

Concussion Symposium for Lawyers, Judges, Insurers & Clinicians: *Learning Objectives*

Overall Learning Objectives:

- I. Learn about concussion mechanisms, diagnosis, treatment and prevention
- II. Differentiate the short- and long-term consequences of concussions, including impact on return to work, return to learn, and return to play
- III. Understand both plaintiff and defendant viewpoints when litigating concussion cases
- IV. Define your patient's communication needs and considerations for concussion-related health effects
- V. Identify issues relating to student, worker and insurance accommodations and compensation for your patients and clients
- VI. Recognize the important factors when treating concussion and their consequences

Session Specific Learning Objectives

1. Overview of Concussions

Dr. Charles H. Tator, Neurosurgeon

- i. Recognize the clinical characteristics of concussions, persisting concussion symptoms and the concussion spectrum of disorders (acute concussion, second impact syndrome, post-concussion syndrome, mental health disorders and chronic traumatic encephalopathy)

2. Concussions: To Whom and Where

Richard Wennberg, MD, PhD, FRCPC, Neurologist

- i. Identify the psychosocial factors contributing to concussion risk
- ii. Contrast concussion reporting and symptomatology between amateur and professional athletes

3. Imaging and Biomarkers of the Concussion Spectrum of Disorders

David J. Mikulis, MD, FRCPC, Neuroradiologist and Carmela Tartaglia, MD, FRCPC, Cognitive Neurologist

- i. Identify currently used clinical diagnostic tests for concussion
- ii. Recognize current and future uses of neuroimaging in diagnosis (structural, functional and molecular imaging)
- iii. Critique current concussion biomarkers and their shortcomings

4. The Neuropathology of Concussions and their Consequences

Lili-Naz Hazrati, MD, PhD, FRCPC, Neuropathologist

- i. Describe the mechanisms and key molecules involved in concussion pathology

5. Utility and Limitations of Neuropsychological Assessments for Persisting Concussion Symptoms

Robin Green, PhD, C.Psych., Clinical Neuropsychologist and Lesley A. Ruttan, PhD, C.Psych., Clinical Neuropsychologist

- i. Express the utility of neuropsychological assessments for detecting cognitive deficits post-concussion
- ii. Critique current neuropsychological tests for assessing concussion and their shortcomings

6. Treatment for the Concussion Spectrum of Disorders: Fact and Fiction

Dr. Charles H. Tator, Neurosurgeon, Abe Snaiderman, MD, FRCP (C), Neuropsychiatrist and Carmela Tartaglia, M.D., Cognitive Neurologist

- i. Recognize symptoms associated with concussion spectrum of disorders (e.g., headaches, dizziness, whiplash)
- ii. Describe current best practices for concussion treatment
- iii. Identify the most promising avenues of concussion treatment

7. Practice, Policies, and Guidelines for Concussion Management

Dr. Charles H. Tator, Neurosurgeon

- i. Distinguish the scope of practice of concussion practitioners
- ii. Apply concussion legislation and regulations to advocate for prevention of concussions and improved management of concussions and their consequences
- iii. Recognize lifestyle/environmental factors implicated in concussion prevention

8. A View from Concussed Patients

Patient panel discussion

- i. Examine the patient experiencing concussion perspective
- ii. Identify the needs of patients in concussion treatment and management including accommodations
- iii. Advocate for patients navigating through recovery, compensation and/or litigation

9. Litigating the Concussion Case: Plaintiff's Viewpoint and Defendant's Viewpoint

Patrick Brown, C.S., McLeish Orlando LLP and James Tomlinson, McCague Borlack LLP

- i. Identify the needs of concussion patients in legal matters

10. Insights from the Bench on Concussion Cases

The Honourable Darla Wilson, Superior Court of Justice and D. Keith Smockum, Smockum Zarnett LLP

- i. Examine judges' perspective on best practices to advocate for patients during concussion legal cases

11. WSIB Viewpoint

Aaron Thompson, MD, MPH, FRCPC, Medical Director, Occupational Disease, WSIB

- i. Articulate concussion patient needs and considerations for workers' compensation boards

12. Insurance Company Viewpoint

Sam Mikail, PhD (Clinical Psychology) and Senior Consultant, Mental Health, Sun Life Financial

- i. Articulate concussion patient needs and considerations for insurance claims

13. A Special Conversation: Evolving Perspectives on Concussions

Ken Dryden, The Honourable R. Roy McMurtry, OC, O. Ont., QC, and Dr. Charles H. Tator

- i. Empathize with patient perspectives during concussion recovery