



\*\*\* MEDIA ALERT: TUESDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2011 \*\*\*

**“PREVENTING SUDDEN DEATH IN YOUTH SPORTS”**

**YOUTH SPORTS SAFETY SUMMIT & MEDIA BRIEFING IN WASHINGTON, DC**

Young athletes are losing their lives on the playing field: 50 in 2010; 40 to date in 2011; and seven individuals, including one adult coach, this past August. They are suffering chronic and sometimes catastrophic injury from sports that are otherwise designed to increase the spirit of competition, improved individual sports performance, a love of the game, and potential collegiate and professional careers for an elite few.

The National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) is hosting the third Youth Sports Safety Summit in December to provide additional medical insights, case histories, and a call to action to improve care of the youth athletes. More than 60 health care and sports organizations have joined the Youth Sports Safety Alliance, in order to collectively seek increased education, research and legislation to protect young athletes.

**DESCRIPTION:** Medical experts will advance-release a new position statement, **“Preventing Sudden Death in Sports,”** which will be published in the February 2012 issue of the *Journal of Athletic Training*. **It is the first time an organization has condensed this volume of information across ten major health issues that will help medical practitioners, coaches, administrators and others more effectively and efficiently prevent and treat these conditions.**

The program includes testimonials from parents who have experienced the devastating effects of catastrophic injury and loss of life from youth sports activities.

Leading health care professionals will specifically address concussion and brain injury, heat illness, sudden cardiac arrest, exercise-induced asthma, and exertional sickling prevention and treatment.

**AUDIENCE:** Geared toward the news media, sports organizations, policymakers, parent activists, and health professionals, attendees will learn about the myriad causes of sudden death among young athletes – along with recommendations and legislative action designed to better protect student athletes.

**KEY FACT:** While concussion legislation has passed in 36 states, concussion is not the only problem in youth sports. High school athletes suffer two million injuries, 500,000 doctor visits, and 30,000 hospitalizations every year.

**WHEN:** Tuesday, December 6, 2011 | 9:30am – 3:30pm EST

**WHERE:** Cannon House Office Building, Cannon Caucus Room, 1<sup>st</sup> and Independence, SE (Capitol South Metro stop)

**CONTACT:** Robin Waxenberg, (212) 489-8006 [robin@robwax.com](mailto:robin@robwax.com)

**WEB SITE:** [www.youthsportssafetyalliance.org](http://www.youthsportssafetyalliance.org)

**AGENDA – Media are invited to attend any or all of the presentations throughout the day.**

**8:30 a.m. Continental Breakfast**

**9:30 a.m.: Welcome and Introductions**

**Marjorie J. Albohm, MS, ATC, President, NATA**

**9:50 a.m. NFL Report**

**10:00 a.m. Preventing Sudden Death in Sports – Release of New Position Statement**

**Kevin Guskiewicz, PhD, ATC**, Kenan Distinguished Professor and founding director of the Matthew Gfeller Sport-Related Traumatic Brain Injury Research Center and the Center for the Study of Retired Athletes, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

**Douglas J. Casa, PhD, ATC, FACSM, FNATA**, University of Connecticut Neag School of Education: director, Athletic Training Education; professor, Department of Kinesiology; chief operating officer, Korey Stringer Institute

**10:20 a.m. Sudden Cardiac Arrest**

**Victoria L. Vetter, MD**, attending staff physician, Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia, Division of Pediatric Cardiology

**Laura Friend**, program coordinator, Project ADAM Texas at Cook Children’s Medical Center

**10:55 a.m.: Exertional Sickling**

**E. Randy Eichner, MD**, professor emeritus of medicine at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center

**Yvette L. Coursey, DPA**, chief executive officer, Sickle Cell Foundation of Palm Beach County and Treasure Coast, Inc.

**11:25 a.m. Q&A and Lunch to Follow**

**12:45 p.m. Exercise-Induced Asthma**

**Amy Elizabeth Valasek, MD**, clinical associate, Johns Hopkins Pediatric Emergency Department; assistant professor, Johns Hopkins Orthopedics, Pediatric Division

**Chris Draft**, founder, Chris Draft Family Foundation, former NFL linebacker

**1:15 p.m. Heat Illness**

**Douglas J. Casa, PhD, ATC, FACSM, FNATA**

**Rhonda Fincher**, co-founder and executive director, Kendrick Fincher Hydration Foundation

**2:00 p.m. Brain Injury/Concussion**

**Kevin Guskiewicz, PhD, ATC**

**Lisa Gfeller, vice president and treasurer, Matthew Gfeller Foundation, mother of Matthew Gfeller**

**2:30 p.m. Emergency Action Plans**

**Jon Almquist, ATC, VATL, administrator, Fairfax County Public Schools Athletic Training Program**

**3:00 p.m. Q&A and Wrap**

***National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) – Health Care for Life & Sport***

*Athletic trainers are health care professionals who specialize in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of injuries and sport-related illnesses. They prevent and treat chronic musculoskeletal injuries from sports, physical and occupational activity, and provide immediate care for acute injuries. Athletic trainers offer a continuum of care that is unparalleled in health care. The National Athletic Trainers' Association represents and supports 34,000 members of the athletic training profession. Visit [www.nata.org](http://www.nata.org)*

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