

Head Injuries and Sports in America: Care, Conflict and Controversy

On November 16th, a collaborative panel between the departments of Orthopaedic Surgery, the Musculoskeletal Rehab Network, Tisch Center for Hospitality, and Tourism and Sports Management gathered to discuss “Head Injuries and Sports in America: Care, Conflict and Controversy” at NYU Langone Medical Center. Dr. Laith Jazrawi, Chief of Sports Medicine recognized the value in orchestrating such a program and was instrumental in its execution along with Dina Pagnotta, director of the Musculoskeletal Rehabilitation Network. This was the first time such an event was held at the medical center. The purpose of the program was to bring together major stakeholders including physicians, journalists, sportscaster, sports agent and professional athletes, to discuss why this crisis has occurred, what pressures are felt by each participant in the modern sports economy and why head injuries pose such a tremendous threat not only to the athletes we admire but the sports themselves. The program highlighted the expertise of the physicians at NYULMC related to brain injury and sports. The target audience included students of the Tisch Center, medical students, residents, fellows, Rehab Network members, NYULMC staff and employees, local high school coaches and members of the press.

The moderator and panelists created a dynamic and heated discussion about the current state of head injuries and sports. They spoke with candor and passion about a problem that has finally received the much overdue attention it deserves. The program was a great success with over 200 attendees and was mentioned in a NY Times article on November 29th in an interview with one of the panelists, Robert Boland and Orthopedics This Week on November 27th, in an interview with Dr. Claudette Lajam, see links below. In addition, a summary of the program and video is featured on the Rusk, HJD and Ortho Surgery websites as well as the Tisch Center website see below. A similar collaborative effort will now become a yearly event, bringing experts together to discuss key topics in sports and medicine.

The panel was moderated by Arthur Miller: University Professor, NYU; Director of Public Dialogues, NYU School of Continuing and Professional Studies

The prestigious panel included:

-Robert Boland, JD: Faculty Chair & Clinical Associate Professor, NYU Tisch Center for Hospitality, Tourism and Sports Management

-Arthur Caplan, PhD: Emmanuel and Robert Hart Director of the Center for Bioethics and the Sydney D Caplan Professor of Bioethics, University of Pennsylvania

-Dennis Cardone, DO: Clinical Associate Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, NYU School of Medicine; co-host on The Orthopaedic and Sports Medicine Shows for SIRIUS/XM Doctor Radio

-Harry Carson: Member of the Professional Football Hall of Fame , 10-year Captain of the New York Football Giants

-Andrew Feldman, MD: Clinical Assistant Professor of Orthopaedic Surgery, NYU School of Medicine; Head Physician, New York Rangers

-Steven Flanagan, MD: Professor & Chair of Rehabilitation Medicine, NYU Langone Medical Center, and Medical Director of NYU Langone's Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation Medicine; Board of Directors, Brain Injury Association of New York State

-Roy Johnson, Former Editor and Writer, Sports Illustrated; Former Editor-In Chief, Men's Health Magazine

-Claudette Lajam, MD: Assistant Professor of Orthopaedics, NYU School of Medicine; Co-host on The Orthopaedic Show for SIRIUS/XM Doctor Radio

-Dino Mangiero: Head Football Coach, Poly Prep Country Day School; Veteran of Six NFL Seasons

-Chris Nowinski: Co-Founder and President of the Sports Legacy Institute, Co-Director of the Center for the Study of Traumatic Encephalopathy, Boston University School of Medicine, and former professional wrestler, World Wrestling Entertainment

-Brendan Shanahan: Senior Vice President of Player Safety and Hockey Operations; National Hockey League, and veteran of 22 NHL seasons

-Gerard Varlotta, DO: Clinical Associate Professor of Orthopedic Surgery and Rehabilitation Medicine, NYU School of Medicine; Ringside physician, NYS Athletic Commission

-Lesley Visser, sportscaster and Member of the Professional Football Hall of Fame.

http://www.nytimes.com/2011/11/30/sports/ncaafotball/college-players-move-concussions-issue-into-the-courtroom.html?pagewanted=1&_r=1&ref=sports

http://ryortho.com/trauma.php?news=1592_Injured-Athletes-Who-is-Responsible

<http://communications.med.nyu.edu/media-relations/news/panel-sports-medicine-and-management-experts-professional-athletes-examine-ethi>