



PRESENTS

The 2026 National Symposium for Facial Paralysis

Saturday, November 7, 2026 | 12:00—5:00 PM ET

FORMAT Virtual • Zoom **AUDIENCE** Patients & Caregivers

<https://www.foundationforfacialrecovery.org/register/>

PROGRAM AGENDA

Opening Program

Time (ET)	Topic	Presenter / Affiliation
12:00–12:10 PM	Welcome & Opening Remarks	American Foundation for Facial Recovery Symposium leadership
12:10–12:25 PM	Keynote — Smile: The Story of a Face	Sarah Ruhl Author 

Session Block 1

Understanding Facial Paralysis & Early Recovery

Time (ET)	Topic	Presenter / Affiliation
12:25–12:40 PM	1. Understanding Facial Palsy: What Caused My Paralysis?	Sofía Lyford-Pike, MD University of Minnesota <i>Minneapolis, MN</i> 
12:40–12:55 PM	2. What Is the Best Medical Treatment for Bell's Palsy and Lyme Disease?	Mingyang L. Gray, MD, MPH Mount Sinai Health System <i>New York, NY</i> 
12:55–1:05 PM	3. Why Physical Therapy Matters	Mara Robinson, PT, MS Mass Eye and Ear <i>Boston, MA</i> 
1:05–1:20 PM	4. Surgical Options for Patients With Flaccid Paralysis	Tessa Hadlock, MD Hadlock Facial Plastic Surgery <i>Boston, MA</i> 
1:20–1:30 PM	5. Therapy Interventions by Recovery Stage	Jaclyn Wohn, PT, DPT, NCS Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania <i>Philadelphia, PA</i> 
1:30–1:40 PM	6. Eye Care Across Recovery Stages	Jodi Barth, PT, CCI Center for Facial and Functional Recovery <i>Rockville, MD</i> 
1:40–2:00 PM	Q&A • Sessions 1–6	Expert panel
2:00–2:15 PM	Break	

Session Block 2

Trauma, Synkinesis & Targeted Treatments

Time (ET)	Topic	Presenter / Affiliation
2:15–2:30 PM	7. Treating Traumatic Causes of Facial Palsy: Surgery, Tumors & Accidents	Sam Oyer, MD UVA Health Charlottesville, VA 
2:30–2:40 PM	8. Facial Palsy and Dizziness: What Patients Need to Know About Balance and Recovery	Gaye Cronin, OTD, OTR Vestibular Atlanta Atlanta, GA 
2:40–2:55 PM	9. Surgical Options for Patients With Synkinesis	Jacob Dey, MD Mayo Clinic Rochester, MN 
2:55–3:10 PM	10. Botox (OnabotulinumtoxinA) for Synkinesis	Jon-Paul Pepper, MD Stanford Medicine Stanford, CA 
3:10–3:20 PM	11. Facial Exercises: What Helps and What Hurts	Lori Engler, PT, DPT Jefferson Health Lehigh Valley, PA 
3:20–3:30 PM	12. TMJ Issues in Facial Palsy	Carl Chua, PT, MS Center for Facial and Functional Recovery Rockville, MD 
3:35–3:50 PM	Q&A • Sessions 7–12	Expert panel
3:50–4:00 PM	Break	

Session Block 3

Long-Term Management & Living Well

Time (ET)	Topic	Presenter / Affiliation
4:00–4:15 PM	13. Understanding and Preventing Recurrence	Michael Reilly, MD Georgetown University Washington, DC 
4:15–4:25 PM	14. Oral Competence and Eating/Drinking	Heather Davis Cuevas, CCC-SLP University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, NC 
4:25–4:35 PM	15. Synkinesis and Mood	Faye Wachs, PhD California State Polytechnic University, Pomona Pomona, CA 
4:35–4:50 PM	Q&A • Sessions 13–15	Expert panel
4:50–5:00 PM	Closing Remarks & Resources	American Foundation for Facial Recovery Symposium leadership