



**May 17, 2025**

8:30 – 9:00 a.m.	<b>Registration</b>
9:00 – 9:15	<b>Opening Remarks</b> Ali Zomorodi, MD
9:15 – 9:45	<b>Introduction of the Gelman Family</b>
9:45 – 9:55	<b>Why Peer Mentorship?</b> Frances Reed & Tanner Perschau
9:55 – 10:40	<b>Importance of Communication in Care, Recovery, and Care Partnership</b> Judy Schmidt, EdD, CRC, LCMHCA
10:40 – 11:00	<b>Break</b>
11:00 – 11:30	<b>Communicating for Another or Communicating with Autonomy?</b> The LIV Cards Katarina Haley, PhD, CCC-SLP
11:30 – 11:50	<b>Breakout &amp; LIV Card Discussion</b>
12:00 – 1:00	<b>Lunch</b>
1:00 – 1:45	<b>Eating to Optimize Your MIND and Health</b> Amanda Sawyer, MS, RD, LDN
1:45 – 2:15	<b>Bridging Minds and Hearts: Advancing Brain-Computers Interfaces for Stroke Recovery and Family Support</b> Nandan Lad, MD, PhD
2:15 – 2:30 p.m.	<b>Closing Remarks</b>

## Meet the Gelmans



In 2018, Duke student Justin Gelman was just 19 when he suffered a ruptured brain aneurysm. Thanks to swift action from his parents and the expert care of Dr. Ali Zomorodi and the Duke Neurosurgery team, Justin survived two major procedures and spent 23 days in the Neuro ICU.

Moved by the extraordinary care their son received, the Gelman family partnered with Duke Neurosurgery to establish the Duke Brain Aneurysm Fund. Their goal: to expand education and training for providers across the country, ensuring more patients have access to life-saving care, and to support brain aneurysm survivors, their families, and caregivers.

## Meet the Speakers



**Katrina Haley, PhD, CCC-SLP**  
Professor, Speech and Hearing Sciences  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



**Nandan Lad, MD, PhD**  
Professor of Neurosurgery, Vice Chair for NeuroInnovations  
Professor of Neurosurgery  
Core Faculty Member, Duke-Margolis Institute for Health Policy  
Core Faculty in Innovation & Entrepreneurship  
Faculty Network Member of the Duke Institute for Brain Sciences  
Duke University



**Tanner Perschau**  
Speech-language Pathology Graduate Student  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
NC Albert Schweitzer Fellow '25-26



**Frances Reed**  
Medical Student  
University of North Carolina School of Medicine  
NC Albert Schweitzer Fellow '25-26



**Amanda Sawyer, MS, RD, LDN**  
Associate Professor, Department of Nutrition  
Director, Practice Advancement and Continuing Education Division  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



**Judy Schmidt, EdD, CRC, LCMHCA**  
Assistant Professor  
Program Coordinator, Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program  
Division of Clinical Rehabilitation and Mental Health Counseling  
Department of Allied Health Sciences  
Director, DAHS Interprofessional Education and Practice  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



**Ali Zomorodi, MD**  
Chief, Cerebrovascular and Skull Base Division  
Professor of Neurosurgery  
Professor in Head & Neck Surgery & Communication Sciences  
Duke University