

29<sup>th</sup> Annual Rowan-Virtua SOM

# RESEARCH DAY

Thursday, May 1, 2025

8:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
Stratford Campus  
Academic Center  
Lecture Presentation  
12:00 PM - Auditorium

## Beyond the Blow: NeuroConnections Unveiled

### “Shadow Network” Phenomenon in Concussion Recovery

*Douglas H. Smith, M.D.*, is the Robert A. Groff Endowed Professor Neurosurgery and Director of the Center for Brain Injury and of Neurosurgery at the University of Pennsylvania. In addition, Dr. Smith is the Scientific Director of the Big 10/ Ivy league Collaboration on Concussion and serves as a member on the Scientific Advisory Boards of the U.S. National Football League (NFL), the National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA)-DoD consortium on



concussion and the International Concussion Society. In addition, the U.S. State Department asked him to lead an investigation into neurological deficits induced in members of the embassy in Cuba, which led to a newly discovered disorder, “Havana Syndrome.” Dr. Smith’s group has established that damage to brain networks and specifically, diffuse axonal injury (DAI), represents key pathological processes

underlying concussion symptoms and that the extent of acute axonal pathology is predictive of cognitive outcome. In addition, his group has discovered mechanisms of concussion and more severe TBI that lead to progressive neurodegeneration, including chronic traumatic encephalopathy. These collective efforts are represented in over 250 published scientific reports earning an h-index of over 85. His awards include the Dorothy Russell medal, the highest honor conveyed by the British Neuropathological Society, and the William Osler Patient Oriented Research Award from the University of Pennsylvania.



### Research Day Highlights:

- Poster session and vendor exhibits
- Poster competition winners
- In person presentations from Virtua and Rowan experts
- Special guest Tanya Egodage, M.D., Trauma Surgeon from MILDAF who will discuss TBI and hypoperfusion
- Keynote lecture presentation
- Buffet luncheon

### More Information:

Please call 856-566-6066 or visit [rowan.edu/som/research](http://rowan.edu/som/research)

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