

BRENDA POWER, CCLCP, C-CAT (FO), CMLE (ON), BHSc (OT), BSc (HONS PSYCH)

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST



Brenda obtained a Bachelor of Science degree in Occupational Therapy ('99) from Dalhousie University and a Bachelor of Science (Honors) degree in Psychology ('96) from Memorial University of Newfoundland. She is a member in good standing of the College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario (COTO) and the Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT). Brenda also completed post-secondary education in the fields of Criminology and Linguistics. Brenda has been practicing occupational therapy since 1999 in the provinces of Newfoundland and Labrador, and Ontario has worked within the private rehabilitation and insurance industry for more than twenty years. She has extensive experience working with people of all ages with a

variety of developmental and physical disabilities and mainly with clients who sustained complex orthopedic, psychological and brain injuries. Brenda is trained in administration of the AMPS and the PGAP program and is a Canadian Certified Life Care Planner through the International Commission of Health Care Certification. She has completed additional training in catastrophic assessment through the Canadian Society of Medical Evaluators (CMSE) and has successfully completed the C-CAT (FO) Certification exam. Brenda has also received certification through the CSME in Medicolegal Expertise. Brenda is a longtime volunteer and a member of the Board of Directors for the Hamilton Brain Injury Association. Brenda and her business partner merged their practice with FunctionAbility Rehabilitation Services, effectively joining the largest serious-injury private rehabilitation company in Ontario. As current Vice President of Clinical and Community Partnerships, Brenda is responsible for building and maintaining clinical and business relationships, training and mentoring other therapists, and she leads the Catastrophic Assessment (CAT) program. Brenda is a frequent presenter at conferences on occupational therapy, catastrophic assessment, and cognitive strategies in rehabilitation. Brenda maintains an active professional social media presence and co-hosts an educational video series called OT-V which aims at educating the public about the various roles of her profession.

COVERAGE AREA

HAMILTON / NIAGARA

Covering: Hamilton and Niagara

AREAS OF EXPERIENCE

Life Care Planning
 Catastrophic Assessment
 Brain Injury
 Psychological Trauma
 Chronic Pain Conditions
 Complex Orthopaedic Injuries

EDUCATION

CANADIAN LIFE CARE PLANNER	2017
International Commission on Health Care	
PRE-CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FOR LIFE CARE PLANNING	2016
University of Florida	
OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY B.SC.O.T.	1999
(DEAN'S HONOURS LIST)	

EXPERIENCE

FUNCTIONABILITY / ENTWISTLE POWER OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

ANCASTER, ON

VICE PRESIDENT OF CLINICAL AND COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS / CLINICAL SUPERVISOR / OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

November 2013 (EPOT) - Present (Joined FunctionAbility 2019)

- Partner in one of the largest rehabilitation firms in the province of Ontario.
- Involved in sales and marketing role and maintaining internal clinical and external business relationships; program development; clinical supervision.
- Clinician providing occupational therapy services to individuals who have suffered catastrophic or serious injury following a motor vehicle accident (pursuant to the Statutory Accident Benefit Schedule).
- Areas of clinical experience include life care planning, catastrophic assessment, ABI, severe orthopedic / amputation, psychological illness, accessible housing, and equipment prescription.

POWER OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY SERVICES INC., HAMILTON, ON

OWNER AND OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

September 2000 – October 2013

- Involved in all the daily operations of running the business. Financial management, banking, and budgeting. Marketing and maintaining business relationships. Training and mentoring a team of up to 15 occupational therapists and administrative staff.
- Provided services to persons involved in motor vehicle accidents, work related accidents, and other injuries (pediatric to geriatric range).
- Services provided include: in-home occupational therapy functional assessments; catastrophic determination assessments; adaptive equipment prescription; Form 1 for Attendant Care Needs; workstation modification assessments; physical demands / worksite analyses; cognitive demands / worksite analyses; return to work programs; vocational assessments; return to activities of daily living (ADL) programs; assessment and treatment of chronic pain; cognitive assessment and retraining; communicating with other health care providers for multi-disciplinary approach to recovery; hospital discharge planning; providing education on pain management, pacing strategies and body mechanics; home safety assessments; clinic based functional abilities evaluations.
- Injuries include spinal cord injuries, pain disorders, soft tissue injuries, acquired brain injuries, and serious orthopedic injuries.
- Assessment and treatment completed for the private legal and insurance industries, including WSIB, auto and long-term disability. Special interest area of functional

recovery following acquired brain injury. Training also completed in the Progressive Goal Attainment Program (PGAP) and Assessment of Motor and Process Skills (AMPS).

LINK WITH WORK, KITCHENER, ON

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPIST

November 2003 – November 2006

FIT FOR WORK, MARYSTOWN, NL

June 1999 – August 2000

ADDITIONAL
CERTIFICATIONS

- 2021** CSME CMLE Certification
- 2017** CANADIAN LIFE CARE PLANNER (RECERTIFIED 2022)
- 2017** CSME C-CAT Certification
- 2009** Progressive Goal Attainment Program (PGAP) Certification
- 2009** Assessment of Motor and Process Skills (AMPS) Certification

PRESENTATIONS AND
PUBLIC SPEAKING
ENGAGEMENTS

- 2021** The Hamilton Law Association's 35th Annual Joint Insurance Seminar "Catastrophic Impairment Update" – December 2021
- 2021** Webinar: The ABC's of CAT – Various dates 2021
- 2021** SABS Virtual Breakfast Seminar Panel Member – February 2021
- 2020** Ontario Trial Lawyers Association (OTLA) Webinar "The ABCs of CAT - How To Apply? How To Handle Approvals / Denials
- 2020** Webinar: Coping with COVID: Finding a New Normal – May 2020
- 2020** Webinar: Coping with COVID: Working from Home Effectively – May 2020
- 2020** Ontario Trial Lawyers Association (OTLA) Virtual Conference: "CAT Assessments, An OT Perspective" – May 2020
- 2019** Various Locations: Recognizing CAT Clients Under the June 2016 Legislative Changes
- 2019** Ontario Trial Lawyers Association (OTLA) Spring Conference: "CAT Designations in a Post July 2016 World"
- 2018** Various Locations: Recognizing CAT Clients Under the June 2016 Legislative Changes
- 2017** Hamilton Law Association (HLA) Annual Advocacy Conference: "Working With the New Catastrophic Definition"
- 2017** Ontario Trial Lawyers Association (OTLA) Fall Conference: "Organizing Home Base: How to Make Your Office Environment Work for You"
- 2017** PIA Law Practical Strategies Webinar: June 1st -- A Year in Review Understanding the Impact of the SABS Changes
- 2017** Various Locations: Recognizing CAT Clients Under the June 2016 Legislative Changes
- 2015** The Hamilton Brain Injury Association (HBIA) Family Resource Group Brain Injury seminar – "ABI Cognitive Strategies for Caregivers."

PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT /
ADDITIONAL
QUALIFICATIONS

- 2023 The Most Important Catastrophic Case Laws for 2021-2022 OTs Should Know About, OSOT – February 2023
- 2022 The Hamilton Law Association’s 36th Annual Joint Insurance Seminar – December 2022
- 2022 Toronto ABI Network Conference – November 2022
- 2022 BIAPH Health Advocates Education Conference: What You’re Missing: Practical Tips and Strategies from Industry Professionals -- June 2022
- 2022 **Exhibitor:** Ontario Trial Lawyers Association (OTLA) Spring Conference – May 2022
- 2022 UHN 2022 Traumatic Brain Injury Conference: Advances in Research and Clinical Practice in mTBI – February 2022
- 2022 SPECT Scan: Securing Admission Through a Demonstration of an Effective Voir Dire, Ontario Trial Lawyers Association – February 2022
- 2021 The Hamilton Law Association’s 35th Annual Joint Insurance Seminar – December 2021
- 2021 When Neuroimaging Isn't Enough, CSME – November 2021
- 2021 2021 Acquired Brain Injury Provincial Conference, Ontario Brain Injury Association (OBIA) – October 2021
- 2021 **Exhibitor:** Ontario Trial Lawyers Association (OTLA) Fall Conference – October 2021
- 2021 The Canadian Society of Medical Evaluators Medical Legal Summit, CSME – September 2021
- 2021 The "LAT" 5 Years: A Review of Case Law for Experts, CSME – June 2021
- 2021 The LAT: Points to Ponder Webinar – May 2021
- 2021 **Exhibitor:** Ontario Trial Lawyers Association (OTLA) Fall Conference – May 2021
- 2021 Performing Functional Assessments in 2021: Practical and Legal Implications, CSME – March 2021
- 2021 Understanding the “Difficult” Client: How Do We Move Forward? – February 2021
- 2021 The Interplay Between Tort and AB Claims – February 2021
- 2021 Compassion Fatigue: Finding a Silver Lining Virtual Conference – February 2021
- 2021 Ethical Considerations in Rehabilitation: A Clinical Perspective for Therapists -- February 2021
- 2020 Toronto ABI Network Virtual Conference – November 2020
- 2020 BIAPH Health Advocates Education Virtual Conference: What You’re Missing: Practical Tips and Strategies from Industry Professionals – October 2020
- 2020 **Exhibitor:** Ontario Trial Lawyers Association (OTLA) Virtual Fall Conference
- 2020 CAT Assessments and Attendant Care Benefits Webinar – June 2020
- 2020 Introduction to Mindfulness – 4 Week Course – June 2020
- 2020 Practical Webinars Strategies - The Top Twenty Questions of 2020 - May 2020
- 2020 Best Practices for Reporting in a Virtual World Webinar - June 2020
- 2020 Virtual CAT Assessments Webinar – May 2020
- 2020 The Legal Implications of Virtual Treatment and Assessments Webinar – May 2020
- 2020 UHN Toronto Rehabilitation Institute’s 2020 Traumatic Brain Injury Conference
- 2019 Ontario Brain Injury Association (OBIA) Provincial ABI Conference: Forging New Pathways, Navigating Challenges, Exploring Breakthroughs
- 2019 **Exhibitor:** Ontario Trial Lawyers Association (OTLA) Fall Conference
- 2019 Understanding Trauma: Clinical Applications for Best Practice, presented by Lynne Harford, SW -- FunctionAbility Fall Education Day: Growing Through Best Practice

- 2019** Rehabilitation of Executive Functions & Cognitive Communication: Putting Evidence into Practice, presented by Genevieve Bernardo, OT & Ameila Hessel, SLP -- FunctionAbility Fall Education Day: Growing Through Best Practice
- 2019** Developed and delivered comprehensive educational program for large multi-disciplinary rehabilitation company on catastrophic legislation, documentation, and assessment
- 2019** Back to School Conference 2019 – Mental Health: Navigating Life After Trauma
- 2019** 2019 BIAPH Health Advocates Education Conference
- 2019** 26th Annual Conference on Neurobehavioural Rehabilitation in ABI -- Sharing the Road: Driving Better Care ABI: Mental Health: Addictions
- 2018** Task Force, Mental Health and Return to Work -- OSOT Workplace Mental Health Practice Team (2018 – present)
- 2018** The Markedly Impaired: Obstacles & Opportunities Workshop
- 2018** New Regime: Rocky Road or Stairway to Heaven? -- Ontario Rehab Alliance
- 2018** Back to School Conference 2018 – Innovation in Brain Injury: Leading a World of Change -- PIA Law and Ontario Brain Injury Association (OBIA)
- 2018** **Exhibitor:** Ontario Trial Lawyers Association (OTLA) Spring Conference
- 2018** Rehabilitation & Life Care Planning Symposium --DMA Reability
- 2018** Framing Our Future -- Ontario Rehab Alliance
- 2018** Compassion Fatigue, Burnout and Resilience in Occupational Therapy: Managing Professional Self-Care -- CAOT
- 2018** Goal Setting and Action Planning: Supporting Clients to Self-Manage -- CAOT
- 2018** A Survival Guide for an Occupation-Focused Therapist --CAOT
- 2018** Occupational Therapist/Occupational Therapist Assistant Collaboration: Current Trends and Emerging Roles Parts 1 and 2 -- CAOT
- 2018** Hamilton Health Sciences 25th Annual Conference on Neurobehavioural Rehabilitation in ABI: The Evolving Landscape of Brain Injury Rehabilitation
- 2018** Brain Injury Services Breaking Barriers 2018 Conference
- 2018** Money Talks: Dealing with Denials -- Ontario Rehab Alliance
- 2018** Money Talks: Protected Accounts & Protecting Your Business -- Ontario Rehab Alliance
- 2017** **Exhibitor:** Ontario Trial Lawyers Association (OTLA) Fall Conference
- 2017** 2017 Acquired Brain Injury Provincial Conference: Making a Difference -- Ontario Brain Injury Association (OBIA)
- 2017** The Lat, Licensing and The Marshall Report: Unholy Trinity or Promised Land? -- Ontario Rehab Alliance
- 2017** 2017 Annual Canadian Life Care Planning Program -- Canadian Society of Medical Evaluators (CSME)
- 2017** Back to School Conference 2017 -- Acquired Brain Injury: Across the Ages
- 2017** C-CAT Certification Exam -- Canadian Society of Medical Evaluators (CSME)
- 2017** Hamilton Health Sciences 24th Annual Conference on Neurobehavioural Rehabilitation in ABI: From Evidence to Practice – Concussion - Catastrophic
- 2017** Cost of Future Care and Functional Testing: Preparing Defensible Life Care Plans -- Functional Outcomes Rehabilitation Services Inc.
- 2017** **Exhibitor:** Ontario Trial Lawyers Association (OTLA) Spring Conference
- 2017** THE CAT CAME BACK A Definitive Workshop on Catastrophic Impairment Evaluation -- The Canadian Society of Medical Evaluators (CSME)

- 2017** Brain Injury Services Annual ABI Conference: Challenges in ABI: Connecting the Silos
- 2016** Certificate in Life Care Planning -- University of Florida
- 2016** Brain Injury Association of Niagara Biennial Conference: Demystifying Brain Injury
- 2016** **Exhibitor:** Ontario Trial Lawyers Association (OTLA) Spring Conference
- 2016** Hamilton Health Sciences 23rd Annual Conference on Neurobehavioural Rehabilitation in ABI: Gaining Control
- 2016** Pre-Certification Program for Life Care Planning - University of Florida
CLCP – 6 – Forensics Aspects of Life Care Planning
- 2016** Pre-Certification Program for Life Care Planning - University of Florida
CLCP – 5 – Life Care Planning with Multiple Disabilities
- 2016** Pre-Certification Program for Life Care Planning - University of Florida
CLCP – 4 –Life Care Planning with Amputations
- 2016** Pre-Certification Program for Life Care Planning - University of Florida
CLCP – 3 – Medical and Psychological Aspects of Life Care Planning with Brain Injury
- 2016** Brain Injury Services Annual ABI Conference: Riding the Roller Coaster - Managing Moderate to Severe Brain Injury
- 2016** CPR Recertification
- 2016** Pre-Certification Program for Life Care Planning - University of Florida
CLCP – 2 – Medical and Psychological Aspects of Life Care Planning with Spinal Cord Injury
- 2015** The Management of Spinal Cord Injury – A Guide for Private Practitioners
- 2015** **Exhibitor:** Ontario Trial Lawyers Association (OTLA) Fall Conference
- 2015** Practical Strategies Webinar – What You Need to Know About Accident Benefits -- PIA Law
- 2015** Accident Benefits Seminar – Practical Issues for Healthcare Professionals
- 2015** Ontario Brain Injury Association Provincial Conference: Innovate, Integrate, Motivate
- 2015** **Exhibitor:** Ontario Trial Lawyers Association (OTLA) Spring Conference
- 2015** Back to School Conference 2015 – “A Brave New World” -- PIA Law and Ontario Brain Injury Association (OBIA)
- 2015** Hamilton Health Sciences 22nd Annual Conference on Neurobehavioural Rehabilitation in ABI: Inter-System Collaboration-- Building Innovative Networks that Support Individuals with ABI
- 2015** Brain Injury Services 2015 Conference: Concussions and Pain Management
- 2014** Halton Region: Workplace Health Networking Seminar
- 2014** Critical Injury Practical Strategies for Experts: The Shifting Landscape -- PIA Law
- 2014** Back To School Conference 2014: Emerging Technology and its Impact on Rehabilitation -- PIA Law and Ontario Brain Injury Association (OBIA)
- 2014** Brain Injury Services of Hamilton 2014 Conference
Walking the Tightrope--High Risk Factors for Individuals with ABI
- 2014** Hamilton Health Sciences 21st Annual Conference on Neurobehavioural Rehabilitation in Acquired Brain Injury- Advances in ABI Technology
- 2013** Ontario Brain Injury Association Provincial Conference -- Inspiring Hope: Enhancing Lives after Brain Injury
- 2013** Emerging Trends in Auto Insurance for Health Care Professionals -- PIA Law
- 2013** Accident Benefits: Practical Issues for Health Care Professionals -- PIA Law

- 2013** Back To School Conference 2013: "Hospital to Home: Working Collaboratively" -- PIA Law and Ontario Brain Injury Association (OBIA)
- 2013** Practical Strategies Conference – "Catastrophic Impairment: A Look into the Future"
- 2013** 20th Anniversary Conference on Neurobehavioural Rehabilitation in Acquired Brain Injury – "Innovative Strategies for Issues Complicating Brain Injury"
- 2013** "New Developments in Auto Insurance Law Impacting You and Your Clients: Practical Strategies for Health Care Professionals" webinar -- PIA Law
- 2013** Brain Injury Services 2013 Conference: "Cognitive Rehabilitation"
- 2012** Working with the Ontario Automotive Insurance Changes Webinar Practical Strategies for Health Care Professionals -- PIA Law
- 2012** Brain Injury Association of Niagara - 14th Biennial Conference – Making the Invisible More Visible
- 2012** Building Together, Reaching New Heights
- 2012** Managing Behaviourally Challenging Clients in Community Settings
- 2012** Accident Benefits Seminar. Practical Issues for Health Care Professionals -- PIA Law
- 2012** Working with the Ontario Automotive Insurance Changes Webinar: Practical Strategies for Health Care Professionals -- PIA Law
- 2012** How To Fight Treatment Plan Denials -- Step Up! ABI Recovery
- 2012** The ABI Journey: Pediatrics to Seniors 19th Annual Conference on Neurobehavioural Rehabilitation in Acquired Brain Injury
- 2012** Cognitive Processing: An OT Toolkit for improved daily functioning in adults Review of TEA, RBMT-3, BADS, Vineland-II, and Cogmed
- 2012** Spring Symposium XII – Hamilton Medical-Legal Society "The Caps, the MIG, and the Ugly: Impact of SABS Changes on Access to Assessment and Treatment"
- 2012** Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists workshop: Enabling Occupational Therapists to be Their Best Champions
- 2012** Seminar - Catastrophic Impairment: Decisions, Decisions, Decisions. "A Discussion on the Impact of the Kusinerz vs. Economical Decision: What does it mean to you?"
- 2012** Brain Injury Services 2012 Conference: "Is it ever okay? ABI and Addictions"
- 2012** Conference by Blake Medical Distribution – "Shape up or Slip out"
- 2011** Pre-Certification Program for Life Care Planning - University of Florida CLCP – 1 – Professional Orientation to Life Care Planning
- 2011** Ontario Brain Injury Association - Provincial ABI Conference: The Art of Living After Brain Injury
- 2011** OTs Coming Together Through Change -- OSOT Auto Insurance Sector Workshop
- 2011** Mild Traumatic Brain Injury – Current Directions in Diagnosis and Treatment 18th Annual Conference on Neurobehavioural Rehabilitation in ABI
- 2011** Hamilton Medical Legal Society – Spring Symposium XII
Qualifying as an Expert Under the New Rules of Civil Procedure: Are 'Hired Guns' a thing of the past?
- 2011** Brain Injury Services of Hamilton – "Innovative Practices in ABI Rehabilitation"
- 2010** Toronto ABI Network conference providing an up to date review of the new Statutory Accident Benefits available in non-catastrophic and catastrophic injury cases. In addition, a comprehensive overview dealing with common issues affecting seriously injured persons in returning to: work; community; family; and sexual activity.
- 2010** Managing Skin Breakdown from Seat to Sleep

- 2010** Serving the Hard to Serve – Advances in Research and Practice – 17th Annual Conference on Neurobehavioural Rehabilitation in Acquired Brain Injury
- 2010** Invacare Seating Solutions – Wheelchair Seminar -- Hamilton, ON
- 2010** Conference – Review of new Statutory Accident Benefits Schedule
- 2009** AMPS certification (Assessment of Motor and Process Skills) – August 2009
A systematic and innovative observational assessment that is used to measure the quality of a person's activities of daily living (ADL) and evaluating the quality of a person's ADL task performance by rating the effort, efficiency, safety, and independence of 16 ADL motor and 20 ADL process skill items, while the person is doing chosen, familiar, and life-relevant ADL tasks.
- 2009** PGAP certification (Progressive Goal Attainment Program) – June 2009
Evidenced-based intervention for targeting psychosocial risk factors for various health conditions including pain, depression, cancer and other chronic illnesses
- 2009** Managing Transitions in ABI across the Lifespan – Advances in Research and Practice
- 2009** Attendant Care: From Paper to Practice course
- 2009** Brain Injury Services of Hamilton 2009 Conference: I'm Alright; The World's All Wrong – Perspectives on Mental Health and ABI
- 2008** Feel The Rush – Harness The Power
- 2006** Back to Basics –The Management of Challenging Behaviour in ABI
- 2005** Participation in educational seminars through Brain Injury Services of Hamilton
- 2000 - To Present**
Ongoing education through the College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario

PUBLICATIONS:

- Chan, C., Cowls, J., Gewurtz, R., Gowan, N., Lefort, H., Moll, S., Pontello, K., Power Ahmad, B., Wakefield, C., Wisenthal, A., Zaffina, A. [2020]. Occupational Therapy in Mental Health and Return to Work– Reference Guide, Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists.

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

- Member of the Canadian Society of Medical Evaluators 2017 - present
- Board of Directors Hamilton Brain Injury Association January 2014 - present
- Corporate Member of FAIR (fair association of victims for accident insurance reform) 2013 - present
- Member of ACMRP – Alliance of Community and Rehab Providers (Ontario Rehab Alliance) – 2010 – 2013, 2015 - present
- Volunteer Member with the Hamilton Brain Injury Association 5 K by The Bay – 2009 - present
- Member of Hamilton Medical – Legal Society – 2009 – present
- College of Occupational Therapists of Ontario (COTO) 2000 - present
- Ontario Society of Occupational Therapists (OSOT) 2000 – 2019
- Canadian Association of Occupational Therapists (CAOT) 2016 – present
- Member of NOTAS (Network of Occupational Therapist in the Auto Sector) - 2001-2005

PROFESSIONAL PROMOTION:

- Educational Webinar: Brain Injury – How OT’s Get People Thinking, Managing and Doing
 - Educational video series: Occupational Therapy Video (OT-V): Finding Work-Life Balance
 - Educational video series: Occupational Therapy Video (OT-V): Backpack Safety Guidelines
 - Educational video series: Occupational Therapy Video (OT-V): Mental Health in the Workplace
 - Educational video series: Occupational Therapy Video (OT-V): Barrier Free Living
 - Educational video series: Occupational Therapy Video (OT-V): Ergonomics At Work
 - Educational video series: Occupational Therapy Video (OT-V): Sensory Seeking in Children
 - Educational video series: Occupational Therapy Video (OT-V): Sensory Sensitivity in Children
 - Educational video series: Occupational Therapy Video (OT-V): Kitchen Tips
 - Educational video series: Occupational Therapy Video (OT-V): Energy Conservation
 - Educational video series: Occupational Therapy Video (OT-V): Body Mechanics
 - Educational video series: Occupational Therapy Video (OT-V): Picky Eating
 - Educational video series: Occupational Therapy Video (OT-V): Return to Work
 - Educational video series: Occupational Therapy Video (OT-V): OT Coverage and Extended Health Benefit Plans
 - Educational video series: Occupational Therapy Video (OT-V): Managing Chronic Pain
 - Educational video series: Occupational Therapy Video (OT-V): ABI – Cognitive Strategies
-