This presentation will be an overview of the educational and professional life of a university professor of Mechanical Engineering, researcher, and expert in his field. The presenter will demonstrate how a combination of events including life circumstances can dramatically change the direction of one's career. The presenter will encourage attendees to not be fearful of those changes, but to embrace them as unknowns that have the potential to become exciting challenges that may enrich their careers. PowerPoint slides will illustrate the 40 year journey the presenter, has taken, from being a student of Mechanical Engineering in Poland to being an expert in traumatic brain injury (TBI) in the United States. The slides will also emphasize how the presenter followed a career path, but remained open to new opportunities, needs for research, communication, and technology that emerged along the way. Sometimes, professionals find themselves stuck in a career or reach the stage of burnout. The goal of the presentation will be to motivate conference participants to continually look for new opportunities, where they can use their energy and talents, and to remember that their professional life does not have to be a linear path.

**Biography**

Mariusz Ziejewski is a Professor in the College of Engineering at North Dakota State University and he is also an Adjunct Professor in the Department of Neuroscience at the University of North Dakota School of Medicine. For over 35 years, his research focus has been on human body biomechanics with an emphasis on the human brain. He has received research grants from the Department of Defense on cellular level brain modeling. He has consulted with the US Air Force, Army, and NHTSA. He has published four book chapters and over 125 technical refereed articles.

mariusz.ziejewski@ndsu.edu

**Notes:**