

**SAMLA-UCT SERIES OF PRACTICAL TRAINING WORKSHOPS IN
MEDICO-LEGAL PRACTICE**

**1) LEARNING OUTCOME STATEMENT - WORKSHOP 1 - TRAUMATIC BRAIN
INJURY (2 MARCH 2019 TO 16 MARCH 2019)**

- a) The intention of the workshop is to train medico-legal practitioners to write, understand and evaluate medico-legal reports in cases of traumatic brain injury, for the simple purpose of assisting judges to make fair and equitable judgements. The training will be relevant to different groups of practitioners, as follows : -
- i) Neurosurgeons and neurologists – to properly assess survivors of traumatic brain injury and write rational scientific reports, employing the necessary degrees of attention to detail, factual analysis and reference to scientific literature, as well as logical reasoning.
 - ii) Quantum experts – to evaluate the factual and scientific bases, as well as the reasoning processes, of opposing neurosurgeons or neurologists who express differing opinions, and to form a reasoned view on which is the more natural and consistent with objective test findings and actual performance in the laboratory of life.
 - iii) Attorneys, advocates and judges – to better understand neurosurgical and neurological reports; to evaluate the factual and scientific bases and reasoning processes therein; and to enhance effectiveness in leading evidence and cross examination, as well as evaluation of evidence in the light of other factual evidence and expert findings.
 - iv) Medical practitioners in unrelated disciplines – to provide examples of medical diagnostic and reasoning processes that are helpful in the evaluation of impairments of a complex- or abstract nature.

2) FRAMEWORK AND METHOD OF TRAINING - WORKSHOP 1 - TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY (2 MARCH 2019 TO 16 MARCH 2019)

- a) Lectures will include an overview of clinical aspects of traumatic brain injuries; medico-legal assessment of traumatic brain injuries after MMI; special considerations in relation to “mTBI” (mild traumatic brain injury); special considerations in relation to paediatric brain injuries; and recommendations for improving the existing system; as well as a lecture on academic report writing and a golden thread lecture on analytic scientific reasoning.
- b) In addition to lectures the training will include interactive discussions, case reports and an assignment to write a traumatic brain injury report, to be evaluated and discussed against a simple but relevant grading rubric, with the further opportunity of commenting on the usefulness thereof for one’s particular discipline.
- c) The training will refer to 15 relevant scientific publications, including inter alia : -
 - i) YOUMANS NEUROLOGICAL SURGERY (6TH EDITION) – Chapters 322 to 342 – Winn 2011.
 - ii) MEDICO-LEGAL REPORTING IN ORTHOPAEDIC TRAUMA – CHAPTER 22 HEAD INJURY – Bryan Jennett – Ed Michael A Foy and Philip S Fagg – 2002
 - iii) REPORT TO CONGRESS ON MILD TRAUMATIC BRAIN INJURY IN THE UNITED STATES; STEPS TO PREVENT A SERIOUS PUBLIC HEALTH PROBLEM – Julie Louise Gerberding – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) – Sue Binder – National Center for Injury Prevention and Control – September 2003