



21st Annual Medical Conference

Managing Recovery & Return to Work



April 26-28, 2023
Whitefish, Montana

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Montana State Fund is proud to be Montana's first choice for workers' compensation insurance. After 100 years, we're still helping keep Montanans safe on the job. See how at workingformontana.com.

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A Note From Our President

Welcome to Montana State Fund's 21st annual medical conference in lovely Whitefish, MT.

One of Montana State Fund's guiding values is to focus on what matters. This year's conference theme, Managing Recovery & Return to Work (RTW), focuses on the wellbeing of our injured employees. A thoughtful recovery and RTW plan are paramount for an injured employee's personal recovery journey. Studies show that RTW programs help injured employees heal more quickly and completely, reduce depression, and alleviate emotional stress.

That is why our medical conference is key. Our goal as workers' compensation professionals is to care for those injured on the job, but that is not always easy. There is no one size fits all answer to get injured workers back on their feet. However, when a roomful of varied personalities and occupational backgrounds gather, we can use our collective knowledge to find new ways of thinking and explore options to work more effectively to care for Montana's injured workers.

The catalyst for this dialogue will be our impressive speakers. Their perspectives on the psychological, medical, and legal ramifications of positively managing a claim will lay the groundwork for discussion and collaboration. We thank them for sharing their expertise and personal stories.



And a big KUDOS to all of you for attending this conference. I hope you will take time to talk with one another to enhance your skills and seek out alternative viewpoints for success. We owe it to our injured workers to focus on what matters; getting them safely back to work, so they can do what they do best, their job.

Please soak in all this conference has to offer.

All my best,
Holly O'Dell, President / CEO

Thank You to Our Program Sponsor



Conference Agenda

Wednesday, April 26, 2023

- 12:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. Exhibitor Set Up
- 6:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. Welcome Reception
Heavy Hors D'oeuvres and Drink Tickets

Thursday, April 27, 2023

- 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m. Registration & Exhibitor Hall Open
- 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Breakfast
- 8:00 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. Exhibitor Stroll
- 9:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Welcome Address & Opening Remarks
Holly O'Dell, President/CEO, Montana State Fund
Paul Gorsuch, M.D., Medical Director, Montana State Fund
- 9:30 a.m. - 10:30 a.m. Claims: A Medical Perspective
R. David Bauer, M.D., Orthopedic Independent Medical Examinations
- 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. New Medical Technology & Workers' Compensation
William M. Zachry, Board Member, State Compensation Insurance Fund
- 11:30 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. Break with Exhibitors
- 11:45 a.m. - 12:45 p.m. Medical Expert Testimony: Imperatives, Principles & Methodologies
Donald Sinclair, Attorney at Law, Steptoe & Johnson, PLLC
- 12:45 p.m. - 1:45 p.m. Lunch & Exhibitor Stroll
- 1:45 p.m. - 2:45 p.m. Preventing Delayed Recovery by Addressing Psychosocial Barriers
Marcos A. Iglesias, M.D., Vice President, Chief Medical Director, Travelers Insurance
- 2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m. City of Los Angeles Return to Work Programs
Dr. Tyrone Spears, Division Chief, City of Los Angeles Workers' Compensation
- 3:45 p.m. - 4:45 p.m. A Perspective from the Montana Workers' Compensation Court
David Sandler, Judge, Montana Workers' Compensation Court

Conference Agenda

Friday, April 28, 2023

- 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m. Breakfast with Exhibitors
- 8:30 a.m. - 8:45 a.m. Opening Remarks
Paul Gorsuch, M.D., Medical Director, Montana State Fund
- 8:45 a.m. - 9:45 a.m. Tears and Lies My Radiologist Told Me
R. David Bauer, M.D., Orthopedic Independent Medical Examinations
- 9:45 a.m. - 10:45 a.m. Low Back Pain in the Injured Worker
Aaron L. Cross, D.O., Helena Orthopedic Clinic
- 10:45 a.m. - 11:45 a.m. The Story You Don't Hear About: How Caregivers Changed My Life for the Better
Cody Byrns, President, Cody Byrns International
- 12:00 p.m. - 1:00 p.m. Lunch & Prize Drawing



In order to receive proper continuing education credits, please ensure your badge is scanned before each presentation. If you missed having your badge scanned, please see one of the conference staff. Your certificate of completion will be emailed to the email address you used to register.



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What sets us apart from other MSA companies is perhaps best explained by our name.

Tower MSA Partners

Our clients are our partners and collaborating with them allows Tower to go beyond basic MSP compliance services and medical allocations.

Together, we challenge conventional approaches and explore innovative solutions. We deliver successful outcomes and we believe in MSAs' ability to facilitate closure and settlement. That's why we've embedded identification, intervention and ongoing involvement into our workflow and technology platform, offering a single point of contact throughout the entire process. Equally unique is our proactive approach to settlement and things we take into account that other services providers don't:

- Stage claims with **Pre-MSA** Triage to identify barriers to settlement and provide intervention recommendations before the MSA is written.
- Utilize integrated **evidence-based medicine triggers** to challenge inappropriate treatment and dangerous and potentially addictive prescription drugs in an effort to mitigate patient health risks and long-term costs.
- Manage and track every process (Section 111 Reporting, Conditional Payment, Physician Peer Review, Physician Follow up/Clinical Oversight, MSA, and CMS submission) **through an integrated technology platform** built on IT, security and MSP best practices.

Bottom line: Treatments are optimized. Claims close faster. Costs are reduced.



Doing the right thing. So they can get back to doing their thing.

When choosing a workers' compensation PBM partner, extent of service matters. myMatrixx® takes a proactive approach to clinical management, getting involved as soon as possible to improve patient outcomes, prevent avoidable medical expenses and reduce pharmacy costs.

It's the right thing to do. From a human and business perspective. Ensuring injured workers get back to work faster and your company stays healthier.

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mymatrixx.com/pbm-solutions/clinical

Conference Speakers

R. David Bauer, M.D., Orthopedic Independent Medical Examinations

Dr. David Bauer is an active practice orthopedic spine surgeon, practicing in the Dallas area since 1997. Dr. Bauer was certified by the American Board of Orthopedic Surgery in 1990, and re-certified in 2000 and 2010. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Orthopedic Surgeons, a member of the North American Spine Society and was Vice Chief of Staff at Baylor Medical Center Garland where he had admitting privileges. Dr. Bauer performs services as a designated doctor and serves on the TDI/DWC Medical Quality Review Panel and on the Arbiter's Panel. He received his BA in Biology from Columbia College in New York City in 1979, and his M.D. from Columbia University College of Physicians and Surgeons in 1983. Dr. Bauer completed his orthopedic residency at New York University Medical Center in 1988 before serving active duty in the United States Air Force 1988-1991. In 1992, Dr. Bauer completed a Spine Fellowship at University of California and was Assistant Professor of Orthopedics and Chief of the Spine Service at West Virginia University.

Cody Byrns, Founder, Cody Byrns Foundation for Burn Survivors

Cody Byrns is an internationally recognized speaker and a number one best-selling author. In May of 2013, Mr. Byrns' life was drastically changed. While stopped at a red light on the highway, he was rear-ended by a box-truck that did not stop. As a result, he was considered dead until first responders saw his hand move. He received many injuries that day, including severe burns to almost 40% of his body. After years of countless surgeries and rehabilitation, Mr. Byrns has chosen not to allow his scars to keep him bound in bitterness and defeat. Instead, he uses his story to uplift others. His goal is to help people live free from the bonds of scars (physical and emotional), equipping others with the proper steps to walk out of their past hurt and defeat, and run towards their God-given potential. In addition to his speaking career, in 2016, Mr. Byrns founded his own non-profit burns foundation that has been able to help multiple survivors recover.

Aaron L. Cross, D.O., Helena Orthopedic Clinic

Dr. Aaron Cross earned his medical degree from Lake Erie College of Osteopathic Medicine and completed his residency training in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at the University of Miami and Jackson Memorial Hospital. Following his residency, he completed subspecialty training in Pain Medicine as a fellow at the University of Miami and Jackson Memorial Hospital. He is a Diplomate of the American Board of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Dr. Cross is board certified in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation and Pain Medicine.

Paul Gorsuch, M.D., Montana State Fund

Dr. Paul Gorsuch is a Fellow of the American Academy of Neurosurgeons with over 35 years of experience in treatment of spine and cranial injuries and conditions. Dr. Gorsuch is practicing at the Billings Clinic in Billings, Montana and serves as Montana State Fund's Medical Director.

Marcos A. Iglesias, M.D., Vice President, Chief Medical Director, Travelers Insurance

Dr. Marcos Iglesias is a seasoned physician executive and national speaker with 30 years of experience in workers' compensation and disability treatment, evaluation, and insurance leadership. His professional interests include the prevention and mitigation of delayed recovery and disability. His passion for helping workers live active, productive, and fulfilling lives has led him to develop innovative comprehensive disability management solutions that focus on early identification of risk factors and appropriate early interventions to return workers to preinjury function. Dr. Iglesias leads the Workers' Compensation Medical Innovation and Strategy Team at Travelers Insurance. He is a graduate of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto, and the Marshall School of Business, University of Southern California.

Conference Speakers

David Sandler, Judge, Montana Workers' Compensation Court

Judge David M. Sandler was appointed as Workers' Compensation Court Judge on August 20, 2014. Judge Sandler received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Montana School of Law in Missoula in 1998. Judge Sandler's law practice included insurance defense of workers' compensation claims from 1999 to 2006 and from 2007 through his appointment to the Court, a portion of his practice was representing claimants' workers' compensation claims. Judge Sandler has been a member of the State Bar of Montana from 1998 - present; the Northwest Montana Bar Association from 1999 - present; and the Montana Trial Lawyers Association from 2006 - present.

Donald Sinclair, Attorney at Law, Steptoe & Johnson PLLC

An experienced litigator, Mr. Sinclair concentrates his practice on occupational and environmental litigation in the energy and transportation sectors, including water, air, and soil quality; industrial noise and vibration; occupational diseases; toxic torts; toxic and traumatic encephalopathies, seizures, and syncope; the evidence-based determination of medicolegal causation; and the admissibility of novel and complex scientific evidence. Mr. Sinclair is a member of the firm's Emerging Contaminants Team. In addition to his legal practice, he is an Adjunct Assistant Professor at the Rocky Mountain Center for Occupational and Environmental Health, University of Utah School of Medicine, Division of Occupational Health.

Dr. Tyrone Spears, Division Chief, City of Los Angeles

Tyrone Spears started his workers' compensation career over 18 years ago at ESIS as a Claims Examiner Trainee and quickly moved into a Claims Examiner role, and later became a Senior Claims Examiner. Mr. Spears then worked for Sempra Energy as an administrator overseeing workers' compensation, short/long term disability, and FMLA. He also worked as a paralegal prior to entering into the claim's world. Currently, Mr. Spears works for The City of Los Angeles Personnel Department as the Workers' Compensation Administrator. He manages the day-to-day operations of the Workers' Compensation programs. Mr. Spears holds a Bachelor of Science in Human Resource Management and an Executive MBA in Management. Professionally, he holds the Workers' Compensation Claims Professional (WCCP) designation from the Insurance Educational Association and is certified by the Department of Industrial Relations, Self-Insurance Plans, as a Workers' Compensation Administrator.

William M. Zachry, California State Compensation Insurance Fund Board Chair

William M Zachry is currently a member of the Board of Directors of California State Compensation Insurance Fund, SCIF. He has served on the board since 2010 and is currently the Chair of the Audit Committee. His experience includes being a Senior Fellow at the Sedgwick Institute, where he did research, writing and speaking on Risk Management issues involving The National Opioid Epidemic, Workers' Compensation cost drivers, Workers' Compensation Fraud, The Internet of Things (IoT), AI and Big Data in Insurance, and CRISPR- Cas 9. Prior to working at the Sedgwick Institute, Mr. Zachry was the Group Vice President of Risk Management at the Albertsons Company, where he was awarded Risk Manager of the Year from RIMS and Workers' Compensation Professional of the Year from the California Coalition on Workers' Compensation.



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At Arcadia, we help resolve conflicts, reduce litigation expenses, and create long-term financial security for injured workers.

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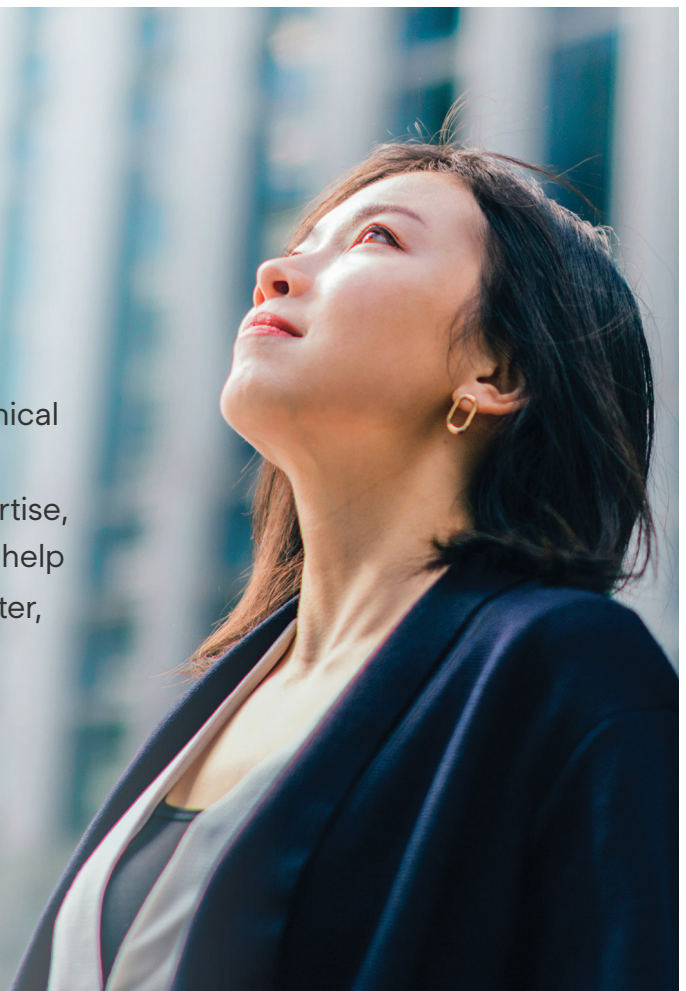
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Conference Exhibitors



Our dedicated and diverse team of health specialists are here to help your organization create and maintain optimal job performance. By controlling risk factors, preventing departures from health, adapting work to people and getting employees back on the job, we can help keep your work force on the top of their game.



Collage Rehabilitation Partners brings together world class organizations, ReMed, Learning Services and Tree of Life, creating a national continuum of post-acute neurorehabilitation services.



Craig Hospital in Denver, Colorado, is a world-renowned rehabilitation hospital that exclusively specializes in the neurorehabilitation and research of patients with spinal cord injury (SCI) and brain injury (BI).



We strive to create healing and nurturing environments for our patients that not only meet their medical needs but address their emotional and social needs as well. We believe that this comprehensive approach helps our patients to recover more fully.



A leading provider of independent medical examinations, peer reviews, bill reviews, Medicare compliance, record retrieval, document management and related services. We provide IME services through our medical panel of credentialed physicians and allied medical professionals.



Helping Injured Employees Get Better, Faster. Genex helps injured employees return to their jobs in a safe and efficient manner through compassionate medical management while reducing total claim cost.



Injuries aren't convenient, but we are! Offering walk-in Orthopedic Prompt Care 6 days a week, we are happy to evaluate and treat work-related injuries soon after they happen. Helena Orthopedic Clinic continues to be Helena's #1 choice for a comprehensive approach to orthopedic care.



TENS & EMS Technology. Are you suffering from sore aching muscles, stiff neck, back pain, or stress? Get instant relief from the comfort of your home with HiDow.

Conference Exhibitors



Lone Peak Physical Therapy is your premier privately owned outpatient physical therapy practice in southwest Montana. We are hyper focused on delivering the highest quality one-on-one patient care with 10 clinic locations spanning from Butte to Billings. We offer comprehensive services: Physical Therapy, Occupational Therapy, Certified Hand Therapy, Pediatric Therapy, Functional Capacity Evaluations, and Pelvic Health.



MES Solutions and MES Peer Review Services provide the claims community access to physicians with expertise in conducting independent medical examinations, record reviews, and peer reviews.



The Montana Department of Labor and Industries, Medical Regulations Unit, is the primary liaison for the Department with providers, claims examiners and insurers who have questions, need assistance, or require direction on all issues relating to the medical regulation of workers' compensation claims such as medical fee schedules, U&T Guidelines and timely payments.



myMatrixx is part of Evernorth – a health services company built on the recognition that health enables progress. myMatrixx helps clients achieve claims management goals and unsurpassed cost management through high touch customer service, advanced, specialized clinical expertise, and actionable data insights.



We are moving injured workers through their care journeys better than ever before, providing exceptional, predictive, and responsive care coordination. As a leader in the workers' compensation industry, One Call has an unwavering commitment to getting injured workers the care they need when they need it.



OrthoRehab Physical Therapy has been therapist-owned and operated since 1986! With 12 locations in Montana, OrthoRehab provides Workers' Compensation Physical Therapy in communities throughout Montana. We provide personal care, striving for return to work as SAFE, EFFICIENT, and TIMELY as possible.



Better outcomes for our clients. Better life for our injured workers. We offer an expanded set of innovative solutions that allow us to deliver better health outcomes and a better value for our clients.

Conference Exhibitors



An Intensive Outpatient Treatment Program providing tools to assist the client cope with an injury or occupational disease to get back to work at some capacity. We offer both in-person and virtual treatment options.



REOH provides high-quality, evidence-based independent medical evaluations and file reviews of injuries and illness to promote fairness to all those affected. As an occupational medicine physician, Dr. Schumpert specializes in preventing, evaluating, and managing adverse health effects from work, accidents, and environmental hazards.



Rising Medical Solutions offers a complete spectrum of solutions for managing the costs and quality of medical care. Our proprietary medical management platform, advanced analytics, and experienced team of medical and claims professionals create operational efficiencies, increase opportunities for improved outcomes, and empower clients to make well-informed, equitable payment decisions.



An Ohio workers' compensation managed care organization (MCO) providing seamless solutions to help injured employees recover and return to work safely and quickly, and to help employers control expenses and reduce lost workdays.



Tower focuses on the settlement of claims as we deliver measurably better Medicare Secondary Payer (MSP) compliance. We identify cost drivers and other barriers to closing claims, recommend and implement clinical interventions, and benchmark our performance against CMS responses.



Treasure State Occupational Health facilitates independent medical examinations and impairment ratings performed by specialized Montana physicians, who utilize objective reasoning and years of combined expertise, to achieve an evidence-based and well-reasoned report in a timely manner.



WRS offers breakthrough, patient-preferred pain management as a service. We use an innovative device along with a highly personal and proven approach, giving patients their lives back faster with fewer risks and better long-term outcomes. As a national provider of world-class Cold-Compression Therapy (CCT), and Sustained Acoustic Medicine (SAM) we're focused on therapies that make patient recovery more efficient and effective.



A well thought-out return to work (RTW) program is designed to help employers prepare for workplace injuries and to ensure injured employees get back on their feet – and back to work – as soon as medically appropriate. With an effective RTW program in place, employers can control workers' compensation costs while showing their employees they care about their safety and recovery.

To learn more, check out our video, safety tips and resources at safemt.com



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