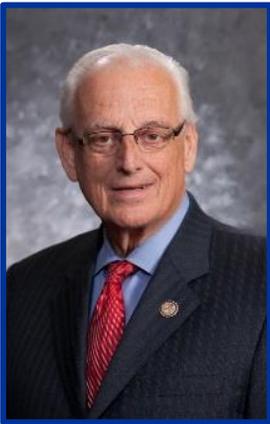




Speaker Biographies

Keynote Speaker Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. **Brain Injuries – A National Discussion has Emerged**



A native son of Paterson, N.J., Congressman Bill Pascrell, Jr. has built a life of public service upon the principles he learned while growing up on the south side of the Silk City. He credits his parents and his Italian-immigrant grandparents with instilling in him the value of being a “bridge builder,” one who seeks to bring together the diverse peoples and neighborhoods in the community he loves to make a better society. Bill’s tenacity and dedication as a U.S. Congressman are marked by service to his constituents and his rise in leadership on issues critical to all Americans. He continues to fulfill his promises and works to improve the lives of the people.

Bill was first elected Congressman for New Jersey’s 8th Congressional District in 1996. Bill is now serving his ninth term. Since 2007, Bill has served on the exclusive House Ways and Means Committee, the first committee established in the U.S. Congress, overseeing numerous economic issues including Social Security, taxes, Medicare, international trade and health policy. In 2011, Bill was appointed by his colleagues to the additional assignment of serving on the pivotal House Budget Committee, the congressional body responsible for the national budget process. In his roles on both House Committees, Bill has been a champion for the middle class by supporting policies that help facilitate job creation, distribute the tax burden equitably and make quality health care affordable for all Americans.

As the co-Chairman and founder of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, Bill has raised the nation’s awareness of the dangers of traumatic brain injury (TBI). He continues to fight for TRICARE insurance coverage to pay for cognitive rehabilitation therapy – the most effective treatment for soldiers recovering from TBI.

After the tragic death of Montclair High School football player Ryne Dougherty in 2008, Bill’s efforts against the dangers of TBI have expanded to help protect young athletes. On Sept. 30, 2010, the U.S. House of Representatives overwhelmingly passed Bill’s Concussion Treatment and Care Tools (ConTACT) Act. The legislation calls for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to develop guidelines and protocols for the management and treatment of sports-related concussions for the benefit of the nation’s student-athletes.



Lindsay Nelson, PhD

A Multi-dimensional Approach to Studying Predictors of Recovery from Sport-Related Concussion: What is the Relevance of Age in Recovery?

Lindsay Nelson, PhD, is Assistant Professor of Neurosurgery and Neurology at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW). She is a licensed clinical neuropsychologist and researcher within MCW's Brain Injury Research Program. Her research focuses on identifying the psychological and neurobiological consequences of concussion and identifying the factors that predict recovery from concussion, with the ultimate goal of developing improved methods to diagnosis, monitor, and treat individuals with concussion.



Amy Jorgensen

NFL Sports Safety Initiatives

Amy Jorgensen serves as Senior Manager of Health and Safety Policy for the National Football League. In this role she manages a number of programs and initiatives to promote sports safety. Amy previously served as Manager of Government Relations and Public Policy in the NFL's Washington, DC office. Her responsibilities included a variety of political, policy and advocacy issues of importance to the League.

Prior to joining the NFL, she worked for U.S. Senator Herb Kohl. Amy is a graduate of the University of Wisconsin – Madison.



Jennifer Weiss-Burke

Opiate Abuse Among Teenage Athletes- What You Need to Know

Jennifer Weiss-Burke is the Executive Director of Healing Addiction in Our Community (HAC) and Serenity Mesa Youth Recovery Center, a 501c3 non-profit located in Albuquerque New Mexico. Jennifer has a Bachelor's of Science in Information Technology and a Master's of Business Administration from the University of New Mexico. She spent the majority of her career as the Vice President of Information Technology at a Credit Union before her life changed dramatically in February 2010 when she found out that her 16-year old son was battling heroin addiction. Jennifer helped her son battle his addiction for almost two years until he lost his battle on August 13, 2011 at the age of 18. She has since become a full-time advocate and voice for those suffering from the disease of addiction. Jennifer has spoken at national conferences about youth addiction and the opiate epidemic. Her story has been featured in the New York Times, Washington Post, USA Today, Sports Illustrated, Al Jazeera network, and in DirecTV's documentary Locker Room Addiction.



Tamara Valovich McLeod, PhD, ATC, FNATA
Prevention of Pediatric Overuse Injuries

Dr. Tamara Valovich McLeod is the Athletic Training Program Director, Professor of Athletic Training, Research Professor in the School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona, and the John P. Wood, D.O., Endowed Chair for Sports Medicine at A.T. Still University in Mesa, Arizona. Dr. McLeod completed her doctor of philosophy degree in education with an emphasis in sports medicine from the University of Virginia. She is the director of the Athletic Training Practice-Based Research Network and her research has focused on the pediatric athlete with respect to sport-related concussion. Dr. McLeod was a contributing author for the NATA Position Statement on the Management of Sport-Related Concussion, the lead author on the NATA Position Statement on the Prevention of Pediatric Overuse Injuries, and a consultant and contributing author on the Appropriate Medical Coverage for Secondary School-Aged Athletes. Dr. McLeod serves on numerous editorial boards, and publishes frequently in the athletic training and sports medicine journals and is a NATA Fellow.



Rebecca L. Stearns, PhD, ATC
A Collaborative Approach to Safety: Progress Report from the Youth Sports Governing Bodies

Dr. Stearns is an assistant professor at the University of Connecticut and is the COO at the Korey Stringer Institute within the Department of Kinesiology. During her time at Connecticut, Dr. Stearns has published more than 25 peer-reviewed publications and provided over 50 local or national presentations on subjects related to exertional heat stroke, heat-related illnesses, enhancing athletic performance in the heat and preventing sudden death in sport. Dr. Stearns has been a co-author on numerous sports medicine inter-association task forces and position statement pertaining to sudden death in exercise including: The National Athletic Trainers' Association Position Statement on Preventing Sudden Death in Sports, the Inter-Association Task Force For Preventing Sudden Death In Collegiate Conditioning Sessions as well as in Secondary School Athletics Programs.

In April 2010, Dr. Stearns was one of the founding members of the Korey Stringer Institute and continues to work towards the KSI mission of serving the public to work towards preventing sudden death in sport by means of education, advocacy, public policy change, research, media outreach, and publications.



Timothy Neal, MS, ATC
Mental Health Concerns and Strategies for Student Athlete Wellness

Timothy Neal is a NATA Most Distinguished Athletic Trainer and is the President of TLN Consulting. Tim is an assistant professor of health and human performance, and athletic training program clinical education coordinator at Concordia University Ann Arbor. Tim chaired the 2013 NATA Consensus Statement, “Recommendations in Developing a Plan to Recognize and Refer Student-Athletes with Psychological Concerns at the Collegiate Level”, and chaired a similar Consensus Statement for secondary school student-athletes in 2015. Tim served as the NATA representative on the 2013 NCAA Student-Athlete Mental Health Task Force, authoring a chapter in the NCAA publication, Mind, Body and Sport: Understanding and Supporting Student-Athlete Mental Wellness. Tim also authored the revisions for the NCAA Sports Medicine Handbook, Guideline 20, “Mental Health: Interventions for Intercollegiate Athletics.” Tim is the NATA Liaison to Mental Health America, and is the chair of the NATA Committee on Professional Ethics

Nailah Coleman, MD, FAAP, FACSM

Discussion of AAP Statement on Tackling in Youth Football



Nailah Coleman, MD, FAAP, FACSM is a Pediatric Attending at Children’s National Health System. She completed her undergraduate and medical studies at Emory University and her pediatric residency at Children’s National in DC. Following residency, Dr. Coleman became a Physician Analyst with the Children’s IT Department. She also worked as a general pediatrician and on-call Hospitalist and neonatal pediatrician. Dr. Coleman completed a one-year sports medicine fellowship at Phoebe Putney Memorial Hospital, before returning to Children’s, where she now works as a general pediatrician and sports medicine and obesity specialist. She provides sports medical coverage for local high schools and athletic events.

Jillian Urban, PhD

Sports Safety for All Ages: A Single Institution’s Experience with Youth Football



Jillian Urban, PhD is a Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Biomedical Engineering at Wake Forest University. She has worked in the field of injury biomechanics for over 5 years and conducts research with the Virginia Tech-Wake Forest University Center for Injury Biomechanics in Winston-Salem, NC. Her current research is focused on characterizing sub-concussive head impact exposure in youth and high school athletes. Her primary research goal is to combine injury biomechanics and public health sciences for improved safety in youth sports. Along

with her research efforts, she has been actively involved in the implementation of a full-time certified athletic trainer at a local youth football organization.



Kelli Jantz, RN

Advocating for Safety in Sport: A Parent's Perspective

Kelli Jantz has been a Transplant Coordinator in the Denver area for over 25 years. She is the parent of four children. In 2004 Kelli lost her 14 year old son Jake Snakenberg to an unusual complication of concussion –Second Impact Syndrome suffered while playing football. Due to the lack of awareness and understanding of the seriousness of traumatic brain injury in youth sports she has endeavored to improve awareness by sharing Jake's story and worked to support the passing of the "Jake Snakenberg Youth Concussion Act" established in 2011 to protect Colorado's youth from the devastating consequences of traumatic brain injury. In 2012 she was the recipient of the Frist Humanitarian Award for her efforts in assisting with the passage of the concussion act in Colorado and ongoing promotion of awareness and understanding of the issues surrounding concussion and traumatic brain injury. Kelli continues to speak to coaches, parent groups, and youth sports groups to impress the importance of maintaining the constant awareness of the effects of traumatic brain injury in our youth.