

### Speaker Biographies



#### **Allen Sills, MD**

Professor of Neurological Surgery  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Dr. Allen K. Sills is the NFL's Chief Medical Officer (CMO), a full-time position dedicated to advancing the health and safety of the sport of football. He became the NFL's first CMO in March 2017, joining the league from Vanderbilt University Medical Center. As a neurosurgeon specializing in the treatment of athletes, Dr. Sills continues to serve at Vanderbilt as a Professor of Neurological Surgery, and he is also the Founder and former Co-Director of the Vanderbilt Sports Concussion Center.

As the NFL's CMO, Dr. Sills works closely with team medical staffs across the league, the NFL Players Association and its advisors, and the many medical and scientific experts who comprise the NFL's medical committees. He coordinates with these medical experts to lead the league's efforts to make advances, on and off the field, to protect players from unnecessary risk through rule changes, evolution of equipment, and robust injury reduction plans. Dr. Sills spearheaded the league's Head Injury Reduction Plan—a three-pronged approach aiming to reduce the incidence of concussions—which has continued to deliver results since its implementation, resulting in increased reporting and lower numbers of injuries while continuing efforts to remove head impacts from the game.

Dr. Sills is an active researcher, having published over 200 scientific articles and presentations, including over 40 in the last five years on a number of sports medicine topics including concussion, spine injuries, emergency care of athletes, lower extremity injuries and COVID issues in athletes. He has been a member of the Concussion in Sport Group, which publishes international standards regarding concussion in sport. Dr. Sills is also a fellow of the American Board of Neurological Surgery and the American College of Surgeons.



#### **Ben Brett, PhD**

Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery  
Medical College of Wisconsin

Dr. Benjamin Brett, is a clinical neuropsychologist and Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurosurgery at the Medical College of Wisconsin. As a Center for Neurotrauma Research faculty member, Dr. Brett is an active researcher and co-investigator on a number of multicenter studies examining acute and chronic effects of sport-related concussion/traumatic brain injury. In this role, he has received grant funding from the National Institute on Aging of the National Institutes of Health to examine the long-term effects of sport-related concussion across the lifespan. Dr. Brett also currently performs clinical work as a neuropsychologist in various settings at the Medical College of Wisconsin, including the traumatic brain injury clinic. Additionally, he currently holds committee membership positions with multiple national organizations.



#### **Holly Cauthen, PT, DPT**

Pi Beta Phi Rehabilitation Institute  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Holly Cauthen, originally from Florida, has called Nashville home for the past 10 years. After graduating with her Doctor of Physical Therapy at the University of South Alabama in 2011, she joined Pi Beta Phi Rehabilitation Institute in 2014. In 2013, she successfully completed the competency-based Advanced Vestibular Physical Therapist Certification and is a credentialed Clinical Instructor through the American Physical Therapy Association. She is a guest lecturer for the Vanderbilt Audiology graduate program and enjoys mentoring students in the Division of Vestibular Sciences. Cauthen is proud to be a part of the Vanderbilt Sports Concussion Clinic specializing in complex concussion rehabilitation and participating in evidence-based research and data collection. Cauthen spends her free time participating in an annual medical mission trip in Jamaica and giving back to the community by volunteering with a non-profit organization helping raise future service dogs.

## Updates on Sport-Related Concussion: Recognition, Recovery, & Retirement



### **Warne Fitch, MD**

Assistant Professor, Division of Sports Medicine  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Dr. Warne Fitch, is a graduate of Wake Forest University, earning his Bachelor's degree in 1997 and Doctor of Medicine degree in 2001. He completed his residency in Emergency Medicine at Vanderbilt from 2001-2004 and served as Chief Resident of Vanderbilt's Emergency Medicine program in 2005. He then completed a fellowship in Sports Medicine with Vanderbilt Orthopedics.

Dr. Fitch's unique training and skill set have allowed him to greatly impact the care of athletes both at Vanderbilt and in the greater Nashville community. He has played a key role in educating medical students, paramedics, athletic trainers and fellow physicians in sports medicine and sideline management of athletes. He has authored numerous publications and lectured both regionally and nationally to audiences on various sports medicine topics.

Since 2006, Dr. Fitch has served on the faculties of both the Vanderbilt Emergency Medicine and Sports Medicine/Orthopedic departments. He is the Head Team Physician for Vanderbilt Athletics and a team physician for the Nashville Predators and Nashville SC. He has also covered the Nashville Sounds, served as the Medical Director for the Music City Grand Prix and provided medical coverage to many local high schools and sporting events.



### **Katherine Gifford, Psy.D.**

Assistant Professor, Department of Neurology  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Dr. Katherine Gifford is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurology at Vanderbilt University. She obtained her bachelor's degree in psychology at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs, NY and her doctoral degree in clinical psychology from the Florida Institute of Technology in Melbourne, FL. She completed her pre-doctoral internship in neuropsychology at the Henry Ford Health System in Detroit, MI. Her postdoctoral fellowship was completed in neuropsychology at Boston University and Vanderbilt University.

Dr. Gifford is a licensed clinical neuropsychologist with clinics focused on assessing cognitive disorders due to a variety of neurological conditions. She specializes in assessment of sports concussion for athletes aged 12 and over, serving as a Neuropsychologist for the Nashville Predators, Nashville Soccer Club, Tennessee Titans, and multiple NCAA athletic departments. She is one of the co-Directors of the Vanderbilt Sports Concussion Clinic. Her research focuses on early detection of cognitive impairment, including understanding the sequelae of concussion. Dr. Gifford is the recipient of multiple research grants investigating cognitive disorders and is a member of the Sports Neuropsychology Society



**Siobhan Goodwin, DPT MHS<sub>c</sub>PT, BSc<sub>KIN</sub>, FCAMPT, FAAOMPT, Diploma Sport PT, RISPT**  
Vanderbilt Orthopedics Institute- Rehabilitation  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Siobhan Godwin, graduated from the University of Ottawa with a Master of Health Sciences in Physiotherapy/Maîtrise en Sciences de la Santé en physiothérapie. Prior to pursuing her degree in Physical Therapy, Siobhan attended the University of Windsor where she completed a Bachelor of Movement Science in Human Kinetics. She is a Registered International Sports Physical Therapist, as well as a Fellow of both the American Academy of Orthopaedic Manual Physical Therapy (FAAOMPT) and the Canadian Academy of Manipulative Physical Therapy (FCAMPT). Siobhan focuses a large part of her Physical Therapy practice in concussion management and rehabilitation. She was Lead of the Concussion Program at the Cleveland Clinic Canada for 5 years before joining Vanderbilt University Medical Center. She currently partakes in clinical concussion care and research as part of the Vanderbilt Sports Concussion Center.

## Updates on Sport-Related Concussion: Recognition, Recovery, & Retirement



### **Mayur Patel, MD**

Assistant Professor, Department of Neurology  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Dr. Mayur Patel is a fellowship-trained outpatient general neurologist with a specialization in traumatic brain injury (TBI) and sports-related neurological disorders. He is a member of the American Academy of Neurology, the Gold Humanism Honor Society, and the Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society. Dr. Patel completed neurology residency training at Dell Medical School at the University of Texas - Austin, serving as chief resident during his senior year. The same year, he also earned the Resident Teacher of the Year Award. Subsequently, he completed fellowship training in Sports Neurotrauma at the University of Florida. He attended medical school McGovern Medical School at the University of Texas - Houston. Dr. Patel treats patients that have primarily suffered from traumatic brain injury/concussion and helps deal with their symptoms after the injury. In his free time, he loves the outdoors, working out and watching sports (go Dallas teams!). He also loves trying out new vegetarian/vegan restaurants and traveling with his wife, Poonam.



### **Garrett Perry, ATC**

Coordinator, Vanderbilt Sports Concussion center  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Garrett Perry joined the Vanderbilt Sports Concussion Center in June of 2022. He graduated with his Bachelor of Science in Athletic Training in 2016 from Harding University. After Graduating, he worked as an Assistant Athletic Trainer for Harding Athletics with the Cross-country, Track & Field, and Softball teams. During this time, he obtained his Master of Arts in Teaching with a focus in Kinesiology. After moving to Nashville, he joined Vanderbilt's Sports Medicine department as an athletic trainer providing coverage for Hunters Lane High school. In addition to his outreach responsibilities, he worked on the sports team in Vanderbilt's outpatient physical therapy clinic. As VSCC coordinator, Garrett oversees the day-to-day administrative operations while participating in clinical patient care and research.



### **Anna Peterson, ATC**

Project Manager, Department of Neurological Surgery  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Anna Peterson is the Project manager for neurological surgery and Athletic Trainer for Vanderbilt football. Peterson earned a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology from The University of Illinois at Chicago in 2012. She then went on to earn a Master of Business and Administration (MBA), followed by a Master of Science in Athletic Training (MSAT). She is presently completing a PhD in Adult Education with a research focus on the neurological effects of high social media usage and its impact on learning outcomes and success.

Prior to her arrival at Vanderbilt University, Peterson worked as the full-time athletic trainer for the Auburn University soccer and gymnastics programs. Her previous work experience also includes working as a healthcare administrator in business development with a focus on data analytics and community health awareness. During her graduate school education, Peterson worked closely with the football programs at Vanderbilt University and Northwestern University providing on and off the field prevention, treatment, and rehabilitation of injuries. She also completed a summer internship with the Carolina Panthers in 2017. Her professional affiliations include the National Athletic Trainers' Association (NATA) and the American Association for Adult and Continuing Education (AAACE).

## Updates on Sport-Related Concussion: Recognition, Recovery, & Retirement



### **Douglas Terry, PhD.**

Neuropsychologist, Assistant Professor of Neurological Surgery  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Dr. Douglas Terry is a board-certified clinical neuropsychologist and an Assistant Professor in the Department of Neurological Surgery at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. He is the Co-Director of the Vanderbilt Sports Concussion Center and the Director of the Center for Cognitive Neurosurgical Studies. He received his PhD from the University of Georgia after completed his clinical internship year at UCLA. He was previously an Assistant Professor in Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Harvard Medical School/Massachusetts General Hospital/Spaulding Rehabilitation Hospital. Clinically, he specializes in the assessment of neurocognitive and emotional difficulties, with additional services related to the management of concussions/traumatic brain injuries. His research focuses on the spectrum of concussion, from diagnostic tools to potential long-term effects. He has co-authored over 100 publications and lectured internationally on this topic.



### **Haley Vance, DNP, ANP**

Pediatric Nurse Practitioner, Pediatric Neurosurgery  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Haley Vance is an Acute Care Pediatric Nurse Practitioner and Associate in the Department of Neurological Surgery at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. Vance graduated from Auburn University in 2005 with B.S., the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB) in 2007 with her B.S. in Nursing, in 2009 with her M.S. in Nursing, and in 2013 with her Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP). Vance worked at Children's of Alabama for 7 years prior to joining the Neurosurgery team at Vanderbilt in 2012. She was voted APRN of the year at Vanderbilt in 2016. Vance served as president of the Tennessee Nurses Association from 2017-2019.

Haley Vance is a member of Sigma Theta Tau International Honor Society of Nursing, American Association of Nurse Practitioners, the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners, and the International Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery. Vance remains active in global health work, having spent time over the past 7 years in East Africa helping educate and train nurses on neurosurgical conditions. Vance is an associate member of the American Association of Neurological Surgeons and currently serves as chair of the APP committee.



### **Kerry Wilbar, M.Ed., ATC**

Associate Athletic Trainer –Vanderbilt University Athletics  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Kerry Wilbar is a Certified Athletic Trainer who has been working with NCAA Division I student athletes for over 20 years. Starting out at the University of Miami (FL) where she earned her Bachelor's degree in Athletic Training while working with Hurricanes, she then continued on to her Master's degree in Athletic Training at Temple University working with the Owls. She joined the Vanderbilt Sports Medicine staff in 2007 & has continued to provide medical care for Vanderbilt University Athletics having previously covered the Men's & Women's Cross Country, Women's Track & Field, & Football teams. She currently works with the Women's Tennis team & also serves as the Vanderbilt Athletic Training Department Concussion Management Coordinator where she oversees & assists with concussion clinical case care for all Vanderbilt student athletes.

## Updates on Sport-Related Concussion: Recognition, Recovery, & Retirement



### **Kristen Williams, ATC**

Research Coordinator, Vanderbilt Sports Concussion Center  
Vanderbilt Sports Concussion Center

Kristen Williams received her Bachelor's degree in Athletic Training from Wingate University in 2017 and went on to obtain her Masters in Kinesiology from Georgia Southern University, in 2019. While at Georgia Southern she was as a graduate research assistant in the biomechanics lab where she split time monitoring concussions using helmet sensors on the sideline and working as an ATC for the football and women's rifle teams. After graduating, she accepted a position at Ft. Stewart Army base in Savannah, GA and again spent time split between conducting injury prevention research and providing athletic training care for soldiers. In the fall of 2021, she accepted her current position as Research Coordinator for Vanderbilt Sports Concussion Center. She currently organizes a multitude of studies and engages in a variety of research projects for the Vanderbilt Sports Concussion Center.



### **Scott Zuckerman, MD, MPH**

Assistant Professor of Neurological Surgery  
Vanderbilt University Medical Center

Dr. Zuckerman is faculty member in the Department of Neurological Surgery as Professor and Co-Director of the Vanderbilt Sports Concussion Center at Vanderbilt University Medical Center. His clinical interests include the surgical treatment of all spinal disorders, including degenerative spine disease, primary and metastatic spinal tumors, spinal trauma, sport-related spine injuries and adult spinal deformity. His practice also includes the treatment of sport-related concussion, traumatic brain injury and peripheral nerve pathology. Dr. Zuckerman's research has focused on clinical spine outcomes, sport-related concussion, traumatic brain injury, global neurosurgery, and neurosurgical education. Dr. Zuckerman has authored over 200 peer-reviewed publications and given over 70 national podium presentations.

Dr. Zuckerman earned his BS degree from Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, graduating magna cum laude. He received his MD from Vanderbilt University School of Medicine, where he served as Class President for four years and was awarded the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine Award of Distinction. He completed his Neurological Surgery residency training at VUMC, during which he also obtained an MPH in Epidemiology from the T.H. Chan Harvard School of Public Health and completed enfolded rotations in Spinal Oncology at M.D. Anderson Cancer Center in Houston, Texas and Peripheral Nerve Surgery at the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota. Following residency, he served as the Cornell University Global Neurosurgery Fellow at the Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute, Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, where he spent six months implementing a Spine Trauma Protocol. Dr. Zuckerman currently serves in the United States Navy Reserves and received the 2020 Alfred Award for Military Distinction from Officer Training Command in Newport, Rhode Island.