



SPEAKER BIOS
National Athletic Trainers' Association
Second Youth Sports Safety Summit and Media Briefing

Moderator

Marjorie J. Albohm, MS, ATC, travels internationally as director of Clinical Research and Fellowships for Ossur Americas and as president of the National Athletic Trainers' Association. She also serves on the board of directors for the Datalys Sports Injury Surveillance Center in Indianapolis. She is a highly regarded speaker, lecturing on a range of athletic training and sports medicine-related topics.

Albohm has received many honors, including the NATA Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer Award and the Tim Kerin Award for Excellence in Athletic Training. She was inducted into the NATA Hall of Fame in 1999 and is a former president of the NATA Research and Education Foundation. As an expert in the field, she is quoted frequently in trade journals and consumer periodicals. She authored the book "Health Care and the Female Athlete" and co-authored "Your Injury – A Common Sense Guide to Sports Injuries" and "Reimbursement for Athletic Trainers."

"Report Card" Presentations

Kelci Stringer is the founder and CEO of the Korey Stringer Institute. She is a firm believer that one's life's purpose will be revealed, even if it's in the midst of tragic circumstances. Her journey towards advocacy, education and prevention of sudden death in sports began on Aug. 1, 2001, when her husband, NFL all-pro lineman Korey Stringer, died from complications of an exertional heat stroke at the age of 27, while practicing with the Minnesota Vikings.

Stringer met her husband when she was in college. The two were married for four years and during that time, she gave birth to their son, Kodie Drew. As a young widow and mother, she struggled to decide on the best way to honor her husband's memory, and she ultimately established the Korey Stringer Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization. Through her foundation, Stringer was instrumental in developing a partnership with the National Football League, Gatorade and the University of Connecticut, Neag School of Education to form the Korey Stringer Institute. The school was chosen because of its reputation as a leader in the study of heat and hydration issues related to athletes and the physically active.

Julie Gilchrist, MD, is a pediatrician and medical epidemiologist with the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. She has been at the CDC since 1997. In her current work at the NCIPC, Gilchrist is responsible for research and programs in drowning prevention and water-safety promotion, and sports and recreation-related injury prevention, as well as other issues primarily affecting children: choking, suffocation, ingestions, dog bites, playground injuries, etc.

She facilitated the development of the CDC's research agenda for prevention of injuries in sports, recreation and exercise and has been recognized for her efforts to establish a sports injury prevention program at the CDC. Gilchrist has authored/co-authored more than 40 journal

articles and five book chapters, and is an invited speaker both nationally and internationally. She has earned numerous awards for her efforts and accomplishments in research, communication and disaster response.

R. Dawn Comstock, PhD, is an associate professor at The Ohio State University College of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics and College of Public Health, Division of Epidemiology and a research faculty member at the Center for Injury Research and Policy, the Research Institute at Nationwide Children's Hospital.

Comstock's research focus is the epidemiology of injury among the physically active, specifically the study of sports, recreation and leisure activity-related injuries among children and adolescents as well as the life-long health benefits associated with an active childhood. Comstock believes that to combat the epidemic of obesity in our country children must be encouraged to get up off the couch and participate in physically active sports, recreation and leisure activities. However, a certain endemic level of injury can be expected in any physical activity. The challenge is to monitor injury trends through surveillance; to investigate the etiology of preventable injuries; to develop, implement and evaluate protective interventions; and to responsibly report epidemiologic findings of injury research while promoting a physically active lifestyle for children and adolescents.

Jeff Miller has served as the head of the Washington office for the National Football League since 2008. As the vice president for Government Relations and Public Policy, his responsibilities include all federal and state legislative and regulatory initiatives.

Before opening the NFL's Washington office, Miller worked as the staff director and chief counsel for the Antitrust and Business Competition Subcommittee of the Senate Judiciary Committee and Sen. Herb Kohl from 2003 to 2008. He previously served as counsel on the same subcommittee. As staff director, Miller was responsible for legislation on all issues before the committee as well as investigations and hearings concerning a range of antitrust issues including mergers and anti-competitive business practices. He led investigations into mergers in the telecommunications, media, airline and pharmaceutical industries, among others.

Patti James is the mother of 16-year-old Will James, who passed out from heat stroke on Friday, Aug. 13, 2010, after football practice at school in Little Rock, Ark. The school's athletic trainer, who is present at all practices, tended to Will immediately and began the process of bringing down his core temperature while waiting for paramedics to arrive. Will was transferred to the closest hospital, intubated and stabilized. After stabilization, he was transferred to Arkansas Children's Hospital.

Patti and her husband Bill were in Canada at the time of his injury and were able to return to Arkansas the next morning. They were surprised to find their son in a medically induced coma that he stayed in for a week. Each day brought new surprises, including liver damage and kidney failure. However, Will was lucky. He spent three weeks in the hospital and his liver recovered, and after another three weeks of outpatient dialysis, his kidneys recovered.

Patti credits Will's recovery to the fast response of his athletic trainer and the excellent care he received in the hospital. Will has returned to school and is working out with his team to recover his strength. His parents are working with their state legislative committee and local athletic trainers' association to bring about changes to help avoid these types of injuries in the future.

Medical Presentations

Sudden Cardiac Arrest

Francis G. O'Connor, MD, MPH, is associate professor at the Uniformed Services University and medical director for the Consortium on Health and Military Performance, and is also the current president of the American Medical Society of Sports Medicine. He has been a leader in sports medicine education and research for the military for more than 15 years and has authored more than 50 articles in scientific journals and numerous book chapters/technical reports/health promotion resources for the military.

In addition, O'Connor is the editor of four texts on sports medicine including the "Textbook of Running Medicine" and "Sports Medicine for the Primary Care Physician 3rd Edition." He has served on the board of several leading organizations in sports medicine including the American College of Sports Medicine and the American Medical Athletic Association. O'Connor is a colonel in the U.S. Army, and prior to his recent posting at Uniformed Services University in the Department of Military Medicine, he served one year as a command surgeon with Special Operations in the Middle East.

Exertional Heat Illnesses

Douglas J. Casa, PhD, ATC, FACSM, FNATA, is director of Athletic Training Education and professor in the Department of Kinesiology at the University of Connecticut. He is also chief operating officer of the Korey Stringer Institute at the University of Connecticut.

For the past 11 years, Casa has worked toward his goal of preventing sudden death in sport at the University of Connecticut's Neag School of Education's Department of Kinesiology. During this time he has published more than 100 peer-reviewed publications and presented more than 300 times on subjects related to exertional heat stroke, heat-related illnesses, preventing sudden death in sport and hydration.

Casa is the 2008 recipient of the medal for distinguished athletic training research from the National Athletic Trainers' Association. He was named a fellow of NATA in 2008 and received the Sayers "Bud" Miller Distinguished Educator Award from NATA in 2007. He has been a fellow of the American College of Sports Medicine since 2001. He has been a lead or co-author on numerous sports medicine position statements related to heat illness and hydration. He is also the editor of the forthcoming book, "Preventing Sudden Death During Sport and Physical Activity."

Brain Injury and Concussion

Gerard A. Gioia, PhD, is a pediatric neuropsychologist and chief of the Division of Pediatric Neuropsychology at Children's National Medical Center, where he directs the Safe Concussion Outcome, Recovery & Education (SCORE) Program. He is an associate professor of pediatrics and psychiatry at the George Washington University School of Medicine. He has been the principal investigator of several multi-site CDC-funded research studies of mild TBI in children and adolescents. The focus of his research is the development and implementation of more effective methods and tools for early and ongoing evaluation of post-concussion neuropsychological functioning and symptoms.

Gioia was a panel member of the 2008 International Concussion in Sport Group Consensus meeting in Zurich, and is currently on the American Academy of Neurology Sports Concussion Guideline author panel. He is the team neuropsychologist for the NHL's Washington Capitals and a neuropsychology consultant for the Baltimore Ravens, Howard County Public School System, Fairfax County Public Schools, multiple independent schools and numerous youth sports organizations in the Baltimore-Washington region.

Sickle Cell Trait

Scott Galloway, ATC, LAT, has served as head athletic trainer at DeSoto High School in DeSoto, Texas, since 1999. In 2007, Galloway was selected to participate in the National Athletic Trainers' Association Task Force on Sickle Cell Trait with the objective to encourage sickle trait testing of athletes at every level to ensure safe participation in sports. He has presented to the Sickle Cell Foundation of Palm Beach, Fla., and the National Sickle Cell Disease Association of America.

In 2008, Galloway was awarded the Southwest Athletic Trainers' Association John W. Harvey Humanitarian Award for positively impacting ethnic minority athletic trainers and/or physically active ethnic minority individuals. He currently serves as the vice chair and Region 4 director for the Texas State Athletic Trainers' Association.

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