

CISG 2026 - Athlete Brain Health Symposium
Wednesday 25 November - Thursday 26 November 2026
Century City Conference Centre, Cape Town
Preliminary Programme (subject to change)

WEDNESDAY 25 NOVEMBER

07:00 - 07:59 REGISTRATION

08:00 - 08:04 Welcome Organising Committee Members

08:05 - 09:39 Global Issues in Concussion

08:05 - 08:24 From Vienna to the V&A: Providing Perspective on the evolution of Athlete Brain Health globally
08:25 - 08:44 Evaluation of the para athlete with concussion: Global research and African perspectives.
08:45 - 09:04 Culturally appropriate adaptation of the SCAT6 for an African setting panel
09:05 - 09:10 **Research Abstract:** Using the Aggregate Baseline Approach to Optimize NHL Modified SCAT6® Baseline Testing Among Professional Hockey Players
09:11 - 09:16 **Research Abstract:** Does a multimodal clinical assessment for concussion in professional rugby players enhance concussion detection: a pilot study
09:17 - 09:39 **Session Q&A**

Jon Patricios
Phoebe Runciman
Hameer Vanmali, Nwabisa Mlandu, Thandeka Mdlalo & Jon Patricios
Ruben Echemendia
Janesh Ganda
Moderator: Vicki Anderson

09:40 - 09:59 BREAK

10:00 - 11:49 Concussion Lessons Learned from Elite and Professional Sport

10:00 - 10:19 Acute sideline evaluation of concussion - the Canadian Football League
10:20 - 10:39 World Rugby instrumented mouth guard research
10:40 - 10:59 UEFA's Heading Framework and Brain Health Initiatives
11:00 - 11:19 Optimising the SCAT6 with App technology: The MLS Concussion Program
11:20 - 11:25 **Research Abstract:** Clinical determinants of return to play after sport-related concussion in Spanish Rugby Union: the role of symptom burden
11:26 - 11:31 **Research Abstract:** Biomechanical severity measures from instrumented mouthguards and association with head injury assessment in elite Australian football
11:32 - 11:46 **Session Q&A**

Dhiren Naidu
Ross Tucker & James Brown
Claus Reiberger
Ruben Echemendia & Harrison Brown
Franchek Drobnic
Catherine Willmott
Moderator: Jon Patricios

11:50 - 12:59 LUNCH

13:00 - 16:29 HANDS-ON WORKSHOPS

13:00 - 13:59 **Workshop #1:** Physiotherapy Interventions in Concussion Management: "Tricks of the Trade" Kathryn Schneider

14:00 - 14:14 TRANSITION/BREAK

14:15 - 15:14 **Workshop #2:** Beyond the numbers: Clinical Interpretation of the SCAT6, Child SCAT6, and SCOAT6 Ruben Echemendia, Christina Master & Jon Patricios

15:15 - 15:29 TRANSITION/BREAK

15:30 - 16:29 **Workshop #3:** Introducing the Para SCAT6 Phoebe Runciman

16:30 - 17:29 Reception Poster Session

17:30 Adjourn

19:00 CISG GALA DINNER - OPEN TO ALL REGISTERED DELEGATES

THURSDAY 26 NOVEMBER

07:00 - 07:59 REGISTRATION

08:00 - 08:04 Welcome Organising Committee Members

08:05 - 09:34 Persisting Symptoms

08:05 - 08:24 Defining, Evaluating, and Managing athletes with Persisting Symptoms Following Concussion
08:25 - 08:44 The role of the physiotherapist in concussion intervention
08:45 - 09:04 Rehabilitation of the Vision System after Concussion
09:05 - 09:10 **Research Abstract:** Pre-injury factors associated with persisting symptoms after concussion in adolescent ice hockey players
09:11 - 09:16 **Research Abstract:** Evaluating characteristics of rehabilitation following concussion in professional rugby: What types of targeted treatments are most commonly used?
09:17 - 09:34 **Session Q&A**

Ruben Echemendia
Kathryn Schneider
Christina Master
Kathryn Schneider
Emma Oczkowski
Moderator: Julianne Schmidt

09:35 - 09:59 BREAK

10:00 - 11:34 Long-term Issues		
10:00 - 10:19	Ethical Dilemmas in SRC: Global Class Action Suits in Collision Sports. The implications for clinical practice	David Maddocks
10:20 - 10:39	Dementia in Athletes. Is it preventable?	James Butler
10:40 - 10:59	Motor neuron disease in athletes.	Franco Henning
11:00 - 11:05	Research Abstract: Baseline cognitive performance before children's first exposure to American youth tackle football	James Harrison
11:06 - 11:11	Research Abstract: Reporting practices and attitudes to reporting concussion in high-school rugby: What are players doing and thinking?	Johan van Heerden
11:12 - 11:34	Session Q&A	Moderator: Ruben Echemendia
11:35 - 12:29 LUNCH		
12:30 - 14:04 Neuropsychiatric Issues in Concussion		
12:30 - 12:49	Suicide in Athletes: Understanding Risk and Practical Approaches to Management	James Burger
12:50 - 13:09	Seizures in the context of sport-related head injury. What is the significance?	James Butler
13:10 - 13:29	Neurobiological/psychosocial research in the field of SRC/athletes	Stephan Rabie
13:30 - 13:35	Research Abstract: Concussion, anxiety and examination accommodations in South African senior school: a proposed clinical framework	Connor Mercer
13:36 - 13:41	Research Abstract: Sleep is a modifiable post-concussion risk-factor for PPCS, introducing the Sleep-SOC index. Findings from the NCAA/DoD Care Consortium	Nicholas Port
13:42 - 14:04	Session Q&A	Moderator: Kathryn Schneider
14:05 - 14:29 BREAK		
14:30 - 15:59 Paediatric and Return to Activity Considerations in Concussion		
14:30 - 14:49	Reducing risk of poor outcomes for child and youth concussion: A biopsychosocial early intervention approach	Vicki Anderson
14:50 - 15:09	The neurodivergent child athlete with concussion	Leigh Gordon
15:10 - 15:29	Return to driving after concussion	Julianne Schmidt
15:30 - 15:35	Research Abstract: Radiological Correlates of Head Injuries in School-Level Rugby Union: A 10-Year Retrospective Cross-Sectional Analysis	Riaan van Tonder
15:36 - 15:41	Research Abstract: Soft-Shell Helmet Covers on Head Acceleration Event Magnitude in American Youth Tackle Football	Samantha DeAngelo
15:42 - 15:59	Session Q&A	Moderator: Christina Master
15:50 - 16:49	"Ask the Experts": CISG Expert Clinical Case Panel and Q&A	TBD
16:50 - 17:00	Closing Comments - Meeting adjourned	Organising Committee Members