

NEWS

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NOCSAE approves more than \$600,000 to fund concussion research; creates Scientific Advisory Committee to direct concussion research

PHOENIX, ARIZONA, January 22, 2011 – The National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment (NOCSAE) awarded nearly \$610,000 in research to advance the science of sports medicine related to concussion. NOCSAE also created a new Scientific Advisory Committee to direct research efforts specifically related to concussion. The Scientific Advisory Committee will meet in the coming months to consider grant proposals referred by NOCSAE for evaluation, as well as conduct and consider new research. NOCSAE is an independent and nonprofit standard-setting body with the sole mission to enhance athletic safety through scientific research and the creation of performance standards for protective equipment.

"Investment in research, like the grants we awarded and creation of the Scientific Advisory Committee, provides the foundation for our work to protect athletes on the field of play," said Mike Oliver, NOCSAE executive director. "It is our mission to continue to drive the science of sports medicine so youth and adults who choose to play sports can know their equipment is certified to standards based on the best available information."

NOCSAE is the leading nongovernmental source for research funding in all sports medicine related to concussion. Since 2000, NOCSAE has devoted more than \$2.5 million toward research by the foremost experts in sports medicine and science to develop and advance athlete safety. During the winter board meeting, NOCSAE approved a new research grant of nearly \$340,000 to study concussion biomechanics and awarded a second year of funding for the following:

- Can Anthropometric Measurements Explain Gender Differences in Concussion Rates Among High School Basketball, Soccer and Lacrosse Players? R. Dawn Comstock, PhD, Assistant Professor Center for Injury Research and Policy
- The effect of sport-related concussion on cognition, balance, symptoms and health-related quality of life in adolescent athletes. Tamara C. Valovich McLeod, Ph.D., ATC, Associate Professor, Athletic Training
- Genetic risk factors for concussion, concussion severity, and neurocognitive recovery from concussion in college football and soccer players. Tom Terrell, M.D.

More information on the 2011 grant recipients can be found on the [NOCSAE website](#) in the coming weeks.

As an extension of the Multidisciplinary Concussion Task Force, NOCSAE created the new Scientific Advisory Panel chaired by Dr. Robert Cantu, NOCSAE vice president and one of the nation's top sports concussion specialists. The Scientific Advisory Committee will focus specifically on conducting and directing scientific research to help answer pivotal questions about concussion and helmet standards. During the winter board meeting, NOCSAE referred additional multi-year concussion related grant proposals to the new committee for evaluation.

"NOCSAE is fully committed to protecting the millions of athletes who choose to play sports. Despite a significant investment in concussion-related research, scientists have not determined what helmet performance threshold can be adopted that will result in increased concussion prevention. I am confident that the Scientific Advisory Committee will conduct and direct goal-specific research intended to provide the answers which can be incorporated into our standards to better protect against concussions," said Dr. Cantu.

Formed in 1969, NOCSAE is a leading force in the effort to improve athletic equipment and, as a result, reduce injuries. NOCSAE efforts include the development of performance and test standards for football helmets and facemasks, baseball and softball batters and catchers helmets, baseballs and softballs, ice hockey helmets, soccer shinguards, lacrosse helmets and facemasks and polo helmets.

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About NOCSAE

NOCSAE, the National Operating Committee on Standards for Athletic Equipment, is an independent and nonprofit standard-setting body with the sole mission to enhance athletic safety through scientific research and the creation of performance standards for protective equipment. Formed in 1969, NOCSAE is a leading force in the effort to improve athletic equipment and, as a result, reduce injuries. NOCSAE efforts include the development of performance and test standards for football helmets and facemasks, baseball and softball batters and catchers helmets, baseballs and softballs, ice hockey helmets, soccer shin guards, lacrosse helmets and facemasks and polo helmets. NOCSAE is comprised of representatives from a number of groups which have an interest in athletic equipment – including manufacturers, reconditioners, athletic trainers, coaches, equipment managers, sports medicine and consumer organizations. These diverse interests have joined forces in an attempt to arrive at a common goal of reducing sports-related injuries. NOCSAE is a nonprofit, charitable organization supported by individuals and organizations with an interest in athletics.