

5th International Conference on Concussion in Sport (Berlin)

Paul McCrory,¹ Willem H Meeuwisse,²
 Jiří Dvořák,³ Ruben J Echemendia,^{4,5,6} Lars Engebretsen,^{7,8,9}
 Nina Feddermann-Demont,^{10,11} Michael McCrea,^{12,13}
 Michael Makdissi,^{14,15,16} Jon Patricios,^{17,18} Kathryn J Schneider,^{19,20}
 Allen K Sills^{21,22}

Sport-related concussion (SRC) has received much media coverage over the past 5 years. In the face of misinformation about this injury in the minds of parents, coaches and athletes, it is critical that all involved stakeholders receive scientifically sound and up-to-date information regarding SRC and its potential consequences.

One of the most significant developments in SRC over the past two decades has been the establishment of the Concussion In Sport Group (CISG). This group has organised the key consensus meetings in this field and has published assessment tools that have become regarded as the best available information globally. The outcome documents from the meetings are first and foremost intended to guide clinical practice; however, it is hoped that they also help form the agenda for SRC research.

In November 2001, the 1st International Conference on Concussion in Sport was held in Vienna, Austria. The subsequent four conferences (Prague, Zurich (twice) and Berlin) have developed into more formal consensus meetings broadly following the organisational guidelines established by the US National Institutes of Health. The most recent meeting held in Berlin (on 27–30 October 2016) was supported by International Ice Hockey Federation (IIHF) in partnership with FIFA, the IOC, World Rugby, and the International Equestrian Federation (FEI). In addition to the expert panel and observers, 400 participants representing the international sporting federations, medical committees,

clinicians and researchers attended. For the meeting, the CISG expert committees reviewed almost 60 000 published papers on SRC definition, assessment, biomarkers, management, treatment, pathophysiological changes, CTE and injury prevention. The systematic review papers were presented to the audience for discussion and following the open sessions, the expert panel finalised these reviews.

The resulting Consensus Statement and the Sport Concussion Assessment Tools (SCAT) presented in a pair of *BJSM* issues contain important advancements in the field. Among others, there is a clarification of the definition of concussion, a clear approach to initial management, and a recovery period that involves shorter initial rest and, in some cases, the need for rehabilitation. In these special issues of *BJSM*, the 12 review papers are published with the abstracts from the consensus meeting to provide important background information. The Consensus Statement, the Concussion Recognition Tool 5, the SCAT5 and the Child SCAT5 (the version number 5 has been utilised to be consistent with the numbering of the 5th International Conference on Concussion in Sport) are provided with the objective of offering a simple, clear message with tools that equip the practitioner to diagnose and manage concussion in various different sports.

¹Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health, University of Melbourne, Heidelberg, Victoria, Australia
²Sport Injury Prevention Research Centre, Faculty of Kinesiology, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada

³Department of Neurology and Swiss Concussion Center, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland
⁴University Orthopaedic Center, Concussion Care Clinic, State College, Pennsylvania, USA
⁵Department of Psychology, University of Missouri-Kansas City, Kansas City, Missouri, USA
⁶Psychological and Neurobehavioral Associates, Inc
⁷Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Oslo University Hospital and Faculty of Medicine, Oslo University Hospital, Oslo, Norway
⁸Oslo Sports Trauma Research Center, Oslo, Norway
⁹International Olympic Committee (IOC), Lausanne, Switzerland
¹⁰Department of Neurology, University Hospital Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland
¹¹Swiss Concussion Center, Schulthess Clinic, Zurich, Switzerland
¹²Department of Neurosurgery, Medical College of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA
¹³Clement Zablocki VA Medical Center, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, USA
¹⁴Melbourne Brain Centre, Florey Institute of Neuroscience & Mental Health, Austin Campus, Heidelberg, Victoria, Australia
¹⁵La Trobe Sport and Exercise Medicine Research Centre, La Trobe University, Bundoora, Australia
¹⁶Olympic Park Sports Medicine Centre, Melbourne, Australia
¹⁷Section of Sports Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of Pretoria, Johannesburg, South Africa
¹⁸Department of Emergency Medicine, Faculty of Health Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa
¹⁹Faculty of Kinesiology, Sport Injury Prevention Research Centre, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
²⁰Alberta Children's Hospital Research Institute and Hotchkiss Brain Institute, Cumming School of Medicine, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta, Canada
²¹Department of Neurosurgery, Orthopaedic Surgery and Rehabilitation, Franklin, Tennessee, USA
²²Vanderbilt Sports Concussion Center, Vanderbilt University Medical Center, Franklin, Tennessee, USA

Correspondence to Associate Professor Paul McCrory; paulmccr@icloud.com

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