

# USBIA BOARD MEMBER PROFILE:

## Robert L. Karol, Ph.D., L.P., ABPP-RP, CBIST

Dr. Karol has spent years working on behalf of people with brain injuries and their families and is enthused to have joined the USBIA Board of Trustees about a year ago. He is now Chairing its Governance Committee with an ambitious agenda of updating its procedural processes and facilitating the Board's membership recruitment.

He is most passionate about helping people advocate for services, funding, and legislation to improve the lives of people with disabilities. To this end he has started an outpatient adjustment program, an outpatient clinic, a brain injury hospital crisis program and a hospital neurobehavioral brain injury program, and a nursing home program to transition people out of nursing homes and into the community. He testified at the Minnesota state legislature for enhanced program funding and for brain injury prevention. He serves as the senior member of the Minnesota Department of Human Services Brain Injury Advisory Committee (2017-18 Vice Chair/2018-19 Chair) promoting the needs of people with brain injury.



Perhaps the effort that he is most proud of is co-founding the Minnesota Brain Injury Alliance and then serving on its Board for 14 years concluding as Chair of the Board of Directors. He has also served on the Board of Directors of a brain injury group home provider and on a TBI Model Systems Regional Advisory Council. He has advised, consulted, or served on committees for a brain injury vocational program, a chemical health program specialized for people with brain injury, multiple brain injury group homes, the Minnesota Department of Corrections, the Minnesota Psychological Association, the Supreme Court of Minnesota Board of Law Examiners Special Test Accommodation Panel, and a state affiliate of the American Health Care Association/National Center for Assisted Living.

Nationally he advocates for people with disabilities through his role as the American Psychological Association's Rehabilitation Division 22 Liaison to the American Psychological Association's Board of Professional Affairs and he serves on the Division 22 Practice Committee.



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Professionally he is President of a group private practice, Karol Neuropsychological Services & Consulting, in Minneapolis, that specializes in program development consultation for organizations, workshops & staff training, counseling for persons with brain injury and other disabilities, neuropsychological and rehabilitation evaluations, and case consultation for providers, insurers, attorneys, etc.

Dr. Karol is Board Certified by the American Board of Professional Psychology (ABPP) as a Rehabilitation Psychologist and is Certified by the Academy of Certified Brain Injury Specialists (ACBIS) as a Certified Brain Injury Specialist Trainer (CBIST). He received the American Psychological Association Rehabilitation Division Lifetime Practice Excellence Award for "excellence in clinical practice and contributions to the field of rehabilitation psychology" and the Cifu Lecturer Award for "distinguished contributions to the field of brain injury" from the VCU School of Medicine. He is a member of the Minnesota Academy of Medicine.

Somewhere in the midst of his tireless professional and personal advocacy Dr. Karol has managed to author four books about brain injury (Neuropsychosocial Intervention: The Practical Treatment of Severe Behavioral Dyscontrol After Acquired Brain Injury; Overcoming Grief and Loss after Brain Injury; Therapists' Guide to Grief and Loss after Brain Injury; and Behavior Plan Workbook: How to Conceptualize and Treat Behaviors after Brain Injury) as well as four book chapters and various journal articles. He is a frequent plenary, breakout and workshop conference presenter and is an Adjunct Professor. He is currently preparing materials on brain injury for a provider of innovative on-line educational content.

Apart from professional activities he is an enthusiastic traveler, voracious reader -- participating in a book club, an avid photographer, and a life-long, unfortunately amateur, chess player. He collects dragons, magnets, and license plates. In his spare time, he is writing a play about brain injury!

The USBIA is excited to welcome Dr. Karol, a brain injury professional who has dedicated his entire career to supporting the brain injury community. His dedication and expertise will be a great asset to the team.