



2026 CONFERENCE AGENDA

Wednesday, October 7th

11:30am - 12:30pm

Registration - Exhibitor Room Open - Please visit our Industry Partners

Coffee & Beverages Served

12:30pm - 12:45pm

Welcome Address & General Announcements

Carrie Zarate, Stubbe Case Management - WI WC Forum President

Anne Loehr, Paradigm - Moderator

12:45pm - 1:45pm

Mastering the Multiplier: Understanding Your Experience Mod and How to Lower Workers' Compensation Costs

Kate Musser, R&R Insurance Services, Inc.

Brad Stehno, R&R Insurance Services, Inc.

Luke Schulz, Schmitz Redi-Mix

Your experience modification factor can have a significant impact on your workers' compensation premiums but many employers don't fully understand how it's calculated or how their day-to-day decisions affect it. This session breaks down the experience mod in practical terms, explains the factors that influence your premiums, and highlights proven strategies to help control workers' compensation costs. Attendees will also learn about common pitfalls that can unnecessarily increase premiums and leave with actionable tips to improve their organization's bottom line.

1:45pm - 2:00pm

Afternoon Break - Vendor Display Area Open

2:00pm - 3:00pm

What's New in Wisconsin Workers' Compensation? A Legal Update

Attorney Susan Larson, Arthur Chapman

Attorney Larson will provide an update on recent changes to the Worker's Compensation Act. She will also provide a review of recent Labor and Industry Review and appellate cases of importance.

3:00pm - 4:00pm

Causation Beyond the Medical Record: The Information That Drives Better Decisions

Bill Luebke, AF Group

Michael Borkowski, MD,

Steven Koshere, Harley Davidson

Learn how each stakeholder can contribute critical information in analyzing causation issues. Discussion will include straightforward and complex causation decisions and how better information gathering can lead to stronger and more defensible claim outcomes

4:00pm - 4:30pm

Door Prize Giveaway

Must be present to win

4:30pm - 6:00pm

Industry Networking Social Hour

Complimentary Hors d'oeuvres and beverages provided. Our industry's best opportunity to catch up with old friends and make new ones.

2026 CONFERENCE AGENDA

Thursday, October 8th

7:00am - 8:00am

Registration - Exhibitor Room Open - Please visit our Industry Partners

8:00am - 8:15am

Welcome Address & General Announcements

Carrie Zarate, Stubbe Case Management - WI WC Forum President

Amy Oelke, ComplIQ - AM Moderator

Scott Law, Athletico - PM Moderator

8:15am - 9:15am

Neurotrauma 2026: the Advancement of Neurosciences Through World-Class Clinical Care and Groundbreaking Research and Innovative Education

Michael McCrea, PhD, ABPP, Medical College of Wisconsin

Shekar Kurpad, MD, PhD, Medical College of Wisconsin

Dr. McCrea will discuss advances in point-of-care blood biomarker testing and a new framework for classifying Traumatic Brain Injury. Learn how this development may transform care for the injured worker. As the founder of Wisconsin Institute of Neuroscience (WINS), Dr. Kurpad will contribute neurosurgical perspectives and clinical insights.

9:15am - 10:15am

You Be the Judge: Idiopathic Injury Edition

Attorney Rollie Cafaro, Cafaro Law Office SC

In this interactive presentation, Attorney Cafaro will evaluate real-world idiopathic injury scenarios and engage the audience to decide whether the claims are compensable by exploring the legal principles, key facts, and practical considerations that shape these challenging coverage decisions.

10:15am - 10:45am

Break - Vendor Display Area Open

10:45am - 11:45am

CRPS: Practical Considerations for Diagnosis and Management in the Injured Worker

Oscar Wille, MD, Kinetic Spine and Pain

Complex Regional Pain Syndrome (CRPS) presents unique challenges in workers' compensation cases.

This session will review current diagnostic criteria, common clinical presentations, evidence-based treatment approaches, and practical considerations for managing injured workers with CRPS while promoting functional recovery and return-to-work outcomes.

11:45am - 1:00pm

Lunch and Vendor Break

1:00pm - 1:45pm

Keynote Presentation:

Caleb Hyatt, Hyatts Magic

Experience an unforgettable keynote with magician Caleb Hyatt, whose blend of incredible illusions, quick wit, and engaging personality will leave you amazed. More than just a performance, Caleb creates an interactive experience that captivates audiences, inspires wonder, and provides the perfect blend of entertainment and lasting memories.

1:45pm - 2:45pm

Shoulder versus Neck, the challenges of identifying the Pain Source

Jacob Babu, MD, Illinois Bone & Joint Institute

In this presentation, Dr. Babu will be discussing how he diagnoses pain from these body parts. Symptoms including radiating or mechanical pain, neurological signs, joint stiffness. He will discuss tests to help unlock the diagnosis such as maneuvers, and diagnostics. Finally, treatment options once a diagnosis has been achieved. He will present case studies to review this process within the work comp claims setting.

2:45pm - 3:00pm

Vendor Break

3:00pm - 4:00pm

Voices from the Bench: Workers' Compensation Administrative Law Judges Address Issues You Need To Know About

ALJ Sean Spencer, Department of Workforce Development - Division of Worker's Compensation

ALJ Amanda Luedtke, Department of Workforce Development - Division of Worker's Compensation

ALJ Sam Weinberg, Department of Workforce Development - Division of Worker's Compensation

Attorney Susan Barranco, Barranco Legal - Moderator

The Administrative Law Judge panel will give their perspectives on key workers' compensation trends and decisions. Be ready to present those questions you need to get answered.

4:00pm - 4:15pm

Door Prize Giveaway

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4:15pm - 6:00pm

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