



**BOND
UNIVERSITY**
BRINGING AMBITION TO LIFE

Concussion Panel
Play the Game
October 2019



Legal and Ethical Perspectives of the Role of the Team Doctor in Concussion Management



1. Welcome and Introductions

Format for this Panel Session

- Background and Overview
- Player Perspectives – Tom Moffat
- A North American Perspective – Betsy Grey
- An Australian Case
- Q&A

2. Focus Questions

- What are the legal and ethical responsibilities of team doctors in professional team sport?
- How to manage conflicts of interest to deliver optimal medical care to professional players regarding concussion management and RTP decision-making?

3. Background and Overview

- PTG 2011 Cologne – SRC as a North American Phenomenon
- PTG 2019 Colorado Springs – SRC as a global phenomenon
- The Harm, Inherent Risks and Long-Term Concerns

A public or a private problem?



4. Is there a doctor in the house?

- ✓ Gatekeeper of the player's health
- ✓ Expected to adhere to professional ethical standards regardless of the 'house'
- ✓ National Ethical Standards

International Standards

International Federation of Sports Medicine

'The same ethical principles that apply to the practice of medicine shall apply to sports medicine'

Challenges in the 'House' of Sport

- ✓ Dynamics of concussion management (RTP) in sport – focus on professional team sport
- ✓ Internal Influences and Pressures – club/team, coach/manager, player, competitive nature of environment, intensity of scheduling
- ✓ External Influences and Pressures – spectators, public, media, reputation

Influences and Pressures



Concussion in Sport

Higher incidence in contact sports

e.g. American football, rugby union, rugby league,
Australian Football

Object of the game is the scoring of goals or tries.

Aggressive physical contact is permitted under the rules or laws of the game to achieve the object.



Patrick Hamilton/AAP

But concussions can happen in any
sport...

Over to Tom...