International Brain Injury Association**

[The International Brain Injury Association](https://www.internationalbrain.org/) (IBIA) was founded in 1993 following an international meeting on brain injury held at Oxford University. IBIA’s mission is to encourage an international exchange of information on brain injury best practices, to support research, to provide training especially in developing countries, and to advocate persons with brain injury and their families. IBIA hosts the biennial World Congress on Brain Injury, which regularly attracts over 1000 delegates from around the world.

**About Acquired Brain Injury Ireland**

Acquired Brain Injury Ireland is an internationally accredited provider of community-based neuro-rehabilitation services for people with an acquired brain injury and their families. The organisation works in communities across Ireland to support and empower people to rebuild their lives, as well as campaigning and advocating for the rights and needs of this hidden group in society. [www.abiireland.ie](http://www.abiireland.ie/)