Concussion and chronic traumatic encephalopathy: reasons to ban all contact sport, not just boxing?

Wednesday 25th May 2016 at 2.00pm
Room 2G14, Dalhousie Building, University of Dundee

Presented by Dr William Stewart

Dr Stewart is Consultant and Lead Neuropathologist at the Queen Elizabeth University Hospital, Glasgow, and holds honorary Associate Professor status at the University of Glasgow (Institute of Neuroscience & Psychology) and the University of Pennsylvania (Department of Neurosurgery). Dr Stewart’s research in TBI utilises the unique Glasgow TBI Archive to characterise the complex pathologies of human TBI, with particular focus on the link between TBI and late neurodegenerative disease. This work attracts research funding from a variety of agencies, including the US NIH and Department of Defense, NHS Research Scotland and the European Community. Reflecting his insight into the biology and pathology of TBI Dr Stewart acts as an external advisor to multiple national and international sports and government organisations.

Introduced by Mrs Amanda Kopel forthcoming honorary graduand of University of Dundee

Traumatic brain injury (TBI) represents one of the strongest risk factors for dementia. Almost a century the first clinical accounts of boxers with the ‘punch drunk’ emerged, with the distinctive brain pathology of boxers later described as ‘dementia pugilistica’. In the past decade there has been intense media attention on this issue arising from growing recognition of this pathology, now termed chronic traumatic encephalopathy, in autopsy studies in non-boxers exposed to repetitive mild TBI, including footballers and rugby players. As a result concussion management has become a leading priority in many sports in an attempt to reduce risks to players. But has change come too late?

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